

MORNING MEDITATION

Monday, Twenty Sixth Week in Ordinary Time

To see another with clarity and objectivity, we must first master stillness.

Job 1:6-22

Job faced four tragedies one after the other. He lost his cattle, his sheep, his camels and finally his own family. He was a good and just man. He did not do anything to deserve such treatment. Through all these, Job remained faithful to his God, never saying anything disrespectful of God.

Psalm 17

**Hear O Lord, a just suit;
Attend to my outcry;
Hearken to my prayer,
from lips without deceit.**

Luke 9:46-50

The disciples wanted to know who was of greatest importance in the kingdom. Jesus responded: ‘unless you turn and become as children, you will not enter the kingdom of God. You are going in the wrong direction, not in the direction of the Kingdom’. You are aiming at personal power, prestige, etc. which is the opposite of the Kingdom.

Humility is the quality of a person who belongs in the kingdom. Child’s trust, dependence, innocence and purity are all qualities of people of the kingdom. Reflect on turning toward the Kingdom, away from personal power, prestige, etc.

Jesus invited his disciples and he invites us today to be childlike and be willing to surrender in loving and generous service. He invites us to have a new vision of “greatness” as service, humility, and self-surrender, different from what the world seems to offer. Those of us, who choose to follow Jesus and be his disciples, must learn to redefine greatness as humility, service, and self-surrender.

Change your vision: it is a privilege, an honor and blessing to be the last and to serve the least.

Saint of the Day, September 28 - St. Wenceslaus and 31 other saints are remembered this day

Wenceslaus was born around 911 near Prague in Bohemia. He was the son of Vratislaus I, the Duke of Bohemia. His grandfather, Bořivoj I of Bohemia, was converted to Christianity by Saints Cyril and

Methodius. His mother, Drahomíra, was the daughter of a pagan tribal chief of the Havelli, but was baptized at the time of her marriage.

In 921, when Wenceslas was about thirteen, his father died and his grandmother became regent. Jealous of the influence that Ludmila wielded over Wenceslas, Drahomíra arranged to have her killed. Ludmila was at Tetín Castle near Beroun when assassins murdered her on September 15, 921. She is said to have been strangled by them with her veil. She was at first buried in the church of St. Michael at Tetín, but her remains were later removed, probably by Wenceslas, to the church of St. George in Prague, which had been built by his father.

Drahomíra then assumed the role of regent and immediately initiated measures against the Christians. When Wenceslas was 18, those Christian nobles who remained rebelled against Drahomira. The uprising was successful, and Drahomira was sent into exile and Wenceslaus assumed leadership of the government.

His rule was marked by efforts toward unification within Bohemia, support of the Church, and peace-making negotiations with Germany, a policy which caused him trouble with the anti-Christian opposition. His brother Boleslav joined in the plotting, and in September of 929 invited Wenceslaus to Alt Bungloul for the celebration of the feast of Saints Cosmas and Damian. On the way to Mass, Boleslav attacked his brother, and in the struggle, Wenceslaus was killed by supporters of Boleslav. Although his death resulted primarily from political upheaval, Wenceslaus was hailed as a martyr for the faith, and his tomb became a pilgrimage shrine. He is hailed as the patron of the Bohemian people and of the former Czechoslovakia.

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