

WEDNESDAY READING

AFTERNOON TALK (Talk 7)

1. REFERENCES GIVEN IN TALK

St John Henry Newman

“God has created me for SOME DEFINITE SERVICE; He has committed some work to me he has committed to no other. I have my mission... Somehow, I am necessary for his purposes, as necessary in my place as an Archangel is in his. I have a part in this great work; I am a link in a chain, a bond of connection between persons. He has not created me for naught. I shall do good, I shall do His work.. if I do but keep His commandments and serve Him in my calling.”

Victor Frankl

“We who lived in concentration camps can remember the men who walked through the huts comforting others, giving away their last piece of bread. In the final analysis it became clear that the sort of person the prisoner became was the result of an inner decision, and not the result of camp influences alone”.

“They may have been few in number, but they are sufficient proof that everything can be taken away from a man but one thing: the last of the human freedoms – to choose one’s attitude in any given set of circumstances, to choose one’s own way. And there were always choices to be made. Every day, every hour offered the opportunity to make a decision which determined whether you would, or not submit yourself to those powers which threatened to rob you of your very self, your inner freedom; which determined whether or not you would become the plaything of circumstance, renouncing freedom and dignity to become moulded into the form of the typical inmate....”

The Naming of Cats by TS Eliot

*The Naming of Cats is a difficult matter,
It isn't just one of your holiday games;
You may think at first I am mad as a hatter
When I tell you, a cat must have three different names.
First of all, there's the name that the family use daily,
Such as Peter, Augustus, Alonzo or James,
Such as Victor or Jonathan, George or Bill Bailey—
All of them sensible everyday names.
There are fancier names if you think they sound sweeter,
Some for the gentlemen some for the dames:
Such as Plato, Admetus, Electra, Demeter—
But all of them sensible everyday names.
But I tell you, a cat needs a name that's particular,
A name that's peculiar, and more dignified,
Else how can he keep up his tail perpendicular,
Or spread out his whiskers, or cherish his pride?*

*Of names of this kind, I can give you a quorum,
Such as munkustrap, Quaxo, or Coricopat,
Such as Bombalurina, or else Jellylorum –
Names that never belong to more than one cat.
But above and beyond there's still one name left over,
And that is the name that you never will guess;
The name that no human researcher can discover--
But the Cat himself knows, and will never confess.
When you notice a cat in profound meditation,
The reason, I tell you, is always the same:
His mind is engaged in a rapt contemplation
Of the thought, of the thought of the thought of his name;
His ineffable, effable,
Ef fanine effable
Deep and inscrutable singular name*

2. LECTIO DIVINA: FROM TALKING ABOUT THE SPIRIT'S LEADING TO FOLLOWING IT

Jn 14:23-29 Those who do not love me, do not keep my words.... The Advocate, the Holy Spirit, will teach you everything

Other Texts:

Deut 7:12-15 Listen to these ordinances, be true to them.

Eph 3:14-21 Out of the infinite glory, may God, through the Spirit, give you the grace for your hidden self to grow strong so that Christ may live in your hearts.

Jn 3:9-16 We speak only about what we know and witness, only to what we have seen.

Eph 2:11-18 Through Jesus we have in the one Spirit our way to come to our loving God.

Ps 103 God is Love.

Mgr John Armitage

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