



'ORA ET LABORA'

## The Meditation

# The HOLY NAME OF JESUS

(commemorate the Eleventh Sunday After Trinity - A.D. 2016)

( August 7th )



**Adoration of the Holy Name of Jesus - ( 1606/7)**

*By Juan de Les Roelas ( 1570-1625)*

*Flemish Baroque painter*

*Painting in trhe University of Seville Chapel, Seville, Spain*

## The Collect for the Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus

 **God, who didst ordain that thine only-begotten Son should be the Saviour of the world, and didst command that his Name should be called Jesus: Mercifully grant, that we who worship His Holy Name on earth, may at length behold Him face to face in heaven. Where He liveth and reigneth with thee, in the Unity of the Holy Ghost, ever one God, world without end. Amen.**

St. Paul writes: “Judge nothing before the time, until the Lord come, who both will bring to light the hidden things of darkness, and will make manifest the councils of the hearts.” (*I Corinthians; Ch. 4, Vs. 5*). We can’t help but notice growing, constant, and loud judgements being made by people around us, as tensions increase along political, social, and even religious lines. The news media and others would have us believe that these are anxieties of ‘epic’ proportions but there really is nothing new under the sun. It is the “same old thing...different day”. ...really...it’s true.

Our Lord offers, for those who have eyes to see and ears to hear, words of long standing comfort: “I come not to judge the world, but to save it” (*St. John; Ch. 12, Vs. 47*). Christ leaves the job of judgement to His Father: “He that rejecteth me, and receiveth not my words, hath one that judgeth him, the word that I have spoken, the same shall judge him in the last day.” (*Ibid; Vs. 48*).

The Father sent His Son into this world to save it, and not until His return at the end of time will He give to every person according to their merits. It will be then: “*the Father judgeth no man, but hath committed all judgement unto the Son. That all men should honor the Son, even as they honor the Father. He that honoreth not the Son honoreth not the Father which hath sent him.*” - (*St. John; Ch. 5, Vss. 22 & 23*.” Our Saviour will be our judge at that time, but not before every soul will have been given the opportunity to accept or reject the message, and the Messenger that first made His appearance to mankind, by a star that shone brightly over a Bethlehem stable. Those, like the Wise Men who “*returned home another way*”, will be judged by the Saviour.

We’d do extremely well, if we would discipline ourselves then, to buck the current tide of being ready to pass judgement of any kind on every one or thing that gets in our way, and refrain from making such judgements. It’s something we do a hundred or more times a day . . . whether we realize it or not - not as a result of careful reflection or a sense of deep righteousness, but as result of our own imperfect personalities. Some people take great pride in telling others that they are intrinsically “honest” in their assessments...like it or not. Such people need to be very, very careful, for they use their ‘honesty’ as a form of passing judgement. They are convinced that their personalities are unique in that *they* see things (in others) that most everyone else fails to see. Any form of honesty if not tempered by *wisdom* is nothing more than an opinion, plain and simple. Such personalities, as well as *every* personality mirrored against the **Perfect Personality of Christ**, would cause *all* to turn away in shame and horror. No one is exempt. *No one*.

### 3.

It's a very fine line between being 'honest' ... making an observation, stating an opinion, or passing a judgement, and *pride* has a way of distorting it all. Our holy Father Benedict offers an admonition that we should all readily follow: "*To keep one's mouth from evil, is to not love much speaking.*" (**Holy Rule**; Ch. 4). St. Jerome caps it off saying: "*Her speech is silent, and her silence is speech.*" (from his **Letters**; Ch. 24). Sound advice for anyone, yesterday, today, and tomorrow.

If we could exercise personal and holy restraint and wait for the Lord's coming, that is, until we are under His influence, we would judge as He does, for we would see as He sees. Correct judgement of oneself or others, is impossible due to our fallen nature. We are, without knowing it, influenced by so many different motives, more often bad than good.

"*Keep back thy servant from presumptuous sins; let them not have dominion over me...and I shall be innocent.*" - ( *Psalm 19; Vs. 13.*) This is a truly human prayer, good for all of us. St. Paul writes: "*For I know nothing by myself; yet am I not hereby justified: but he that judgeth me is the Lord.*" - ( *I Corinthians; Ch. 4, Vs. 4.*)

Jesus tells us: "*Judge not, that ye be not judged.*" ( *St. Matt. Ch. 7, Vs. 1.*) The pattern of the life of Christ should be the same pattern for us to follow. If we judge, and He did not, than *we* are setting ourselves above *Him*. He, who saw good in *all* mankind...not just a selected chosen few, helped them. When we take the Holy Name of Jesus Christ in vain we are performing an act of condemnation! When we take the Holy Name of Jesus Christ in vain, we are presuming to be greater than He and are committing a grave blasphemy through language. We place ourselves in line for future judgement of the most rigorous form.

We should instead, give thanks to Almighty God for all the good He does for us and in us and through us, and ask, *no*, plead to keep our hearts open to receive His grace, which heals and sanctifies us.

As with others, we should practice putting ourselves in *their* place, and in their circumstances and with their natural weaknesses, remembering all the while that they are just as we are . . . small, weak, undeveloped members of Christ; better yet, they are *other Christs*, weak, suffering, and perhaps needing help, just as He did in His humanity.

In Normandy, France...away from the great cemetery that holds the remains of all the Allied soldiers killed in the D-Day landings and Normandy campaign is a smaller cemetery, less-visited, and less cared for. Time and nature is slowly re-claiming the cemetery. This cemetery holds the remains of hundreds of unidentified German soldiers killed during the Normandy campaign. Many, if not most are buried in common graves with no identification. At the entrance to this cemetery is a rather worn sign that simply reads: "***Only God has the Final Word.***"(translated). Timeless words indeed, for in a cemetery, any cemetery, people cease to be enemies. Judgement is found elsewhere.

Let us never fail to ask in our prayers for God to think of us, and according to His loving-kindness towards all His, children come to their help.

#### 4.

We shall have suppressed the chief obstacle to *interior silence* if we can suppress our judgements. The 19<sup>th</sup> century French Carmelite nun Elizabeth of the Trinity\* wrote: “*A soul who chatters to herself, who is preoccupied with her feelings, who pursues a futile train of thought, lets her powers become dispersed instead of concentrating them of God.*”

What a grace it would be if we could realize the value of *interior silence*, an essential condition of union with God. ***Only a mind free of judging is free for God.***

Let us try daily, like Jesus did, to be about our Father’s business, concentrating all our attention and love upon it. Then, we’ll overflow with good will for *all* our fellow human beings, never feeling jealous, and never ready to blame others.

***Blessed Lord Jesus, through your Most Holy Name, teach us to love as you do!***

\***Blessed Elizabeth of the Trinity** (1880 – 1906) French Carmelite spiritual writer. She will be raised to the Honor of the Altar (made a Saint) on Oct. 16<sup>th</sup> of this year. Her feast day will be November 8<sup>th</sup>.

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## Words of the Fathers and Spiritual Writers

### St. Bernard of Clairveaux

*St. Bernard deals with the theme of the Name of Jesus many times, and always in a profound fashion. Here are some excerpts from his Homily on the phrase **Missus est** (Sent). They serve as welcome additions to our Meditation for today. - Fr. k.l.l. +*

#### **The Name of the Saviour:**

“In one thing the angels and the Apostles agree when they talk about our Lord’s birth, namely, that he is given the name of Saviour. Gabriel, when speaking to Mary, as to one more fully instructed in divine things, merely indicates the name: ‘You shall call his name Jesus.’ The angel, on appearing to Joseph, not merely pronounces the name but also gives cause of it and interprets it when he says: ‘For he shall save his people from their sins.’ To the shepherds a great joy is announced, ‘Today is born to you a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord.’ Thus St. Paul also: ‘Then the kindness of God, our Saviour, dawned on us, his great love for men’. (Titus; Ch. 3, Vs. 4). None of them keeps secret this sweet Name, because it is most necessary for me. Otherwise what would I do hearing that the Lord was coming? Would I not flee from His presence as did Adam, even though he could not escape from it? Would I not despair on hearing that the great Lord was coming, whose commandments I had broken, whose patience I have so

## 5.

sorely tried and whom I have paid with ingratitude for all his benefits? In what else could I find greater consolation save in the name of my counselor? He himself says that he has not come to judge the world, but that the world may be saved by him. Now I shall go to him with confidence, implore him, full of hope. What shall I fear when the Saviour it is who comes to my house? Against him alone have I sinned. Everything will be forgiven when he pardons because truly he can do all things. If it is God who justifies, who shall dare to condemn us? For who can accuse the chosen ones of God?"

### **The imposition of the Name Jesus:**

“Thus, my Jesus does not bear this name uselessly, as did so many others. There is in him no mere shadow of the greatness of his name, but the truth, since the Scriptures tell us that his name was imposed from heaven. See the depth of meaning behind this; after his birth he was called Jesus by men, and he was called by this name by an angel before he was conceived, because he is the Saviour of both angels and of men. The Saviour of men from the time of his incarnation; and of angels from eternity . . . .”

“With reason, then, when this child who was born to us was circumcised, he was called Saviour; because from that moment he began the work of our salvation, shedding for us that immaculate blood. There is now no need for Christians to ask why Christ was circumcised. It was for the same reason for which he was born and for which he suffered.”



## **Parting Thoughts from St. Augustine of Hippo**

“How are the foolish to find a wise man, since no one will publicly claim this name for himself, even when it is attributed to him by others?

. . . . God is the only one who can get us out of the difficulty when we are worried about religious matters, and if we do not believe that he exists and that he helps the human intellect, then we should not even seek for the true religion. To believe before understanding, when we are unable to see the truth; the cultivation of faith in our souls so as to receive the seed of truth; is not only most salutary, it is also the only way that the sick can be returned to health . . . . I confess that I have believed in Christ to such an extent that I am convinced of the truth of everything that he says to me, even if he gives no reasons for it.”

6.

“Christ is the master of truth, as history teaches us . . . what else do his many miracles demonstrate if it is not this? He taught the faith to the foolish; you try to guide them by reason. He told them that they must believe; you cry out against him. He praised those who believe; you cast it in their faces. If he had not changed the water into wine, if he had not done so many miracles, wonders which amply justify men in following him as their master, there would be no need to heed his words when he says: ‘If you believe in God, believe also in me’. He brought us the medicine which was to heal our corrupt habits; he demonstrated his authority by miracles and merits faith by that authority. By faith he dragged the multitudes after him; with the crowds he attained maturity, and with maturity he fortified our religion.”

“It is necessary then, to imitate men whom we see. What more, then, could God do, in his great liberality and wisdom, than that the eternal, unchanging wisdom of God should deign to be incarnate in man? In that way he not only did everything necessary to invite us to follow him. Since there is no one who can attain that most pure and sublime truth unless, he first of all loves perfectly – a thing which will never happen while we have the misfortunes and evils of our body upon us – he, by his birth and wonderful works, awoke our love, and by his death, and resurrection, calmed out fears. . . .”

“If anyone should suffer a grievous and hopeless illness, and suddenly he finds himself cured by the command of another person, it is quite certain that the charity of the one cured will be greater than his admiration at being cured. That is what happened at the time when God made man manifested himself to men. The sick were healed, the lepers cleansed, the lame walked again, the blind saw and the deaf heard. At that time water was turned into wine, fifteen thousand were fed with fifteen loaves, a man walked on the sea and the dead rose again. Some of these works were obviously benefits wrought on the body; others hidden signs given to the mind; but all of them sought the good of mankind by giving testimony to the divine majesty.”

“You may ask why the same things do not happen today. Because they would not produce any emotion in us unless they were causes of admiration, and if they were so common, they would not be wonderful in our eyes.”

- St. Augustine of Hippo – excerpted from his book: *Usefulness of Belief*

***Blessed be God.***

***Blessed be His Holy Name.***

***Blessed be Jesus Christ, true God and true Man.***

***Blessed be the Name of Jesus.***

***Blessed be His Most Sacred Heart.***

***Blessed be Jesus in the Most Holy Sacrament of the altar.***

***Blessed be the Holy Ghost, the Paraclete.***

***Blessed be Mary, the Most Holy Mother of God.***

***Blessed be the Name of Mary, Virgin Most Holy.***

***Blessed be Saint Joseph, her most chaste Spouse.***

***Blessed Be God in His Angels and in All His Saints.***

## A Special Friend and Visitor to the Priory



*This past Tuesday, we were blessed with a visit from a dear friend of Fr. Kevin's. Fr. Christian Tutor, OSA; the Rector of All Saints Parish in Concord, NH and himself an Augustinian monk, stopped by the Priory on his way north to perform a burial service on Wednesday. This was Fr. Christian's first visit to the Priory, so he was given the grand tour of the Chapel, the grounds, and of course met most of the animals!*

*Fr. Christian is an amazing priest. In addition to lovingly serving the people of his parish, he also serves the Diocese as Cannon Liturgist, Diocesan Safety Co-ordinator, and is on the board of the New Hampshire Right-To-Life Commission. He is well-known to many Catholic religious communities in both New Hampshire and Massachusetts, and has spoken in community presentations. He is also readily available for spiritual direction and hearing confessions. His ever-present smile and contagious sense of humor mirror a definite close relationship with our Lord. When he celebrates the Liturgy or performs his ministry, he's strictly business, for he knows what his vocation is about.*

*It's easy to see from the photo that when these two monks get together, trouble is sure to follow, as they have been known to pull a prank or two when things get a bit too serious at clergy conferences and recently at Synods!*

*Don't let this 'pastoral' photo fool you ...*

*These guys are planning something...!*

*- Article and photo by Jack the Cat*

**The Meditation** is an online apostolate of **Our Lady of Seven Sorrows Priory** in Raymond, Maine, USA. We are an Anglican-Catholic Benedictine contemplative community that follows the Holy Rule of St. Benedict, the 5<sup>th</sup>-century Father of Western Monasticism. We are affiliated within the Diocese of the Northeast (DNE), of the Anglican Church in America (ACA), a member of the worldwide Traditional Anglican Communion (TAC).

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**In respect to our contemplative vocation and the animals in our rescue and rehab center, we do not have guest facilities and do not regularly receive visitors.**

8.

**Priory Kalendar**  
**For the week of**  
**August 7<sup>th</sup> to August 14<sup>th</sup> - A.D. 2016**  
**In Trinity tide**

**Sunday , August 7<sup>th</sup> . . . The Holy Name of Jesus** .....*Commemorate Trinity X*

**Monday, August 8<sup>th</sup> . . .** *feria in Trinity- tide.*

**Tuesday, August 9<sup>th</sup> . . . St. John Marie Vianney;** *C. & patron Saint of parish priests.*

**Wednesday, August 10<sup>th</sup> . . . St. Lawrence;** *Dcn. & Myr. 3<sup>rd</sup> cent. Rome*

**Thursday, August 11<sup>th</sup> . . .Bl. Daniel;** *Cistercian monk blessed with the gift of tears. 13<sup>th</sup> cent. France*

**Friday, August 12<sup>th</sup> . . St. Clare of Asissi;** *V. & foundress of the Poor Clares. 12<sup>th</sup> cent. Italy.*

**Saturday, August 13<sup>th</sup> . . . Sts. Hyppolytus (Ippolito) & Cassian;** *Myrs. See Note 1*

**Sunday, August 14<sup>th</sup> . . . Twelfth Sunday After Trinity**

**Note 1:** Saturday August 13<sup>th</sup> : is also the commemoration of the **Vigil** of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Assumption of the BVM is on Aug. 15th

**Animal News from the Priory**  
**Br. Chip at Tassel Top Park !**

Br. Chip, fresh from his travels with *Brothers Raymond* and *Sylvester*, saw that things were well in hand with the Meditation, and decided to continue his 'vacation' by going with Sr. Mary Francis to her job as head ranger at **Tassel Top Park** here in Raymond this past week.



9.



As you can clearly see from the photos, our little Brother made himself right at home, and in no time the staff were feeding him right out of their hands, and he willingly obliged to take every morsel that was offered!



Sr. Mary Francis welcomed both his company and his antics. He kept every one entertained and at times helped himself to things, when they weren't readily offered!



You're looking a full Br. Chip!

*Photos courtesy of Sr. Mary-Francis*

**PÆX**

