

# MORNING MEDITATION

## Monday after Epiphany

**To be human is to be born with a purpose.**

### **1 John 3:22 – 4:6**

John says to his readers that those who acknowledge Jesus belong to God and share the spirit of God. An invisible and even mysterious communion of life and spirit unites us with the Father and one another. We know that we are in communion if we follow the commandments, and the command is that we believe in Jesus and we love one another as he loved us.

**John calls us to trust in the spirit and test our own spirit to see that it is aligned with the spirit of God.**

### **Psalm 2**

**And now, O kings, give heed;  
Take warning, you rulers of the earth.  
Serve the Lord with fear and rejoice before him;  
With trembling, pay homage to him.**

### **Mathew 4:12-17; 23-25**

John the Baptist was arrested and imprisoned. For Jesus, time had come to go forth and fulfill His mission. So, he left Nazareth and took up residence in Capernaum. He left his home never again to return to live in it. **He closed the door behind before he opened the one in front!**

He went to Galilee to begin his mission. Among the many characteristics of Galilee, one that is of special significance is that it had a mixed population, surrounded by the Gentiles. **His message was going to be proclaimed to a wider circle from the beginning - a more inclusive mission!**

The message of Jesus was not preached or taught but proclaimed..... His message was simple, pure, uncomplicated good news..... He proclaimed the good news with a voice of certainty, with a voice of authority, with the voice of God. His message was to repent, to turn from your own ways and turn to God and God's ways.....to rent your hearts, to Change your attitudes..... because the Kingdom has come..... Eternity has invaded time.....God has entered the earth in Jesus and chose to stay.....**So, it is urgent to choose to close the door behind and open the door in front and walk in.**

## **Saint of the Day, January 6 - St. Andre Bessette and 14 other saints are remembered this day.**

St. Andre Bessette was born Alfred Bessette in Mont-Saint-Grégoire, Canada East (Québec), a small town situated 25 miles southeast of Montreal. He was the eighth of 12 children, four of whom died in infancy. At birth, he was so frail that he was baptized in emergency on the following day. The family was working-class; his father, Isaac Bessette, was a carpenter and lumberman, and his mother, Clothilde Foisly Bessette, saw to the education of her children.

In 1849, with employment scarce and his family living in poverty, Alfred's father moved to Farnham, Quebec to work as a lumberman, but soon died tragically, crushed by a falling tree. Alfred was nine years old, and his mother, at 40, remained with ten children in her care. Clothilde died of tuberculosis within three years, and Alfred became orphaned at the age of twelve.

Alfred had a deep love for God and a profound devotion to St. Joseph. The pastor of his parish, noticed the devotion and generosity of the young man and decided to encourage him to join the Congregation of Holy Cross in Montreal. Although he was in poor health, illiterate, and unable to hold a job, sought admission to the Congregation of the Holy Cross in Montreal in 1870. The Order initially rejected his application, but accepted him later with the intervention of the Archbishop. At Holy Cross, Alfred received his religious name Andre by which he was known for the rest of his life.

André was given the task of porter at Notre Dame College in Quebec, with additional duties as sacristan, laundry worker and messenger. "When I joined this community, the superiors showed me the door, and I remained 40 years," he said. Andre had a very deep devotion to St. Joseph.

In 1904, Brother André sought permission from the Archbishop of Montreal to build a chapel in honor of St. Joseph. The archbishop refused to fund the chapel but allowed him to build it with his own funds. Initially, all he had was about \$200.00 in donations he had collected through the years. With that money he built a very small shelter. As time passed, he was able construct other sections of the chapel. Eventually, the entire chapel was completed, as well as lodging for both pilgrims and the Holy Cross brothers. In 1937, André began building a basilica on the site, but he died before it was finished. Pope Benedict XVI canonized Saint André on October 17, 2010.

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