

MORNING MEDITATION

Wednesday, First Week of Lent

**Let gratitude be the pillow upon which you kneel
to say your nightly prayer.**

(Maya Angelou)

Jonah 3:1-10

The people of Nineveh, king, and common folks, repented, changed their ways and turned to God at the preaching of Jonah. God had compassion on the Ninevites.

The season of Lent calls us to conversion, to a change of heart. Reflect on the need for your own personal conversion!

Psalm 51

Have mercy on me, God, in your goodness.
In your abundant compassion, blot out my offense.
Wash away all my guilt; from my sin, cleanse me.

What offense, in your life, needs cleansing, healing and transformation?

Luke 11:29-32

They (Scribes and Pharisees) looked for God in the abnormal - in the extraordinary. Jesus constantly called people to recognize God and God's presence in the ordinary everyday experiences...in little children, in the widow's mite, in the lilies in the field, in the birds of the air.....

Jesus refused to give extraordinary signs and called the scribes and Pharisees and all his followers to find God in the ordinary things of everyday life.

Jesus presented himself, not what he did, as the sign, God's sign. Jesus is God's sign for us just as Jonah was God's sign for the Ninevites and Solomon God's sign for the Queen of Sheba.

The disciple must now become a sign of the Master.....perhaps imperfect, but still a sign that carries the message of the master..... The world must meet the Master in the disciple.

Saint of the Day, February 24 - Blessed Luke Belludi and 8 other saints are remembered this day.

In 1220, Saint Anthony was preaching conversion to the inhabitants of Padua when a young nobleman, Luke Belludi, came up to him and humbly asked to receive the habit of the followers of Saint Francis. At the age of twenty, he was received into the Order of Friars Minor, the Franciscans, by Saint Francis himself. A few years later, Friar Luke met for the first time Saint Anthony of Padua. Thereafter Luke served as an assistant to the great Franciscan preacher on his missions across northern Italy. In 1231, he had the privilege of assisting Anthony at his death.

Friar Luke was appointed guardian of the Friars Minor in the city of Padua. In 1239, the city fell into the hands of its enemies. Nobles were put to death, the mayor and council were banished, the great university of Padua gradually closed, and the church dedicated to Saint Anthony was left unfinished. Luke himself was expelled from the city but secretly returned.

As the crisis in Padua continued, Luke would go to pray at the tomb of Saint Anthony following the recitation of the night office. While doing this one night, Luke and another Franciscan with him heard a voice from the tomb assuring them that their prayers for Padua were soon to be answered. The city was liberated not long afterward. It was Friar Luke who supervised the construction of the Padua basilica that now enshrines Saint Anthony's body. He died on February 17, 1286

Fr. Gus Tharappel, msfs