The Meditation
(The Twenty Third Sunday After Trinity)
November 4th A.D. 2018

All Soul’s Day – (1839)
Ferdinand Georg Waldmuller (1793 – 1865)
Austrian painter and writer
The Offertory Verse for the Twenty-Third Sunday after Trinity

Out of the deep have I called unto thee, O Lord: Lord hear my voice.  
(Psalm 130)

Death is but a door to Greater Life

This past week we observed the Feasts of All Saints and All Souls. Here at Our Lady of Seven Sorrows Priory we began our annual nine days of Masses and prayers for the departed. November, in the Church calendar, is regarded as the month in which we remember the faithful departed as well as all those known only unto God. So, a meditation about death is therefore quite appropriate at this time. Death is something that we all share as a part of our common humanity. The powerful and weak, the rich and impoverished, the famous and the obscure, and the believer and non-believer, will all at some point, face death. It’s what is called the ‘Great equalizer’. however, death is not the end of everything.

Good St. Francis de Sales writes:

Life is the time in which to seek God.  
Death is the hour in which to find Him.  
In eternity, we possess Him.

Death lasts for only a moment, and is terrible only to those who have to fear judgement, or, who have no faith. It is the joyous entry into the Kingdom of the Father, for the person who has lived in a state of grace.

God can, however, permit death to be preceded by a last combat. The devil may be allowed to do all in his power to make us doubt God’s mercy, by making us forget all those things in our past life that were good, and having us remember only that which was evil. The devil wants us to lose all hope. The devil wants to ‘score’ our souls for himself. Severe physical pain can make a person almost incapable of thinking of God at such a time. It must be the faith that the individual possesses which will provide strength and hope in this final combat that, “In a few moments, I will stand in the light of Almighty God, clothed in a garment washed white in the Blood of Christ: then, former things will have passed away; God will have wiped away the tears from my eyes and make all things new!”

It’s rather strange in a way, that the word “death” should have come to mean annihilation; actually, it’s the opposite . . . death sets free the living spirit in us. Far from depriving us of life, it gives us one that is higher, and perfect. Then all that Christ, in His Father’s Name promised to His disciples will be fulfilled. “Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see God.” (St. Matthew; Chap. 5, Vs. 8.) Jesus also says to us: “He that hath my commandments, and keepeth them, he it is that loveth me: and he that loveth me shall be loved of my Father, and I will love him, and will manifest myself to him.” (St. John; Chap. 14, Vs. 21) St. Paul writes that for the present time (our life-time), we see things through a darkened glass, but one day we shall be face
to face with Jesus Christ, and all will be clear. We only have glimpses of the life to come for now, but one day, we shall know the Father just as the Father knows us. [1] St. John affirms this: “Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doeth not yet appear what we shall be; but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.” (I St. John; Chap. 3, Vs. 2) And in the Book of Revelation: “And there shall be no more curse: but the throne of God and of the Lamb shall be in it; and his servants shall serve him: And they shall see his face; and his name shall be in their foreheads. And there shall be no night there; and they need no candle, neither light of the sun; for the Lord God giveth them light; and they shall reign for ever and ever.: (Revelation; Chap. 22, Vss. 3-5)

We marvel and bemoan (as it is written in Holy Scripture), how the whole world is groaning in its travail during these days of uneasiness and violence. The question goes out daily; “Why?” We’re not likely to receive any kind of credible and completely satisfying answer in this life if we seek to find it from a temporal source... the world itself. True and lasting hope comes from another world, another Source. A world in which the previous passages from Scripture assures us exists, for God and Christ have told us so, and faith compels us to believe this. Present day conditions may appear to us as a raging ocean hurricane with us right in the middle, being tossed about like a ship. Fact is, no ship remains tied to a dock in a storm, it heads out to sea, where it’s crew, confident in its sea worthiness will ride it out. Little wonder then, how our Holy Catholic Church is often represented as a ship being tossed about in a violent sea, yet remaining safe and water-tight! Within this ship is a cargo called faith, and locked and ready in its station is its anchor called hope. The Captain of this ship . . . need we ask?! [2]

If we weren’t already the children of God, He couldn’t lead us into the light of His glory but when death comes to us, if we are in a state of grace, our love, unveiled and pure, anchored in our hope will look into the eyes of Almighty God. We shall see light in His light. The soul, now raised to a supernatural essence, will see with God’s eyes; better still, will share His sight. God gives this Himself, in Whom the soul finds eternal rest. Perhaps this is why we never hear from anyone after death, they have become part of an unbreakable, unfathomable, union.

The 19th century German Catholic theologian and mystic Mattias Scheeben calls this a mystery which has only one counterpart – The Incarnation. [3]

Here on earth, we often feel that God’s love is hidden, or that perhaps He has forgotten us but in heaven, we shall feel the waves of His love overwhelming us through all eternity.

Here on earth, we suffer, because even when we think we are giving our all, our love is still cold and poor while in Heaven, it shall be exalted in flames of fire. The fire that is eternal Love.

One with God; one light . . . one heart-beat, and in a certain sense, one in being with Him – that is what we become at the moment of what we, in our unknowing, call death.

Hope is what we need at this hour. Hope is what we have . . . in Jesus Christ. Faith brings us that hope!
O loving Jesus, our Lord and Saviour, grant that in that day in which we are to see thee face to face, and contemplate your Truth in the radiance of your presence . . . that we, standing in the ranks of thy Blessed, may share in their bliss, filled forever with unending happiness that reigns in your heavenly Kingdom!

Meditation Notes:

[1] A paraphrase of I Corinthians; Chap. 13, Verse.12


[3] Fr. Mattias Joseph Scheeben (1835 – 1888) was a German Catholic Theologian, writer and mystic. His basic theological premise was “To make the Christian feel happy about his faith, because of the beauty and eminence of our Faith consists in this: Through the mysteries of grace it raises our nature to an immensely high plain and presents to us an inexpressive intimate union with God.” Quote from: “Quid est homo...” a commentary on a work by the 17th cent. Theologian Antonio Casini.

His best known work is Mysterien des Christenthums : The Mysteries of Christianity (1865-97). He also wrote a two volume work entitled: Mariology, which was later translated into English. A very good work. Many of his works are available today in English and are valuable reading for both the laity and reverend clergy who want to deepen their understanding and love of Catholic theology and Mariology.

[4] The Incarnation: The Christian doctrine of the Incarnation affirms that the eternal Son of God took human flesh from His human mother and that the historical Jesus Christ is fully God and fully man.

May the souls of the Faithful Departed through the Mercy of God, Rest in Peace. Amen.
Priory Kalendar
For the week of:
November 4th to November 11th - A.D. 2018
In Trinity Season

Sunday, November 4th . . . Twenty Third Sunday After Trinity
Comm. St. Charles Borromeo; Bp. & Conf. – 16th cent. Italy

Monday, November 5th . . . St. Elisabeth, Mother of St. John Baptist .... Novena of the Departed


Wednesday, November 7th . . . St. Willibrord; Bp. & C. O.S.B. - 8th cent. England/Ireland
Novena of the Departed

Thursday, November 8th . . . Octave Day of All Saints .......................Novena of the Departed

Novena of the Departed

Saturday, November 10th . . Saturday of Our Lady; Mass & Offices Recommended

Sunday, November 11th . . . Twenty-Fourth Sunday After Trinity
Comm. St. Martin of Tours; Bp. & C. - 4th cent.

November – The Month of all Saints and Souls
“They listened to their Good Angel, and the Good Angel led them to their Divine Pastor.”

(French)
(Carmelites), O.F.A. = Augustinian Order, O.F.M = Order of Friars Minor (Franciscans),
O.F.M. Cap = Capuchin Order, O.P. = Order of Preachers (Dominicans also called ‘Blackfriars’),
O. Praem. = Order of Cannons Regular (Norbertines), O.S.B. = Order of St. Benedict
(Benedictines), O.S. S. = Bridgettines, O.S.U = Ursulines, O.C.O. = Order of the Cistercian
Observance (Trappists/Trappistines), O.C.S.O. = Cistercian Order of the Strict Observance
(Trappists/Trappistines). Tert. = Tertiary (Third Order religious)

About the Meditation and About Us
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 5th century Father of Western Monasticism. We are resident within the Diocese of the Northeast
(DNE), of the Anglican Church in America (ACA), a member of the worldwide Traditional Anglican
Communion (TAC).

The Meditation is a weekly online offering that is sent out free of charge to anyone who desires to receive it.
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e-address (with their permission) to add to our subscription list so they may receive it directly from us. Each
issue is sent out as a BCC (Blank Copy) in respect to subscriber privacy and online security.

To subscribe, contact us at: klemarre@maine.rr.com To read past issues of the Meditation, please go to our
website at: www.ourladyofsevensorrows.org and you can find them in the section marked “Meditations” on
the homepage.

PLEASE NOTE: In respect to our contemplative vocation and the animals in our rescue and rehab center, we
do not have guest or bathroom facilities and do not regularly receive visitors.
Fr. Kevin is available to hear confessions and give spiritual direction by appointment only. Please contact
via email to make an appointment or to make us aware of your needs, concerns and intentions for our
prayerful attention. It is our privilege to pray for you.

PLEASE CONSIDER REMEMBERING US IN YOUR ESTATE PLANNING
Contact Sr. Mary Francis, O.S.B. for more information via our email address

Feasts, Fasts, and Other Things

Our History : Part IV:
By Br. Chip

The community began to develop its identity within the diocese and the Church from the mid
1990’s on. Interior work was always an on-going process as the chapel was being constructed, a
monastic liturgy being developed, and the brethren themselves grew into their individual monastic vocations. The old saying of “monks are made and not born” held especially true for this unique group, for as they were learning how to become monks, they also continued to serve the diocese and Church as their clerical vocations directed.

The community would offer the diocese a taste of the contemplative experience by offering “Quiet Days” at various places and parishes within Maine and New Hampshire when time permitted. There were very popular, and often well-attended.

 Quiet-Day Rosary devotions led by Br. Ignatius  

New Hampshire Quiet Day group

Br. Kevin giving a Quiet-Day meditation at Old St. Paul’s

Society of Mary/Rosary devotions -  

Br. Ignatius was devoted to the Blessed Virgin Mary, and established a cell of the Society of Mary, an Anglican Marian Rosary devotional group, that held weekly rosary devotions at Old St. Paul’s in Portland, Maine. Assisted by Br. Dismas and the rest of the brothers, the society grew from a small cell to a larger ward in a short time. Br. Ignatius composed and printed up a special and unique Rosary devotional manual that is still in use today. It wasn’t unusual for some of the parishioners from the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, St. Paul’s next door Roman Catholic neighbor, to join the brothers in these devotions. Retired Bp. O’Leary popped in on more than one evening and prayed with the group as well! This ward consecrated itself to Our Lady of Walsingham, and an altar to her was set up on the left-hand side of the Church, where the group would offer their Rosary devotions, and Marian Masses were celebrated.
**Food Baskets**

Br. Kevin and Sr. Mary Francis undertook a program in Raymond, where the Priory’s legal residence now was, that would help assist the needy in the area during the holidays. For several years, they raised domestic turkeys on the premises, which would be used to fill food baskets for Thanksgiving and Christmas. This became a successful undertaking, and it wasn’t long before benefactors began to assist with contributions. This provided the means for making up fully stocked baskets that would give a family all it needed for a wonderful holiday meal and extra food for a week or more. This offering went on for several years, and in its course assisted a local food pantry. Sometimes success can be too good, as it turned out with the turkeys. It came to pass that the turkeys grew so well and so big, that even when dressed out they were too large for the average stove! 35 – 40 pound turkeys were the rule rather than the exception, and so it was determined to buy turkeys from the market at a fixed size in the future.
Thanksgiving & Christmas Food baskets
This wonderful holiday program went on for many years, until the food pantry in town became able to sustain itself, which it is still doing today. The Priory, would still assist but in a smaller way, helping individual families with specific needs during those times.

Outdoor Chapter Meetings – Just the thing on fine days!

Chapter-Meeting – Sometimes formal, sometimes relaxed...always interesting!

Left to Right: Fr. Adrian, Br. Ignatius, Fr. John, Fr. Dean, Br. Dismas, & Br. Kevin
Animal Rescue and Rehab was a natural progression. Sr. has been rescuing/rehabilitating animals since she was 5 years old, starting with a sick jack rabbit that she caught in the desert of New Mexico when she lived there. Animals have always found their way to her and seem to be able to communicate with her. She did wildlife rehab for the State of Maine for years and was also assistant manager at the MSSPA (Humane Society) in its early years. The Priory was started at the farm, which was already taking in animals. The rescue was formally called St. Francis Rescue and Rehab and as an outreach of the Benedictines became a 301C, non-profit. We have taken in everything from birds to wildlife to cows, horses, dogs, sheep, cats, and more....Those that can be rehabbed and are reliable and safe to go to a new home, are placed and then tracked for life. Sr. also started helping with on-line placement to help people in a bind, find suitable places for their animals. Handicapped or those who have suffered abuse that they can’t get past, stay with us for the duration of their lives however long or short. We have a few animal angels that help with finances so we can afford to take care of these deserving creatures for life if necessary.

Next Week: Part V: Our history, Continued...
Animal News

By Sr. Mary Francis, O.S.B.

Halloween is over and the other “colder holidays” are on the way. We have already been fielding calls for horses and donkeys that need to be placed. Sr. does what she can to help people make the smartest decision for their animal and tries to help people find homes for these no longer wanted pets. Some of these animals will need to find sanctuary, or will face a cruel death after a trip to the “kill pens” and then transport to the slaughter houses in Canada and Mexico. Some will be purchased from auction and shipped alive to Japan to be killed for meat. We are very small and try, like St. Therese to do big things in our small way, one or two animals at a time. God brings us the animals that he wants us to tend to for Him and we take them with the faith that He will touch people’s hearts so that we will have the financial where with all to do His work.

Will you become an animal angel?

Please make all tax-deductible checks payable to “The Servants of the Holy Family”. All donations are acknowledged with a note and receipt and you can see the animals, their progress, and life here, in the Meditations.

Happy Holidays to you all!

PAX