

THURSDAY READING

MORNING TALK (Talk 8)

1. REFERENCES GIVEN IN TALK

St Augustine

“Late have I loved you, *O Beauty ever ancient, ever new*, late have I loved you! You were within me, but I was outside, and it was there that I searched for you. In my unloveliness I plunged into the lovely things which you created. You were with me, but I was not with you. Created things kept me from you; yet if they had not been in you they would have not been at all. You called, you shouted, and you broke through my deafness. You flashed, you shone, and you dispelled my blindness. You breathed your fragrance on me; I drew in breath and now I pant for you. I have tasted you, now I hunger and thirst for more. You touched me, and I burned for your peace.”

Pope Francis 8th Dec 2014 Angelus Address

“The attitude of Mary of Nazareth shows us that *being* comes before *doing*, and to leave the doing to God, in order to be truly as he wants us. It is He who works so many marvels in us. Mary is receptive, but not passive. Because, on the physical level, she receives the power of the Holy Spirit and then gives flesh and blood to the Son of God who forms within her. Thus, on the spiritual level, she accepts the grace and corresponds to it with faith. *That is why St Augustine affirms that the Virgin “conceived in her heart before her womb” She conceived first faith and then the Lord.*”

Book of Wisdom 13:5

“For all men who were ignorant of God were foolish by nature; and they were unable from the good things that are seen to know him who exists, nor did they recognize the craftsman while paying heed to his works; If through delight in the beauty of these things men assumed them to be gods, let them know how much better than these is their Lord, for the author of beauty created them. For from the greatness and beauty of created things comes a corresponding understanding of their Creator.” Wisdom 13:5

St John Henry Newman

“To live is to change, to be perfect is to have changed often”

Thomas Merton

“For me to be saint means to be myself” this does not mean to be “self” fulfilled, in some “New Age” sense, but to be perfect means I aspire to be the person I was created to be, as revealed to me by the glory of God, for the finding of God and the finding of myself is the same event.

St Philip Neri

“To leave our prayer when we are called to do some act of charity for our neighbour, is not really a quitting of prayer, but leaving Christ for Christ, that is, depriving ourselves of spiritual sweetness’s in order to gain souls.”

St Irenaeus

“The glory of God is man fully alive, and the life of man is the vision of God”

St Bernard of Clairvaux

“That the measure of our love is to love without measure”

Preface of Holy Men and Women

“You renew the Church in every age by raising up men and women outstanding witnesses of your unchanging love”

Bishop Ethelwald in 760

“Holy Mother of God, Virgin ever blest, glorious and noble, chaste and inviolate, Mary Immaculate, chosen and beloved of God, endowed with singular sanctity, worthy of all praise, you are the advocate for the sins (peril) of the whole world; listen, listen, listen to us, holy Mary. Pray for us, intercede for us, disdain not to help us. For we are confident and know for certain that you can obtain all you will from your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, God Almighty, the King of Ages, who lives with the Father and the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. Amen.”

Cardinal Vincent Nichols

“Devotion to Mary is not an optional ‘add-on’ to Catholic belief, but an expression of what is at the heart of our faith. To draw close to Mary is to draw close to Jesus. As the earliest Christian witnesses often taught, Mary was open to receiving Jesus in her mind and in her heart before she

gave birth to him in her flesh. For this reason she is the first of all the disciples of the Lord as she is the most faithful of all the Lord's followers. In her maternal love of us she continues to assist us in our following of Him; a consecration to her Immaculate Heart gives expression to this in a simple way".

Thomas Arundel – Archbishop of Canterbury 1400

"THE contemplation of the great mystery of the Incarnation" has drawn all Christian nations to venerate her from whom come the first beginnings of our redemption. But we English, being the servants of her special inheritance and her own Dowry as we are commonly called, ought to surpass others in the fervour of our praises and devotions."

Pope Leo XIII 1893

"of the wonderful filial love which burnt within the hearts of your forefathers towards the get Mother of God... to whose service they consecrated themselves with such abundant proofs of devotion, that the Kingdom itself acquired the singular title of Mary's Dowry."

St. Aelred (1109-1167)

"If the Lord is to be praised in those saints by whom He works miracles, how much more is He to be praised in Her in whom He the Wonder of wonders was made flesh! If they are to be praised who keep their chastity, how much more she who chose virginity, and received fruitfulness as its reward! If they are to be praised by whom God raised the dead, how much more she by whose holiness the whole world has been raised from death eternal! Let us, then, praise her with our mouths, and beware lest we insult her by our acts. He gives but feigned praise who cares not to imitate what he praises. He truly praises Mary's humility who strives himself to be humble. He truly praises her chastity who execrates and scorns all impurity and lust. He truly praises her charity whose whole desires and efforts are to love both God and his neighbour with a perfect love."

2. LECTIO DIVINA: FROM GOD AS SPECTATOR TO GOD AS LABOURER

Jn 15:1-6 I am the true vine.

Other Texts:

Is 5:1-7 Let me sing to my friend the song of one's love for one's own vineyard.

Phil 1:3-11 This will help you to become pure and blameless, and prepare for the day of Christ Jesus.

Deut 8:11-20 Remember the Holy One your God....

Hos 10:1-8 Israel was a luxuriant vine.... and the more it grew, the more divided became its heart.

Mt 20:1-16 Parable of the vineyard labourers.

1Cor 12:12-30 The human body, though made up of many parts, is a single unit.

Ps 116 A hymn of thanksgiving.

Mgr John Armitage

Walsingham

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