

## **MORNING MEDITATION**

### **Wednesday, Sixth Week in Ordinary Time**

**For God alone, O my soul, wait in silence, for my hope is from him.**

(Psalm 62:5)

#### **James 1:19-27**

James encouraged his readers to listen to God's word and act on it...to allow God's word to shape their behavior. Do not be a "forgetful listener." Let God's word come to life in you. He calls us today as he did his readers to listen carefully to God's word, to look after orphans and widows in their distress, to remain free from the world's standards, to strip away all that is "filthy" and live a virtuous life.

#### **Psalm 15**

**Who shall dwell on your holy mountain?  
He who walks blamelessly and does justice,  
who thinks the truth in his heart,  
and slanders not with his tongue...**

#### **Mark 8:22-26**

Jesus healed a blind man, away from the crowd, putting spittle on his eyes and laying hands on him. Imagine what would have happened if the man was given sight, suddenly, in a crowd – the thrill of seeing all and the bewilderment of exposure to light, colors, etc. How tenderly and gently Jesus touched and healed and gave the man a new vision.

**Reflect on the need to be sensitive, compassionate, tender and gentle in caring for others!**

He began to see but needed a second touch to see clearly.

**Reflect on the need for a second touch and the patience it calls forth from you!**

Most of the miracles happened suddenly and completely. This is the only miracle that happened gradually, as though in stages or phases.....No man sees all of God's truth at once, completely.....

**Reflect on the need to be docile, searching and open to the gradual and definite**

unfolded of God's truth.

## Saint of the Day, February 19

**St. Conrad of Piacenza and 10 other saints are remembered this day.**

St. Conrad was born Corrado Confalonieri, a member of one of the noblest families of Piacenza in Northern Italy. The date of his birth is uncertain. He married an aristocratic young woman named Ephrosyne when he was quite young. One day while hunting he ordered attendants to set fire to some brush in order to flush out the game. The fire spread to nearby fields and to a large forest. Conrad fled. An innocent peasant was imprisoned, tortured to confess, and condemned to death. As the man was being led to execution, a remorseful Conrad publicly admitted his guilt. As punishment and reparation for the damages he had caused, the city seized all his assets, only sparing his life due to his noble status.

Soon after this event, Conrad and his wife agreed to separate - she to a Poor Clare monastery and he to a group of hermits following the Third Order Rule. His reputation for holiness, however, spread quickly. Since his many visitors destroyed his solitude, Conrad went to a more remote spot in Sicily where he lived 36 years as a hermit, praying for himself and for the rest of the world. Conrad died kneeling before a crucifix on February 19, 1351. He was canonized in 1625.

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