

MORNING MEDITATION

Tuesday, Second Week in Ordinary Time

Being purposeful means being single-minded, having pure and unmixed intention.

Hebrews 6:10-20

Our God will remember our service in love! Devout and zealous perseverance should characterize Christian service, founded in hope. Christian hope is founded in the Lord's sacrifice and entry into the heavenly sanctuary.

Keep on loving! Go on serving! Don't grow weary! Be patient and Be persevering in service!

Psalm 111

I will give thanks to the Lord with all my heart
in the company and assembly of the just.
Great are the works of the Lord,
exquisite in all their delight.

Mark 2:23-28

The story of how the disciples plucked ears of corn on the Sabbath Day. The scribes and the Pharisees became more suspicious of a teacher who allowed his disciples to violate the Sabbath law. This kind of thing could not be allowed to spread unchecked.

Jesus used this occasion to teach: Man is not at the service of the law. The law is at the service of man.

In this incident Jesus lays it down that the claim of human need must take precedence over all other claims. The claims of worship, the claims of ritual, and the claims of liturgy are important, but prior to any of them is the claim of human need. Jesus insisted that the greatest ritual service is the service that meets urgent human need.

Jesus called his disciples to go beyond rituals service, church service, synagogue service, to the service of human need. In fact, the Gospels tell of only one synagogue service that Jesus conducted. But we have an abundance of incidence of Jesus at the service of human need. Christian service is involvement in the demands and problems and tragedies of the human situation.

Saint of the Day, January 21 - St. Agnes and 14 other saints are remembered this day.

We have very little knowledge of Agnes with historical accuracy. Much of what we know is tradition as well as legend. According to tradition, Agnes was a member of the Roman nobility, born around 291 and raised in an early Christian family. She suffered martyrdom at the age of twelve or thirteen during the reign of the Roman Emperor Diocletian, on January 21, 304.

She was a beautiful young girl from a wealthy family. She had many suitors of high rank, and the young men, slighted by her resolute devotion to religious purity, submitted her name to the authorities as a follower of Christianity. The Prefect condemned Agnes to be dragged naked through the streets to a brothel. Legend tells us that all men who attempted to rape her were immediately struck blind. The son of the prefect was struck dead but revived after she prayed for him, causing her release. She was later sentenced to death, led out and bound to a stake, but the bundle of wood would not burn, or the flames parted away from her. The officer in charge of the troops drew his sword and beheaded her.

Saint Agnes is also known as Agnes of Rome, Ines, Ines del Campo, and Ynez. The name "Agnes" is similar to the Latin word *agnus*, which means "lamb". For this reason depictions of Saint Agnes often include a lamb. The name actually comes from a Greek word which means "chaste, pure, sacred".

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