

May 18th, A.D. 2014

The Fourth Sunday After Easter

THE MEDITATION



“ The Last Supper”
by Tintoretto (Jacobo Comin)
Venice, Italy, 1594

[The Holy Gospel according to St. John; Chapter 16, Verses 5 - 14](#)

The 1928 Book of Common Prayer, Page 175
The People's Anglican Missal, Page C 19 – C 20
St. Joseph Continuous Sunday Missal - (1958 ed.), Page 533

2.

Gospel Meditation Summary: Jesus Tells the Apostles that it is expedient for them that He depart: for if He does not depart, the Holy Ghost will not come to them.

THE SPIRIT OF TRUTH

The Church began to prepare us for Christ's return to Heaven last Sunday. Today, she proceeds a step further. She alludes not only to the Ascension but also to the descent of the Holy Ghost, and indicates that there is a connection between them. Our Lord says expressly that the Holy Ghost will not come unless He leaves the earth, moreover, the Holy Ghost will take the place of Jesus. He will be the *Consoler*, the *Leader*, the *Teacher*, the *Advocate* of the Church and of Christendom. There will be a difference, however, in the mode of operation. Jesus fulfilled His mission in a manner that was visible to all. The Holy Ghost will work invisibly in the Church . . . and in the souls of men.

This account and discourse takes place at the Last Supper on Maundy Thursday as shown in last Sunday's Gospel. Christ will be crucified and dead in less than twenty four hours from the time of this discourse, but His thoughts go beyond that particular "going away."

Jesus speaks of His return to the Father in Heaven: "*I go my way to him that sent me . . . because I have spoken these things unto you, sorrow hath filled your heart . . . I tell you the truth, it is expedient for you that I go away ; for if I go not away, the Comforter will not come unto you : but if I depart, I will send him unto you.*" (*St. John; Ch. 16, Vs. 5-7*).

These must be strange words for His Apostles to hear. They love Jesus. They have Him at that moment. We can't blame them if they are saddened at hearing Him say that He is about to leave them. Why should they "trade" Him, Whom they know and love so well, for an unknown "Comforter" whom they have never seen? The unknown is usually very unsettling to us humans.

It's not that they don't want the Holy Ghost. Jesus tells them that it is "*expedient*" . . . *necessary* for them, and they know that what He says to them must be true but they want Jesus, too. They don't know that in receiving His Spirit, they will not lose, but they will *keep and gain*.

He reassures them; "*When he, the Spirit of truth, is come, he will guide you to all truth . . . he shall glorify me : for he shall receive of mine, and shall show it unto you*"- (*St. John; Ch. 16, Vs. 13-14*).

Jesus is trying to convince the Apostles, and us as well, that simply to know Him, to have the courage to be like Him and to be His apostle are two different things. *Knowledge* alone is not enough for the Christian and the Christian apostle. *Love must fire that knowledge*. Our Holy Mother Church seems to recognize this fact for it has placed this prayer in the Mass for today (Secret Prayer of the Priest in the Missal): "*O God, who by the wonderous operation of this sacrifice, hast made us partakers of thy glorious Godhead : grant, we beseech thee, that we which are taught the knowledge of thy truth, may in all our conversation walk worthily of the same.*" To paraphrase; . . . 'Grant that we who know Your Truth, may also follow it by a worthy life'.

GIFT FROM ABOVE

Perhaps now we can understand better why Christ says to us: “It is expedient for you that I depart.” It is expedient for the same reason: that You may be able to send us the same Holy Ghost, who by stirring up the knowledge we have of You, will “*reprove the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment.*” (*St. John; Ch. 16, Vs. 8*). What does Christ mean by these mysterious words if not that holiness (the Holy Ghost in a person) disturbs those who are worldly? He is well aware that when people are stirred up by the holiness of others, they are the best possible soil for the sowing of His graces.

We may be able to understand, perhaps, as we haven't before, why Jesus wants to send the Holy Ghost because without the Holy Ghost, there is no apostolate, no continuation and completion of what our Lord had begun.

Blessed Lord Jesus, like Advent these pre- Pentecost days are full of seeking, longing, and desiring. we longed and prepared for You during Advent. Now we desire Your Spirit, the “perfect gift” which comes from above, coming down from the Father of Lights” (*Today's Epistle*). Now, just as then, we will receive only in proportion to our desire.

Therefore, “*O God, who alone canst order the unruly wills and affections of sinful men : grant unto thy people that they may love the thing which thou commandest, and desire that which thou doest promise ; that so, among the sundry and manifold changes of the world, our hearts may surely there be fixed, where true joys may be found.*” (from ***the Collect of the Day.***)

Grant that we may desire what Thou dost promise. O Lord, You say: “ If I go, I will send Him to you.” To that our only answer can be: ***Veni Spiritus Sancti ! ... Come, Holy Ghost !*** Come and fill our hearts with the fire of Thy divine love! For it is Thou, only, that makest us dwell in safety! Amen.



PRAYER FOR THE DAY: *You shall be sorrowful, but your sorrow shall be turned into joy.*

Prayer for the Week: Almighty God, Who showest to them that be in error, the light of thy Truth, to the intent that they may return into the way of righteousness ; grant that in all our sufferings here upon earth for the testimony of Thy Truth, we may steadfastly look up to heaven, and by faith behold the glory that shall be revealed. Amen.

4.



The Eternal Union

Out on A Limb

by
Br. Raymond



Our brother St. Peter . . . we share in his humanity, let us learn from his lesson in humility.

The tragic feature about St. Peter's fall on the Night of the Last Supper is that it happened to one who *really* loved Christ. Peter's protestations at the Last Supper, although perhaps boastful, were sincere and heartfelt. That big, rough, and burly fisherman certainly meant every word he said then. Later in the night as he stumbled out of the high priest's courtyard, with his eyes blinded by tears, he must have asked himself over and over, in stunned belief, "*how could this have happened to me?*"

5.



Peter went out and wept bitterly.

John 18

Peter had to learn through bitter experience that love alone, despite its importance, is not enough; sincerity is not enough; to “mean well” is not enough. We can love sincerely, even deeply; we can “mean well”, and yet fail to pray, fail to keep away from dangerous occasions to sin, or *make the fatal mistake* of counting more on our own good dispositions and intentions than on ***God's grace and help***.

It would almost seem, for many of us, that there are certain faults necessary for further progress in the spiritual life – certain lessons we never seem to learn except through our own sad experiences. We will, however, learn our lesson if we do love Christ sincerely, just like St. Peter...such is our consolation. Despite our individual aberrations, sooner or later, we shall feel the gaze of Christ focused upon our souls; we shall be touched; we will repent and wind up sobbing, seeking forgiveness for the many forms that make up our sinfulness.

One is more likely to end up like Judas, dangling from the end of a rope in darkness without such love.



“ Peter and Mary” - 1647

By

**Giovanni Francesco Barbieri (a.k.a. Guercino) 1591 - 1666
Rome, Italy**

Sacred Scripture gives no details about St. Peter after he left the high priest's house upon hearing the crowing of the cockerel in the early hours of Good Friday; (*St. Matthew; Chap. 26, Vs 74 &75 & St. Mark; Chap. 14, Vs, 67 – 72 & St. Luke; Chap. 22, Vs, 55-62*). More than one great artist has offered a possibility by painting a scene in which Peter is with the Blessed Mother Mary. What better person, indeed, to share their grief and express their deep contrition with than the Mother of God ? Rather than debate as to whether this actually happened or not, let us contemplate the great tenderness that is expressed in this beautiful work of art. Love and compassion flourish, even at such a dark and seemingly hopeless moment. It's something *we* need to hold on to when we too, will face such moments in our own lives.

Out on a Limb

by

**Br. A. Raymond Crowe, O.S.B.
A monk of Our Lady of Seven Sorrows Priory in Raymond, ME.**

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

This is a free on-line ministry of our community to anyone who wishes to receive it. Please feel free to copy and pass on this meditation to anyone you feel might benefit from it. To be placed on our weekly mailing list, please contact Father Prior Kevin at : klamarre@ourladyofsevensorrows.org
 Visit our Web – Site for previous editions of **The Meditation** at: www.ourladyofsevensorrows.org

PLEASE NOTE THIS SCHEDULE CHANGE: DUE TO THE CONTINUED RECENT COLD AND DAMP WEATHER, SUNDAY MASSES OPEN TO THE PUBLIC WILL RESUME ON SUNDAY, MAY 25th, THE FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EASTER (ROGATION SUNDAY) AT 8:30 A.M.

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

PRIORY KALENDAR

A.D. 2014

Week of May 18th to May 25th, A.D. 2014

Sunday, May 18th	FOURTH SUNDAY AFTER EASTER
Monday, May 19th	St. Dunstan; <i>M-OSB, Abp. & Conf. (Canterbury, England -10th cent.)</i>
Tuesday, May 20th	St. Bernardine of Sienna, <i>O.F.M.; Conf. (Italy, 15th cent.)</i>
Wednesday, May 21st	St. Yves, <i>Conf. Cannon & Civil Lawyer - (Britanny, France, 13th cent.)</i>
Thursday, May 22nd	<i>Foundation of the Congregation of the Holy Cross, O.S.B. 1709 (Poland & Lithuania)</i>
Friday, May 23rd	<i>Month's Mind; monthly remembrance of the faithful departed. (Note 1.)</i>
Saturday, May 24th	St. Vincent of Lerins; <i>Conf. & Apologist (Gaul - 5th cent.)</i>
Sunday, May 25th	FIFTH SUNDAY AFTER EASTER - <i>comm. St. Aldhelm, OSB; B.C. (8th cent.)</i>

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, **A** = Abstinence, **F** = Fast, **F & A** = Fast and Abstinence

NOTES

1. Month's Mind: A monthly remembrance of the Faithful Departed with Mass and Prayer. Not usually observed during Penitential Seasons. In monasteries the observance is not fixed, but placed on a day when there is no feast or commemoration dedicated to that particular day, so that the departed can be given full attention through thought and prayer on that day. This *can* be done in Dioceses and Parishes when they prepare their Ordo Calendar for the coming year. It is most important that we remember

8.

and pray for our blessed departed. Prayer not only serves as a uniting factor between this world and the one to come, but it is our way of being able to advocate on behalf of those who may be still held back by the bond of their sins from full communion in Heaven. Our prayers on behalf of the departed is just one more way we can demonstrate our love for them. Finally, and perhaps importantly on a personal level, each of us, at a time known only to Almighty God, will join the departed . . . what great comfort to know that someone will be praying and advocating on our own behalf ! Perhaps this is the ultimate way of “ *paying it forward* ” that a Christian can do!

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!**

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



Joseph and Sage

P A X