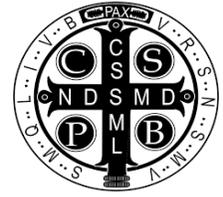


The MEDITATION



“ 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.

September 20th A.D. 2015
Sixteenth Sunday After Trinity



St. Paul and the Burning of the Pagan books of Magic at Ephesus
Lucio Massari; (1569 – 1633) Italian Baroque painter

The Epistle of Blessed Paul the Apostle to the Ephesians: Ch. 3, Vss. 13 –21

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

The 1928 Book of Common Prayer; Page 212

The People's Anglican Missal: Page

St. Joseph "Continuous" Sunday Missal (1958 ed.); Page 935

We have received extracts from the Epistles of St. Paul to the Romans, Corinthians, and Galatians for several weeks now. Today and for the next few Sundays, our lessons will be taken from his Epistle to the Ephesians. St. Paul himself had evangelized this great Asiatic city with its famous temple of Diana, which was considered one of the Seven Wonders of the world, but at the same time, this city was the seat of idolatry and shocking immorality. It was also host to many of the more esoteric and bizarre religions of the East, as a great city bordering Asia and Europe. Paul, in three short years, had founded a great Christian Church in Ephesus. It was thriving, but like all of the young churches during the Apostolic period, it needed support and encouragement from those who had been close to Jesus. Now, towards the end of his life, St. Paul, a captive awaiting trial in Rome, writes his very majestic Epistle to the Ephesian Church, which perhaps he intended to serve as an Encyclical Letter to the whole *Seven Churches of Asia*.

St. Paul prays, in today's Epistle, that his readers may be enlightened enough to somewhat realize the length, breath, height, and depth of the mystery of true graciousness which has called mankind to blessedness in Christ, and to try to understand even just a little of that love of Christ for mankind which is beyond all understanding.

There are **five petitions** for St. Paul's readers in today's Epistle:

First: That God, with a fullness of graciousness corresponding to the immensity of His glory (*i.e.* His infinite being) may grant them to be inwardly strengthened by His spirit.

Second: That Christ may dwell by faith in their hearts.

Third: That their spiritual and religious life may push its roots deep into a soil of love, and that it may be firmly based on love like a tower that is built on a strong foundation, so they may realize the greatness of this mystery of universal redemption wrought by Christ.

Fourth: That they may be able to comprehend the love of Christ.

Fifth: That they may be filled to fullness the love of God.

Let's allow St. Augustine of Hippo to share some thoughts which might help us to better appreciate St. Paul's offering to us today:

"You know as well as I do, that our God and Savior Jesus Christ is the physician of our eternal salvation and that, if he has taken on him our infirmities, it is so that they may not last for ever. He took upon Himself our mortal body to destroy death in it, although crucified in our weakness, as the apostle says, he lies in the power of God (2 Cor. Ch. 13, Vs 4). And since He can no longer die, death hath no more dominion over Him. (Rom. Ch. 6, Vs. 9). These points of doctrine are very clear in our faith ; just as you know that His miracles serve for our spiritual learning. So that we may know what it is which will not pass or ever have an end. He opened the eyes of the blind, those eyes which death would one day close; He raised Lazerus, who would have to meet death again; but all He did for the health of the body was not done so that they

would last forever, even though one day He intends to give them immortality, but so that, since what is not seen is not believed, faith in the invisible might be increased by means of things visible. Christ did all that to invite us to believe, and that faith is fervent today in the Church, spread over all the world.” (extracted from Sermon 88).

The redemptive work of Jesus Christ and the graces of justification and eternal life which He purchased for us compels our unending wonder and gratitude.

All racial, national, and territorial distinctions have been abolished in Christ, and all from every race and land who accept His Gospel, and receive His Holy Baptism, are incorporated into Him. They are taken out of darkness and into the light. They are removed from the world of the flesh into the world of the Spirit, and they have been made participants, in eternal blessedness.

Even though we may not fully comprehend the greatness of these gifts of charity from Christ as revealed in his redemptive work for mankind, we should be on one hand filled with horror for sin, and on the other hand, with a strong determination to advance steadily in virtue so that we may be filled with *the complete fullness of God*. It's a fullness we may not ever be able to completely understand, but it is the 'great desire of nations' . . . readily available to all, paid for all by Jesus Christ Himself.

Prayer for the day: Be merciful unto me, O Lord, for I will call daily upon thee. – *Psalm 86*

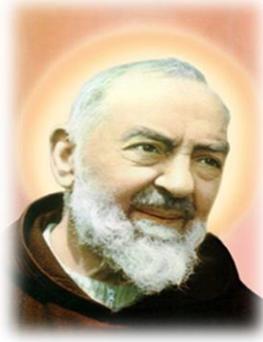


Home of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Ephesus where she lived out the remaining years of her life after the Ascension of our Blessed Lord.

PRAYER FOR THE WEEK: Forsake me not O Lord in mine old age – *Psalm 71*

Feasts, Fasts, and Other Things

September - 23rd



St. Pio of Pietrelcina (1887 – 1968)

“My little children, I am in travail over you afresh until I can see Christ’s image formed in you”

Galatians: Ch. 4, Vs. 19

Many Anglicans are not familiar with **St. Pio of Pietrelcina**, a Capuchin friar, mystic and stigmatic who lived in an obscure Italian monastery nearly his whole vocational life of 58 years. He lived a life of strict austerity and self-denial. He suffered both physically and mentally, and he accepted all of this as his Vocation from God in order that souls would be saved. This humble yet often irascible man of God touched more souls than he could have ever imagined, and he still touches them today. Although he lived a life hidden from the world, *he served as a living victim for the world* and taking on its burdens through *two of the most powerful Sacraments: Holy Mass and Confession.*

He was born *Francesco Forgione* on May 25, 1887 in the small southern Italian farm town of Pietrelcina (*pietra piccina*). He lived a normal childhood and was remembered as an all-around good kid. He discovered his calling to religious life in 1897 (he was only 10!) when he met a young Capuchin friar who, while passing through town seeking alms for his community, would stop and talk with anyone who wished to speak with him. Young Francesco was impressed by the great bushy beard this young brother had, and when the brother said that all members of his order (Capuchin) wore beards, the young lad was sold on becoming a friar! Such are some of the many ways God calls those whom He wants to serve Him! His parents would have preferred their son become a parish priest, but they knew that when the young lad made up his mind, it was set. They made the 15 mile trip to the Capuchin friary on foot to find out more on their son’s behalf, and after a couple of visits, the superior informed young Francesco’s parents that they would consider his entering the order when he came of age. Francisco applied himself to his studies and assisted with family labors to earn a living. His scholastic journey was long and rather arduous, as he struggled with his studies. As he grew in his studies, he also grew in his piety.

He entered the *Capuchin novitiate in January of 1903*, and began his journey into religious life. Beset by ill health consisting of migraines, bouts of fever, insomnia, exhaustion, confusion, and fainting, the young Novice was sent to a monastery where the climate was conducive to recovery, which lengthened his period of formation, but never dampened his ardor to become a Capuchin friar. He was *solemnly professed on January 27th, 1907* and was given the religious name of **“Pio”** which was Italian for **Pius**. He was *ordained to the Priesthood in 1910* and was sent to his hometown to stay with his family while he recovered, and assisted the local parish priest as best he could. He was permitted to wear the Capuchin habit and follow their Rule of Life as his health permitted. Father Pius, on September 14th 1916, was assigned to **Our Lady of Grace Friary** located at *San Giovanni Rotondo, Foggia, Italy*. This was to be his home for the rest of his life. He only left the friary from 1915 to 1918 when he was drafted

into military service in the First World War. He was placed in the Italian medical corps, but his persistent health issues found him hospitalized frequently. He was given an honorable discharge before the war ended and returned to his convent home, in Foggia.

Once he established his stability at *Our Lady of Grace Friary*, the young priest's reputation for sincerity and sanctity began to become known both inside the walls and outside. People started to come to him for spiritual direction and to make their Confessions. The more he exercised his Vocation, the more people began to flock to the friary to receive spiritual aid and instruction from this "doctor of souls". Padre Pio spent hours in prayer, for those who had come to see him, and for those yet to come, when he wasn't hearing confessions.

Fr. Pius, while hearing confessions on September 20th 1918, was struck with a mystical and physical experience that would change his life. He received the *Stigmata*: the bodily marks, pain, and bleeding in locations corresponding to the crucifixion wounds of Christ. This phenomenon continued for fifty years, until the end of his life. The blood flowing from the stigmata smelled of perfumed flowers, a phenomenon mentioned in the lives of several saints, often referred to as *the odor of sanctity*. Although Padre Pio would have preferred to suffer in secret, by 1919 news about the stigmatic friar began to spread in the secular world. The Padre's wounds were examined by many, including qualified physicians, who confirmed their authenticity, while having no explanation of their origin...from a scientific position.



This is the first photograph of a young Padre Pio shortly after receiving the Stigmata.

People, who had started rebuilding their lives after World War I, began to see in Padre Pio a symbol of *hope*. Those closest to him attest that he began to manifest several gifts, including healing, prophecy, bilocation, the ability to read souls, the gift of tongues (speaking in languages he never knew how to speak before) , the gift of conversion, and the ability to perform long fasts existing solely on the Holy Eucharist. All these manifestations were taken as a sign that God was using this simple Italian friar to serve as a servant of hope, healing, conversion, and salvation. People began to flock to the little friary to seek these things through the offices of this humble friar.

This event in the life of Padre Pio came with plenty of controversy. The local diocese and the Holy See were cautious about what was happening at San Giovanni Rotondo. Exercising extreme caution, Rome ordered its own investigations of the situation. The Padre was forbidden to exercise his priestly duties publicly until the investigations were completed, and from 1921 to 1922 lived a totally cloistered life. The Padre, from 1924-1931, having been released from his 'confinement' was under obedience to maintain a low profile, while the Vatican determined all aspects of the events that had occurred in the Padre's life, and discern if something truly Divine had taken place.

The tide began to turn in 1933, and Padre Pio was allowed to continue his priestly ministry at the friary. Pope Pius XI concluded that he had not been well-informed about Padre Pio's situation, and the investigations validated all concerns the Holy See had. Padre Pio was given permission to resume hearing confessions publicly in 1934. It's interesting to note that the Padre, while having given spiritual direction and hearing the confessions of perhaps thousands by 1934, was never licensed to preach as he had never taken the examinations for licensure. Padre Pio was granted honorary faculties to preach by Pope Pius XI ! In 1939, Pope Pius XII encouraged devotees to visit the Padre.

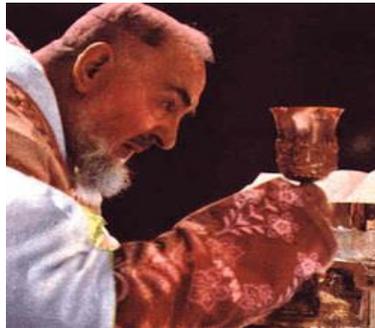
Padre Pio in 1940, with approval from his superiors, began to formulate plans for the construction of a hospital in *San Giovanni Rotondo* to be named the *Casa Sollovero della Sofferenza* or, Home to Relieve Suffering. It was a way he could put the many donations he had been given over the years to practical and long lasting use. Matching funds came in from sources who simply wanted to be a part of this great undertaking, enabling a larger building that would serve even more people to be planned. It was opened in 1956.

During the Second World War, the faithful still came to see Padre Pio. Italians, German soldiers and civilians, Poles, English, and Americans... all came to seek spiritual guidance and absolution from the famous “*pierced priest*” and humble Servant of God. The numbers only increased after the war ended, as the world once again began to rebuild from the even greater devastation that had taken place. People were desperate for solace and hope which they genuinely believed they could find in Christ’s earthly representative located in an isolated friary in San Giovanni Rotondo, Italy.

Padre Pio died on *September 23, 1968* at 81 years of age after a period of slowly declining health. He celebrated his final Mass only a day before he died. It was not long before reports came flooding in regarding healing miracles that took place through his intercession.

He was beatified (declared “*Blessed*”) by Pope John Paul II on May 2nd, 1999.
He was Canonized (declared a Saint) by Pope John Paul II on June 10th, 2002.

A Priest unlike Any Other



Padre Pio’s daily Masses were celebrated in a chapel overflowing with the faithful. Sometimes Masses lasted more than an hour and a half, as everyone present witnessed the holy priest slowly walk the path to Calvary with His Savior, and actually suffering along the way.

This photo shows the intensity of his focus during the Consecration of the Precious Blood of our Lord.

“ From the Offertory onwards the rhythm of the sacred drama grew more intense. Raising the paten with a suppliant gesture, his eyes bathed in an invisible light...He stood there motionless far longer than it normally needs to recite the *Suscipe*. He seemed to be including the entire world in this act of offering. His face ravaged with tears, expressed a sort of challenge, ‘ *This is what I offer Thee, Eternal Father, in the Name of the Son Whom I represent.* ’”

“Minutes slipped by...I suddenly realized that through the Mass we have access to the eternal. The mystery of the Cross escapes the bonds of time precisely as this tortured Man stands as Christ.”

“Anyone who has doubted the Real Presence has only to attend his Mass.”

Excerpts from: The True Face of Padre Pio
by
Maria Winowska, herself a long-time witness.

Prisoner of the Confessional



Padre Pio was literally a “*prisoner of the Confessional*” sometimes spending as much as 18 hours a day hearing the confessions of local residents, tourists, people from all over Italy, and people who travelled from all over the world to make their confessions and be absolved by this Holy Man of God.

“My mission is that of saving souls. All the rest is of lesser importance. Therefore coming to confess to me, you must neither distract yourself nor distract me from this intention.” -Padre Pio

God gave him the gift of reading souls as though they were open books, to assist this good friar in his work. No one who came to him for confession could hide their sins, for he knew them all, and would remind his penitents of them, just in case they “*forgot*” one or two!

Padre Pio was not an “easy” or “soft” confessor. He clearly knew what was at stake: the salvation of a soul. There were times when he became angry, or used tough talk to pry sins out of his penitents. When asked why he performed his office in that manner he said:

“They need to be called to conversion and penance! And when the good manners are no use, you need to be strict and wake them up from the lethargy of sin and vice.”

“To rouse certain souls, you need cannon balls. Treating them with gentleness is a waste of time. They need to feel God’s anger when the strength of His mercy is not enough.”

“It’s true I make my penitents sweat blood, but I also add my own blood as well.”

The resounding successes that he had in the Confessional brought him nightly visits and attacks from the Devil and demons. It became a regular occurrence for his brethren to hear battles and shouts coming out of the Padre’s cell in the late hours of the night. They would, in the morning, often find the Man of God laying on the floor, exhausted and looking as though he had been in a brawl. He had.

Padre Pio was visited by countless people from around the world over the many years of this vocation.. Many were of the faithful, but there were also the doubters, the skeptics, and the unbelievers. It’s recorded in other sources that no one left the presence of this holy man unchanged. They saw Christ in him. In him, they were received by Christ, and in him, they received Christ in both absolution and in the Eucharist. A young priest, Fr. Karol Wojtyla (the future Pope John Paul II) came to the friary to make his confession to Padre Pio in 1948. This was a spiritual experience that the young priest and later pope would recall the rest of his life.

“Walk in the way of the Lord with simplicity and do not torment your spirit. You must hate your defects but with a quiet hate, not troublesome and restless.

Lean on the Cross of Jesus as the Virgin did and you will not be deprived of comfort. You should rather humble yourself before God than be distressed if he reserves for you the sufferings of his Son, and makes you experience your weaknesses. You should offer up to him the prayer of resignation and hope, even when you fall through frailty, and thank him for all the benefits with which he continually enriches you.”

-St. Padre Pio

We are living in an age that has given itself into a total loss of morals. Pope Pius XII warned: “*Perhaps the greatest sin nowadays is that men have started to lose the sense of sin*” . . . that was in 1946. Pope Paul VI wrote almost twenty years later, (1964): “*You will no longer find in today’s language, in books, in things that talk about men, the tremendous word sin. It never comes up. And it will not return because once the human mind has separated from the divine wisdom the concept of sin has been lost.*” Since then, the roller coaster has just picked up speed. Why should we be so surprised that things are the way they are now in this “enlightened” 21st century? Today, *evil* is not seen in sin, but it’s indicated in other elements, such as illness, war, hunger, pollution, and social injustice. No matter how much mankind busies itself to try to resolve these problems, in his plans to eliminate the causes, (those within human capabilities); if there is no place for God, not only is there no remedy, but as we are seeing . . . the problems only worsen. A world that does not hold Christ as its reference is a world that sooner or later ends against mankind. God through Christ is our *only* hope!

St. Pio is certainly a saint for our times. He immersed himself into his Lord, and in doing so, immersed himself into the sufferings of his day and ours as well. He also reminded us that there is a way out of our sufferings caused by sin (both individual and collective): **PENANCE** and **HOLY MASS**, Sacraments given to us in love and which restore love, which returns the peace of the soul that we and the world desires so badly.

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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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



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).



Padre Pio’s Five Rules of Spiritual Growth

- Weekly Confession
- Daily Communion
- Spiritual Reading
- Meditation
- Examination of Conscience

PRIORY KALENDAR

Week of September 20th to September 27th - A.D. 2015

In Trinity-Season

Sunday, September 20th Sixteenth Sunday After Trinity

Monday, September 21st St. Matthew; Ap. & Ev. 1st cent.

Tuesday, September 22nd . . . St. Maurice & Companions; Myrs.- *Legio I Thebiae*; 3rd cent. Note

Wednesday, September 23rd St. Pio of Pietreclina ; O.F.M. P. & C. 20th cent. Italy

Thursday, September 24th Our Lady of Ransom (*clemency*)

Friday, September 25th . St. Linus; Po. & Myr. 1st cent. - *Comm St. Thecla: V. & Myr. 1st cent. (transferred)*

Saturday, September 26th . . . the Blessed Virgin Mary; Saturday Mass & Offices of Our Lady

Sunday, September 27th . . . Seventeenth Sunday after Trinity

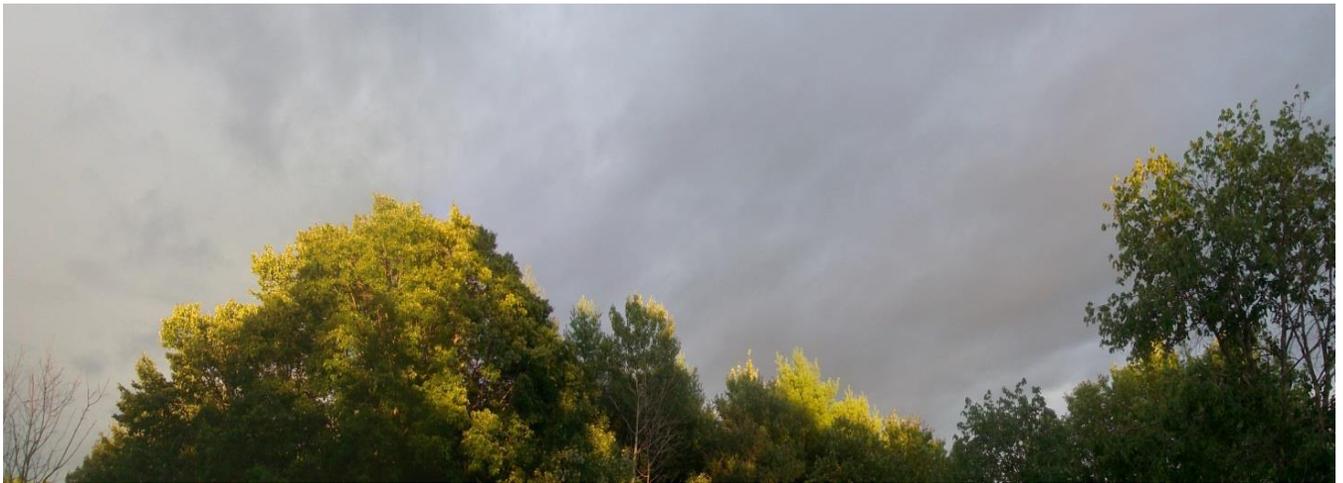
NOTES

September 22 – St. Maurice & Companions: of *Legio I “Thebiae”* (The Thebian Legion). This was a Roman Legion composed of Egyptians, raised in the city of Thebes around 225 A.D. after universal citizenship was granted by the Emperor Caracalla in 212. It was a cosmopolitan mix of Romans, Egyptians, Greeks, Greek-Egyptians, Numidians, and even Ethiopians. The majority of its members were Christians, which bound the unit together more through Christ than any loyalty to the emperor. The legion distinguished itself in the many defensive campaigns that threatened the security of Roman borders in the Eastern provinces at the time. Around the year 287, the legion was ordered to Gaul to suppress a revolt that was taking place there. The men were ordered to destroy and massacre the inhabitants of a village in reprisal for the revolt. It was well known that the people were innocent of any wrong-doing, and the legion commander Mauritius (*Maurice*), himself a Christian, refused the Emperor’s orders. Historians believe that this was a way the emperor (Diocletian) could test the loyalty (which would also test the faith) of the legion. This was during the last great period of Christian persecutions, which was the most intense as well. The legion was decimated twice (every tenth man in the legion put to the sword), and still refused to carry out the orders. The emperor then ordered all in the legion including its commanders put to death. A basilica was built around 370-390 at the site of the massacre (*Agaunum* – today, *St. Maurice-en-Valois, Switzerland*) to enshrine the bones of the martyrs.

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 & Priory News



Till summer folds her miracle
As women do their gown,
Or priests adjust the symbols
When sacrament is done

Emily Dickenson- Nature's Change

Photo taken at sunset in late August 2015 by Br. Raymond A. Crowe, O.S.B.

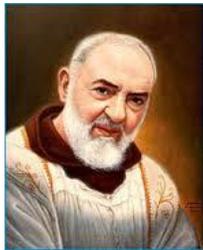


Hawkin's taxi service – Raymond, ME

TURKEY TROT



Wild turkeys abound on Raymond Cape. It seems that they have quietly taken over the area, and can be seen everywhere! It's not uncommon to see them out in the pasture in the morning just as Sr. Mary-Francis lets the horses out for the day. Sometimes they just pass through as they perform their daily foraging. This past summer, a couple of large dusting holes have been created in the pasture by them, so we know that this is an official "stop over" for turkeys. One afternoon, Fr. Kevin looked out to see a mom turkey leading her little brood across the pasture. Their pace was steady but slow. They were oblivious to the horses grazing nearby. The young 'uns were rather small for the time of year indicating they were a late hatch. If the weather stays moderate a bit longer They'll catch up o.k. if the weather stays moderate a bit longer and will winter in the woods with the rest. Jack, our hunter and watch-cat, likes to watch them pass through. It almost appears as though he's looking out for them as he scans the area looking for any potential trouble. We're always amazed how quickly the animals seem to find ways to exist with one another here, despite the difference in species. Are their hearts more open to hearing the re-assurances of their Creator...? It shouldn't be ruled out. How much better would be our world if we humans did the same!



“ Pray, hope, and don't worry.” - St. Pio

P A X

