

MORNING MEDITATION

Monday, Fourteenth Week in Ordinary Time

**Even if there is noise, there is always some silence underneath
and in between the sounds.**

(Eckhart Tolle)

Hosea 2:16-18, 21-22

Hosea shares his vision of Yahweh leading his people to the desert to reestablish the covenant. Yahweh will espouse Israel in justice, in love, in mercy and in fidelity. Israel will once again know God as the Lord of everlasting Love and Faithfulness.

Pray: Father, teach me to trust in your everlasting love and leave my life in your hands.

Psalms 145

**Every day will I bless you,
And I will praise your name forever and ever.
Great is the Lord and highly to be praised;
His greatness is unsearchable.**

Mathew 9:18-26

There are two miracles in this excerpt from the Gospel of Mathew: the healing of the ruler's daughter and the healing of the woman with hemorrhage. Each of them came with a different quality of faith: the ruler came desperate, having tried everything and the woman, came believing that even touching the garment of Jesus would bring healing. The amazing thing is: they were accepted, with the kind of faith with which they came - with what they brought, just the way they were, without conditions.

Turn to the Lord with whatever faith you have...inadequate faith, little faith, lots of faith...size of a mustard seed.....Pray: Lord, increase my faith!

No matter, how imperfectly we come, His love and his arms are open to us in welcome embrace.

We do not wait until our motivations, our faith and our theology are perfect. We come just as we are.

Saint of the Day, July 6 - St. Maria Goretti and 18 other saints are remembered this day

Maria Goretti was born on October 16, 1890 in Corinaldo, in the Province of Ancona, then in the Kingdom of Italy, to Luigi Goretti and Assunta Carlini, the third of seven children. By the time Maria was five, her family had become so poor that they were forced to give up their farm, move, and work for other farmers. In 1896 and 1899, they moved again and shared room with another family which included Giovanni Serenelli and his son, Alessandro. Soon, her father became very sick with malaria, and died when she was just nine. While her mother and siblings worked in the fields, she would cook, sew, watch her sister Teresa, and keep the house clean.

On July 5, 1902, eleven-year-old Maria was sitting on the outside steps of her home, sewing one of Alessandro's shirts and watching Teresa, while Alessandro was threshing beans in the barnyard. Knowing she would be alone, he returned to the house and threatened to stab her with an awl if she did not do what he said; he was intending to rape her. She would not submit, however, protesting that what he wanted to do was a mortal sin and warning him that he would go to Hell. She fought desperately and kept screaming, "No! It is a sin! God does not want it!" He first choked her, but when she insisted, she would rather die than submit to him, he stabbed her eleven times. She tried to reach the door, but he stopped her by stabbing her three more times before running away.

Teresa woke to the sounds of her sister's cries and began to cry. Maria's family returned home and found her bleeding on the floor. They quickly took her to the nearest hospital in Nettuno, where she underwent surgery without anesthesia. Unfortunately, her wounds were beyond the surgeon's ability to help. Halfway through the surgery, the man asked her, "Maria, think of me in Paradise." As she lay on the table, she looked up at him and said, "Well, who knows which of us is going to be there first?" She did not realize how terrible her situation was, and the surgeon replied, "You, Maria." She said, "Then I will think gladly of you." She also mentioned concerns for her mother. The next day, Maria forgave Alessandro and said she wanted to see him in Heaven with her. She died that day, on July 6, 1902 at the age of eleven, while looking upon an image of the Virgin Mary and holding a cross to her chest.

Maria Goretti was beatified by Pope Pius XII in a ceremony at Saint Peter's Basilica on April 27, 1947. Three years later, on June 24, 1950, Maria was declared a saint and Alessandro was present in the St. Peter's crowd to celebrate her canonization. He later became a lay brother of the Order of Friars Minor Capuchin, where he lived in a monastery and worked as its receptionist and gardener until his death.

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