

MORNING MEDITATION

Thursday, Second Week in Ordinary Time

Purposefulness helps us concentrate on our goals and achieve them.

Hebrews 7:25-8:6

This excerpt tells us that Jesus, forever, lives to save those who approach him. Unlike other priests, Jesus has no need to offer sacrifice day after day – he offered himself once and for all. We participate in this mission of Jesus, the mission of total giving.

Psalm 40

Sacrifices and oblations you wished not,
But ears open to obedience you gave me.
Holocausts or sin-offerings you sought not;
Then said I, "Behold I come".

Mark 3:7-12

Jesus withdrew to the lakeside and the open sky. People came from all over – Mark gives us the details of towns and cities from which people came. Mark tells us that a boat had to be kept ready, just offshore, in case he might be overwhelmed by the crushing mob, sick people didn't wait for him to touch them, they rushed to touch him. Mark tells us that evil spirits called him "the Son of God". And Jesus demanded silence from them.

In few verses Mark tells us much about the movement of Jesus and how people recognized in Jesus' "Sonship", an identity with the Father, an intimacy, a union, a communion with the Father. No other word than the word "Son" could describe this relationship.

Reflect on your "sonship", your identity, intimacy and communion with God, our father...

Mark also tells us that Jesus didn't want publicity – called for silence. People expected a political messiah. Jesus thought of Messiahship in terms of sacrificial Love; the people thought of it in terms of Jewish nationalism. Jesus had to educate them into the true idea of the Messiah. Jesus had to wait patiently to educate his followers.

Reflect on your own vision of Jesus. Reflect on the possibility of deepening your knowledge and experience of Jesus...

Saint of the Day, January 23 - St. Marianne Cope and 17 other saints are remembered this day.

Marianne was born to Peter and Barbara Cope of Hessen-Darmstadt, Germany on January 23, 1838. Two years later the Cope family emigrated to the United States and settled in Utica, New York. Young Barbara worked in a factory until August 1862, when she went to the Sisters of the Third Order of Saint Francis in Syracuse, New York. After profession in November of the following year, she began teaching at Assumption parish school.

Marianne held the post of superior in several places and was twice the novice mistress of her congregation. A natural leader, three different times, she was superior of St. Joseph's Hospital in Syracuse, where she learned much that would be useful during her years in Hawaii.

Elected provincial in 1877, Mother Marianne was unanimously re-elected in 1881. Two years later the Hawaiian government was searching for someone to run the Kakaako Receiving Station for people suspected of having leprosy. More than 50 religious communities in the United States and Canada were asked. When the request was put to the Syracuse sisters, 35 of them volunteered immediately. On October 22, 1883, Mother Marianne and six other sisters left for Hawaii where they took charge of the Kakaako Receiving Station outside Honolulu; on the island of Maui they also opened a hospital and a school for girls.

In 1888, Mother Marianne and two sisters went to Molokai to open a home for "unprotected women and girls" there. On Molokai she took charge of the home that Saint Damien de Veuster had established for men and boys. Mother Marianne changed life on Molokai by introducing cleanliness, pride, and fun to the colony. Bright scarves and pretty dresses for the women were part of her approach.

Mother Marianne came to be known as Mother Marianne of Molokai. Awarded the Royal Order of Kapiolani by the Hawaiian government and celebrated in a poem by Robert Louis Stevenson, Mother Marianne continued her work faithfully. Her sisters have attracted vocations among the Hawaiian people and still work on Molokai. Mother Marianne died on August 9, 1918 and was beatified in 2005 and canonized seven years later.

Fr. Gus Tharappel, msfs