



'ORA ET LABORA'

The Meditation

Third Sunday After Trinity - A.D. 2016

(June 12th)



The Disputation of the Holy Sacrament – 1509

By Raphael Sanzio di Urbano (1483-1520)

The Apostolic Palace – Vatican City

The Collect for the Third Sunday after Trinity

O Lord, we beseech thee mercifully to hear us; and grant that we, who whom thou hast given an hearty desire to pray, may, by thy mighty aid, be defended and comforted in all dangers and adversities; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

I will draw all Men unto me.

Ever since the Son of God appeared upon earth, and was lifted up on His Cross of glory, the history of the world was changed. It became the history of that attraction by which Jesus, meek and humble of heart, has established the kingdom of God upon earth.

The **Logos**, The Word, the Son of God, was at the origin of all things. We are familiar, in St. John's Gospel, (The 'Last Gospel' recited at the close of a High Mass), with the words: "*In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God, and the Word was God. The same was in the beginning with God. All things were made by Him; and without Him was not anything made that was made.*" (St. John; Ch. 1, Vss 1 – 3.) All creation is drawn to Him because it was made by Him. "*For by Him were all things created, that are in heaven, and that are in earth, visible and invisible. . . .all things were created by Him, and for Him. And He is before all things, and by Him all things consist.*" - (Colossians; Ch. 1, Vss. 16 & 17).

We live in a time that is fraught with high anxiety, fear, and uncertainty. 'Experts', whether they be scientists, political pundits, or sociologists, give us a myriad of reasons why this is so but perhaps there is a simpler answer. Perhaps it's because we as a species are simply homesick. We are homesick for our *real* homeland... a Heavenly Homeland. Christ is the answer to our homesickness; He attracts all creatures, because He is their last end; He alone can promise healing, rest, and happiness to all who come to Him. "*Come unto me, all ye that labor and are heavy laden, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you, and learn of me; for I am meek and lowly in heart: And ye shall find rest unto your souls.*" – (St. Matthew; Ch. 11, Vss. 28 & 29). We have come to a point in our existence where we believe that we hold all the answers to the problems that essentially we, as a species have created . . . perhaps we need to start looking in another direction. How appropriate is the saying that goes: "*Wise men still seek Him*".

Mankind fell away from God, all creation lost its way. Sin was an attack on Christ's kingship. Creation also was estranged from its Creator when mankind became a stranger to God. Instead of singing God's praises by the lips of mankind, it now "*groans and travails in pain together.*" – (Romans; Ch. 8, Vs. 22)."

All authority in heaven and on earth was given to Him by the Father when the Son of Man was thrown out of his own city and fastened to and lifted up on a Cross, (cf. : Matt. Ch. 28, Vs. 18). * "*He is the same also that ascended up far above all heavens, that he might fill all things.*" - (Ephesians; Ch. 4, Vs. 11).

3.

This attraction to Christ, if we follow it, satisfies the deepest longings of our fallen race, yet for us, the way to it is the way of the Cross. A return implies salvation from sin, from death and corruption but it's a salvation which is only made possible by conforming to Christ.

The throne from which our King rules over all hearts is the lowest throne conceivable – the Throne of the Cross; the Cross upon which Christ was glorified, becoming “*a life-giving spirit*” (*I Corinthians; Ch. 15, Vs. 45*). . . “*And I, if I be lifted from the earth, will draw all men unto me*” – (*St. John; Ch. 12, Vs. 32*). The Cross raised Jesus to His eternal throne of Glory, at the right hand of the Father. He was the grain of wheat buried deep in the earth, that brings forth new life, and brings it a hundredfold. It is to his Cross that He draws all those whom He baptizes in His Spirit.

The Cross, the Spirit, and the glory are inseparable in the life of the Christian, but let us ask ourselves: What has become of the Lord's prophecy? So many are far from being attracted to Him, and so very many deny Him. A general apostasy passing unnoticed today, seems to neutralize His power of attraction. There are so few lovers of Christ's Cross. . . even among His own. How often do we miss the life-giving influence of the Cross and go about living life for ourselves and not Him? What is to be done?

Christ's reign is founded on a law which escapes us. God's thoughts are not ours; they are by definition as high above ours as the heavens are above the earth. (*Ref. Isaiah; Ch. 55, Vs. 9*) * *

By faith only can we realize that as Jesus saved us by humiliations and sufferings, so it is by many tribulations that His Church founds His Kingdom on earth. “*And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of man be lifted up: That whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have eternal life.*” – (*St. John; Ch. 3, Vss. 14 & 15*).

Our faith lives and moves in love; the Crucified Christ calls one and all, but forces none; delicacy and discretion define the Divine Sacred Heart: “*Behold, I stand at the door, and knock: if any man hear my voice, and open the door, I will come in to him, and will sup with him, and he with me.*” (*Revelation: Ch. 3, Vs. 20*).

O Lord, may all other voices fall silent, that we may hear Yours, and Yours only. We surrender our hearts to You; grant us the rest you have promised. Teach us to give you little things, so that when the day comes we may not refuse You those things that are greater.

* “*And Jesus spake to them saying, All power is given unto me in heaven and in earth.*”

** “*For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways, and my thoughts than your thoughts.*”

4.



A Greek Orthodox Holy Card

From the Fathers of the Church

St. Gregory the Great

“Let us meditate, if we can, upon the supreme piety of this. The just are threatened with punishments if they fall. Sinners are promised mercy so they may rise up again. Some are frightened so that they may not weaken; others are encouraged so that they may not despair.

Are you just? Fear his anger so that you may not fall. Are you a sinner? Have confidence in the mercy of God and then rise up.”

“He opens to us the floodgates of his mercy and desires that we should do sincere penance. This consists of giving up, not one, but all our sins, because of what use is it to repent of sins against the flesh when we are still falling into that of avarice?

We should take one more step and, having made an abuse of what was unlawful, we should now abstain from that which is lawful and thus check in small things him who once fell in big things.

Look at the repentance of David, for example. First of all he fell into what was gravely sinful, with the wife of Urias, and then he knew well how to sacrifice the licit pleasure of a glass of water of which he thought himself unworthy. (*Rf. 2 Kings; Ch. 23, Vs. 17*). “

5.

The very one we despise calls us; we separate ourselves from him, but he does not separate himself from us. He put his law before our eyes to guide us, but we turn away from our creator; and behold how he follows us, calling out to us, and even though he is despised, he never ceases to cry out to us He calls by means of his precepts and waits for us in patience. If a servant set himself up against us, would we tolerate his lack of respect? Well, that is our situation; we turn our backs on God and not only does he tolerate it, but he promises to reward us if we return to him. May such great mercy on the part of the creator soften the hardness of our evil, and may man who could have been punished feel shame at least when he sees that God is waiting for him.”

- Excerpted from St. Gregory the Great: Homily No. 34

The Meditation is an online apostolate of Our **Lady of Seven Sorrows Priory** in Raymond, Maine. We are an Anglo-Catholic Benedictine contemplative community that follows the Holy Rule of St. Benedict, the Fifth-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.

Priory Kalendar

For the week of
June 12th to June 19th - A.D. 2016
In **Trinity tide**

Sunday, June 12th Third Sunday after Trinity

Monday, June 13th . . . St. Antony of Padua; C. O.F.M. 13th cent.

Tuesday, June 14th . . . St. Basil the Great; B. C. & Doct. 4th cent. Cappodocia

Wednesday, June 15th Monthly Requiem Suggested - Mass and Offices

Thursday, June 16th . . . St. Lutegard; V. & Mystic - O. Cist. 12th cent France

Friday, June 17th St. Botolph; Ab. O.S.B. 7th cent. England.

Saturday, June 18th . . . St. Ephrem the Syrian; M. & Solitary 4th cent. Syria

Sunday, June 19th Fourth Sunday After Trinity

6.

UPDATE ON THE THREE AMIGOS



Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI giving an address at his residence on a windy day last week.
(Associated Press photo)

Our regular subscribers are well-acquainted with the annual journeys of our resident academic, *Br. A. Chip Munk*, who every year at this time makes the college circuit giving commencement addresses. Well, this year, our little scholar asked two of his brothers to come along with him on his trip; those two being, *Br. Raymond A. Crowe*, and *Br. Sylvester A. Squirrel*. *Br. Chip*, before he departed, promised that he would keep a close eye on his two *confreres*, making certain they wouldn't get into any trouble. Our little brother is always good for his word, but in his absent-mindedness (which he *refuses* to acknowledge!) did not leave an *itinerary* for us here at the Priory to follow. An itinerary is important in monastic life, not only for the ones travelling, but for the community as well. The obvious reason is for us to know where these little fellows will be travelling, for their safety. The other being that the community can pray daily for them, knowing where they will be, imploring God to look after them, and in the case of these three...praying for those places where they will be and the good folks there! Yes, these three, when all together can leave quite a 'footprint' . . . never intentional but generally predictable!

The mysterious itinerary, as of this writing, has not been found, so for the past several days we've been wondering where the **THREE AMIGOS** have been in the world. Well, we got our first report via the *Associated Press* who sent out a photo showing a plucky little squirrel popping up behind His Holiness, Pope Emeritus, Benedict XVI catching his white papal zucchetto as a gust of wind blew it off the good pontiff's head. "*So they're somewhere in or near Rome!*" Sr. Mary-Francis said. I agreed, but quickly reminded her that the photo is a couple days old, and they could have moved on. I learned, after making a few calls, that our little band of friends had indeed been to Rome where *Br. Chip* gave an address at a seminary. *Br. Raymond*, flew about the city, enjoying the sights from his vantage point, and good *Br. Sylvester* hopped several Roman taxis (riding outside on the bumpers!) and wound up at Pope Emeritus Benedict's residence. How'd he know where that was? *Hmmmm*.

7.

It was easy enough for this little scamp to get around, (who's going to pay attention to a little squirrel running about...right?), and he found himself part of an audience, as the retired Pontiff was giving an address on some theological topic. *Br. Sylvester*, not content to just be in the presence of this great man, began to wander closer in order to get a better view. You know the rest. He was apparently clinging to the arm of the pope's chair when the gust of wind came up, and he made a play to catch the papal *zucchetto* (that little white 'beanie' all popes wear). Handing it back to a surprised Pope Benedict, *Br. Sylvester* was later invited to have refreshments with the Pope and a few words. I hope that Br. Sly didn't share any of his awful jokes with the good Pontiff, but that will remain between those two. The pope referred to his surprise guest as a: "*cheeky little squirrel*", and not much else is known about the day.

I was never able to find out where these three fellows were headed next, so stay tuned, dear readers, apparently the adventure continues! (*Sigh!*) - Fr. k.l.l. +



As you can see... Jack the Cat really does have things under control!

Animal News from the Priory



**"All things bright and beautiful
All creatures great and small
All things wise and wonderful
The Lord, God made them all"**

PÆX

