

COMENATRY ON TODAY'S LITURGY BY DOM GUERANGER

The Office for the sixth Sunday after Pentecost, which began yesterday evening, reminded us, in its Magnificat Antiphon, of a repentance which has never had an equal. David, the royal prophet, the conqueror of Goliath, himself conquered by sensuality, and from adulterer become a murderer, at last felt the crushing weight of his double crime, and exclaimed: I do beseech thee, O Lord, take away the iniquity of thy servant, for I have done foolishly! "I have acted as a fool!"

Sin is always a folly, and a weakness, no matter what kind it may be, or who he be that commits it. The rebel angel, or fallen man may, in their pride, make efforts to persuade themselves that, when they sinned, they did not act as fools, and were not weak; but all their efforts are vain; sin must ever have this disgrace upon it, that it is folly and weakness, for it is a revolt against God, a contempt for his law, a mad act of the creature who, being made by his Creator to attain infinite happiness and glory, prefers to debase himself by turning towards nothingness, and then falls even lower than the nothingness from which he was taken. It is, however, a folly that is voluntary, and a weakness that has no excuse; for although the creature has nothing of his own but darkness and misery, yet his infinitely merciful Creator, by means of his grace, which is never wanting, puts within that creature's reach divine strength and light.

It is so with even the sinner that has been the least liberally gifted—he has no reason that can justify his offenses: but when he that sins is a creature who has been laden with God's gifts and, by his divine generosity, raised higher than others in the order of grace—oh! then, the offense he commits against his benefactor is an injury that has no name. Let this be remembered by those who, like David, could say that their God has multiplied his magnificence over them. They may, perhaps, have been led by him into high paths which are reserved for the favored few, and may, perhaps, have reached the heights of divine union: yet must they be on their guard; no one who has still to carry with him the burden of a mortal body of flesh is safe, unless by exercising a ceaseless vigilance. On the mountains, as on the plains and the valleys, at all times and in all places, a fall is possible; but when it is on those lofty peaks which, in this land of exile, seem bordering on heaven, and but one step from the entrance into the powers of the Lord,—what a terrific fall, when the foot slips there! The yawning precipices, which that soul had avoided on her ascent now are all open to engulf her; abyss after abyss of crime, she rushes into them, and with a violence of passion that terrifies even them that have long been nothing but wickedness.



SAINT JOSEPH ORATORY

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Sunday, July 9th, 2023

Sixth Sunday after Pentecost

Introit

The Lord is the strength of His people, the saving refuge of His anointed.
Save Thy people, O Lord, and bless Thine inheritance; and rule them forever!
To Thee, O Lord, I call; O my God, be not deaf to me, lest, if Thou heed me not, I become one of those going down into the pit.
Glory be to the Father . . .

The Lord is the strength of His people . . .

Collect

O God of the heavenly powers, creator of all good things, implant in our hearts the love of Thy Name, and bestow upon us an increase of godliness, fostering what is good, and, by Thy loving care, guarding what Thou hast fostered. Through our Lord . . .

Epistle

Romans 6:3-11

Brethren: All we who have been baptized into Christ Jesus have been baptized into His death. For we were buried with Him by means of Baptism into death, in order that, just as Christ has arisen from the dead through the glory of the Father, so we also may walk in newness of life. For if we have been united with Him in the likeness of His death, we shall be so in the likeness of His resurrection also. For we know that our old self has been crucified with Him, in order that the body of sin may be destroyed, that we may no longer

be slaves to sin; for he who is dead is acquitted of sin. But if we have died with Christ, we believe that we shall also live together with Christ; for we know that Christ, having risen from the dead, dies now no more, death shall no longer have dominion over Him. For the death that He died, He died to sin once for all, but the life that He lives, He lives unto God. Thus do you consider yourselves also as dead to sin, but alive to God in Christ Jesus our Lord.

Gradual & Alleluia

Return, O Lord! How long? Have pity on Thy servants! O Lord, Thou hast been our refuge through all generations.

Alleluia, alleluia. In Thee, O Lord, I take refuge; let me never be put to shame. In Thy justice rescue me and release me, incline Thine ear to me, make haste to deliver me! Alleluia.

Gospel

Mark 8:1-9

At that time, when there was a great crowd with Jesus, and they had nothing to eat, He called His disciples together and said to them, I have compassion on the crowd, for behold, they have now been with Me three days, and have nothing to eat; and if I send them away to their homes fasting, they will faint on the way, for some of them have come from a distance. And His disciples answered Him, How will anyone be able to satisfy these with bread, here in a desert? And He asked them, How many loaves have you? And they said, Seven. And He bade the crowd recline on the ground. Then taking the seven loaves, He gave thanks, broke them and gave them to His disciples to distribute; and they set them before the crowd. And they had a few little fishes; and He blessed them, and ordered them to be distributed. And they ate and were satisfied; and they took up what was left of the fragments, seven baskets. Now those who had eaten were about four thousand. And He dismissed them.

Offertory

Mercifully hear our humble prayers, O Lord, and graciously accept these offerings of Thy people, and grant that no prayer may be without effect, no petition in vain, so that what we ask in faith, we may really obtain. Through our Lord . . .

Secret

Be propitious to our supplications, O Lord, and graciously receive these oblations of Thy servants and handmaids, that what each one offered to the glory of Thy name, may profit all to salvation. Through our Lord . . .

Communion

I will go round, and offer in His tent, sacrifices with shouts of gladness; I will sing and chant praise to the Lord.

Postcommunion

We have been filled with Thy gifts, O Lord; grant, we beseech Thee, that we may be cleansed and strengthened by their effect. Through our Lord . . .



WISDOM FROM ST. FRANCIS DE SALES

“Within the practice of religion, the Blessed Sacrament is what the Sun is to the stars; it is truly the soul of the Christian religion. It is the effable mystery that comprehends divine charity, by which, God truly uniting to us, communicates to us, His magnificence, grace and favors.”

UPCOMING EVENTS

Today - Sunday, July 9th: *Blessing Sunday.* Blessings of religious articles will be given after Holy Mass.

Sunday, July 23rd: Annual summer picnic. Following Holy Mass at St Michael's Byzantine Parish, 557 W 57th Ave, Merrillville, IN 46410. Please bring a dish to share. Burgers and hot dogs will be provided. \$20 suggested donation per family to cover expenses.

BURSAR'S BOX

Sunday, July 2nd: \$ 5, 784.00

Total for the Month : \$ 5, 784.00

Please make checks payable to “Institute of Christ the King” with Oratory on the memo line. All checks made out to “Our Lady of Częstochowa ” are given to the Salvatorian Fathers. By order of the bishop, \$1000/week is given in rent to the Salvatorian Fathers.

Thank you for your generosity!

COLLECTION ENVELOPES 2024

FOR ST. JOSEPH ORATORY/MERRILLVILLE

Collection envelopes for the 2024 year to benefit St. Joseph Oratory of the Institute of Christ the King Sovereign Priest Apostolate will be available upon request. Please contact Mrs. Renata Neupauer at rneupauer@institute-christ-king.org to be added. Please indicate Collection Envelopes in the subject line. Deadline August 1, 2023.

If you have recently changed your phone number, email, or home address, please be sure to contact Mrs. Neupauer to update your information. This will be especially important when the end-of-year tax statements are sent out.