

# **MORNING MEDITATION**

## **Wednesday, First Week in Ordinary Time**

**The more simple we are, the more complete we become.**  
(August Rodin)

### **I Samuel 3:1-10, 19-20**

Chapter 3 describes God's call of Samuel, the prophet. This excerpt tells us that the call came to him at a time when such calls from God were infrequent. This indicates the special nature of his call. Eli, the priest had become old and his sons were corrupt and at this point Israel needed a spiritual leader. God called Samuel for this spiritual leadership and Samuel responded.

**Be attentive to the spiritual needs of the community.....discern how you can share in the spiritual leadership in your community.**

### **Psalm 40**

**I have waited, waited for the Lord,  
And he stooped toward me.  
Happy the man who makes the Lord his trust;  
Who turns not to idolatry or to those who stray after falsehood.**

### **Mark 1:29-39**

Jesus had an exciting and exhausting experience in the synagogue. He went to Simon's house where he healed Simon's mother-in-law. He was never too tired to help and to heal. He was prepared to heal in a simple cottage and did not require the great audience of the synagogue. **Any time is a good time to help someone and any place is a good place to help and to heal and to comfort....**

Simon's mother-in-law began to wait on them after being cured. She used her recovered health for renewed service. **Share your health with others in loving and generous service.**

Rising early, Jesus went into a quiet place and was absorbed in prayer. They managed to "track him down". "Everybody is looking for you", they said. Jesus brought good news to the disciples. The disciples had no problem bringing their troubles to the man with good news. I need to move on to other neighborhoods and proclaim the good news..... "That is what I have come to do", Said Jesus. **Rejoice and find strength in the good news of Jesus. Bring the good news of Jesus to someone today.**

**Saint of the day, January 12 - Saint Marguerite Bourgeoy and 25 other saints are remembered this day.**

Marguerite Bourgeoys, was born, sixth of 12 children in Troyes, France on April 17, 1620. At the age of 20, she believed that she was called to religious life. Her applications to the Carmelites and Poor Clares were unsuccessful. A priest friend suggested that perhaps God had other plans for her.

In 1654, the governor of the French settlement in Canada visited his sister, an Augustinian canoness in Troyes. Marguerite belonged to a sodality connected to that convent. The governor invited her to come to Canada and start a school in Ville-Marie (eventually the city of Montreal). When she arrived, the colony numbered 200 people with a hospital and a Jesuit mission chapel.

Soon after starting a school, she realized her need for coworkers. Returning to Troyes, she recruited a friend, Catherine Crolo, and two other young women. In 1667, they added classes at their school for Indian children. A second trip to France three years later resulted in six more young women and a letter from King Louis XIV, authorizing the school. The Congregation of Notre Dame was established in 1676 but its members did not make formal religious profession until 1698 when their Rule and constitutions were approved. Marguerite established a school for Indian girls in Montreal. At the age of 69, she walked from Montreal to Quebec in response to the bishop's request to establish a community of her sisters in that city.

Marguerite survived many threats in the twenty-six years she had been in wilderness of Canada. She had lived through Iroquois attacks, a fire that destroyed her small village, plagues on the ships that she took back and forth to France, but nothing threatened her dreams and hopes more than what her own bishop said to her in 1679. He told her that she had to join her Congregation of Notre Dame with its teaching sisters to a cloistered religious order of Ursulines.

Marguerite was not ready to surrender to the bishop. There was too much at stake. She reminded him that the Ursulines, because they were cloistered, could not go out and teach, as her Sisters had done. The poor and uneducated would not and could not travel to a Quebec cloister over miles of frontier at the risk of their lives. But her Sisters were more than willing to live in huts in order to fulfill their call from God. She had set up schools all over the territory, not just for children. How could they do the work for God that they had done so well in a cloister?

The bishop replied, "I cannot doubt, Mother Bourgeoys, that you will succeed in moving heaven and earth as you have moved me!" The Congregation remained an active teaching order, one of the very first of its kind for women. Their rule had to go through one more attempt at turning them into a cloister but Marguerite lived to see the triumph when their Rule was made official in 1698. She died on January 12, 1700 in Montreal. She was canonized by Pope John Paul II in 1982.

Fr. Gus Tharappel, msfs