



“ 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; Chap. 6, Vs. 16

THE MEDITATION

December 7th, A.D. 2014

The Second Sunday In Advent



*Our Lady of the New Advent
Contemporary Icon*

The Letter of St. Paul to the Romans; Chapter 15 , Verses 4 - 13

The 1928 Book of Common Prayer, Pages 92-93

The People's Anglican Missal, Page A -5

St. Joseph Continuous Sunday Missal (1958 edition); Pages 24-25

CHRIST OUR UNITY

The major point in today's Epistle, is that Christ came to earth as the great Peacemaker. He merged a unity of *faith, worship, and hope* in His church, and made all of those who receive Him, members of the household of God. There is no room for discord, division, and feuds in Christ's Church. Simply put, division and quarreling imply a denial and a rejection of the Spirit of Jesus Christ.

We carry on the work of our Lord Himself in the work of accomplishing and maintaining Christian unity, and in a time like this present age, where the Church is being criticized, mocked, and openly threatened on so many sides, there is a great and urgent need for harmony and mutual forbearance among Catholic Christians, and ALL CHRISTIANS! Any dissensions among ourselves, lack of loyalty and obedience to our spiritual hierarchy, and indifference to the work of unity, are noted carefully, broadcast widely, and rejoiced over by a world that is hostile to the real message of peace that Jesus Christ brought and still seeks to bring to all mankind. The world's interpretation of peace is a distorted one, based on principles and ideas devised by so called "enlightened" men (and women), having little to do with Jesus and His Father. Peace will succeed for all the ages only if it is of God, but it is flawed and doomed to failure if it is a making of our species alone, and to believe otherwise is to live life with blinders on.

WE MUST DO OUR PART

We must do our part, as children of Christ, within the span of the life we are given. We must be ready to overlook the defects and shortcomings of our fellow Christians, and we must be ever ready to help them when they need our assistance. Indifference to the needs of our Christian brethren, cynicism and uncharitable speaking and acts (*God forbid!*), are deadly enemies to the peace and harmony of Christ's Church. We can't be united with Christ, and one another, if we take every opportunity, as people are wont to do, to degrade the good names, and misrepresent the motives of our neighbors. Christian peace, joy, and unity can't dwell in the hearts of those who are ungenerous and uncharitable. The world will easily notice our hypocrisy and see through our falseness. So many souls in need of Christ, will walk away from Him when seeing the poor examples we exhibit as His followers. How much better would it be, if all the world could echo the remark made by the Third Century Christian writer Tertulian: "*See how they love one another!*" - (*Apologia 39.6*) when we shine the light of Christ as it was and *is* meant to be !

St. Paul exhorts us, in today's Epistle, to be interested in one another; "*Now the God of patience and consolation grant you to be like-minded one towards another according to Christ Jesus. . .*" - (*Rom: Ch 15, Vs 5.*). This interest, which we ought to engage in, is not the interest in suspicion, jealousy, and fault-finding, but the affectionate interest that prompts us to help and be sympathetic toward one another. That's the sort of interest which Jesus took in mankind, when He sought to unite us in the unity of *faith and worship*.

The tools that we should carry, in order to do this work well, are quite simple; *Prayer, Sacred Reading, and the Sacraments*. Advent is the perfect time in which to get better acquainted with these tools, if we are not as familiar with them as we should be, or need to put a better edge on them for our use!

Let us pray then, along with our writer St. Paul, that this true Christian spirit of interest in the welfare of our Christian brethren may be given to us, so that we may be of like mind with Christ and with one another, and that we may join with Jesus Christ in seeking not our own pleasure and achievement . . . but simply the Glory of Almighty God. That portion of the world, who knows not Jesus Christ, will then say: "*See how they love one another!*"

3.

PRAYER OF THE DAY: O people of Sion, behold, the Lord is nigh at hand to redeem the nations : and in the gladness of your heart the Lord shall cause his glorious voice to be heard. - (*Isiah 30.*)

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK: Out of Sion hath God appeared : in perfect beauty. - (*Psalm 50*)

PRO CLERICIS – FOR THE CLERGY

“ We should say every morning: My God, send me thy Holy Spirit to teach me what I am and what thou art ! “ - (St. John Vianney – The Cure of Ars ; from: *Catechism of the Holy Spirit*)

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 Website to view past editions of **The Meditation** at: www.ourladyofsevensorrows.org and go to '*Meditation*' section. *

PRIORY KALENDAR

A.D. 2014

Week of December 7th to December 14th : Season of Advent

Sunday, December 7th . . . 2nd Sunday in Advent . . . comm. St. Ambrose, Bp. C. D. (4th cent. Milan, Italy.)

Monday, December 8th . . . The Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Tuesday, December 9th St Wulfhildis; Abs. O.S.B. , - (10th cent. England)

Wednesday, December 10th . Ven. John Roberts: P. - O.S.B. - (17th cent. England)

Thursday, December 11th . . . feria in Advent.

Friday, December 12th feria in Advent.

Saturday, December 13th . . . St. Lucy; V & Myr. - (4th cent.)

Sunday, December 14th . . . 3rd Sunday in Advent (“Gaudete” Sunday)

4.

KALENDAR KEY: Ab. = Abbot, Abs. = Abbess, Abp. = Archbishop, Ap = Apostle, Bp. = Bishop, C. or Conf. = Confessor, Comm. = Commemorate. C.S.J. = Jesuit Order, Dcn. = Deacon, Doct. = Doctor of the Church, Ev. = Evangelist, H = Hermit, K = King, M. = Monk, **M.M. = Month's Mind (remembrance of the departed)**, Myr. = Martyr, N. = Nun, P = Priest, Po. = Pope, R. = Recluse, Q. = Queen, Vir. = Virgin, W. = Widow, O.Car. = Carmelite Order, O. Cart. = Carthusian Order, O.F.M. = Order of Friars Minor – Franciscans, O.S.B. = Order of St. Benedict – Benedictines, O.C.O. = Order of the Cistercian Observance (Trappists), A = Abstinence, F = Fast, F & A = Fast and Abstinence

KALENDAR NOTES

Benedictine Saints and worthies for the week:

December 9 : St. Wulfhildis, Abbess, OSB of Barking Abbey, England. *Holy example & industrious. D. 990.*

December 10 : Ven. John Roberts, Priest, O.S.B. *Early Missionary to post-Ref. England. Martyred in 1610.*



Feasts, Fasts and Other Things

A bit about Advent

December 25th, the solemnity of the Nativity of our Lord was, in ancient times, regarded as the beginning of the Christian year. The annual liturgical cycle starts on Advent Sunday, the Sunday nearest to, or on, St. Andrew's Day, November 30th; the earliest date being November 27th and the latest December 3rd. There follows a season of spiritual preparation for Christmas. The Old English name for the festival was derived from *Christes-Messe*: "(Festival) Mass of Christ."

What does **Advent** mean? It actually comes from "*Adventus Domini*", *the Coming of the Lord*. Advent is a season of preparation for the Lord's coming. **The Roman Martyrology** for this day puts it concisely: "*The first Sunday of preparation for the coming of the Lord Jesus Christ.*" Advent is a time of preparation, a time of holy desire, of longing, and expectancy. We must feel what it is to be hungry if bodily food is to nourish us, so too, we ought to hunger for God's grace. According to a fundamental law of God's kingdom, God will not force His grace upon one who is already filled.

"*He fills the hungry with good things, and the rich he sends empty away*" we are told in the great canticle, *The Magnificat*. Holy Mother Church wants us to experience spiritual hunger and the need for redemption during the four weeks that constitute the Advent Season, to make us worthy of the grace of redemption. There are four Sundays within this period of Advent either numbered consecutively, the First, Second, Third, and Fourth of (or in) Advent. Or inversely, the Fourth, Third, Second, or Sunday Next "before Christmas".

Many churches, in keeping with the air of expectation and solemnity of the Advent Season, present a somewhat austere appearance. The predominant liturgical color is **purple**, (except Saint's Days) although, in Medieval times, some dioceses in both England and France used a deep **blue** for Advent in honor of the Blessed Virgin. This is a tradition that is still carried on in some places today, like here

5.

at the Priory! There is also an absence of flowers; and the organ is usually played only to accompany choral and congregational singing. The “*Gloria in Excelsis*” is omitted in the Mass, as are the “*Alleluias*”. These will return at the First Mass of Christmas, on Christmas Eve, to resound with great joy and significance in announcing the birth of Jesus. The great *Te Deum Laudamus* “*We praise Thee, O God*”, as well as the *Alleluias* are not sung within our monastic offices, and the song tone is kept plain. Here at the Priory, we treat Advent as a sort of “*Little Lent*”. Emphasis is placed on the anticipatory and reflective aspect of this season, and of course the penitential has its place . . . but not in the great degree as is observed in “*Great Lent*”. *Prayer, Penance, and Spiritual Reading* are the three watchwords that most monastics follow during this great time of expectation . . . you can too!



Come, Thou Long expected Jesus...

- 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

Could you or someone that you know, open your heart as the animals opened their hearts and home to the Christ child on that first Christmas? Our funds are critically low so, if you would like to help and are able, simply mark your check “for the animals”. It will be gratefully received and deeply appreciated.

“Verily I say unto you, inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these my brothers, ye have done it unto me.” - (St. Matthew; Chap. 25 Verse, 40. KJV)

Please make all checks payable to the Servant of the Holy Family, 4 Shaw Rd. Raymond, Maine.04071 and please indicate “for the animals” so the money will go to them. Thank you!

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

All of us at the priory wish you and yours a blessed and prayerful Advent.

PAX

