

# **MORNING MEDITATION**

**Saturday Third Week of Lent**

**Accept yourself, your strengths and your weaknesses and know what resources you have and need to fulfill your purpose.**

## **Hosea 6:1-6**

“It is love that I desire, not sacrifice, and knowledge of God rather than holocausts”, with these words Hosea invites us today to turn to the Lord, our God of compassion and Love. Hosea assures his people and us today: “He will come to us like the rain, like spring rain that waters the earth”. So strive to know the Lord, turn to him in love.

## **Psalms 51**

**Have mercy on me God in your goodness;  
In the greatness of your compassion, wipe out my offense.  
Thoroughly wash me from my guilt  
and of my sin cleanse me.....**

## **Luke 18: 9-14**

Jesus spoke the parable of a tax collector and a Pharisee at prayer. The tax collector humbled himself before God and prayed for mercy and was blessed with forgiveness, justification and mercy. The Pharisee claimed to be good, better than the tax collector, justified himself before God and went home feeling good about himself.

It is the tax collector who humbled himself before God that went home forgiven and healed while the Pharisee went home feeling good about himself and better than others.

Jesus says: “everyone who exalts himself shall be humbled while he who humbles himself shall be exalted”.

**Be humble! Come before the Lord in humility, sincerity and truth!**

**To be humble is to acknowledge and accept the truth about self. Humility is not a denial of self and self-worth – it is an affirmation and grateful acceptance of all that you are as God’s gift of love.**

**Be grateful and celebrate your life as God’s gift of love!**

**Saint of the day, March 29 - St. Ludovico of Casoria and 13 other saints are remembered this day.**

Ludovico was born Arcangelo Palmentieri in Casoria, near Naples, on March 11, 1814. He apprenticed as a cabinet maker in his youth. He entered the novitiate of the Order of Friars Minor on July 1, 1832, taking the name Ludovico. He was ordained a priest five years later and was appointed to teach philosophy, mathematics, and chemistry to the younger members of the Order at the Franciscan priory of San Pietro in Naples.

In 1847, he had a mystical experience which he later described as a cleansing. After that, he dedicated his life to the poor and the infirm, establishing a dispensary for the poor, two schools for African children, an institute for the children of nobility, as well as an institution for orphans, the deaf, and the speechless, and other institutes for the blind, elderly, and for travelers. In addition to an infirmary for friars of his province, he began charitable institutes in Naples, Florence, and Assisi.

To help continue these works of mercy, in 1859 he established the Gray Brothers, a religious community composed of men who formerly belonged to the Secular Franciscan Order. Three years later, he founded the Gray Sisters of St. Elizabeth for the same purpose.

Toward the beginning of his final, nine-year illness, Ludovico wrote a spiritual testament which described faith as "light in the darkness, help in sickness, blessing in tribulations, paradise in the crucifixion, and life amid death." The local work for his beatification began within five months of Ludovico's death. He was beatified in 1993 and canonized in 2014.

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