

THE MEDITATION

July 6th , A.D. 2014

The Third Sunday After Trinity Sunday

also called, 'GOOD SHEPHERD SUNDAY' in some places.



*The Good Shepherd c.1650 - 1660
Philippe de Champaigne 1602 – 1674
Baroque artist; Belgium & France*

The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke; Chapter 15, Verses, 1 - 10

The 1928 Book of Common Prayer, Page 193.

The People's Anglican Missal, Page C 60.

St. Joseph Continuous Sunday Missal - (1958 ed.), Pages 698-699.

SUMMARY OF THE GOSPEL FOR THE DAY: Jesus tells us that being a good shepherd, He is necessarily interested in sinners: there is joy in Heaven over one sinner who repents.

IN LOVE WITH MANKIND

Our Blessed Lord, Jesus, never tires of giving us signs of His love for us. A few days ago, (June 27th to be exact), Our Lord showed us His most Sacred Heart pierced for the love of the Father and us... **The Feast of The Sacred Heart of Jesus.** Today the image of the Good Shepherd tells us the same story. “ *This man receiveth sinners and eateth with them* ” say the Pharisees in today's Gospel. They complain about Jesus, barely knowing what a magnificent tribute they are paying Him and never knowing, as we have, how true the reality has been. “ *Lord, (Thou) hast never failed them that seek thee - O praise the Lord . . . for he forgetteth not the complaint of the poor.* ” (*Offertory verse, Psalm 9*).

The image of the good shepherd going out to look for lost sheep and His opened heart, tell us in unimaginable terms, that He, Jesus Christ, while on earth, is a man in love with all mankind. He is in love with each of us and with all His flock.

The Church puts it so beautifully in the Vespers antiphon on the ***Feast of the Sacred Heart***: “ *The Lord hath said, I have loved thee with an everlasting love : and from the day that he was lifted up from the earth, by his cross he hath drawn us with a loving-kindness unto his Heart.* ” He loves His Father even more: “ *In the volume of the book it is written of me that I should fulfill thy will ; O my God, I am content to do it, yea, thy law is within my Heart.* ” (*Eastertide Offertory Verse of the ***Feast of the Sacred Heart*** : Ps. 40*).

This being in love, this complete self-dedication to the Father's will is Christ's inner life; as High Priest and Savior. It is the soul of His worship. All His thinking and doing are centered on the Father, springing from His (Jesus') Sacred Heart which is on fire for the love of Him . . . and for us. Are we able to comprehend the intensity of such love . . . or is it in a realm of holiness and mystery that is beyond our puny senses ? We can, at least try.

Where can we find Christ today? Well, we believe that we can find Jesus – the *God-made-Man*, still in love with the Father and with each of us – in the Liturgy of His Church. We believe, that in the Liturgy, we can find Christ showing the Father His complete love and abandonment . . . and not only His, but ours as well.

WELCOMING ALL SINNERS

The word “liturgical” might be used rather loosely at times, especially in the years since the upheavals caused by the major changes in the liturgies in the 1960's. Things such as music, altars, vestments, dialogue masses, prayer-books, missals, etc. have had much said about them. Considering the way we have been made by God, with bodies and souls which come with bodily senses which are the avenues through which Almighty God approaches our souls – and again by which we express our love outwardly – all these things should be important to us. They are to be correctly esteemed. It is proper to say the very least, that we should put our best foot forward offering our *very best* to God in regards to worship. We are reminded of the consequences in the parable of the Great Banquet in the Gospel according to St. Matthew, Ch 22, Vs. 11-13 if we think to do otherwise and just get by.

It's equally important to remember that behind these externals is our Lord Jesus Christ, the *God-made-Man* still in love with the Father, still welcoming sinners . . . eating with them, going out to find

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those who are lost, and welcoming them to the Table. “*Unto thee O Lord, will I lift up my soul : I have put my trust in thee, O let me not be confounded.*” (*Introit Prayer, Psalm 25*). Knowing this, our love should be kindled to offer our very best, and at the same time seek out those who are lost or still seeking, and share this *very best* with them. It's what we can do to fulfill that Great Commission we often hear spoken of.

Christ calls out to each of us in today's Mass and that of the *Feast of the Sacred Heart*. He says, “*My children, give me your hearts*” Christ not only asks us for our free gift of self to Him, He shows us how to enter through the door of word, song, and symbol to His Heart, which is still and always open to receive us.

We can identify ourselves with Jesus Christ, and with His love, through active and loving participation in the Church's public prayer. We are sealed, in the Sacraments, with the mortar of Faith that will strengthen us in our journey until our life's end.

We can make Christ's prayer our own: “Behold, I come. In the volume of the book it is written of me that I should fulfill Thy will O my God : I am content to do it, yea Thy Law is within my heart.”
Amen !

PRAYER OF THE DAY: This man receiveth sinners, and eateth with them.



The Good Shepherd – an image from the Catacombs, Rome, Italy - 2nd cent. A.D.

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:

*Thou cam'st from Heaven to Earth that we
Might go from Earth to Heaven with Thee ;
And though Thou found'st no welcome here,
Thou didst provide us mansions there.
- Henry Vaughan - 17th cent.*



FEASTS, FASTS, and OTHER THINGS

July 2nd

The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Well, dear friends, we're now into the season of **Trinity-tide**. Many of the great feasts are past, and as the liturgical color of the season now denotes, we are entering a 'greening' or growing period of our faith that will remain rather consistent until Advent, with only an occasional feast. That being said, I'm going to adjust my writings accordingly. I'll still be sharing interesting facts about the seasons and the liturgy, but on an abbreviated scale. I might even turn my pen over to one or two of my brothers who have been wanting to try their hand at presenting their thoughts and insights. There may even be some silliness afoot as I know my brothers are prone to kidding around . . . especially Br. Raymond who seems to be everywhere with his camera! Some guests are expected at the Priory this Summer, and we'll introduce them to you as well. The recent hot and humid days inspire even an active little chip-monk like myself to take things '*on a slow bell*' and *chill out* someplace shady with an iced-tea and just plain '*be*' instead of '*do*'. I highly second and recommend that to all ! **Keep Cool everyone !** - Br. C.

We, here at Our Lady of Seven Sorrows Priory, are a **Marian Community**. We venerate the Blessed Mother of Jesus Christ and honor her Feasts throughout the year as approved by the Holy Catholic Church. I'll write a little about *veneration* as opposed to *worship* at another time, (for there is some confusion about these two acts with regards to the Blessed Mother), but for today would like to offer some insights about the **Feast of The Visitation**.

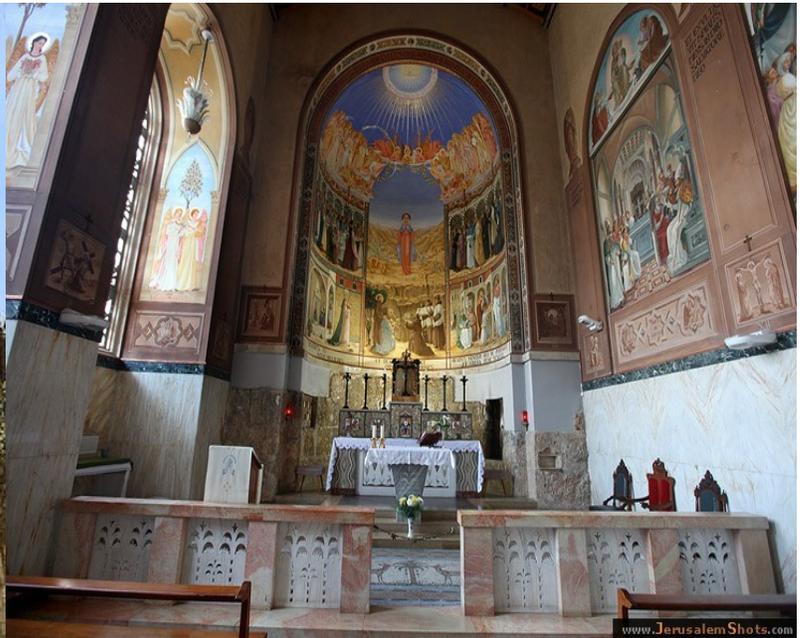
The Gospel account of today's Feast comes from the Holy Gospel according to *St. Luke; Chapter 1, Verses 23 - 57*. "Nothing is impossible to God", and as proof of this the Angel Gabriel informed Mary that her kinswoman Elizabeth, the barren wife of Zachariah, had conceived a son and was then in the sixth month of her pregnancy. Mary hastened to her cousin's home and remained with her until shortly before the birth of John the Baptist. Sixth century pilgrims were shown the site of Zechariah's summer residence, about 4 miles from Jerusalem, near the village of Ain Kerem: "*vineyard spring*", where the Church of the Visitation today stands, near *Mary's Well* on the terraced sloped of a mountain identified as the hill country of Judah where Mary met Elizabeth (*Luke; Ch. I, Vs 39-56*).



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Church of the Visitation – Jerusalem (Outside)



Church of the Visitation - (Inside)

' *The child leapt in her womb* ' as Mary greeted Elizabeth, and this was interpreted as John's prenatal recognition of the presence of the Messiah. The two babes were sometimes shown in the wombs of their respective mothers, in the later Middle Ages, John inclining his head as Jesus made a gesture of blessing, demonstrating that John, although like all mortals inheriting original sin, was thus sanctified before birth. This artistic license, rare after the Council of Trent, gave way to a more dignified rendering in which the prospective mothers embrace, Elizabeth, the elder figure, bowing or kneeling, as though saying, “ *Who am I that the mother of my Lord should visit me ?* “

Elizabeth, filled with the Holy Spirit, uttered words later incorporated in the acclamation, *Ave Maria*: 'Hail Mary', “ *Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb.*” Mary responded with the ***Magnificat***, the hymn that is sung at Vespers or Evensong, so called from the first word of the Latin text, *Magnificat anima mea Dominum*; “ *My soul doth magnify the Lord.*” (See the 1928 Book of Common Prayer, Page **26** for the full text of the ***Magnificat***.) Some early Latin manuscripts which circulated before St. Jerome, produced the Vulgate translation of most of the Bible attribute this canticle to Elizabeth, but more dependable Greek texts support the generally accepted attribution to Mary. Her song, one of rejoicing at the salvation of ' the poor in spirit, the faithful remnant of Israel', because God had put down the mighty from their thrones, filling the hungry with good things and sending the rich away empty, provided a theological inspiration for liberation movements in Latin America where poverty is endemic and devotion to Mary is widespread.

The Visitation, from the 8th century onward, was the theme of the lections in the **Advent Emberide** during the week preceding Christmas, but there was no authorized commemoration of the event until Pope Urban VI (1378 – 1389) proposed a festival, hoping in vain that Mary's intercession would end the schism brought about by rival claims to the papacy. Urban's successor, Boniface IX, (1389 – 1404), in 1401, declared the feast universal but it was observed only by those religious Orders which accepted his authority. The date chosen was July 2, in the Eastern Church the festival commemorating the placing of the Holy Robe of the Mother of God in the church of Blachernae, a suburb of Constantinople.

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An attempt to re-establish the festival, in gratitude to Mary, for the eventual ending of the schism, was made at the *Council of Basle* (1431-1449), but it failed because the later acts of the Council were not universally recognized as having papal authority. Pope Sixtus IV (1471-1484), builder of the Sistine Chapel and a Franciscan devoted to the Virgin, following victories over the Turks by a Christian fleet at sea, in 1475, finally instituted the festival, believing that it would secure Mary's continued assistance in the efforts of Christian Europe to push the Turks back into Asia. Around the year 1482, He dedicated to *the Visitation*, the church of Santa Maria della Pace; “ *Our Lady of Peace*” around the year 1482,- restored in 1656 in the baroque style by Pietro da Cortona.

This feast was retained in the *Book of Common Prayer* and is still observed today on July 2nd by traditional Anglicans and Roman Catholics. It was moved in 1969 in the Roman Calendar to May 31st, and is observed on that day by Roman dioceses following the rite of Pope Paul VI known also as the *Novus Ordo*.



sketch of Br. Chip done by Br. Sylvester . . . you'll meet him soon!



- Br. Chip, O.S.B.

Feasts, Fasts, and Other Things; from **The Chipmunk's Nutshell Library**
Presented by Br. A. Chip Monk, O.S.B. A monk of Our Lady of Seven Sorrows Priory in Raymond, Maine

The Meditation is produced by the Benedictine Community of
Our Lady of Seven Sorrows Priory
4 Shaw Road
Raymond, Maine 04071

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SUNDAY Public MASS with the Office of TERCE: 9:00 a.m.

(The Chapel is located on the second floor of the garage building. Please enter by left side door and go up the stairs. Please keep silence upon entering the building.)

Also, Please Note: There are no Public Rest Room facilities at the Priory, please plan accordingly.

PRIORY KALENDAR**A.D. 2014**Week of July 6th to July 13th

Sunday, July 6th . . . The Third Sunday After Trinity *Oct. Day of Sts. Peter & Paul*
Monday, July 7th . . . Sts. Cyril & Methodius; *B.B. & C.C. - (9th cent.)*
Tuesday, July 8th*comm. St. Grimbald, Ab. O.S.B. Winchester, England (10th cent.)*
Wednesday July 9th *Octave of the Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary.*
Thursday, July 10th
Friday, July 11th . . . St. Pius I, *P. & myr. - (2nd cent.) & Translation of St. Benedict. Of Nursia (Note 1)*
Saturday, July 12th . . St. John Gualbert, *Ab. O.S.B. - (11th cent.) - Note 2.*
Sunday, July 13th . . . The Fourth Sunday After Trinity.

KALENDAR KEY: *Ab. = Abbot, Abs. = Abbess, Ap = Apostle, Bp. = Bishop, C. or Conf. = Confessor, Comm. = Commemorate. Dcn. = Deacon, Doct. = Doctor of the Church, Ev. = Evangelist, K = King, M. = Monk, Myr. = Martyr, N. = Nun, P= Priest Po. = Pope, Q. = Queen, Vir. = Virgin, O.S.B. = Order of St. Benedict. O.C.O. = Order of the Cistercian Observance (Trappists), A = Abstinence, F = Fast, F & A = Fast and Abstinence*

NOTES

- 1. Solemn Commemoration of St. Benedict** is observed today if not in March due to Lenten restrictions.. This feast has been observed for over 1000 years to remind the children of his Order of their Holy Father and founder, who prayed and labored that in all things God may be glorified. Our Lady Of Seven Sorrows Priory Observes this day as a Feast regardless.
- 2. St. John Gualbertus** Abbot and founder of the Order of Vallombrosa. He is a rare saint that was elected abbot as a laybrother and not a deacon or priest. Priors or Abbots are traditionally in Holy Orders upon election. He died in 1073.

We are always looking for benefactors to help financially with the animals. If you or someone that you know would like to help, simply mark your check “for the animals”. It will be gratefully received and deeply appreciated.

Please consider including our Animal Outreach and Rescue in your Estate Planning. Contact Sr. Mary Francis, O.S.B. For details.

Thank you

“ Give us the tools, and we'll do the job ! ” - Winston Churchill

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Due to the very long Maine winter, our funds are very low, your help, in any amount, is greatly appreciated



... Speaking of sheep and shepherds. . . here's Henry. Hope is there too somewhere! Both have grown substantially and are now weaned. They're still living in the house and will be moved out to the barn once the heat and humidity drops so they can acclimate easier. Otherwise, they have fun and have made friends with the little chihuahuas that share the room with them.

