

MORNING MEDITATION

Wednesday, Sixth Week of Easter

**Serenity is found in the acceptance of what is
and the release of what was.**

Acts 17:15, 22 – 18:1

In this excerpt from Acts, we read Paul's famous speech at Athens. He told the people of Athens that he knew the God they worshiped without really knowing him. He affirmed their faith in a God and then proceeded to reveal to them the knowledge and experience he had of God in Jesus. His main theme was, "in God we live and move and have our being". Many were baptized after hearing Paul and others wanted to hear him again.

Reflect: "In God we live and move and have our being."

Psalm 148

**Praise the lord from the heavens,
Praise him in the heights;
Praise him all you his angels,
Praise him all you his hosts.**

John 16:12-15

Jesus promised the disciples that when the Holy Spirit comes he would guide them to all truth and that he would teach them of things to come. Reflect on the following sayings of Jesus about the Holy Spirit:

Jesus says to the disciples: I will ask the Father and He will send you another helper who will stay with you forever (Jn.14:16). "The helper, the Holy Spirit will teach you everything and make you remember all I have told you (Jn.14:26). The Spirit will give them courage to stand up and witness to him in the face of difficulties (Jn. 15:26-27). The Spirit will lead them into truth (Jn.16:7-8, 13). Jesus breathed on them and said: "receive the Holy Spirit" (Jn. 20:21-22). At Pentecost, the Spirit took "possession" of them (Acts 2:2-3). The Spirit transformed the disciples and Peter, who denied knowing Jesus, and empowered them to go and begin preaching and proclaiming Jesus (Acts 2:15-17).

Pray that you may experience the Holy Spirit rushing in with gifts that will transform you into "Sons of God". Pray also that you may be gifted with a discerning heart...

Saint of the Day, May 13 - Our Lady of Fatima and 14 other saints are remembered this day.

Beginning in the spring of 1917, three Portuguese children - Francisco and Jacinta Marto and their cousin Lucia dos Santos - received apparitions of Our Lady at Cova da Iria near Fatima, Portugal. At that time, Europe was involved in an extremely bloody war. Portugal itself was in political turmoil, having overthrown its monarchy in 1910; the government disbanded religious organizations soon after.

At the first appearance, Mary asked the children to return to that spot on the thirteenth of each month for the next six months. She also asked them to learn to read and write and to pray the rosary "to obtain peace for the world and the end of the war." They were to pray for sinners and for the conversion of Russia, which had recently overthrown Czar Nicholas II and was soon to fall under communism. Up to 90,000 people gathered for Mary's final apparition on October 13, 1917. The title Our Lady of Fátima was given to the Virgin Mary as a result, and the Sanctuary of Fátima became a major center of world Christian pilgrimage.

Mary gave the children three secrets. Following the deaths of Francisco and Jacinta in 1919 and 1920 respectively, Lucia revealed the first secret in 1927. It concerned devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The second secret was a vision of hell. When Lucia grew up she became a Carmelite nun and died in 2005 at the age of 97.

Pope John Paul II directed the Holy See's Secretary of State to reveal the third secret in 2000; it spoke of a "bishop in white" who was shot by a group of soldiers who fired bullets and arrows into him. Many people linked this vision to the assassination attempt against Pope John Paul II in St. Peter's Square on May 13, 1981.

The feast of Our Lady of Fatima was approved by the local bishop in 1930; it was added to the Church's worldwide calendar in 2002.

Fr. Gus Tharappel, msfs