



*St Teresa (1515-1582) joined the Carmelite order and made great progress in the way of perfection and enjoyed mystic revelations. She reformed the order enduring great trials. Her works are renowned for the depth of their doctrine and which showed her own spiritual experiences.*

**First Reading: (Rom 4:1-8)** What then shall we say about Abraham, our forefather according to the flesh? For if Abraham was justified by works, he has something to boast about, but not before God. For what does the scripture say? "Abraham believed God, and it was reckoned to him as righteousness." Now to one who works, his wages are not reckoned as a gift but as his due. And to one who does not work but trusts him who justifies the ungodly, his faith is reckoned as righteousness. So also David pronounces a blessing upon the man to whom God reckons righteousness apart from works: "Blessed are those whose iniquities are forgiven, and whose sins are covered; blessed is the man against whom the Lord will not reckon his sin."

*Ps 31:1-2, 5, 11*

**R. / You are my hiding place, O Lord; you surround me with cries of deliverance.**

**Gospel: (Lk 12:1-7)** Thousands of the multitude had gathered together that they trod upon one another, Jesus began to say to his disciples first, "Beware of the leaven of the Pharisees, which is hypocrisy. Nothing is covered up that will not be revealed, or hidden that will not be known. Therefore whatever you have said in the dark shall be heard in the light, and what you have whispered in private rooms shall be proclaimed upon the housetops. "I tell you, my friends, do not fear those who kill the body, and after that have no more that they can do. But I will warn you whom to fear: fear him who, after he has killed, has power to cast into hell; yes, I tell you, fear him! Are not five sparrows sold for two pennies? And not one of them is forgotten before God. Why, even the hairs of your head are all numbered. Fear not; you are of more value than many sparrows.

## REFLECTION

God's compassionate and loving eyes see each one of us and every creature individually recognizing the uniqueness of each and everyone. We are not just part of a crowd. The Lord knows even every thought of us. He protects and takes care of those who trust in him because He values our lives infinitely more than any human parents value their children. **Our response to God's love is to unfold and become truly human by actualizing our talents and abilities for the building up of the community and communion among all humans of good will.** Saint Teresa of Avila is a powerful example of human unfolding through intimacy with God and community building.