

2.

The Epistle for the Day; I St. Peter; Ch. 5, Vs. 5
Today's Epistle and Gospel can also be found in the following sources:
1928 Book of Common Prayer; Pages 192 - 193
The People's Anglican Missal; Page C 59
St. Joseph "Continuous" Sunday Missal (1958 ed.); Page 698

St. Peter, in today's epistle, speaks of the difficulties of practicing the Christian faith to his readers, initially the people of his own day; the early Christians attempting to exist within the confines of a pagan world. It's clear, however, that his words are applicable to spiritual combat in general and for all times. The difficulties for the early Christians were not only in practicing their religion in a completely pagan world; (for they were just building the Church then), but the moral difficulties of all kinds that came from the pagan "Establishment" as given and accepted ways of living that were in every way contrary to the message of Jesus Christ. These moral difficulties and challenges to Christian living, never went away, and remain with the world today, seeking to infiltrate and inflict itself into the Church and Christianity as well.

The chief lesson in today's Epistle is that of the ceaseless activity, the dreaded power, the subtle all-pervading influence, the astute and insinuating persuasiveness of the being whom St. Peter calls *the Adversary* and *the Slanderer*. We know him as *the Devil*. Spiritual combat has to be fought not only against flesh and blood, but against the "*rulers of darkness*" above all. We must fight against an invisible, malignant and shrewd adversary who knows every weak point in our character, and to whom the workings of our minds are no secret.

The world of our time is no less sensuous (*driven by our desires and senses*) than that in which St. Peter's readers lived. It's probably more seductive in many ways, and more out of harmony with the Spirit of Christ than the heathen world to which the Gospel was announced by the Apostles. How could that be, some might ask? We have the Faith, we live in modern times, and we are certainly more "enlightened" than people in those backward times! Precisely! *We stand upon our own merits*. We interpret God's Word *in the light of "today"* and not *forever*. We try to rewrite all that has been given to us as *certain and good* to please and satisfy our itching ears and the perceptions that come from *living in a world ruled by consensus* and not a loving, all-knowing, and far-seeing God. We let go of, instead of holding on to *that which is good*, for some have deemed it outdated and even "bad". Indeed, the Evil One is just as busy now as he was in the days of the Early Church...perhaps even more so. . . there were no computers, cell phones, and I-pads in old Judea, and the Evil One has quickly adapted to using these 'tools' to his advantage! Anyone who uses these things can easily the potential in them .

The Evil One, a.k.a. the "*Slanderer*" is as busy as ever – whispering here and planting suspicions and envies there, joking slyly and using all his powers of mockery couched in high-brow humor, sarcasm, and condescension to weaken those who would make open profession of their religion, and do their best to live that life of restraint and asceticism which the Gospels require.

The "*Adversary*" is here as well, just as he was in the early days, delicately insinuating to young people that this or that thing, which their undeveloped minds and consciences question, is really a matter of convention, or at most an unimportant thing in the overall view of morality, which should be subject to review and change every generation, if it is to remain "relevant".

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It would seem that his work has been quite successful, especially in colleges where dissent is popular and accepted...as long as it follows "*The party line*" ...the *secular humanist party*, that is. Try to organize a Christian event on a campus and see what happens.

This now brings to mind a little story one of our departed brothers, Brother Dismas who often shared conversations regarding the "tempo of the times". It certainly rings true regarding the millennial generation of today, although spoken nearly twenty years ago.

Br. Dismas: "*I waz talkin' to a young feller a few days ago who told me that he could disprove everything in the Bible and what the Church teaches. When he was done shootin' his mouth off I asked him to show me his degrees in Theology, as I figured he musta been really smart. He didn't say a thing. I told him I wasn't all that bright, but had a few friends I wanted him to meet. Their names were Augustine, Jerome, Thomas Aquinas, Gregory, Theresa of Avila, and Alphonsus Ligouri. He'd be able to talk big talk with them I assured him and when he got done dealin' with them, I told him to come on back and we'd continue our little talk.*"

Our dear brother sadly concluded that he never saw that "young feller" again.

The *Adversary* is also working hard to ease the minds of those who desire to make acceptable, immoral and anti-religious livings and sentiments. He has, by whispering such catch words as *life style, freedom of choice, rights and many others*, conned recent generations into believing that change for its own sake is not only good, but part of some unwritten birth-right or part of human evolution towards a "higher plane". They are urged that being up to date for its own sake needs no justification. How many have listened to and fallen prey to *The New Age Movement* . . . pretty packages wrapped in mystical fantasy, in an amalgamation of so-called ideals and beliefs that will, in the end, lead to nowhere but death instead of the promised "*enlightenment*". "*I am the Way, and the Truth and the Life, no one comes to the Father but through Me.*" Our Lord tells the world. No wiggle room there. No "if's", "and's" or "but's" . . . **no exceptions** – although the *Adversary* would have the gullible believe otherwise; that there are many paths. . . and how so many have listened and followed. They bid our prayers.

Satan is here working quite hard as the *Adversary* in a multitude of ways, and through a myriad of appealing facets. It's well for us to realize this presence and potency of Satanic power for to realize it, is to be "*sober*" and calm, and as a result, *to be ever-watchful*. Many today, don't believe that Satan is real. They believe him to be an allegory of the evil that is within all men. Well, Satan doesn't care if people believe he exists or not. It doesn't bother him a bit, for he uses this act of *self-knowledge* and *pride* to gain entrance into souls that are already rocked with doubts and commences to do his work. Never should a person doubt the existence and power of the devil. We must be watchful in prayer and steadfast in Faith to be ready to fend off his wiles, and while we're at it, prayer for others can bring heavenly assistance to those in danger, who do not know it. That is a part of our responsibility as Christians.

However penetrating the intelligence of Satan may be, and however compelling his persuasiveness may be, his power is nothing against the grace of God and the faith with which God strengthens His servants. St. John Chrysostom writes: "*Anyone who thought of the heights from which the sinner has fallen and the depths to which he has now sunk might think it impossible to save him; but no such thought exists in God, Who is able to raise up the poor from*

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the dust and from the dung heap and seat him among princes . . . If the devil has been able to overthrow you, God is sufficiently powerful to raise you up again, to your former liberty and confidence. And he also says this: "It is not the number of the sins that should make us despair, but the desire to remain in them. They are like an iron collar round our necks, which do not permit us to raise our eyes to the Lord. The wise man breaks these bonds and casts them from him. . . No matter how difficult the conversion may appear at first sight, once the step towards Christ has been taken it becomes easy, because while we remain in the furnace of pleasure this conversion appears impossible; but once we take the first step away from it, then we soon leave it behind us and the path seems easy."

We must be ever on the watch, so we must always pray that God may give us the faith as a shield on which the fiery arrows of Satan, as St. Paul says, may fall and be quenched.

"Watch and pray that ye may not fall into temptation. The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak." Thus did our Lord say to His three disciples who slept during His Agony, and so He speaks thus to us as well.

Prayer for the day: Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil.



"Be sober, be vigilant; because your adversary the devil, as a roaring lion, walketh about, seeking whom he may devour : whom resist steadfast in the faith." - (I St. Peter; Ch. 5, Vs)

Br. Sylvester says: "Bring it on !"

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK:

He who trusts in himself is lost. He who trusts in God can do all things.

St. Alphonsus Ligouri

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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 21st to June 28th - A.D. 2015

In Trinity-tide

Sunday, June 21st . . . Third Sunday After Trinity - - - Summer Solstice : longest day of the year.

Monday, June 22nd . . . St. Alban: Myr. 4th cent. England.

Tuesday, June 23rd . . . St. Etheldreda; Abs. O.S.B. – 7th cent. England. . . . Vigil of St. John Baptist

Wednesday, June 24th . . . Nativity of St. John Baptist

Thursday, June 25th of the Octave of St. John Baptist . . . comm. St. William; Ab. H. 12th cent Italy.

Friday, June 26th of the Octave comm. Sts John & Paul; Myrs. 4th cent. Rome.

Saturday, 27th feria in the Octave.

Sunday, June 28th Fourth Sunday After Trinity . . . comm St. Irenaeus; B. & Myr. . . In Oct.

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, **RM = Requiem Mortorium, (monthly requiem of the departed)**, 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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Out on a Limb

This week's offering is by Br. Raymond A. Crowe, O.S.B.



Don't be fooled

Make no mistake about it, friends, Satan is lord and master of all souls who have not been saved by Jesus. Sometimes Satan's power over his victims is so great that it can affect the organs of sense, making people deaf, dumb, or blind, or the Evil One can speak through their mouths. He or she does not recognize this fact, as long as one is in the power of the devil; the horror of the state in which they had lived only becomes clear when they have shaken off this tyrant who loves none but himself.

We must continually be on our guard against the devil and his allies, *"for all that is in the world, the lust of the flesh, and the lust of the eyes, and the pride of life, is not of the Father, but is of the world."* (1 St. John; Ch. 2, Vs. 16) and make them powerless by faithful observance of our Christian faith and practices. We must break with him once and for all if we're to belong to Christ and He is to live and work in us. This battle does not end, nor is it any less demanding for those of us who have entered the religious state of life. The devil never rests until a soul is in his possession. He will come back at a moment, when we least expect his attack, even if he is driven away. Therefore we must be vigilant and keep our senses, our unruly desires, well under control. Time means nothing to this vile creature, and he will wait days, months, years . . . many years until he deems the time ripe for harvest of even just one soul. There must *never* be a truce between us and him: never must our vanity and pride become so great as to allow ourselves to imagine that we are invulnerable to Satan. The person who thinks themselves safe is lost.

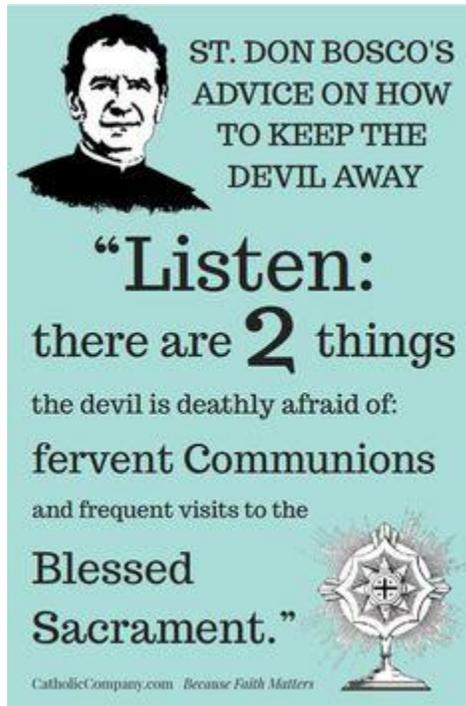
St. Francis says: *"We must be on our guard against the cunning and cruelty of Satan. He cannot bear to see us lift up our hearts and souls to God; he prowls round us, hoping, be setting before us some reward, some advantage, to steal our hearts, to stifle the word, and to make us forget God's commandments. He tries to blind us, that he may take up his abode in us."*

Our Blessed Lord warns us: *"When the unclean spirit is gone out of a man, he walketh through dry places, seeking rest; and finding none, he saith, I will return unto my house whence I came out. And when he cometh, he findeth it swept and garnished. Then goeth he, and taketh to him seven other spirits more wicked than himself; and they enter in, and dwell there: and the last state of that man is worse than the first."* (St. Luke; Ch. 11, Vs 24-26).

May we never let ourselves be misled by any pleasure or profit that can make us lose the union of heart and soul with God! I beseech you, dear friends, for the love of God, to clear away

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all obstacles, all cares and anxieties, that you may serve and love God as well as it is possible in this lifetime. It is our primary duty.



**Occupy your mind with good thoughts, or the Enemy will fill them with bad ones.
Unoccupied, they cannot be**

- St. Thomas More, *English Martyr*

A book that I cannot recommend highly enough, and is available to those seeking to better arm themselves against the wiles and assaults of the devil is this one:

Manual for Spiritual Warfare

By Paul Thigpen

TAN Books

ISBN: 978-1-61890-653-3

Br. Raymond, O.S.B.

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Prayer to your Guardian Angel

*God has given us angels to guide, defend, and assist us; we should recognize and ask our guardian angels help
Every day as we engage in the on-going battle for our soul.*



To be said upon rising and retiring each day:

Angel of God, my guardian dear,
To whom God's love, commits thee here.
Ever this day/night be at my side,
To light and guard, to rule and guide. Amen.

Animal News

The turtles have finally come out of hibernation and are eating like there is no tomorrow. Their favorites are kale, bananas and strawberries. Isn't it remarkable that they should wake from their winter's nap just when these foods are becoming seasonally available. God always has everything worked out and always provides for us all....even the turtles!
Happy Summer from all the animals at the Priory!



Quelle: Deutsche Fotothek

Christ doeth conquer, Christ doeth reign , Christ doeth Rule
the universe !

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