

# **MORNING MEDITATION**

**Saturday, Twenty Ninth Week in Ordinary Time**

**We practice the disciplines of silence, solitude, and stillness so that we may seek the will of God as Jesus did before choosing his disciples.**

**(Luke 6:12-13.)**

## **Ephesians 4:7-16**

Paul explained to the Ephesians that there are diverse gifts within the community and all the gifts are given for the common good. Christ has ascended high above the heavens that he might fill all men with his gifts. Paul says that there are different ministries for the purpose of building up the body of Christ till we become one in faith. He challenged the Ephesians and us today to grow to the full maturity in Christ and use all our gifts for the good of the community.

## **Psalm 122**

**I rejoiced because they said to me,  
"We will go up to the house of the Lord."  
And now we have set foot  
Within your gates, O Jerusalem.**

## **Luke 13:1-9**

Jesus called his listeners to reform their lives. Jesus used the parable of the unyielding fig tree to teach them about the need to make changes and renew their lives. Give the tree another chance, another opportunity to yield. Nurture the tree, tenderly care for it, give it more time, give it another year, take another approach and give the tree another chance to yield.

**This parable proclaims the Gospel of second chance. Give yourself another chance, another opportunity...give others another chance, give the world another chance.....**

Fig tree in a Vineyard is a beautiful imagery. The tree had ample opportunities to yield and yet did not yield.

**Reflect on the many opportunities you are blessed with. We have opportunities now which the world has not known before.**

## **Saint of the Day, October 24 - Saint Anthony Mary Claret and 348 other saints are remembered this day**

Anthony was born in Salient in Catalonia, Spain, in 1807, the son of a weaver. He took up weaving but then studied for the priesthood, desiring to be a Jesuit. Ill health prevented his entering the Order, and he served as a diocesan priest. In 1849, he founded the Missionary Sons of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, known today as the Claretians, and the Apostolic Training Institute of the Immaculate Conception, Claretian nuns. From 1850 to 1857, Anthony served as the archbishop of Santiago de Cuba, Cuba.

He is known as the “spiritual father of Cuba”. He was a missionary, religious founder, social reformer, queen’s chaplain, writer and publisher, archbishop, and a refugee. He was a Spanish missionary whose work took him to the Canary Islands, Cuba, Madrid, Paris, and to the First Vatican Council.

Anthony was appointed to head the much-neglected archdiocese of Santiago in Cuba. He began its reform by almost ceaseless preaching and hearing of confessions and suffered bitter opposition mainly for opposing concubinage and giving instruction to black slaves. A hired assassin—whose release from prison Anthony had obtained—slashed open his face and wrist. Anthony succeeded in getting the would-be assassin’s death sentence commuted to a prison term.

His solution for the misery of Cubans was family-owned farms, producing a variety of foods for the family’s own needs and for the market. This invited the enmity of the vested interests who wanted everyone to work on a single cash crop—sugar. Besides all his religious writings are two books he wrote in Cuba: *Reflections on Agriculture and Country Delights*.

He was recalled to Spain for a job that he did not relish—being chaplain for the queen. Anthony went on three conditions: He would reside away from the palace; he would come only to hear the queen’s confession and instruct the children; and he would be exempt from court functions. In the revolution of 1868, he fled to Paris with the queen’s party, where he preached to the Spanish colony.

All his life Anthony was interested in the Catholic press. He founded the Religious Publishing House, a major Catholic publishing venture in Spain, and wrote or published 200 books and pamphlets. He died in the Cistercian monastery of Fontfroide in southern France on October 24, 1870.

Fr. Gus Tharappel,msfs