

MORNING MEDITATION

Monday, Second Week in Ordinary Time

We are created and ordained to participate in the creating, governing and unifying wisdom of God.

Hebrews 5:1-10

The mission of a priest is the sanctification of himself and those he serves. It is in sharing in this mission of "sanctification" that we participate in the priestly mission of Christ

Psalm 110

**The Lord has sworn and he will not repent,
"You are a priest forever,
According to the order of Mechizedek."**

Mark 2:18-22

Jesus and his disciples deviated from traditional practices. They neither fasted nor prayed like the Pharisees and the disciples of John. So, they questioned Jesus about why he and his disciples did not follow the traditional spiritual practices.

The presence of Jesus is a presence of Joy. Jesus came to proclaim the "reign of God" and the reign of God is a joyful celebration of life. The message of Jesus is a message of Hope and of joy. The characteristic Christian attitude toward life is "JOY". Share your joy with someone today.

Remember three things that usually make you happy. Do one of them today.

Jesus knew that he was coming with a radically different message, and he also knew that his way of life was shatteringly different from that of the orthodox rabbinic teacher.

He also knew how difficult it is for people to accept new truth and change their attitudes. So, he called his listeners to an adventurous and open mind.

Jesus said, no one sews a patch of un-shrunken cloth on an old cloak. No man pours new wine into old wineskins. New wine is poured into new skins.

The day of "patching" is over – recreation must begin! There are times when break with the past and new beginnings become necessary, an adventurous and open mind become necessary. Be open! Be flexible! Be adventurous!

Saint of the Day, January 20 - St. Sebastian and 9 other saints are remembered this day.

We know very little about St. Sebastian with historical accuracy. We know that he was a Roman martyr, venerated in Milan at the time of Saint Ambrose and buried, probably near the present Basilica of St. Sebastian. Tradition tells us that during the persecution of Diocletian, he was tied to a post or tree and shot with arrows. He was rescued and healed by Saint Irene of Rome, which became a popular subject in 17th-century painting. In all versions of the story, shortly after his recovery he went to Diocletian to warn him about his sins, and as a result was clubbed to death. He lived and died probably between 256 – 288 C.E. He is regarded, in some parts of the world, as a saint with a special ability to intercede for protection from plague, and devotion to him increased greatly when plague was active.

Fr. Gus Tharappel, msfs