



The Meditation

Third Sunday After Trinity Sunday

June 17th, A.D. 2018



El Buen Pastor (The Good Shepherd)

Painting by Cristobal Garcia de Salmeron (1603 – 1666)

The Gospel for the Day – St. Luke: Chap. 15; Vss. 1 - 10

(The Gradual Psalm for The Third Sunday After Trinity)

“O cast thy burden upon the Lord; and he shall nourish thee. When I cried unto the Lord, he heard my voice; from the battle that was against me.” (Psalm 55.)

At Home in God’s Tabernacle

L*ord, who is it that shall dwell in thy tabernacle, and rest upon the mountain
where thy sanctuary is?*

*One that guides his steps without fault and gives to all their due; one whose
heart is all honest purpose, who utters no treacherous word, never defrauds a
friend, or slanders a neighbor.*

*He scorns the reprobate, keeping his reverence for such as fear God, and is true,
come what may, to his pledged word; lends without usury, and takes no bribe to
condemn the innocent.*

He who so lives will stand firm forever.”*

-Psalm 15 (14)

This psalm will be sung at the early morning Office of *Vigils* tomorrow, but it dovetails so nicely with today’s text, and the message we wish to share, it just can’t be passed by.

Two great Fathers of the Church, **St. Basil** and **St. Jerome**, say that we find all the conditions necessary for us to gain heaven in this psalm.

St. Benedict applies it more specifically to those who desire to live the life of the cloister. Both are worth mentioning, since both help us to reach our final goal – the glory of heaven.

We will gladly consider the paths that will lead us to the Lord’s Tabernacle, for then, we’ll be more inclined to keep His commandments – not out of fear, but with a joyous *spirit of love*. Let us ask our Lord daily, to kindle within our hearts, the fire of His love in us, so that we may not neglect anything that can bring us closer to Him. Let us also implore Blessed Mary, the dearest of all Mothers to assist us in the journey that will lead us to that heavenly Home, where we will dwell forever with her and her beloved Son, our Lord.

“Lord, who is it that shall dwell in thy tabernacle, and rest upon the mountain where thy sanctuary is? One that guides his steps without fault and gives to all their due; one whose heart is all honest.” (Psalm 15; Vss. 1 & 2).

3.

Each of us receives from God the grace that is necessary for salvation, but it is only when we co-operate with this grace that we will make our home in God's holy tabernacle. The thought of heaven, where a loving Father awaits us, is extremely precious to those who are face to face with the temptations and difficulties which beset all of us during our time on earth that is our life-span. What could be more encouraging to a faltering soul than to be able to feel His eyes fixed upon us, and to know that He has pity on our weakness and doesn't ever forget the dust from which we are all made; *and* who lifts us up again and again whenever we fall, and forgives those faults we regret? The sin that love has wiped out ceases to be "Gods evil": and instead becomes a source of consolation for the sinner! The person who has just come from making a deeply heartfelt confession to their priest and has received absolution knows this consolation well.

The battle of life may go hard with us, but we should remember that we can always count on God's help, and as long as life lasts within us, we can grow in grace.

The source of the grace of which we speak today, was opened in our hearts in Baptism, and since then, it has never ceased to increase itself within us. Each Sacrament that we have received, every act of virtue performed, has added to it. The purer our life, the greater our zeal for the sanctification of others, the more assured we may be that we shall one day make our home in God's tabernacle. How much happier would we be if we thought more of this wonderful joy that awaits us, than the things in life and the world that time and time again, 'bring us down'.

Difficulties wouldn't weigh on us so heavily, indeed, we should still regret our faults, *but* we should not be discouraged by them. Heaven is worth all it costs us, no, infinitely more! When we reach our Father's House; we'll realize then how great was the love and mercy given to us all the days of our life.

Our hearts ought to be fixed where the true joys are to be found; the reward of which St. Paul tells us: "*It is written: 'Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.'*" (I Corinthians; Chap. 2, Vs. 9)

If we direct our daily thoughts to those of heaven, our path through life will become more heavenly, and our sufferings, frustrations, and humiliations easier to bear. Life is short, eternity never-ending. We humans have a very difficult time in comprehending this. 30 years of age is "old" and seems so far away to a youth, to the nonagenarian (someone in their 90's), 60 is young. When we can reconcile this brief span in our minds, and the urgency in which it can all run itself out, then we will undoubtedly reach out for that which is eternal, and earnestly strive for it.

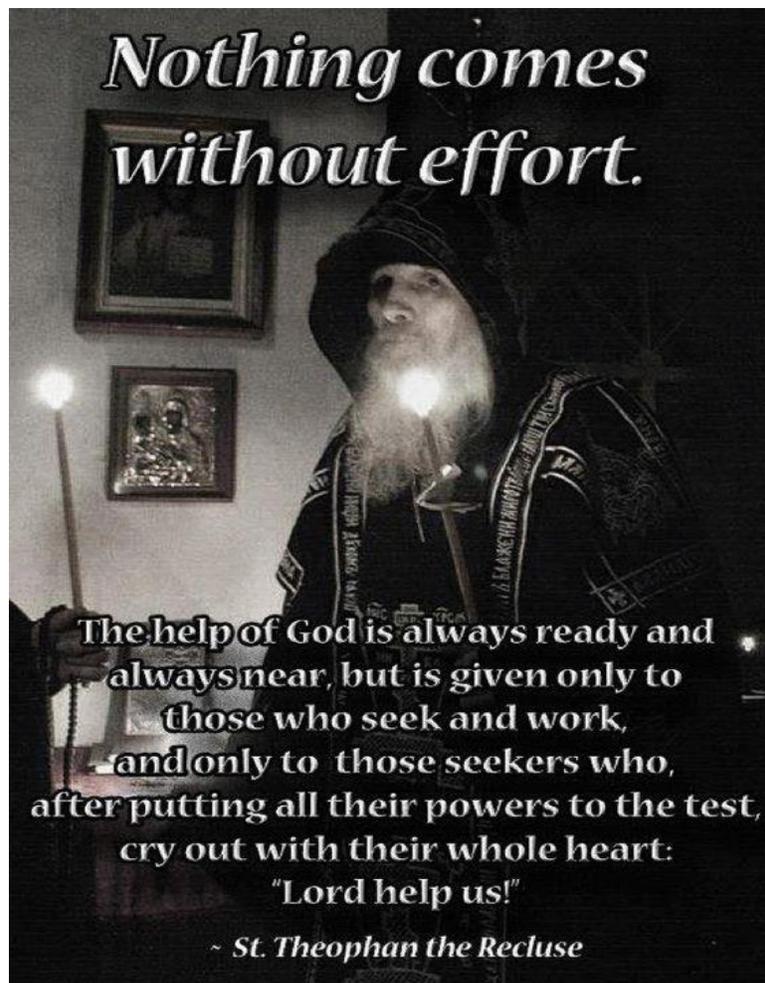
A good place to begin, is every morning. When we open our eyes, let us immediately and fully realize the gift we have been given in the form of another day! Then, let us resolve to overcome our difficulties for the love of God, taking our neighbor in our journey towards the Almighty, not by word only, but by example. Let us never stand as an obstacle to any, let us be helpful and obliging to all, speaking ill of none, and excusing whatever may appear wrong or unwise. If we can do this, how much happier our lives will be!

4.

Every day, let us beseech our Blessed Lord's aid; for by ourselves we can do *nothing*, but with His grace we can dare to follow that way which will lead us Home. Let us live for Him and live in hope so when the hour of our death approaches we will hear our Beloved Lord Jesus say to us: "*Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world.*" (St. Matthew; Chap. 25, Vs. 34).

Meditation Notes:

***Psalm 15** (14): Psalm taken from **The Holy Bible as translated from the Latin Vulgate** by Msgr. Ronald Knox. 1954 for better clarity.



5.

Prory Kalendar

For the week of:
June 17th to June 24th - A.D. 2018

In Trinity tide

Sunday, June 17th Third Sunday After Trinity

Comm. St. Botolph; Abt. - 6th cent. England

Monday, June 18th St. Ephraem the Syrian; Dn. Conf. & Doct. - 4th cent.

Tuesday, June 19th Monthly Requiem suggested: Mass and Offices for the departed

Wednesday, June 20th St. Sylverius; Po. & Myr. - 6th cent. Italy.

Thursday, June 21st St. Aloysius Gonzaga; C. S. J. - 16th cent. Italy

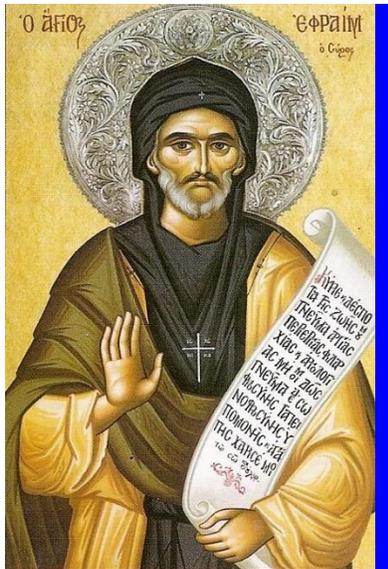
Summer Solstice

Friday, June 22nd Sts. John Fisher, Bp. & Thomas More; Myrs. 16th cent. England

Saturday, June 23rd Vigil of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist

Sunday, June 24th Nativity of St. John the Baptist.

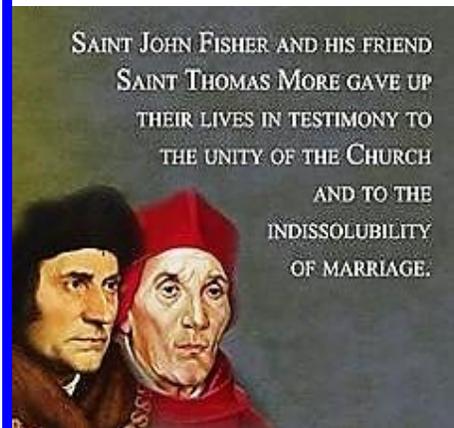
Comm. Trinity IV



**June 18th
St. Ephraem the Syrian**



**June 21st
St. Aloysius Gonzaga**



**June 22nd
Sts. John Fisher & Thomas More**

KALENDAR KEY:

Abt. = 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/Commemorate, Dcn. = Deacon, Doct. = Doctor of the Church, Ev. = Evangelist, H. = Hermit, LBr. = Lay Brother, LSr. = Lay Sister, K. = King, Mat. = Matron, M. = Monk, **M.M. = Month's Mind (Requiem for the recently departed on the 30th day after death or burial)**. Myr. = Martyr, N. = Nun, Obl. = Oblate, P. = Priest, Po. = Pope, Pr. = Prior, Prs. = Prioress, R. = Recluse, **RM = Requien Mortuorum, (Mass and Offices for the departed once a month as designated on Kalendar)**. SDcn. = Sub Deacon, Q. = Queen, Ven. = Venerable, Vir.=Virgin, W. = Widow.

FASTING KEY: A = Abstinence, F = Fast, F & A = Fast and Abstinence

RELIGIOUS ORDER ABBREVIATIONS: 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 = Capuchin Order, O.P. = Order of Preachers (Dominicans also called 'Blackfriars'), O. Praem. = Order of Canons Regular (Norbertines), O.S.B. = Order of St. Benedict (Benedictines), O.Ss. 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. Subscribers may copy and pass along **The Meditation** to their families and friends, or send us their 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: kلامarre@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.

Out on a Limb

By

Br. Raymond A. Crowe, O.S.B.



Sts. John Fisher & Thomas More

June 22nd

This coming week, the Church will observe the feasts of two great English saints and martyrs. John Fisher and Thomas More were men of exemplary life, one a bishop, one a lawyer and family man. It was because they lived such principled lives they were content to be martyred for the Faith. These two men are held up as martyrs for the rights of conscience. Both men believed, as the Church does, that there are certain rights that the state can never claim for itself, and that includes those things which are matters of conscience. It's generally viewed that these two courageous men suffered death for freedom of religion, and for the rights of the individual against the power of the state and standing up against Tudor totalitarianism, which is only partly correct.

Both died for the integrity of the Catholic Church. Both held firmly that what Henry VIII wanted to do was not only wrong, but impossible. A king or any leader of state cannot be head of the Church. There was no such thing as the Church "of England", there was simply the One, Holy, Catholic Church that is indivisible, under the visible leadership of Christ's Vicar on Earth, the Pope. The pope of that day, Paul III, understood this well, and that is why he made Fisher a cardinal, much to Henry's anger. A clear reminder and warning was given by placing a cardinal smack dab in Henry's realm; there is an ultimate Arbitrator and Judge, higher than any king that all men must face and account for their actions. The scarlet of the Cardinalate is a sign that the members of this Sacred College are prepared to shed their blood for the Faith. St. John Fisher remains today the only Cardinal who has ever been martyred. Contemporaries of Fisher and

8.

More also knew that Papal Supremacy was what was at stake, and many of them worked hard to get the monarchy to understand what it was they (the monarchy) had initiated and the potential for clamateous results to occur, which were to be proved true.

Royal supremacy, then as now, was never more than a religious fiction to cover up a political necessity. England isn't the only country to have gone down this route. The Nazis in Germany tried to form a sort of national church out of selected elements of Christianity blended with National Socialism, but the war extinguished their effort. There is an example existent today in China, where the state has 'created' its version of the Roman Catholic Church whose hierarchy answers to the Central government, while the legitimate Church has had to go "underground" in order to survive. Wherever the state has taken control of the Church, the result has been bad for the state and even worse for the Church. There indeed became a Church of England, but it was not part of the Church Catholic and for over a couple hundred years, it was very content to remain that way. It would be through the Oxford Reformers of the 19th century with the likes of Newman, Keble, Pusey, Faber, and Manning that the English Church would re-examine itself, re-discover the great treasury that it possessed in liturgical and spiritual gifts of its pre-Reformation past. It was through these scholars and worthies, that the process of a one-day re-union began, and although moving slowly, continues today. Fisher, More, and Newman have been called upon through much prayer to intercede in this long-overdue undertaking..

St. John Fisher and St. Thomas More were loyal Englishmen, and were loyal to their king. But when forced to make the choice between king and Church; earthly king or Heavenly King. . . there was no compromising, and they died for the Faith.

The question begs, if that were to happen today – how many of us would have the courage to make the same choice as they?

Copy of a petition of prayers for the cannonization of Thomas More and John Fisher found in an old devotional. C. 1886.

FOR THE CANONIZATION OF ENGLAND'S MOST GLORIOUS MARTYRS
(Sanctified by Pope Leo XIII., December 29th, 1886.)



Blessed Thomas More, pray for us.

PRAYER.
O God, for Whose love Thy Blessed Martyr Thomas cheerfully left family and wealth for prison and for death, grant that we, in the same noble spirit of devotion, may mercifully sacrifice all to gain Jesus Christ, Thy Son, Who liveth and reigneth for ever and ever. Amen.



Blessed John Fisher, pray for us.

PRAYER.
O God, by Whose grace Thy Blessed Bishop John gladly laid down his life on behalf of truth and right, grant that we also, through his intercession, may love, if need be, our life here for Christ's sake, as did it hereafter in heaven. Through the same Christ, our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER FOR THE CANONIZATION OF THE MARTYRS.
O Lord Jesus Christ, King of Martyrs, grant through the intercession of Thy most glorious martyrs, John Fisher and Thomas More, an abundance of favors, spiritual and temporal, that in the glory of Thy Most Holy Name and to the benefit of Thy Holy Church, they may receive the supreme honour of Canonization. Our Father. Hail Mary. Glory be to the Father.

Notice of former notices through the intercession of these martyrs should be sent to The Rector of the Seminary, Wymersley, Surrey, Vice-protector of the Cause.

CUM PERMISSU SUPERIORUM.

9.

Out on a Limb is an occasional offering by **Br. Raymond A. Crowe, O.S.B.** a lay- brother here at Our Lady of Seven Sorrows Priory. Br. Raymond serves in many capacities here, and often shares his observations when time permits. He is filling in for Br. Chip, who is away giving college commencement addresses.



Br. Raymond

Animal News

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

Jack takes time out to just ‘be’



There are times when we must stop and be silent to hear the word of God. “Be still and know that I am God”. We live in a very busy, noisy “me-centric” world but when we stop and just be, we can here the sounds of God in the beautiful chorus of nature. His voice echoes in the wind and every song of every bird and buzzing bee lifts the tired soul and brings new joy!

PAX

