The Meditation
The Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity - A.D. 2016
(October 2nd)

The Grandfather’s Prayer (1893)
Painting by Albert Anker (1831–1910)
“The National Painter of Switzerland”
2.

The Collect for the Nineteenth Sunday after Trinity

God, forasmuch as without thee we are not able to please thee: mercifully grant that thy Holy Spirit may in all things direct and rule our hearts. Through Jesus Christ our Lord, Who liveth and reigneth in the unity of the Holy Ghost, One God, world without end.  Amen.

Faithful . . . All the Way

St. Paul writes to the Corinthians: “And now there is no gift in which you are still lacking; you have only to look forward to the revealing of our Lord Jesus Christ. He will strengthen your resolution to the last, so that no charge will lie against you on the day when our Lord Jesus Christ comes.” (I Corinthians; Ch. 1, Vss. 7 & 8) - excerpted from the Vulgate edition for better clarity.

The grace already granted to us, those riches which are our real joy, give us a right to hope that God will not cease to be gracious to us, as long as we humbly acknowledge that it will be thanks to Him only, and if we persevere to the end.

The Christian founded on Jesus Christ, is much like a rock planted by God in the midst of a stormy sea. Those of us who live here in New England can easily picture that lone rock sitting in the midst of the sea coming from a great out-cropping that rises up onto the shore. The winds and waves attack this rock unceasingly, and yet, it remains firm.

The Christian soul is just like the rock . . . exposed to the attacks of the world, the flesh, and the devil, and sees the great danger, and trembles like St. Peter trembled when he walked on the waves *. Everything went well as long as he kept his eyes fixed on his Master. It was only when he looked down upon the dangers that surrounded him, that he lost courage and faith, and began to sink into the sea, but still, the Saviour was watching out for him.

Christ has made us rich in the spirit. We have His treasures of the spirit, and He entrusts us with His graces, in that we share them with others.

Our salvation is so precious to our Lord, that we have nothing to fear as long as we put our full trust in Him. Once we have yielded ourselves to Him, we are held up by those Divine Hands; those same hands that were nailed to the Cross . . . hands as tender as they are strong.

At every attack of our Enemy, an enemy who is eager to rob us of our riches, the words of consolation addressed by Isaiah to Israel echo in our hearts: “Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness. . . For I the Lord thy God will hold thy right hand, saying unto thee, Fear not; I will help thee. Fear not, thou worm, Jacob, and yet, men of Israel; I will help thee, saith the Lord, and thy redeemer, the Holy One of Israel.” (Isaiah- Chap. 41; Vss. 10-14).

“For the mountains shall depart, and the hills be removed; but my kindness shall not depart from thee, neither shall the covenant of my peace be removed, saith the Lord that hath mercy on thee. O thou afflicted, tossed with tempest, and not comforted, behold, I will lay thy stones with fair colors, and lay thy foundations with sapphires. And all thy children shall be taught of the Lord; and great shall be the peace of thy children. In righteousness shall thou be established: thou shalt be far from oppression; for thou shalt not fear: and from terror for it shall not come near thee.” (Isaiah: Ch. 54; Vss. 10-14).
3.

“When thou hast been forsaken and hated. . .I will make thee an eternal excellency, a joy of many generations. Violence shall no more be heard in thy land . . . thou shalt call thy walls Salvation and thy gates Praise...The Lord shall be unto thee an everlasting light, and thy God thy glory.” (Isaiah: Ch. 60; Vss. 15, 18 & 19).

Those who are thus comforted and protected by God, may appear to live within mankind, but their true home is in celestial and eternal glory. Together with Jesus Christ, they fight the enemies who attack from within and without, and strive also to win souls for Christ. They do so with hearts that are full of that peace which passes all human understanding while striving under Christ’s banner.

We become Christ’s rock, the fortress in which He dwells when we unite with Him. He does not force anyone, because it is to His glory to be chosen by those to whom He gave the royal gift of free will when He created them. Every human being ever born is endowed with this free will. How they put it to use in their lives determines their eternity. How many actually contemplate fully this great gift in that light, rather than over earthly pursuits and egotistic passions?

Who can we choose during the time of our life’s journey, but Jesus Christ? The Psalmist calls Him our rock and our salvation. He bids all of us to approach Him with infinite trust, expecting all. For He is all!

With all fervor of heart, let us beseech our Lord, that, freed from former sins, and protected against any relapse, we may dwell here below in the Kingdom of His love until that holy and blessed moment, which we call death – but which is simply the entrance into eternal life.

O God of our salvation, do not lose your hold upon us; place us in safety alongside you on that Rock of Ages.

*Ref: Matt. Ch. 14; Vss. 28-33

**Biblical Note to our Readers:** We generally use scriptural quotations from the Authorized King James Version of the Holy Bible in the Meditation. Occasionally, we will extract from the Latin Vulgate Version for a clearer meaning. The King James Version is a masterpiece of English writing, but often the wording may be unfamiliar to some of our readers, so we take the liberty of substitution. The Vulgate translation was a work by Msgr. Ronald Knox in the 1940’s. Msgr. Knox, a scholar, writer, and Anglican convert to the Roman Catholic Church, accomplished a great work in translation so that Holy Scripture could be better understood by the modern ear without losing the meaning so richly proclaimed in earlier editions.
4.
October 7th
Feast of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary

Don’t just say the Rosary . . . PRAY the Rosary!

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 affiliated within the Diocese of the Northeast (DNE), of the Anglican Church in America (ACA), a member of the worldwide Traditional Anglican Communion (TAC).

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In respect to our contemplative vocation and the animals in our rescue and rehab center, we do not have guest facilities and do not regularly receive visitors.

Priory Kalendar
For the week of October 2nd to October 9th - A.D. 2016
In Trinity tide

Sunday, October 2nd . . . Nineteenth Sunday After Trinity
Comm. all Holy Guardian Angels today.

Monday, October 3rd . . . St. Therese of Lisieux; O. Carm. Doct. - 19th cent. France
Tuesday, October 4th . . . St. Francis of Assisi; C. & founder of Franciscan Order -12th cent.
Comm. also St. Faith; V. & Myr. - 5th cent. Gaul.

Friday, October 7th . . . Our Lady of the Holy Rosary

Saturday, October 8th . . . St. Briget of Sweden; W. & foundress of Brigittine Order – 14th cent.
Sunday, October 9th . . . Twentieth Sunday After Trinity
5.

**October 2\textsuperscript{nd}**

**Feast of the Holy Guardian Angels**

Prayer to your Guardian Angel

\textit{Angel of God, my guardian dear,}
\textit{To whom God’s love commits thee here,}
\textit{Ever this day (night) be at my side,}
\textit{To light and guard, to rule and guide.}

\textit{Amen.}

**October 3\textsuperscript{rd}**

**Feast of St. Therese of Lisieux**

**Doctor of the Church**

“I will spend my time in Heaven doing good on earth” – St. Therese
Here at Our Lady of Seven Sorrows Priory, St. Francis is a busy guy. We ask a lot of this humble and beloved saint, and have his image where he is needed most . . . in our gardens (above), in our barn (photos below), and in our animal cemetery (bottom photos). We are constantly grateful for his protection and intercession, but he can’t do it all . . . we give it our best each and every day. . .

. . . Offering prayer for all the world, and caring for the animals that are sent to us, and praying for all the animals that are abandoned and abused everywhere. On his feast day we offer special prayers of thanksgiving and petitions of assistance, so we may be able to continue the work God has called us to do.
“Praise to you my Lord with all your creatures”....

“Praise and bless my Lord and give Him thanks, and serve Him with great humility” These are the words of St. Francis of Assisi that are written under his statue in our barn as he watches over the animals. St. Francis of Assisi is the Patron Saint of Animals and also of Sr. Mary Francis, who took her religious name from him. She has always felt a connection to St. Francis, who communicated with animals through mutual sufferings, and from an early age she had an innate connection to animals who speak to her as well. St. Francis turned his back on the pomps, vanities, and material riches of the world to do for others in a more spiritual way. We are constantly “making do” for the animals. Everyone here has the basic necessities of life although nothing is fancy. Our barn is small, our stalls are made of two by fours/sixes, not spars varnished oak and wrought iron. Animals don’t need fancy. They need clean shelter, good food, and love; and they are so appreciative for what they get. We are blessed to serve them with great humility but we need your help to do so. We will be conducting a pledge drive in the weeks to come and will tell you more about it soon. Meanwhile we ask that you search your heart prayerfully as we enjoy the fall and coming holidays......