

MORNING MEDITATION

Friday, First Week of Advent

**Gratitude brings joy and laughter into your life
and into the lives of those around you.**

Isaiah 29:17-24

Isaiah describes his vision of the messianic times. In the messianic time, the deaf will hear, the blind will see out of gloom and darkness, the humble will rejoice, the tyrant and the arrogant will be gone....a new world order will be established, where people will live in justice and peace.

Pray for a new world order, a world of justice and peace for all.

Psalm 27

**The Lord is my light and my salvation;
Whom shall I fear?
The Lord is my life's refuge;
Of whom should I be afraid?**

Mathew 9:27-31

The blind men cried out their need and Jesus heard their cry! **Reflect on crying out your own need and hearing the cry of others in need.**

Jesus asked: Do you believe that I am able to do this? Yes Lord, was the answer. **Reflect on being challenged on your faith: do you believe? And how do you respond?**

Jesus touched their eyes and said: Be opened! **Reflect on the healing and opening touch of the Lord! Reflect on your own need to be touched and to touch others. Let your touch be healing, loving, compassionate.**

Jesus asked them not to publicize what happened. But they spread the story about him all over the country. **Reflect on maintaining confidence.**

Think about what happens in sharing things that bring conflict, tension, harm to others.....Be trustworthy! And be a channel of peace.....

Saint of the Day, December 3 - St. Francis Xavier and 11 other saints are remembered this day

Francis was born on April 7, 1506 in Xavier (Javier) Castle, near Sangüesa, Navarre, Spain. He was sent to study at the University of Paris where he roomed with his friend, Peter Favre. They were much influenced by Ignatius of Loyola, who encouraged Francis to become a priest.

He renounced his worldly life in response to the words he heard from St. Ignatius of Loyola, "What does it profit a man, if he gains the whole world, but suffer the loss of his own soul?" On August 15, 1534, Francis Xavier along with Peter Favre, and several other friends, made vows of poverty, chastity, and obedience. The men planned to travel to the Holy Land to convert non-believers. Francis Xavier started his study of theology that same year and was ordained on June 24, 1537.

Francis was one of the first five who joined Ignatius when he founded the Society of Jesus or Jesuits as we know the order today. He left for India in 1541 and arrived in the region and colony of Goa, India on May 6, 1542. He became a great missionary in India, Sri Lanka, Philippines and Japan. He wanted to go to China and left India for the last time in April, 1552. His ship reached China in August, stopping at an island off the Chinese coast. While he was waiting for his boat to arrive, he became ill with a fever and died on December 3, 1552 before he could fulfill his dream of being a missionary in China. He was a man of courage, determination, patience and perseverance.

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