Lord, you are good and forgiving.

Readings for the week of July 23

**Sunday:** Wis 12:13, 16-19; Ps 86:5-6, 9-10, 15-16; Rom 8:26-27; Mt 13:24-43

**Monday:** Ex 14:5-18; (Ps) Ex 15:1b-6; Mt 12:38-42

**Tuesday:** 2 Cor 4:7-15; Ps 126:1b-6; Mt 20:20-28

**Wednesday:** Ex 16:1-5, 9-15; Ps 78:18-19, 23-28; Mt 13:1-9

**Thursday:** Ex 19:1-2, 9-11; 16-20b; (Ps) Dn 3:52-56; Mt 13:10-17

**Friday:** Ex 20:1-14; Ps 19:8-11; Mt 13:18-23

**Saturday:** Ex 24:3-8; Ps 50:1b-2, 5-6; 14-15; Jn 11:19-27

The Wisdom of the Saints

“I need nothing in this world in order to be happy. I only need to see Jesus in Heaven, Whom I now see and adore on the Altar with the eyes of faith.”  

St. Dominic Savio

We as a family of faith encourage the full and active participation of all members in Worship of our God, by learning about and sharing our Catholic faith and by developing a loving community of care and concern for one another.
Today’s ‘Wisdom Of The Saints’ Author

St. Dominic Savio-April 2, 1842 - March 9, 1857

So many holy persons seem to die young. Among them was Dominic Savio, the patron of choirboys.

Born into a peasant family at Riva, Italy, young Dominic joined Saint John Bosco as a student at the Oratory in Turin at the age of 12. He impressed Don Bosco with his desire to be a priest and to help him in his work with neglected boys. A peacemaker and an organizer, young Dominic founded a group he called the Company of the Immaculate Conception which, besides being devotional, aided John Bosco with the boys and with manual work. All the members save one, Dominic, would, in 1859, join Don Bosco in the beginnings of his Salesian congregation. By that time, Dominic had been called home to heaven.

As a youth, Dominic spent hours rapt in prayer. His raptures he called "my distractions." Even in play, he said that at times, "It seems heaven is opening just above me. I am afraid I may say or do something that will make the other boys laugh." Dominic would say, "I can’t do big things. But I want all I do, even the smallest thing, to be for the greater glory of God."

Dominic’s health, always frail, led to lung problems and he was sent home to recuperate. As was the custom of the day, he was bled in the thought that this would help, but it only worsened his condition. He died on March 9, 1857, after receiving the Last Sacraments. Saint John Bosco himself wrote the account of his life.

Some thought that Dominic was too young to be considered a saint. Saint Pius X declared that just the opposite was true, and went ahead with his cause. Dominic was canonized in 1954. His liturgical feast is celebrated on March 9.

Reflection

Like many a youngster, Dominic was painfully aware that he was different from his peers. He tried to keep his piety from his friends lest he have to endure their laughter. Even after his death, his youth marked him as a misfit among the saints and some argued that he was too young to be canonized. Pope Pius X wisely disagreed. For no one is too young—or too old or too anything else—to achieve the holiness to which we all are called.

THE BEATITUDES

“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.”

We live in times of turbulence, violence, agitation, war, and endless conflict all around us. It is hard to think of and practice the concept of meekness in the midst of such harshness and meanness. We can barely be civilized in our political discourse, never mind try to entertain the notion of gentle meekness as Jesus lived and taught to His disciples.

Meekness and gentleness of heart are not values in our present day violent culture; however, they are Gospel values required by all who have Christ as their Lord and Master. Our earthly journey toward God demands a gentle docility of heart to the inner prompting of the Holy Spirit and an attitude of meekness and simplicity in all human interaction.

To work to become ‘meek and gentle of heart’ as the Lord wishes is not always easy. One of the basic requirements of those who truly wish to remain meek and gentle of heart is to learn to practice patience towards our neighbor. Meekness does not exist in isolation. It always exists in interaction and relation to others. A humble and meek attitude is not one of weakness. On the contrary, it is an attitude of inner strength, for where we meet conflict and affliction, a meek and humble spirit enables us to remain calm, patient, and peaceful. This is the spirit Jesus exemplified throughout His early life.

If we are sometimes tempted to become impatient with others and thus lose our inner core of meekness and humility, we must remind ourselves of the Lord’s own patience and tolerance with those same people—and with each of us.

True spiritual meekness and gentleness of heart are not passive attitudes or virtues. They demand daily activity and practice. It is not enough to be patient and wish the welfare of our neighbors. We must go a step further and contribute to that welfare, to the improvement of our neighbor’s lives, especially the poor and destitute. Jesus, meek and humble of heart, make our hearts like unto Thine!

(Excerpted from Simply Living The Beatitudes, by Brother Victor-Antoine d’Avila-Latourette continued in the next bulletin.)

Singing in the shower is fun until you get soap in your mouth. Then it’s a soap opera.