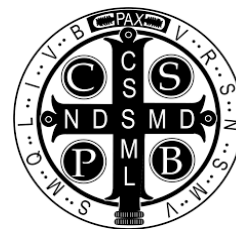


# The Meditation



*“ Thus says the Lord: Stand by the roads, and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way is: and walk in it, and find rest for your souls.” - Jeremiah; Chapter 6, Verse 16.*

**April 12<sup>th</sup>, A.D. 2015**



*“The Incredulity of St. Thomas” ( 1601-1602)  
Michelangelo Merisi da Caravaggio 1571 – 1610 – Italian Baroque painter*

**The Epistle of the Day: First Epistle of St. John, Chapter 5, Verses 4 – 12**

**The 1928 Book of Common Prayer: Pages 170-171**

**The People's Anglican Missal: Page C 14**

**St. Joseph Continuous Sunday Missal (1958 ed.) : Pages 477 - 478**

**TOTAL VICTORY BY FAITH**

The theme presented to us in today's Epistle is that of the victory of faith. Mankind is taken, by God's precious gift of faith, out of the world of the darkness of sin, of the cynicism of doubt and skepticism, and of the bitterness of discontent and hopelessness, into the light of God, the happiness of restful confidence, and the peace of brotherly love. Our world groans under the great burden that sin encompasses. It continues to dig itself deeper and deeper into the chasm that is created by the constant searching that comes from cynicism, skepticism, nihilism, and all the other "isms" of today, which are not really anything new and "enlightening" but are the same old products recreated by our egos and the devil, simply "re-packaged" into new and shiny devices. These are all too eagerly snapped up by generations who have convinced themselves that "theirs" is the "way" . . . fresh and new just for "today".

St. Robert Bellarmine, a man of superior intellect, a Doctor of the Church, must have also been a fisherman, for he writes:

*"Men are so like frogs, they go open-mouthed for the lure of things that do not concern them, and that wily angler the devil knows how to capture multitudes of them."* The devil is still reeling them in today, and very sadly, only God knows who and how many they are.

We are made new creatures; a new creation by the grace God gives with faith, far removed from the power of sin and Satan, governed by the Spirit of God, with our hope set steadily towards eternal life. We are brethren of Christ, in the new being of grace. We are sons and daughters of God, sharing His Spirit; enjoying even here, earnest blessedness within the confines of life and all of its problems.

We have then, in our life of faith, that unspeakable comfort and strength of the sacramental graces, flowing to us from our Lord through the ministrations of His Church.

We stand aside from the chances and turmoil of life by faith, serenely confident that *all will be well for us in God's good time*. A full possession of faith includes having implicit trust that *God is completely in control*, even when it appears otherwise. This is a concept very difficult for the world to understand and even accept, but it is something that can only come through a personal relationship with God through His Son. Our prayers for the world can be the tools with which others can be served, establishing their own relationship with God and gaining the faith we are speaking of, and maintaining it as well.

All of this strength, consolation and serene confidence of faith is within the reach of all. It is not just for some chosen few men. It is available even, and most especially to the weakest and poorest in the eyes of the world who genuinely accept Christ as Master and God, and live in accordance with their belief. It is in this sense then, that faith in Christ given to us by God, born

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of God, is victorious over the world. Jesus Himself promises us: *“These things I have spoken unto you, that in me ye might have peace. In the world ye shall have tribulation: but be of good cheer; I have overcome the world.”* (St. John; Ch. 16; Vs. 33 ).

Knowing all of this, and knowing too, that we who believe, carry our treasures in frail vessels (our bodies), and that faith can grow tepid, weak, and be lost by our carelessness or rashness, we should pray to Almighty God always for the strengthening of our faith. We should keep ourselves clear from those that speak and write against the faith, and we should at all times thank God for the vision of truth that He has given unto us in faith. It is the greatest gift we can possess.

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**Prayer for the day:** *“What shall a man be profited if he shall gain the whole world and lose his own soul?”* (St. Matt ; Ch. 17, Vs. 26.)



*“My Lord and my God.”*

**PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:** O Almighty God, Whom truly to know is everlasting Life, grant us perfectly to know Thy Son Jesus Christ to be the Way, the Truth, and the Life, that, following in the steps of Thy holy Apostles, we may steadfastly walk in the Way that leadeth to Eternal Life. Amen.





## Feasts, Fasts, and Other Things



*Br. Sylvester is out putting up his signs for the season!*

## LOW SUNDAY

Today is the Second Sunday of Easter (also called the *First Sunday After Easter* in liturgical books), which concludes the *Octave of Easter*. Today is also noted by liturgists as *Quasimodo Sunday*, because of the Latin *Introit*, or entrance song, which begins: "*Quasi modo geniti infantes*" (*trans.*); 'Like newborn babes' (*I Peter; Ch. 2, Vs.2*), a phrase most appropriate to the newly baptized, known as *infantes*: 'babies', because they had been born again in the waters of baptism and became 'children of the Lord' during the Easter Vigil. They assembled in Rome, the previous evening, in the basilica of St. John the Lateran and handed back the white robes which they had worn during the octave of Easter. This Sunday was therefore also known as *Dominica in albis deponendis*: '*The Sunday after the laying of the white robes aside*'. Then, the newly baptized went off to Mass at the church of San Pancrazio. This church was dedicated to *St. Pancras*, the fourth century boy-martyr and patron of those who kept contracts, to witness their determination to preserve their baptismal vows. This tradition was not confined only to the churches in Rome, but spread throughout Christian Europe in the early Middle Ages. How wonderful are the many hallowed traditions that our Holy Catholic Church possesses!

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**Low Sunday**, the name by which the day is called in England is not meant to contrast it with the ‘high’ celebration of **Easter**, nor is it some kind of reference jokingly used by clergy to denote the low attendance in church as compared to the previous Sunday, although unfortunately often true! The qualifying adjective is actually the anglicanization of the Latin *laudes*: ‘praise’ a reference to the *Sequence Prayer* in this day’s Mass; **Laudes Salvatori**: “Praise to the Saviour”.

The Gospel account for today is especially important. It has been, in some usages like the Traditional Anglican, been shortened. The listeners hear how Jesus, on that Easter evening, appeared to the Apostles in the locked room, and said to them: “Peace, be unto you: as my Father hath sent me even so send I you. And when He had said this, He breathed on them, and saith unto them, Receive ye the Holy Ghost: whosoever sins ye remit, they are remitted unto them; and whosoever sins ye retain, they are retained.” (St. John; Ch.20 Vs.21– 23), To forgive sins! “Who can forgive sins but God alone?” the Pharisees once asked. Now the Apostles have the power. Jesus made them priests at the Last Supper when He told them: “Do this in remembrance of me,” so they can offer His Body and Blood in Holy Sacrifice. Now they can also forgive sins. All of which means that Christ will act in and through His Apostles and their successors until the end of time. Jesus was thinking not only of his beloved then, but thinks of us, and our descendents.

The familiar story of “*doubting Thomas*” continues in this account from verses 24 to 31. It was included in the *Medieval Sarum Missal*, and continues today in the *Roman Missal* as used in the *Tridentine Mass*. This year, we have included artwork depicting Thomas’s story in our Meditation. A story that we, of this so called modern and ‘enlightened’ generation need to be reminded about.

“Blessed are they that have not seen, and yet have believed.” (St. John; Ch. 20, Vs.29).

-Br. Chip, O.S.B.



Feasts, Fasts, and Other Things: from “The Chipmunks Nutshell Library” is presented by  
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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 us at; [klamarre@maine.rr.com](mailto:klamarre@maine.rr.com)

You can visit our *website* to view past editions of **The Meditation** at: [www.ourladyofsevensorrows.org](http://www.ourladyofsevensorrows.org) and go to 'Meditation' section of the site.

**PLEASE NOTE: Sunday Public Mass will resume in the Spring when temperatures permit. We will post the date of our first Mass in the Meditation.**



*Medieval Greek icon showing Thomas with Jesus and the Apostles*

## **PRIORY KALENDAR**

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**Week of April 12<sup>th</sup> to April 19<sup>th</sup> - A.D. 2015**

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**Sunday, April 12<sup>th</sup> ... 1<sup>st</sup> Sunday After Easter – “Low Sunday” – - - - - Orthodox Pascha**

**Monday, April 13<sup>th</sup> ... St. Leo the Great; Po. Conf. & Doct. - (transferred)**

**Tuesday, April 14<sup>th</sup> ... St. Justin; Myr. - (2<sup>nd</sup> cent.).**

**Wednesday, April 15<sup>th</sup> ... ‘Month’s Mind’ – Monthly Requiem. - Pray for all the departed.**

**Thursday, April 16<sup>th</sup> .....feria in Easter**

**Friday, April 17<sup>th</sup> ... St. Stephen Harding: Abt. O.C.O. co-founder of Cistercian Order – 12<sup>th</sup> cent.**

**Saturday, April 18<sup>th</sup> ... Saturday of the Blessed Virgin Mary. - - - Office of the B.V. M. recited**

**Sunday, April 19<sup>th</sup> ... 2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday After Easter – “Good Shepherd Sunday”**

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**KALENDAR KEY:** Ab. = Abbot, Abs. = Abbess, Abp. = Archbishop, Anc. = Anchorite, Ancs. = Anchoress, Ap. = Apostle, Bl. = Blessed, Br. = Brother, Bp. = Bishop, Card. = Cardinal, C. or Conf. = Confessor, Comm. = Commemoration, Dcn. = Deacon, Doct. = Doctor of the Church, Ev. = Evangelist, H. = Hermit, LBr. = Laybrother, LSr. = Laysister, K. = King, M. = Monk, **M.M. = Month's Mind ( requiem for the departed )**, Myr. = Martyr, N. = Nun, Obl. = Oblate, P. = Priest, P. or Po. = Pope, Pr. = Prior, Prs. = Prioress, R. = Recluse, Q. = Queen, Ven. = Venerable, Vir. = Virgin, W. = Widow,  
**RELIGIOUS ORDERS:** C.O. = Congregation of the Oratory –Oratorians, C.P = Congregation of the Passion – Passionists, C.S.J. = Congregation of the Society of Jesus - Jesuits, Er. Cam. = Camaldolese Hermits, F.P.O. = Franciscans of the Primitive Observance, O. Car. = Carmelite Order, O. Cart. = Carthusian Order, O.C.D. = Order of Discalced Friars = Carmelites, O.F.A. = Augustinian Order, O.F.M. = Order of Friars Minor – Franciscans, O.F.M. Cap. = Capuchins, O.P. = Order of Preachers = Dominicans (Blackfriars), O. Praem. = Order of Canons Regular – Norbertines ( White Monks), O.S.B. = Order of St. Benedict – Benedictines, O.S.U = Ursulines, O.C.O. = Order of the Cistercian Observance – Trappists, O.C.S.O. = Cistercian Order of the Strict Observance = Trappists  
**FASTING:** ..... **A = Abstinence, F = Fast, F & A = Fast and Abstinence**

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## Animal News



**A new friend - Black Jack**

**Black Jack-** We seem to have a new cat although we are fairly certain that we are sharing him with someone. He appeared at our back stairs in the middle of a snowstorm about 2 months ago, very hungry, with a growly belly and a growly attitude. He has come to eat each day since. He does not like to come inside but has taken to sitting, purring and napping in Sister's lap on sunny days. He also has put Br. Chip on notice that he is quite the hunter and chipmunks seem to be a favorite!

We also have a beautiful herd of deer (7 in total) that seem to enjoy eating just outside the pasture fencing. They have, at times jumped in and shared space with the horses who

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love their new friends. It is such a gift that these animals are comfortable here and that we are graced with their presence from time to time. – Sr. Mary- Francis, O.S.B.



### “Meep” Birds

**T**hey look funny, they sound even funnier, and fly like they’re drunk but around this neck of the woods, when we hear the familiar “*Meep* !” of the woodcock, Spring is officially here! Guess what, dear friends . . . ? We haven’t heard them yet, so even though the calendar says it’s Spring . . . it ain’t really gonna be spring until the “fat birdy *meeps*!” The snow’s still deep in some spots, and there’s not much unfrozen water, which usually draws these denizens of the swamp out from wherever they stay for the winter. We’ll keep you posted, keep your fingers crossed . . . winter’s gotta be outta here sooner or later . . .but please dear Lord, not in July!  
- Fr. k.l.l. +



P A X