

MORNING MEDITATION

Friday, Twelfth Week in Ordinary Time

Gratitude is the sign of noble souls.
(Aesop)

Genesis 17:1, 9-10, 15-22

Abraham receives yet another promise, the birth of his own son, Isaac. He expressed his doubts and disappointments to God and wondered how God's promise was going to be fulfilled in his old age and that of his wife Sarah. God said to him that it was his plan and that he would fulfill the promise he made. Abraham trusted God again and God offered him a tremendous challenge: "Walk before me and be perfect".

This is the same call that the disciples of Jesus would hear almost two thousand years later, "Be ye perfect as your heavenly father is perfect".

Psalm 128

**Happy are you, who fear the lord,
Who walk in his ways!
For you shall eat the fruit of your handiwork;
Happy shall you be and favored.**

Mathew 8:1-4

Mathew tells us that after a long period of teaching on the mountain, Jesus came down and met a leper who requested to be healed. And Jesus healed him.

This was healing from the disease that reduced the human person to "disintegration" and "alienation". This was healing that brought wholeness and integrity.

This is compassion that goes far beyond the law and the requirements - Compassion that reaches out to the other - never draws the other to self.

This is Jesus living out what he just taught. He had taught the disciples to be faithful, to mean what they say, to practice what they preach. Mathew says, at the close of chapter seven, that people were spellbound because Jesus taught with authority. This is the authority that Mathew speaks of, the authority of his person - Jesus was what he said, what he taught and what he proclaimed....compassion in word and in action, in real life.

Be compassionate as the heavenly Father is compassionate!

Saint of the Day, June 25 - St. William of Vercelli and 10 other saints are remembered this day

William was born in 1085 into a noble family of Vercelli in northwest Italy. He was orphaned as an infant and raised by relatives. At the young age of 14, he made a pilgrimage to Santiago de Compostela in Spain, and decided to devote his life to God as a hermit. After he returned to Italy, he intended to go to Jerusalem and for this purpose he reached Southern Italy, but he was beaten up and robbed by thieves. William considered this misfortune a sign of God's will to stay in Southern Italy and spread the message of Christ.

He lived as a hermit for two years at Monte Solicoli, where he was credited with healing a blind man. At Monte Vergiliano, his reputation for holiness attracted many disciples, and in 1119, he established a monastery with a Rule based on the Benedictines.

He left Monte Vergiliano in 1128 because the hermit life that he sought was compromised because of the demands of ministry. Moreover, his confreres did not tolerate that lifestyle because it was too austere and full of privations. He settled on the plains in Goleto where he began a new monastic experience, a double monastery built mostly by women.

Subsequently, he founded several other monasteries of the same rule during his lifetime, but only the original survives today. He died on June 25, 1142 of natural causes.

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