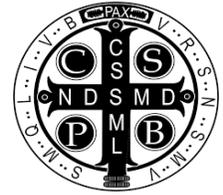


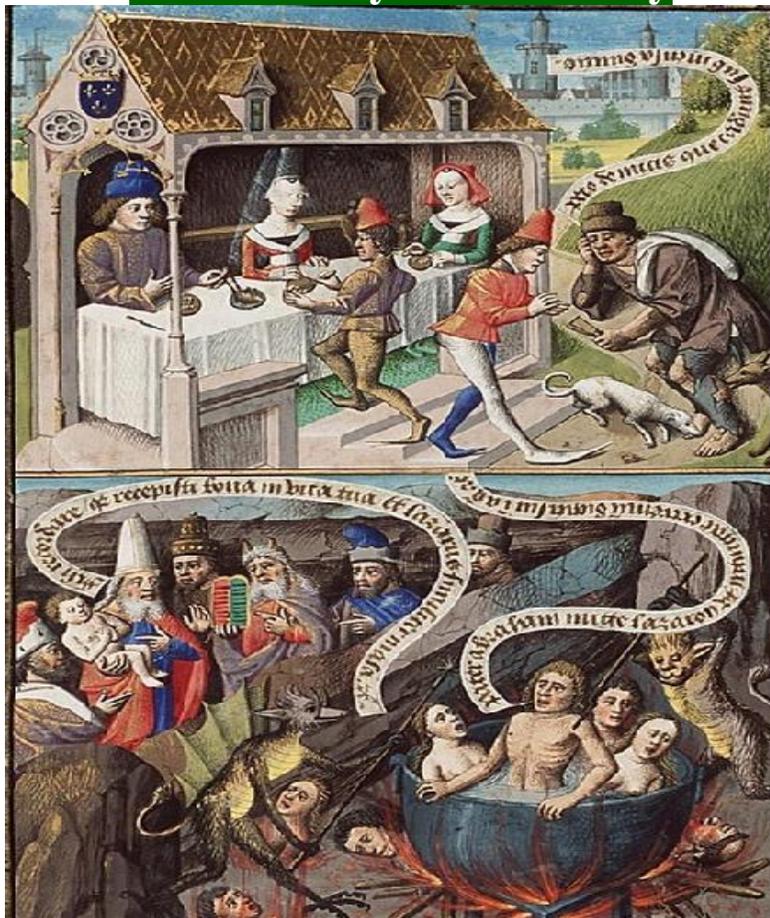
The Meditation



“ 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.

June 7th, A.D. 2015

First Sunday After Trinity



*Lazerus begging at the house of Dives & Dives the rich man in hell – Gospel of the Day
Miniature by Master Francis the Illuminator
15th century France*

2.

The Epistle for the Day; I St. John; Chapter 4; Verses 7 – 21

Today's Epistle can also be found in the following sources:

1928 Book of Common Prayer; Page 189

The People's Anglican Missal; Pages C55 & C56

St. Joseph "Continuous" Sunday Missal (1958 ed.); Pages 660-661

There's an obvious lesson in today's Epistle; that being the absolute necessity of Christian charity, and the malice that comes from the lack of it.

Charity is the highest Christian virtue, therefore, its opposite, *hatred* or *uncharitableness*, must rank as one of the gravest sins. A person that really hates and seeks to injure their brethren in any manner, *destroys the life of their own soul* and would, if that person could, destroy the physical life of those whom they hate. This is a very weighty matter to ponder when viewed in the light of eternity. Many people regard themselves as Good Christians, but don't seem to shirk from making their parents, relatives, and associates recoil by unkind, thoughtless and vulgar words, or by irritating, annoying, and embarrassing, or, (God forbid!) immoral habits and behavior. The same folks who may outwardly display pious actions, don't hesitate to destroy the name or reputation of their neighbor, by open or secret back-biting and detraction.

The Christian life is, in itself, the beginning of eternal life, but those who wish evil to their fellow human beings, destroy their good name, or seek to make their lives miserable or intolerable are, according to St. John, in today's Epistle ; *as far from eternal life as death is from life*. Eternal life simply does not abide in them, and rather than being children of God, they are children of Satan.

All the true life that comes from God is charity. God Himself is charity; "*Herby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for our brethren.*" (1 Jn.; Ch. 3, Vs. 16) This is clear from every aspect of His Providence, whether revealed in nature or in history. Practicing charity then, is to be in union with God, and thus, so far as that is possible, to be like God. Yielding to hatred, envy, contention, evil-mindedness, calumny, and detraction, is to turn away from the charity of God and to take Satan as a model.

True love of God and of our neighbor leads naturally to the fulfilling of the law of God. "*If ye love me,*" says our Lord, "*keep my commandments*". St. John himself says, in this Epistle: "*If a man say, I love God, and hateth his brother, he is a liar: for he that loveth not his brother whom he hath seen, how can he love God whom he hath not seen? And this commandment have we from him, that he who loveth God love his brother also.*" This explains St. John's constant emphasis upon the necessity of loving God and our neighbor. St. Jerome tells us that when the Apostle was over ninety years old he was carried into an assembly of Christians and was invited to address them. He merely said over and over again: "*My children... love one another.*" Those Christians present were a little weary of hearing this, something they had heard so often before, and asked him why he repeated it yet again. He answered: "*Because it is the Commandment of the Lord, and if it be observed, that it is all-sufficient.*"

Prayer for the day: Lord be merciful unto me: heal my soul, for I have sinned against Thee.

Psalm 41

3.



PRAYER FOR THE WEEK

I pray not that Thou shouldst take me out of the world, but that Thou shouldst keep me from evil.

Perceiving God

A thought by Br. Sylvester A. Squirrel, O.S.B.

The sense of sin results above all from a firm grasp of, and appreciation for, the idea of God. An act that offends God, will seem unimportant if in practice, God means nothing to us. The loss of the sense of sin that we deplore in the world today (and that can be found amongst those claiming to be Christians as well as those who believe in just themselves!) points to an even more serious loss: the disappearance of convictions about who and what God is. Since mental prayer tends precicely to give us a fuller and deeper realization of God, one can readily grasp the importance of this exercise as a means of living a life free from sin. The saints, for this reason, tell us that sin and mental prayer cannot co-exist in a persons life; eventually that person will give up on one or the other. They cannot perform both.



Br. Sylvester, O.S.B.
(Photo by Fr. Kevin)

The MEDITATION is produced by the Benedictine Community of:

**Our Lady of Seven Sorrows Priory
4 Shaw Road
Raymond, Maine 04071**

4.

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PLEASE NOTE: Sunday Public Mass at the Priory Chapel commences at 9:00 a.m. followed by the Monastic Office of Terce.

PLEASE NOTE ALSO: There are No public restrooms so please plan accordingly.

PRIORY KALENDAR

Week of June 7th to June 14th - A.D. 2015

Trinity-tide

Sunday, June 7th First Sunday after Trinity

Monday, June 8th *in the Octave of C.C.*

Tuesday, June 9th *in the Octave of C.C. - - comm. St. Columba; Ab. 6th cent. England & Scotland*

Wednesday, June 10th . . . *in the Octave of C.C. - - - comm. St. Margaret of Scotland; Q. W. 11th cent.*

Thursday, June 11th . . . *Octave day of Corpus Christi*

Friday, June 12th Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

Saturday, 13th *St. Anthony of Padua, O.F.M; C. 13th cent. Italy*

Sunday, June 14th . . . *Second Sunday After Trinity... comm. St. Basil the Great: B. C. & Doct. 4th Cent.*

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 (30 day 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

7.

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 Cannons 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**

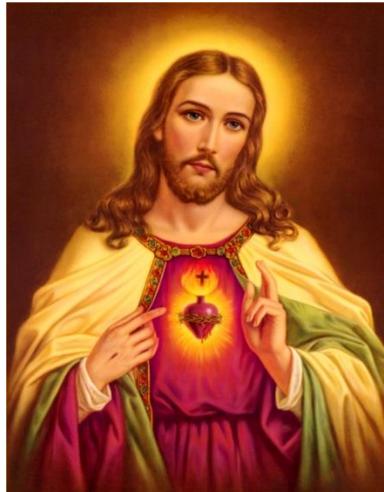
5.

Feasts, Fasts, and Other Things

This week's offering is by Br. Sylvester, O.S.B.

June 12th

The Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus



Already in the early Church the opened side of Christ was given mystical connotations by the Fathers and Doctors of the Church; the blood and water flowing out of the pierced side of our Lord were interpreted as symbolizing the Church, existing by virtue of the waters of baptism and the Blood of the Eucharist. The cult of the wound in the sacred side received a notable impetus during the Middle Ages through devotion to the Heart of Christ as the font of divine-human love, a devotion fostered and furthered by *Saints Bernard, Gertrude, and Mechtilde*. This devotion was widely accepted and practiced in England as there are many surviving Prymers and prayer books from the late Medieval period, and within these books are illustrations and devotional prayers.



The Sacred Heart and the wounds of Christ displayed on a Cross, with Angels ('Arms of Jesus Christ'), c1495. Bodleian MS. Arch. C. 1. 14.

The Sacred Wounds of Christ as illustrated from an English Prymer - 1495.

6.

Modern devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus dates from the time of *St. John Eudes* (d. 1680), who is usually considered its originator, and to the revelations granted to *St. Margaret Mary Alacoque* (d. 1690). The significance of the devotion to the Sacred Heart, in three wondrous revelations, was communicated to this humble virgin. A new feast was instituted *on the Friday after the octave of Corpus Christi*, with emphasis placed on *atonement*, as a result of her spiritual experiences. The feast was approved for specified dioceses by Pope Clement XIII in 1765, and later extended to the whole Church by Pius IX in 1856. Pope Leo XIII, in 1889, elevated it to the rank of a feast of the first class, and through an encyclical letter in 1899 dedicated the whole Catholic world to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The feast was favored with an Octave and an Office for the day, commissioned by Pope Pius XI in 1928. The previous office, having been cobbled from existing parts of other feasts was given a new life. The theme for the Office came from Christ's words to St. Margaret Mary: "*Behold the heart which has loved men so greatly but which has been given so little love in return.*"

The **Feast of the Sacred Heart**, was embraced by many Anglo-Catholic parishes and Dioceses as a much needed one. The feast was included in Anglican Altar Missals around the time it was approbated in general throughout the Roman Catholic Church. The priory is in possession of an *Anglican Altar Missal* that was printed in England in 1871 as just one such early example.

-Br. Sylvester, O.S.B.



Br. Sylvester A. Squirrel, O.S.B. is this week's guest writer standing in for Br. Chip who is away giving commencement addresses. Br. Sylvester has been extra busy this past week assisting Fr. Kevin in cleaning up from a storm that blew through last Thursday. It may have been a microburst as the storm came up very quickly and produced violent high winds with hail and rain. Two trees were blown down here, one part of a spruce fell on to the porch. We were fortunate that it only destroyed a railing. It could have come down on the house or the chapel or the barn, depending upon the direction of the wind. Br. Sly and Fr. Kev have been manning the chain saws, cutting up, and hauling away the blow-down and even managed to get a bit of fire wood in the process! Thanks be to God from Whom all blessings come!

-Sr. Mary Francis

Animal News

Apparently, word has got out that food is good and plentiful here. Sr. was looking out an upstairs window down onto the porch below and saw a beautiful, fluffy, perfectly ringed tail sticking out from underneath the shelter we have to protect the cat food from the elements. Thinking it was a raccoon eating the cat food. She went downstairs to watch more closely when she discovered a very timid, big eyed tiger cat eating as fast as she could lest she be caught. Again, we have no idea where this cat comes from. She is very obviously feral and may be pregnant. Hopefully we will win her over like we have Jack, our winter stray. Stay tuned!

- *Sr. Mary Francis*



Lilacs for Corpus Christi

P A X