

MORNING MEDITATION

Saturday, Thirtieth Week in Ordinary Time

You have no cause for anything but gratitude and joy.
(Buddha)

Romans 11:1-2; 11-12; 25-29

In this excerpt, Paul teaches the converts in Rome and us today that God's gift of Grace is irrevocable. God has not withdrawn his grace. He has not rejected his people even though his people rejected him. And it is not all of his people who rejected him. There has always been a remnant of people who remained faithful. Even the rejection of some became a channel of grace for others. God has used the rejection of some of the Jews to enable Paul and others to reach out to the gentiles and bring them the good news of Jesus. God comes to us even through the most unexpected channels, people, and situations.

Psalms 94

**Blessed the man whom you instruct, O Lord,
Whom by your law you teach,
Giving him rest from evil days.**

Luke 14:1, 7-11

Jesus taught his listeners to be generous and gracious in giving and in showing hospitality. He challenged them to give generously to those who are unable to return the favor, the cripples, the lame, the beggars, and the poor. You must give because it is your nature to give and not because there is a reward waiting for you. Giving is the quality of your person...you must learn to give because that is the kind of person you are...you must give even when there is no personal gain. Jesus called forth a new way of giving which made no claims, no conditions, and no expectation of return.

Jesus also set a new standard for hospitality - be hospitable to all, including the poor, the beggars, the cripples and all who cannot return the favor. Let your hospitality be inclusive and, all-embracing and without expecting return favors. The teaching of Jesus, in this context, was to "invite", to host the poor, the crippled, the lame, the blind, etc. and not to just send them food baskets or a little cash to buy groceries. It is to reach out to all needy people as brothers and sisters who are worthy of respect and welcome in our homes.

Be gracious! Be generous! Give without counting the cost!

Saint of the Day, October 30 - St. Alphonsus Rodriguez and 18 other saints are remembered this day.

Born in Spain in 1533, Alphonsus inherited the family textile business at 23. Within the space of three years, his wife, daughter, and mother died; meanwhile, business was poor. Alphonsus stepped back and reassessed his life. He sold the business, and with his young son, moved into his sister's home. There he learned the discipline of prayer and meditation.

At the death of his son years later, Alphonsus, almost 40 by then, sought to join the Jesuits. He was not helped by his poor education. He applied twice before being admitted. For 45 years he served as doorkeeper at the Jesuits' college in Majorca. When not at his post, he was almost always at prayer, though he often encountered difficulties and temptations.

His holiness and prayerfulness attracted many to him, including Saint Peter Claver, then a Jesuit seminarian. Alphonsus' life as doorkeeper may have been humdrum, but centuries later he caught the attention of poet and fellow-Jesuit Gerard Manley Hopkins, who made him the subject of one of his poems. Alphonsus died in 1617.

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