

St. John of Capistrano (1385-1456) was born at Capistrano, Italy, the son of a former German knight in that city. He studied law at the University of Perugia and practiced as a lawyer in the courts of Naples. During a war with a neighboring town he was betrayed and imprisoned. Upon his release he entered the Franciscan community at Perugia in 1416. He is the patron of jurists.



First Reading: (Rom 8:1-11) There is now no condemnation for those who are in Christ Jesus. For the law of the Spirit of life in Christ Jesus has set me free from the law of sin and death. For God has done what the law, weakened by the flesh, could not do: sending his own Son in the likeness of sinful flesh and for sin, he condemned sin in the flesh, in order that the just requirement of the law might be fulfilled in us, who walk not according to the flesh but according to the Spirit. For those who live according to the flesh set their minds on the things of the flesh, but those who live according to the Spirit set their minds on the things of the Spirit. To set the mind on the flesh is death, but to set the mind on the Spirit is life and peace. For the mind that is set on the flesh is hostile to God; it does not submit to God's law, indeed it cannot; and those who are in the flesh cannot please God. But you are not in the flesh, you are in the Spirit, if in fact the Spirit of God dwells in you. Any one who does not have the Spirit of Christ does not belong to him. But if Christ is in you, although your bodies are dead because of sin, your spirits are alive because of righteousness. If the Spirit of him who raised Jesus from the dead dwells in you, he who raised Christ Jesus from the dead

will give life to your mortal bodies also through his Spirit which dwells in you.

Ps 23:1-6

R./ Such are the men who seek your face, O Lord.

Gospel: (Lk 13:1-9) There were some present at that very time who told Jesus of the Galileans whose blood Pilate had mingled with their sacrifices. And he answered them, "Do you think that these Galileans were worse sinners than all the other Galileans, because they suffered thus? I tell you, No; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish. Or those eighteen upon whom the tower in Siloam fell and killed them, do you think that they were worse offenders than all the others who dwelt in Jerusalem? I tell you, No; but unless you repent you will all likewise perish." And he told this parable: "A man had a fig tree planted in his vineyard; and he came seeking fruit on it and found none. And he said to the vinedresser, 'Lo, these three years I have come seeking fruit on this fig tree, and I find none. Cut it down; why should it use up the ground?' And he answered him, 'Let it alone, sir, this year also, till I dig about it and put on manure. And if it bears fruit next year, well and good; but if not, you can cut it down.'"

REFLECTION

There is certain fragility and uncertainty with regards to our lives. In the Gospel Jesus presents two incidents where the Galileans were killed by way of accident. Probably they did not have a chance to look back and to repent of their lives. They did not get any further time. Jesus tells that it was not because they were great sinners that the tragedy happened in their life. Jesus reminds us that we should be always prepared. In the parable that follows Jesus asserts the point once again that in spite of the fragility of our life we are given chances. God is patient with us. It is important to be responsive to the chances and be fruitful. **A life lived well at every given moment becomes the best way to be ready to meet the Lord.**