

# **MORNING MEDITATION**

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

**Strive to be gentle and patient so as to ease the burdens  
and pressures of others.**

## **Philippians 2:12-18**

Paul encouraged the Philippians to be faithful even in his absence. He taught them to be “innocent, straightforward, children of God beyond reproach...holding fast to the word of life”. He encouraged them to rejoice in their calling.

## **Psalm 27**

**The Lord is my light and my salvation,  
Whom should I fear?  
The Lord is my life's refuge,  
Of whom should I be afraid?  
One thing I ask of the Lord, this I seek:  
to dwell in the house of the Lord, all the days of my life.**

## **Luke 14:25-33**

Jesus spoke to his followers about the cost of discipleship with startling honesty. Being a disciple could mean division, separation even from loved ones 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! The disciple must be ready to take up the cross, to be regarded as a criminal and to die without glory or fame or name or wealth.

**Be prepared to welcome and accept the pain and the loss that come with being  
faithful to your call.**

**Invest yourself into loving God and God's people!**

**Saint of the Day, November 6 - St. Nicholas Tavelic and Companions and  
19 other saints are remembered this day**

St. Nicholas Tavelic and his three companions were martyred in the Holy Land in 1391. Nicholas and his three companions are among the 158 Franciscans who have been martyred in the Holy Land since the friars became custodians of the shrines in 1335.

Nicholas was born in 1340 to a wealthy and noble family in Croatia. He joined the Franciscans and was sent with Deodat of Rodez to preach in Bosnia. In 1384, they volunteered for the Holy Land missions and were sent there. They looked after the holy places, cared for the Christian pilgrims, and studied Arabic.

In 1391, Nicholas, Deodat, Peter of Narbonne, and Stephen of Cuneo decided to take a direct approach to converting the Muslims. On November 11, they went to the huge Mosque of Omar in Jerusalem and asked to see the Qadix - Muslim official. Reading from a prepared statement, they said that all people must accept the gospel of Jesus. When they were ordered to retract their statement, they refused. After beatings and imprisonment, they were beheaded before a large crowd. While their method of evangelization is different from what we would use today, their zeal and courage are evident in their actions. Nicholas and his companions were canonized in 1970. They are the only Franciscans martyred in the Holy Land to be canonized.

Fr. Gus Tharappel,msfs