

LECTIO DIVINA (Holy Reading)
PRAYING WITH THE SACRED SCRIPTURES.

Sunday 15 September 2024

24th Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

For those who pray the Liturgy of the Hours, the Psalter takes Week Four

Note from Sr Hildegard:

For a while now, I've been thinking of changing the format for the weekly Lectio Divina. Many have said there is too much to take in, and my disabilities are more manifest at this stage of life, especially my sight. So, I will give you the whole of the Liturgy of the Word, the Social Justice events of each week, and the Gospel.

Before beginning prayer with the Sacred Texts, let us take a look at the week ahead in the Australian Church and the Social Justice Calendar.

In the Social Justice Calendar:

16: International Day for the Preservation of the Ozone Layer.

21: International Day of Peace.

LET US NOW MOVE INTO PRAYER WITH THE SACRED TEXTS

The readings are:

Isaiah 50:5-9

Psalm 114 1-6 and 8-9

James 2 14-18

Gospel Verse: Gal 6:14

Mark 8:27-35

The Gospel of the Day

Lectio: Read the Gospel text from Mark 8:27-35

Pause and ponder.

Meditatio:

Daniel Harrington (in the NJBC) says about this text: "Peter's confession of Jesus as the Messiah/ Christ, is pivotal in Mark's gospel...But what the disciples and Mark's readers need to learn is how the passion and death of Jesus fit in with his identity as the Jewish Messiah.

A Patristic commentary by Caesarius of Arles approaches the text in a practical, prayerful and challenging way: "When the Lord tells us in the Gospel that those who want to be his followers must renounce themselves, the injunction seems harsh; we think he is imposing a burden on us. But an order is no burden when it is given by one who helps in carrying it out. To what place are we to follow Christ, if not where he has already gone? One who claims to abide in Christ ought to walk as he walked. Would you follow Christ? Then be humble as he was humble; do not scorn his lowliness if you want to reach his exaltation."

Read the Gospel a few times. Take time for quiet and listening to the Holy Spirit praying within you. After a while (day or days), make your response to this text. I share mine in below.

EVANGELIZATIO: My lived response to the texts with which the Church exhorts me to pray. St. James says, “Be doers of the Word.” And the Book of Deuteronomy tells us that the Word of God is in our hands to do it.

“The Lord has given me a disciple’s tongue, that I may know how to sustain the weary.” Sustaining the weary in this life is not an easy task. There are different degrees of “weariness”. Emotional weariness is probably the most common and the most difficult. Grief often dominates emotional weariness. Grief is multitudinous in its colours and shades. If you are ministering to those in grief or any kind of emotional weariness, what you do mostly is sit and listen. Rev. Bill Cruise has some important advice for all of us who are pastoral ministers: Sit with the broken. Listen to their stories; don’t try to take their stories from them. Sit and listen. Empathize! Remember the story I shared with you some time ago. A little girl was late home from school. Her mother reprimanded her for being late. “Where have you been?” “I’ve been with a friend who was upset. I’ve been helping her.” “What did you do to help her?” “I helped her cry.” Empathy is “your pain in my heart.”

*Lectio Divina is prayer with the Sacred Scriptures.
We read, we seek to understand with the help of a commentary,
we ponder, we take time for stillness and we respond.
It is a way of life, not a method of prayer.*



Take up your cross every day and follow me.