

# MORNING MEDITATION

Thursday, Twenty Ninth Week in Ordinary Time

**More than any previous generation in history, we have an urgent need for stillness because of the hectic and chaotic situations of our world.**

## **Ephesians 3:14-21**

Paul tells the Ephesians that it is in Christ and through faith in him that we become true sons of God. So, he prayed, "I kneel before the Father.....and I pray that he will bestow on you gifts in keeping with the riches of his glory. May he strengthen you inwardly through the working of his Spirit. May Christ dwell in your hearts...May charity be the root and foundation of your life....." **Make this prayer of Paul your prayer today.**

## **Psalms 33**

**Exult, you just in the Lord;  
Praise from the upright is fitting.  
Give thanks to the Lord on the harp;  
With the ten-stringed lyre chant his praises.**

## **Luke 12:49-53**

Jesus said that he came to cast fire upon the earth. To the Jews, fire was a symbol of judgment. The Jews believed themselves to be the favorites, the special people of God and that they would be judged by a different standard from the rest of humanity. The coming of Jesus was a time of judgment of the 'earth', of all people and not just the Jews.

The Jews waited for the Messiah, conqueror and King. To them, Jesus spoke of the terrible experience he would go through - a time of tension and conflict that he would have to go through, "I have a baptism to be baptized with" - the cross was before his eyes as he continued his journey to Jerusalem. How different this is from the idea of conqueror King! Jesus came not with avenging armies but giving His life so that we may have life to its fullness.

**His coming meant division and it still could mean division because loyalty to Christ has to take precedence over the dearest loyalties of this world.**

**To choose Christ could mean denial of other things and other loyalties!**

## **Saint of the Day, October 22 - Saint John Paul II and 28 other saints are remembered this day**

Karol Jozef Wojtyla was born near Kraków, Poland, on May 18, 1920. In the years of World War II, 1939 to 1945, Germany occupied Poland, and the Soviet communists took control after the war. Under Nazi control, seminaries were illegal, but there was an “underground” seminary in Kraków in which Karol Jozef Wojtyla entered in 1942. In 1946, Karol was ordained.

Between the years 1946 and 1978, he was a university chaplain, professor, Auxiliary Bishop, Archbishop, and Cardinal. In October 1978 he became Pope John Paul II. Through the course of his 27-year papacy, he made pastoral visits to 124 countries. His 1979 papal visit to Poland encouraged the growth of the Solidarity movement and played a role in communism’s future collapse in Eastern Europe and the Soviet Union. In 1981, he survived a gunshot wound in an assassination attempt, and in 1983 he met his attacker and offered him forgiveness.

In 1985, he established the tradition of World Youth Day in which youth from all over the world would meet and carry the message that they are Christ’s light to the world. In 1994, Pope John Paul II established diplomatic relations with Israel and condemned anti-Semitism. In his years as pope, John Paul II wrote 14 encyclicals and five books, canonized 482 saints and beatified 1,338 people. In the last years of his life, he suffered from Parkinson’s disease. He died in 2005. Pope Benedict XVI beatified John Paul II in 2011, and Pope Francis canonized him in 2014.

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