

THOUGHTS FOR PRAYER AND REFLECTION

October 2023

Do it Anyway!

People are often unreasonable, irrational, and self-centered.
Forgive them anyway.

If you are kind, people may accuse you of selfish,
ulterior motives. Be kind anyway.

If you are successful, you will win some unfaithful friends
and some genuine enemies. Succeed anyway.

If you are honest and sincere people may deceive you.
Be honest and sincere anyway

What you spend years creating, others could destroy overnight.
Create anyway.

If you find serenity and happiness, some may be jealous.
Be happy anyway.

The good you do today, will often be forgotten.
Do good anyway.

Give the best you have, and it will never be enough.
Give your best anyway.

In the final analysis, it is between you and God.
It was never between you and them anyway.

*This poem was found written on the wall
in Mother Teresa's home for children in Calcutta*



1 st	Eighth Sunday after Pentecost: Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not regard equality with God as something to be exploited, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave, being born into human likeness. And being found in human form, he humbled himself and became obedient to the point of death – even death on a cross. <i>Philippians 2:5-8</i>
2 nd	Prayer and love are really learned in the hour when prayer becomes impossible and your heart turns to stone. <i>Thomas Merton (1915-1968)</i>
3 rd	If we ask how we should begin life with God, the scripture answers that God has long since begun life with us. If we ask what we can do for God, we hear what God has done for us. If we ask how we can live without sin before God, the forgiveness of all sins in Jesus Christ is announced to us. <i>Dietrich Bonhoeffer: Meditations on the Word</i>
4 th	Francis of Assisi, friar and preacher (d.1226): Remember that when you leave this earth, you can take with you nothing that you have received - only what you have given: a full heart, enriched by honest service, love, sacrifice and courage. <i>Francis of Assisi</i>
5 th	The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul; the decrees of the Lord are sure, making wise the simple; the precepts of the Lord are right, rejoicing the heart; the commandment of the Lord is clear, enlightening the eyes; the fear of the Lord is pure, enduring forever; the ordinances of the Lord are true and righteous altogether. More to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold; sweeter also than honey, and drippings of the honeycomb. <i>Psalms 19:7-10</i>
6 th	William Tyndale, biblical scholar (d.1536): Teach me your way, O Lord, that I may walk in your truth; give me an undivided heart to revere your name. <i>Psalms 86:11</i>
7 th	If the least person, the alien or the enemy, is not our kin, where will you draw the line of kinship? And how can you be confident that the limits of kinship will always include you? <i>William Countryman (1943-2023)</i>
8 th	Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost: Let the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable to you, O Lord, my rock and my redeemer. <i>Psalms 19:14</i>
9 th	Do not despise the small but significant symbolic act. God probably does not want you to reorganise the entire discipline or the entire world of your vocation overnight. Learn to be symbol-makers and story-tellers for the kingdom of God. <i>N T Wright; The Challenge of Easter</i>
10 th	As God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, clothe yourselves with compassion, kindness, humility, meekness, and patience. Bear with one another and, if anyone has a complaint against another, forgive each other; just as the Lord has forgiven you, so you also must forgive. <i>Colossians 3:12-13</i>
11 th	Conduct yourselves wisely towards outsiders, making the most of the time. Let your speech always be gracious, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how you ought to answer everyone. <i>Colossians 4:5-6</i>
12 th	Elizabeth Fry, prison reformer, England (d.1845): Does capital punishment tend to the security of the people? By no means. It hardens the hearts of men, and makes the loss of life appear light to them; and it renders life insecure, inasmuch as the law holds out that property is of greater value than life. <i>Elizabeth Fry</i>
13 th	I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds. I will be glad and exult in you. I will sing praise to your name, O Most High. <i>Psalms 9:1-2</i>
14 th	The Gospel takes away our right forever, to discriminate between the deserving and the undeserving poor. <i>Dorothy Day (1897-1980)</i>

15 th	Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost: Those who seek God along the path of Franciscan prayer are to be transformed by the one they seek, the one they claim to love. Prayer centered on relationship with Christ, the Word of God incarnate, cannot help but change the life of the believer and the way one lives. Those who enter into Franciscan prayer, therefore, must be ready for change; they each must be willing to become "another Christ," for this is where the path of prayer leads, to a new birth of Christ in the lives of the believers. <i>Ilia Delio: Franciscan Prayer</i>
16 th	Hugh Latimer and Nicholas Ridley, bishops and martyrs (d.1555): Seek the Lord and his strength; seek his presence continually. Remember the wonderful works he has done, his miracles, and the judgments he has uttered. <i>Psalms 105:4-5</i>
17 th	Ignatius of Antioch, bishop and martyr (d.c.115): Praise the Lord! O give thanks to the Lord, for he is good; for his steadfast love endures forever. <i>Psalms 106:1</i>
18 th	Luke, Evangelist and Martyr: Eternal Word, only begotten Son of God, teach me true generosity. Teach me to serve you as you deserve. To give without counting the cost, to fight heedless of wounds, to labour without seeking rest, to sacrifice myself without thought of any reward save the knowledge that I have done your will. <i>Prayer for Generosity: St. Ignatius of Loyola</i>
19 th	Henry Martyn, missionary and Bible translator in India and Persia (d.1812): The power of gentleness is irresistible. <i>Henry Martyn</i>
20 th	Instead of loving what you think is peace, love other men and women, and love God above all else. Instead of hating all the people you think are warmongers, hate the appetites and disorders in your own soul which are the causes of war. <i>Thomas Merton</i>
21 st	The Lord will keep you from all evil, he will keep your life. The Lord will keep your going out and your coming in from this time on and forevermore. <i>Psalms 121:7-8</i>
22 nd	Twenty First Sunday after Pentecost: I will give thanks to the Lord with my whole heart; I will tell of all your wonderful deeds. <i>Psalms 9:1</i>
23 rd	James of Jerusalem, brother of our Lord, martyr (d.c.62): The present moment holds infinite riches beyond your wildest dreams. <i>Jean-Pierre de Caussade (1675-1751)</i>
24 th	United Nations, inaugurated 1945: God does not die on the day when we cease to believe in a personal deity, but we die on the day when our lives cease to be illumined by the steady radiance, renewed daily, of a wonder, the source of which is beyond all reason. <i>Dag Hammarskjöld: Secretary General of the United Nations (d. 1961)</i>
25 th	Too often we under-estimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around. <i>Leo Buscaglia (1924-1998)</i>
26 th	Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts, See if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting. <i>Psalms 139:23-24</i>
27 th	We cannot judge our prayer...by how we feel when we pray, but rather by how we are loving when we live. <i>Katherine Marie Dyckman: Inviting the Mystic, Supporting the Prophet: An Introduction to Spiritual Direction</i>
28 th	Simon and Jude, Apostles and Martyrs: Do not be wise in words, be wise in deeds. <i>Jewish Proverb</i>
29 th	Twenty-Second Sunday after Pentecost: If we have no peace, it is because we have forgotten that we belong to each other. <i>Mother Teresa</i>
30 th	Above anything, welcome silence, for it brings fruits that no tongue can speak of, neither can it be explained. <i>Isaac of Nineveh (d.700 AD)</i>
30 th	Let everything that breathes praise the Lord! Praise the Lord! <i>Psalms 150:6</i>
31 st	Martin Luther (d.1546) and other Continental Reformers: So you say you love the poor? Name them. <i>Gustavo Gutiérrez (b.1928)</i>



PRAYER THOUGHTS

Sunday

Lord help me to be a comforter to others, to listen and not always speak; to understand more and judge less.

Monday

Open my eyes to the beauty that surrounds me that I may walk through this day with the kind of awareness that calls forth grateful living.

Tuesday

This world and all within it is part of your glorious plan, devised and created in love for your people to enjoy. Such divine mystery; Such wonder; that you should consider humankind so precious and provide for our needs. God of all, our creator, our rock, our refuge, our confidence and hope, our rescuer and deliverer, in whom we can rely, we will praise your name today and all days. Amen.

Wednesday

May God bless us, that in us may be found love and humility, obedience and thanksgiving, discipline, gentleness and peace.

Thursday

Loving, caring Lord, you know the secrets of our hearts and the burdens which we carry. You are never too busy to hear our prayers. Be with us and comfort us all through our times of trial.

Friday

A prayer for Ukraine: God of peace and justice, we pray for the people of Ukraine today. We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons. We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow, that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them. We pray for those with power over war or peace, for wisdom, discernment and compassion to guide their decisions. Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear, that you would hold and protect them. We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.

Saturday

We consecrate this day to your service, O Lord; may all our thoughts, words and actions be well-pleasing to you and serve the good of our brothers and sisters; through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

Thoughts for Prayer & Reflection
for our *city on a hill*.... and beyond.

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