

Weekly Devotions

November 5-10, 2018

Monday, November 5 -

Quote for the day:

“All saints have a past and all sinners have a future.”

Read: Acts of the Apostles 9.1-19

Ponder: If we remember the story of St. Paul (Saul) we know that his earlier days were far from “saintly.” He was a staunch follower of Jewish law and was also lucky enough to be a Roman citizen which afforded him privileges most Jews did not have. He was present at St. Stephen’s stoning. But had an experience of Christ and turned his life around becoming the Apostle of the Gentiles. Change is possible.

Challenge: Take time contemplating those in your life whom you consider saints (people of great faith.) They were human and fallible. Ask yourself, what you would like to be remembered for when you pass from this life into the next. How do you incorporate that into your every day life?

Tuesday, November 6-

Quote for the day:

“Follow the saints, for those who follow will become saints” - St. Benedict 1

Read: Mark 1.19-21

Ponder: James and John, sons of Zebedee, are fishing with their father following in the line of their family as fishermen. Jesus asks them to “Follow me.” They lay down their nets and all they know to follow this man; leaving all they know and whom they love. Little do they know this is the messiah, the Christ. But they sense this is the right thing to do.

Challenge: When have you been drawn to follow the example of someone else? Have you ever met someone and thought “this is someone I want to know and spend time with?” We all need to nurture others in the faith and their journey...who are you currently nurturing?

Wednesday, November 7-

Quote for the day:

“Never give up.”

Read: 2 Timothy 4.7

Ponder: Life gets difficult sometimes. There are moments when it would be easier to just give up and let life take you where it will. There are times when moving on is a wise choice...there are times that we would see glory if we had finished climbing that next hill.

Challenge: What are you afraid to lose? Will you risk what is...in order to achieve what is possible.? If you still have the dream and you can not shake it...we must risk to achieve it. Leaving material good are just that...material. Much of the beauty in our lives are things we can not own. What can you let go of this day?

Thursday, November 8-

Quote for the day:

“Suddenly all my ancestors are behind me. ‘Be still’ they say. Watch and listen. You are the result of the love of thousands.”

— Linda K. Hogan

Read: Hebrews 12.

Ponder: The great cloud of witnesses—those who came before us; our family bound to us in faith—the church eternal. Take a moment to sit and take in what that means for you...to be surrounded by those who have lived, died and cheer us on from the heavenly places. For even Christ declared that he would be with us “until the end of the age.”

Challenge: The central emotion most feel when they contemplate saints from their own lives is love. As the people of God we are bound to one another and to the Divine One by love. How do you show love for those around you? Loving is a conscious act—we are to show it to all.

Friday, November 9 -

Quote for the day:

“Love doesn’t die, people do. So when all that’s left of me is love, give me away.”

Mishkan T’Filah—Reformed Siddur

Read: Luke 24.36-49

Ponder: When one we love dies, it isn’t uncommon to want to hide away and grieve. Doing so is not wrong. Staying in such a place emotionally and physically is where the death of someone leads to our own death—not physically but emotionally. Jesus comes to his closest friends who are hiding out of fear but also out of grief.

Challenge: There is no proper way to grieve. We all must grieve in our own way and in our own time. But the quote and scripture for today remind us that there is more to our lives. How we honor those whom we have loved and lost is by loving others and sharing what our loved ones shared with us. Today, may you do the same.

Saturday, November 10 -

Quote for the day:

“Have patience with all things, but, first of all with yourself”

—Saint Francis de Sales

Read: Philippians 16

Ponder: The scripture speaks for itself. God is ever-creating and that includes each of us.

Challenge: Love yourself this day. Offer your soul respite and soothe your broken places. For we can not love others if we don’t love ourselves.