



The Meditation

The Sixth Sunday After Trinity

July 8th, A.D. 2018



The Patience of Job
Gerard Seghers (1591 – 1651)
Flemish painter

The Collect for the Sixth Sunday After Trinity

O *God, who hast prepared for those who love thee such good things as pass man's understanding: pour into our hearts such love toward thee, that we, loving thee above all things, may obtain thy promises, which exceed all that we can desire. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Who liveth and reigneth with Thee in the unity of the Holy Ghost, ever one God, throughout all ages of ages, world without end. Amen.*

Love is its own Reward

We might ask ourselves, is it proper to love God for the sake of a reward, even a spiritual reward? Shouldn't we love Him for Himself alone? This question was at the root of a famous controversy between two great French Bishops of the seventeenth century, Fenelon and Bossuet. They debated and disputed on the possibility of a completely disinterested form of love.

Long before that, there was the cause of the trial of Job in the Old Testament: "*Doth Job fear God for naught?*" asked Satan. "*Thou hast blessed the work of his hands and his substance has increased in the land. But put forth thine hand now, and touch all that he hath, and he will curse thee to thy face.*" (*Job; Chap. 1, Vss. 9 -11*). A disinterested love is possible, in the sense that it is a completely self-sacrificing love; but it does not follow that we must exclude all thoughts of a reward. Otherwise, why did God give Israel His great and precious promises?

We know that there are different kinds of rewards in life. There's the material reward, for a job well-done. So many people find wealth and fame a prize to be worked for, with some pursuing it at a nearly fanatical pace. They deny themselves vacation, recreation, and even time with family, and live their days dedicated to their work, in order to gain competence, promotion, or better salary. There's good intent initially, but, it all too easily gets out of control, so when these things are withheld from them, they are angry and feel cheated, causing a deep resentment sometimes difficult to get free from.

Then, there are other people who think of health in much the same way, as a kind of reward for good living. They too, often take on a near-fanatic involvement of exercise regimens, dietary programs, and even spiritual practices that they believe will reward them with optimum health and long lifespans. The problem is that when they fall into a period of bad health (as we all will some time or another during our lifetimes), they feel that they have been cheated and have been denied their rightful prize. "I did everything right, did exactly what I was told and read about, and then *this* happens to me!" It's a statement that is often heard these days. Resentment again is the residue causing a great disturbance to the individual's peace of mind and soul.

3.

It seems that God did teach His people, in the early history of God's revelation of Himself to mankind, much like we teach our children, by holding before them the prospect of material reward. The children of Israel certainly thought that the promised land was their reward for their service to Jehovah. Later on, however, they had to be corrected in, the idea that good fortune, in this life, always follows religious faithfulness. That's the reason for bringing up the story of Job. Why should a man who had never done any harm suffer the loss of everything? Job fails to find a solution for his difficulty, but he maintains his integrity and his trust in God and will not deny what he has known to be true in his own experience.

Perhaps the reason for the trials that we are subjected to is that we may learn to love God for Himself alone. But, that's not to say that we have no reward. We have it in the highest degree when we have *God Himself*. A saying goes something to the effect of: 'The lover desires no greater reward than unity with the beloved.' All the splendor and glory of God's promises are rolled up together in that one complete reward of close fellowship with Him.

St. Ignatius of Loyola, in a famous prayer, prays that we may labor and not ask for any reward except that of knowing that we are doing God's will:

*May it please the supreme and divine Goodness
To give us all abundant grace
Ever to know His most holy will
And perfectly to fulfill it.*

St. Ignatius of Loyola

That indeed ought to be a sufficient reward in itself. Knowing that we are doing God's Will is certainly a great thing! A peace that passes all understanding has been imparted upon us when we have this knowledge.

Sometimes, however, God withholds that knowledge. That's the most severe part of our training and discipline in Faith. God would teach us not to wait on feelings, whether they be certain, or of any other kind, but to simply go on doing what we believe to be His Will, even though the darkness of uncertainty may hover over us at the time. There truly is a Light at the end of the tunnel, and that light is the fullness of everlasting joy that is the love of God. Faith and trust in the Father, begets a divine perseverance. Just ask Job!

*"Naked came I out of my mother's womb, and naked shall I return thither: the Lord gave, and the Lord hath taketh away; blessed be the Name of the Lord."
(Job: Chap. 1, Vs. 21)*

*"O God, thou art my God . . . thy loving kindness is better than life."
(Psalm 63; Vss. 1 & 3)*

4.

Prory Kalendar

For the week of:
July 8th to July 15th - A.D. 2018
In Trinity tide

Sunday, July 8th Sixth Sunday After Trinity

Comm. St. Elizabeth of Portugal; Q. & Wid.- Tert. O.F.M. - 13th cent.

Monday, July 9th feria in Trinity..... **See Note 1.**

Tuesday, July 10th Seven Holy Brothers; Myr. - 2nd cent. Rome.

Wednesday, July 11th . . Solemnity of Our Holy Father St. Benedict

Thursday, July 12th . . . St. John Gualbertus; Abt. & Founder of the Order of Vallombrosa.
11th cent.

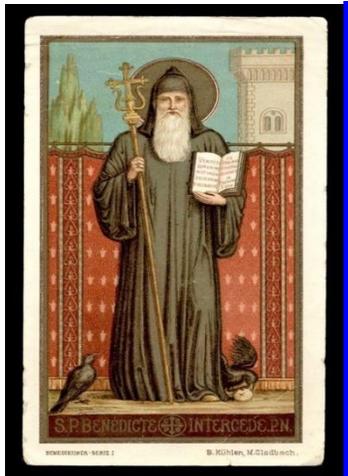
Friday, July 13th St. Silas (Silvanus) companion of St. Paul; M. - 1st cent.

Saturday, July 14th . . . St. Bonaventure; Bp. Conf. & Doct., - O.F.M. 13th cent.



Sunday, July 15th Seventh Sunday After Trinity

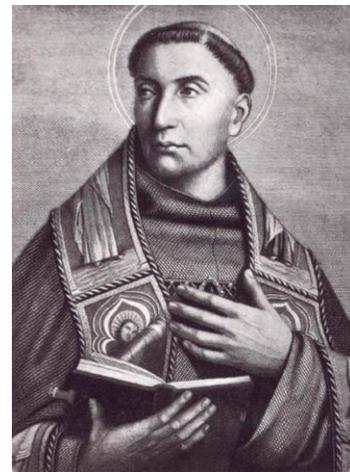
Translation of St. Swithun: Bp. & C. - 9th cent. England



July 11th
Solemnity of St. Benedict



July 13th
St. John Guilbertus



July 14th
St. Bonaventure

Note 1: Some calendars observe the Feast of Saints John Fisher and St. Thomas More on this day.

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 = Requiem 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.

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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.

Animal News

Hot an' Nasty

The past several days around here have been Hot, Humid, and Hazy ...just plain nasty! Yes, this is what summer is all about, but the humidity has remained longer than usual, causing some unhealthy air conditions outside. We are blessed to have air conditioning in some of the rooms of the farm house where the indoor animals can get a nice respite. Recently, Sr. Mary Francis purchased an inexpensive sun-tent which has been placed in the sheep-fold. The sheep have been using it to shade themselves during the heat of the day, as well as when a shower pops up have a dry place. Thank goodness they were recently sheared, for this helps them immensely. In the afternoon, when the sun is hottest they are also shaded by the work-shop/chapel building as the sun is then “around the corner!”

The Sheep's Cabana



The horses are clever enough to stand under various trees that ring the pasture. Fr. Kevin also rigged up an old fan which is on the back porch and is angled so that the horses can stand in front of it and the air is blown on them front to back...keeps the flies off, too. He started this last year for Oliver.

7.

“Gunnie” wasn’t aware of this amenity, so when Fr. Kevin was setting it up this week, he, being curious as horses are, came over to investigate. Was it some kind of new ‘treat dispenser’ perhaps?! When Fr. Kevin turned on the fan, it had been set on high, and out came a big blast of air, immediately startling “Gunnie”! He did a quick 360 *pirouette* and “hailed-tail” for the pasture! Fr. Kevin never giving a thought to this occurrence, was a little startled himself, and felt bad for spooking his pal, but the story doesn’t end here. Quietly, little Oliver wandered up and took his place in front of the fan and began to enjoy the bounty of moving air. Being a small guy, he got complete coverage. One wonders if little Ollie was thinking to himself: “*That’s a newbie for you!*” He had remembered this contraption from last year, and was just waiting for his turn or an opportunity, which Fr. Kevin unknowingly provided!

By the way, in the afternoon, “Gunnie” was seen standing in front of the fan now fully understanding its purpose and enjoying it very much!

Keeping the Boys Cool



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