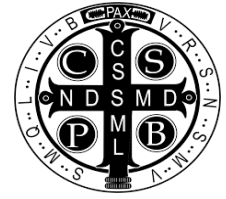


# The MEDITATION



*“ Thus says the Lord: Stand by the roads, and look, and ask for the ancient paths, where the good way is: and walk in it, and find rest for your souls.” - Jeremiah; Chapter 6, Verse 16.*

**August 23<sup>rd</sup> A.D. 2015**  
**Twelfth Sunday After Trinity**



**Jesus at Supper with Simon the Pharisee**

*Painting by*

*Alessandro Bonvicino ( Il Moretto daBrescia) 1498 – 1554*

*Italian Renaissance painter*

2.

*The Epistle for the Day: St. Paul's 2<sup>nd</sup> Letter to the Corinthians; Ch. 3, Vss. 4 - 9*

*Today's Epistle and Gospel can also be found in the following sources:*

**1928 Book of Common Prayer; Page 206**

**The People's Anglican Missal; Page C 73**

**St. Joseph "Continuous" Sunday Missal (1958 ed.); Page 862**

A phrase used in today's Epistle that stands out: "... *the letter (of the law) killeth, but the spirit giveth life*" can be understood as referring to two ways of practicing religion, rather than contrasting the effects of two different religions. This can serve us well as source for today's meditation.

We can read, almost anywhere in the Gospels, that the teachings of our Lord contrast against the Rabbinical teaching of our Lord's day. The Pharisees, who were the leading exponents of that teaching, are often depicted as slaves of a legalism that was dominated by a huge system of precepts, positive and negative, which were accepted in a rigidly legal fashion. The tendency of the Pharisees apparently, is to regard all religious activity as the fulfillment of legal exactness. Religion became almost completely external with them, where the heart played as little a part as it does with most people who carry out the commands and statutes of the State. The reward of religious performance, in the Rabbinical system, was determined quite specifically, and in as much detail as is the salary of a civil servant. So, by Christ's day, the Jewish religion had become almost purely external. Little doubt it was heavily influenced by political survival and influence (and *influencing*), as well.

The teachings of the old Hebrew prophets, with its insistence on uprightness and cleanness of heart, was forgotten, and our Lord could honestly describe the Pharisees as more concerned with outward appearances of the cup, than with its contents . . . He quite rightly 'called them out' when He described them as: "*whitewashed sepulchres*" . . . fair-looking on the outside, but rotten to the core inside. It's against that spirit of legalism and externalism that most of the *Sermon on the Mount* (see *St. Matthew; Chap 5-7*), is directed, and the constant tendency of our Lord's own teaching was to set the people free from the dishonesty and the literalism of the existing Rabbinical doctrine.

Thus Christianity, as against Judaism, was a doctrine of freedom. It was also a *doctrine of the spirit* insisting rather on the righteousness of heart and disposition than on precise execution of commands, demanding a genuine love of God and of neighbor rather than the verbal fulfillment of the law, emphasizing the inner side of conduct and not the outer - more concerned with the contents of the vessel than with its exterior polish.

There can be found, among Catholic Christians, people of the letter as well as people of the spirit – even though God seeks only such worshippers as would worship Him in *spirit* and in *truth*. Human fallibility, because of its imperfections will always create such conditions, but that doesn't mean that striving *for* perfection is beyond the reach of anyone . . . certainly not!

There are those who in their exactness about certain devotions, and even liturgical practices are a bit like the Pharisees, who themselves gave amply of their time, treasure, and talents, but forgot *those greater things of the law*, such as control of the tongue, kindness to the poor and unfortunate, negation of personal pride, and helpfulness towards their neighbor.

### 3.

There are those who, to coin an ancient Near Eastern phrase: “*strain out the gnat and swallow the camel*” ... sacrificing principle for expediency, and substituting external (and accepted) correctness, for rightness of heart.

Still, there are others who make religious observance a means to social advancement or personal gain, making a pretense of piety, or even using forms of piety to win the support (and perhaps admiration ) of their peers. All these and many others like them, are the people of ‘*the letter that kills*’ . . . neglecting the spirit that gives life.

For the genuine Catholic Christian there is no contrast of letter and spirit. That persons’ religion is a reasonable and sincere service of God, and their practices of piety are the genuine expression of *faith* and *humility*. That person never uses religion or piety as an instrument of propaganda for worldly and personal purposes. That person is not like the Pharisees who prayed their prayers in the crowded centers of the city, and made a show in giving of alms. The genuine Christian knows that those who are religious exteriorly because religion brings profit, receive the reward that they seek, but no other. Our Lord was clear: “*Verily, I say to you, they have received their reward!*” (*St. Matt. : Ch. 6, Vs. 5*). The genuine Christian knows that all mere externalism is worthless, that the eye if his Father sees what is secret, and that the only rewards worth seeking are riches in Heaven.

**Prayer for the day: ALL THINGS SHALL PASS, THE FATHER LIVETH FOREVER!**



CHRIST AND THE TRIBUTE MONEY  
Banks (London) and Carter (the things which are Caesar's), and into God the things that are God's. — (Matthew 22:21)

#### **Jesus, the Pharisees, and the Coin**

*It's important that we also remember that Jesus often spoke with the Pharisees, in order to open their hearts, for He loved them as well. Some listened and understood. His love for mankind knows no bounds!*

**PRAYER FOR THE WEEK: I will always give thanks unto the Lord,  
His praise shall ever be on my mouth. – Psalm 34**



## Feasts, Fasts, and Other Things

### **A LETTER FROM AWAY... FAR AWAY!**

*Many of our subscribers remember last summer when the Priory hosted visitors from away, the Kalahari Desert in South Africa to be exact. Brothers Casmir and Vladimir later joined by Fr. Timir, ( Some call him . . . Tim ?!) lived here at the Priory for a period of about two weeks where they studied under our good Brother Sylvester on how to locate ground water and pump it from the ground and its proper storage and distribution. The classes as well as the visit by these unique little brothers were anything but quiet and boring, as you may all remember! We still have to avoid saying anything about meerkats around Br. Sly as he gets a little . . . “twitchy” !*

*This week we received a letter from one of the brothers and he provided us with an update on how things have been at Our Lady of the Dusty Desert Monastery (their home) in South Africa. This is a translation as best as I could give it from the original Meerkat:*

Our Lady of the Dusty Desert Monastery  
Somewhere in the Kalahari Desert, So, Africa, Southern Hemisphere, Planet Earth.  
August 21

*Dear Fr. Prior Kevin, Sr. Mary-Francis, Br. Chip, Br. Raymond, & Br. Sylvester and everyone else:*

*Hello from all of us here in the not-as-dry-as-it-was-desert! We remember very happily our stay with you all last summer in the wonderful state of Maine, in the USA, and the great instruction that Br. Sylvester gave to us on how to locate water for our community. We are very happy to report that we found water all right...lots of it! We really were paying attention, even when Br. Sylvester thought we weren't. Anyways, when we did hit water we had so much of it we didn't know what to do with the rest, until Br. Caz ( Casmir) came up with the great idea of building a swimming pool. Reverend Father said it was o.k. so we all got together and dug out a big hole in the center of the cloister and filled it with cement. There was nothin' growing there anyways! When the cement dried out we filled it with water. Not stopping there, we re-built the little guest-house so lots of folks can come and use the pool. So many are coming that they have to make reservations, and when they depart, they leave us money! Rev. Father paid off all our bills with lots left over. Br. Caz told Rev. Father that there is a place in the western USA located in a desert called Las Vagas where they have swimming pools there too, and also things called **casinos** which bring in more guests as well as cash. We could do lotsa good things with all the extra cash Br. Caz said with excitement. Rev. Father was all in with the idea until he found out what casinos are really about and quickly put the ax to the idea and said the pool will have to do. O.K. we all said, you're the boss of this outfit.*

5.

*Folks and critters from all over come to enjoy the pool and stay at the guest house. Maybe the Bishop will now come to see us, now that he knows where we are . . . when the community was first started, we asked him where we should go and he told us anywhere but where he was . . . so out to the desert we went. That was 20 years ago.*

*We are all doing good and hope that you are all well at Our Lady of Seven Sorrows. Please send a **GREAT BIG HELLO** to our pal **Br. Sylvester**. We hope to see him again soon someday. Say, how about sending him out here to see our pool? Here's a picture of what it looks like:*



**Guest house Facilities at Our Lady of the Dusty Desert – Kalahari, South Africa (from their postcard!)**

*Well, that's about all for now. Got to get to the chapel for prayers. Here's a photo of our community for you and Br. Sylvester. I know he said we all look alike to him, so I did something in the photo so he'd recognize me! Can you tell where I am?*



**The community at Our Lady of the Dusty Desert Monastery**

*Blessings to you all from the brothers at Our Lady of the Dusty Desert Monastery.  
Sincerely in Jesus,*

*Brother Vladimir (Vlad)*



*Br. Sylvester implores: "from all Meerkaats of the desert: Good Lord deliver me!"*

6.

See you all next week!

*Br Chip, O.S.B*



**Feasts, Fasts, and Other Things** from : **The Chipmunk's Nutshell Library**  
Presented by Br. A. Chip Munk, O.S.B. A monk of Our Lady of Seven Sorrows Priory in Raymond, Maine, USA

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## **The Meditation**

is produced by the Benedictine Community of:  
**Our Lady of Seven Sorrows Priory**  
4 Shaw Road  
Raymond, Maine 04071

This is a free on-line apostolate of our community to anyone who wishes to receive it.  
***We welcome new subscribers!*** Please feel free to copy and pass on this meditation to anyone you feel might benefit from it. To be placed on our weekly mailing list, please contact us at;  
[klamarre@maine.rr.com](mailto:klamarre@maine.rr.com)

You can visit our *website* to view past editions of **The Meditation** at:  
[www.ourladyofsevensorrows.org](http://www.ourladyofsevensorrows.org) and go to '*Meditation*' section of the site.

**PLEASE NOTE: Sunday Public Mass at the Priory Chapel commences at 9:00 a.m. followed by the Monastic Office of Terce.**

**PLEASE NOTE ALSO: There are No public restrooms so please plan accordingly**

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7.

## CONFESSIONS HEARD



*“Come unto me all ye that travail and are heavy laden and I will refresh you.” – Matt. Ch. 11, Vs. 28*

What better place for a person to make themselves spiritually & sacramentally “right with the Lord” than in a monastic setting? Fr. Kevin is always happy to hear confessions and give spiritual direction at the Priory chapel. Below is the schedule when he is available during the day. We ask that you contact him to make an appointment so he can make himself available to you .

**Confession Times: Weekdays from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and from 2:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. – by appointment only. Sundays by appointment before Mass which begins at 9:00 a.m.**

To make an appointment, please contact Fr. Kevin via Email at: [klamarre @maine.rr.com](mailto:klamarre@maine.rr.com).

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## PRIORY KALENDAR

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**Week of August 23<sup>rd</sup> to August 30<sup>th</sup> - A.D. 2015**

### In Trinity-tide

**Sunday, August 23<sup>rd</sup> . . . . Twelfth Sunday After Trinity**

**Monday, August 24<sup>th</sup> . . . . St. Bartholomew, Ap. & Myr. ( 1<sup>st</sup> cent. Apostle of the East )**

**Tuesday, August 25<sup>th</sup> . . . . St. Louis IX; K. & C. - (13<sup>th</sup> cent. France)**

**Wednesday, August 26<sup>th</sup> . Bl. Margaret of Faenza, Italy. Elected abbess at 80 years old, served until 100.**

**Thursday, August 27<sup>th</sup> .. St. Ebbo of Sens (France): Bp, OSB: his actions & prayers turned the Saracens from invading 7<sup>th</sup> cent. France. Many were converted. St. Ebbo pray for us!**

**Friday, August 28<sup>th</sup> . . . . St. Augustine of Hippo: B.C. & Doct. ( 5<sup>th</sup> century Hippo, North Africa)**

**Saturday, August 29<sup>th</sup> .. Beheading of John the Baptist.**

**Sunday, August 30<sup>th</sup> .. Thirteenth Sunday After Trinity. . . comm. St. Rose of Lima: V. 16<sup>th</sup> cent. First Saint of the Americas.**

**KALENDAR KEY:** Ab. = 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, Dcn. = Deacon, Doct. = Doctor of the Church, Ev. = Evangelist, H. = Hermit, LBr. = Laybrother, LSr. = Laysister, K. = King, M. = Monk, **M.M. = Month's Mind ( 30 day requiem for the recently departed )**, Myr. = Martyr, N. – Nun, Obl. = Oblate, P. = Priest, P. or Po. = Pope, Pr. = Prior, Prs. = Prioress, R. = Recluse, **RM = Requiem Mortorum, ( monthly requiem of the departed )**, Q. = Queen, Ven. = Venerable, Vir. = Virgin, W. = Widow,

**RELIGIOUS ORDERS:** 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. = Capuchins, O.P. = Order of Preachers = Dominicans (Blackfriars), O. Praem. = Order of Canons Regular – Norbertines ( White Monks), O.S.B. = Order of St. Benedict – Benedictines, O.S.U = Ursulines, O.C.O. = Order of the Cistercian Observance – Trappists, O.C.S.O. = Cistercian Order of the Strict Observance = Trappists.

**FASTING:** ..... A = Abstinence, F = Fast, F & A = Fast and Abstinence

## Animal News



### It's a Pumpkin Invasion !

Our wood-pile has been taken over by the pumpkin plants. We're already seeing some little pumpkins which we hope will become BIG ones!

**P A X**