

MONDAY READINGS
AFTERNOON TALK (Talk 3)

1. REFERENCES GIVEN IN TALK

St Augustine

I sought the Lord, and afterward I knew
he moved my soul to seek him, seeking me;
it was not I that found, O Saviour true;
no, I was found by you

You did reach forth your hand and mine enfold;
I walked and sank not on the storm-vexed sea;
was not so much that I on you took hold,
as thou, dear Lord, on me.

I find, I walk, I love, but oh, the whole
of love is but my answer, Lord, to you;
for you were long beforehand with my soul,
always thou loved me.

St Catherine of Sienna.

“A soul rises up, restless with tremendous desire for God’s honour and the salvation of souls”

Thomas Merton OCSO

My Lord God,
I have no idea where I am going.
I do not see the road ahead of me.
I cannot know for certain where it will end.
Nor do I really know myself,
and the fact that I think I am following your will
does not mean that I am actually doing so.
But I believe that the desire to please you does in fact
please you.
And I hope that I have that desire in all I am doing.
I hope that I will never do anything apart from that desire.
And I know that if I do this,
You will lead me by the right road though I may know nothing about it.
Therefore, will I trust you always though I may seem to be lost
and in the shadow of death.
I will not fear, you are ever with me, and you will
never leave me to face my perils alone.

Sylvia Plath

"I saw my life branching out before me like the green fig tree in the story. From the tip of the branch, like a fat purple fig, a wonderful future beckoned and winked. One fig was a husband and a happy home and children, and another fig was a famous poet and another fig was a brilliant professor and another fig was Europe, and Africa and South America and another fig was an Olympic lady crew champion, and beyond these figs were many more figs I couldn't quite make out.

I saw myself sitting in the branch of this fig tree, starving to death, just because I couldn't make up my mind which of the figs I would choose. I wanted each and every one of them, but choosing one meant losing all the rest, and. As I sat there, unable to decide, the figs began to wrinkle and go black, and one by one, they plopped to the ground at my feet."

Francis Thompson The Hounds of Heaven

*"I pleaded, outlaw-wise,
By many a hearted casement, curtained red,
Trellised with intertwining charities;
(For, though I knew His love Who followèd,
Yet I was sore adread
Lest, having Him, I must have naught beside.) "*

To live you must choose	Not just let things happen
To love you must encounter	You must know that human encounter is the only authentic way to know and love
To grow you must suffer	You must know that suffering is a vehicle of growth, a chance for redemption, a way to turn ourselves to the outside

2. LECTIO DIVINA: FROM MANY RULES TO ONE – LOVE

Jn 13:33-38 I shall not be with you much longer I give you a new commandment.

Other Texts:

1Jn 3:1-24	My children, our love is not to be just words or mere talk...
Lk 10:25-37	The great commandment.
Acts 4:23-35	The whole group of believers was united heart and soul.
Ps 133	Love both brotherly and sisterly.

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20/4/2020