

# **MORNING MEDITATION**

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

**We need to be still to touch the deepest part of our being.**

### **James 1:1-11**

James encouraged his community to rejoice at the opportunity to endure trials. He says that enduring trials makes a person grow to spiritual maturity. He encouraged them to pray, with faith, for God's wisdom. He invited his readers to accept the opportunity for being humble and joyful in poverty as well as in wealth.

**Pray for God's wisdom to be humble, grateful and joyful in poverty as well as in wealth.**

### **Psalm 119**

**The law of your mouth to me is more precious  
than thousands of gold and silver pieces.  
I know, O Lord, that your ordinances are just,  
And in your faithfulness, you have afflicted me....**

### **Mark 8:11-13**

The Pharisees asked Jesus for a sign that will substantiate his claim. Jesus refused to give a sign. The tendency of the age in which Jesus lived was to look for God in the abnormal, in extraordinary events. They believed that when the messiah came the most startling things would happen. This is the kind of sign the Pharisees were looking for. They looked for events that would defy the laws of nature.

To Jesus the whole world was full of signs – the corn in the corn field, the leaven in the loaf, the lilies of the field, the sparrows in the air, the fishes in the sea – God did not have to break in from outside the world. He was in the world for anyone who had eyes to see.

Earth's crammed with heaven,  
And every common bush afire with God;  
But only he, who sees, takes off his shoes,  
The rest sit round it and pluck blackberries." (Elizabeth Barrett Browning)

**Look beyond what you see! The daily miracles of night and day and the beauty of all common things proclaim simply and purely the presence of God.....**

**Saint of the Day, February 17**

## **Founders of the Servite Order and 62 other saints are remembered this day.**

In the middle of the 13th century, the city of Florence, Italy, was prosperous and culturally advanced and at the same time torn with political strife as well as the heresy of the Cathari, who believed that physical reality was inherently evil. Morals were low and religion seemed meaningless. In 1240, Seven wealthy, well-known cloth merchants who lived in Florence at this time, Bonfilius, Monaldi, John Bonagiunta, Gerard Sostegni, Bartholomew Amidei, Benedict dell'Antella, Ricoverus Ugucione, and Alexis Falconier, decided to withdraw from the city to a solitary place for prayer and direct service of God. But they soon found themselves disturbed by constant visitors from Florence. They next withdrew to the deserted slopes of Monte Senario.

In 1244, under the direction of Saint Peter of Verona, O.P., this small group adopted a religious habit similar to the Dominican habit, choosing to live under the Rule of St. Augustine and adopting the name of the Servants of Mary. The new Order took a form more like that of the mendicant friars than that of the older monastic Orders.

Members of the community came to the United States from Austria in 1852 and settled in New York and later in Philadelphia. The two American provinces developed from the foundation made by Father Austin Morini in 1870 in Wisconsin.

Community members combined monastic life and active ministry. In the monastery, they led a life of prayer, work and silence while in the active apostolate they engaged in pastoral ministry, teaching, preaching, and other ministries.

Fr. Gus Tharappel, msfs