

# August 16th, 2020 – 20th Sunday in Ordinary Time



She said, "Please, Lord, for even the dogs eat the scraps that fall from the table of their masters." Then Jesus said to her in reply, "O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish." And the woman's daughter was healed from that hour. —Mt 15: 21-28

## **St. Bernard of Clairvaux, Pray For Us! Feast Day**

**August 20<sup>th</sup>** (born 1090, in the castle of Fontaines near Dijon. —died **August 20**, 1153, Clairvaux, Champagne; and canonized January 18, 1174, this **Cistercian monk** and **mystic**, founder and **abbot** of the abbey of Clairvaux was one of the most influential churchmen of his time and eminently endowed with the gift of miracles.

Bernard's parents were Tescelin de Fontaine, lord of Fontaine-lès-Dijon, and Alèthe de Montbard, both members of the highest nobility of Burgundy. Bernard grew up in a family of five brothers and one sister. The familial atmosphere engendered in him a deep respect for mercy, **justice**, and loyal affection for others. At the age of nine, he was sent to a school at Châtillon-sur-Seine run by the secular canons of Saint-Vorles. Bernard had a great taste for literature and devoted himself for some time to poetry. His success in his studies won the admiration of his teachers. He wanted to excel in literature in order to take up the study of the Bible. He had a special devotion to the Virgin Mary, and he later wrote several works about the Queen of Heaven.

Bernard sought the **counsel** of the abbot of **Cîteaux**, **St. Stephen Harding**, and decided to enter this struggling small new **community** that had been established by **St. Robert of Molesme** in 1098 as an effort to restore **Benedictinism** to a more primitive and **astere** pattern of life. Bernard took his time in terminating his domestic affairs and in persuading his brothers and some 25 companions to join him. He entered the Cîteaux community in 1112, and from then until 1115 he **cultivated** his spiritual and theological studies.

In 1115 Harding appointed him to lead a small group of monks to establish a monastery at **Clairvaux**, on the borders of Burgundy and Champagne. They endured extreme deprivations for well over a decade before Clairvaux was self-sufficient but the monastery made rapid progress. Disciples flocked to it in great numbers and put themselves under the direction of Bernard. The reputation of his holiness soon attracted 130 new monks, including his own father. His father and all his brothers entered Clairvaux to pursue religious life, leaving only Humbeline, his sister, in the secular world. She, with the consent of her husband, soon took the veil in the Benedictine nunnery of Jully-les-Nonnains. Gerard of Clairvaux, Bernard's older brother, became the cellarer of Cîteaux. The abbey became too small for its members and it was necessary to send out bands to found new houses. In 1118 Trois-Fontaines Abbey was founded in the diocese of Châlons; in 1119 Fontenay Abbey in the Diocese of Autun; and in 1121 Foigny

Abbey near Vervins, in the diocese of Laon. In addition to these victories, Bernard also had his trials. During an absence from Clairvaux, the Grand Prior of the Abbey of Cluny went to Clairvaux and enticed away Bernard's cousin, Robert of Châtillon. This was the occasion of the longest and most emotional of Bernard's letters.

By 1119 the **Cistercians** had a charter approved by Pope **Calixtus II** for nine abbeys under the primacy of the abbot of Cîteaux. Bernard struggled and learned to live with the inevitable tension created by his desire to serve others in charity through obedience and his desire to **cultivate** his inner life by remaining in his monastic enclosure. His more than 300 letters and sermons **manifest** his quest to combine a mystical life of absorption in God with his friendship for those in misery and his concern for the faithful execution of responsibilities as a guardian of the life of the church.

It was a time when Bernard was experiencing what he apprehended as the divine in a mystical and intuitive manner. He could claim a form of higher knowledge that is the complement and fruition of faith and that reaches completion in prayer and contemplation. He could also commune with nature and say:

*Believe me, for I know, you will find something far greater in the woods than in books. Stones and trees will teach you that which you cannot learn from the masters.*

After writing a eulogy for the new military order of the **Knights Templar**, he would write about the fundamentals of Christian spiritual life, namely the contemplation and imitation of **Christ**, which he expressed in his sermons "The Steps of Humility" and "The Love of God."

The mature and most active phase of Bernard's career occurred between 1130 and 1145. In these years both **Clairvaux** and **Rome**, the **centre of gravity** of **medieval** Christendom, focused upon Bernard. Mediator and **counsellor** for several civil and **ecclesiastical** councils and for theological debates during seven years of papal disunity, he nevertheless found time to produce an extensive number of sermons on the **Song of Solomon**. As the confidant of five **popes**, he considered it his role to assist in healing the church of wounds inflicted by the **antipopes** (those elected **pope** contrary to prevailing clerical procedures), to oppose the rationalistic influence of the greatest and most popular dialectician of the age, **Peter Abelard**, and to **cultivate** the friendship of the greatest churchmen of the time. He could also rebuke a pope, as he did in his letter to **Innocent II**:

*There is but one opinion among all the faithful shepherds among us, namely, that **justice** is vanishing in the Church, that the power of the keys is gone, that episcopal authority is altogether turning rotten while not a bishop is able to avenge the wrongs done to God, nor is allowed to punish any misdeeds whatever, not even in his own diocese (parochia). And the cause of this they put down to you and the Roman Court.*

In his remaining years he participated in the condemnation of Gilbert de La Porrée—a scholarly dialectician and bishop of Poitiers who held that **Christ's** divine nature was only a human concept. He exhorted Pope **Eugenius** to stress his role as spiritual leader of

the church over his role as leader of a great temporal power, and he was a major figure in church councils. His greatest literary endeavour, "Sermons on the Canticle of Canticles," was written during this active time. It revealed his teaching, often described as "sweet as honey," as in

(St. Bernard cont...)his later title *doctor mellifluus*. It was a love song supreme: "The Father is never fully known if He is not loved perfectly." Add to this one of Bernard's favourite prayers, "Whence arises the love of God? From God. And what is the measure of this love? To love without measure," and one has a key to his doctrine.

St. Bernard was declared a doctor of the church in 1830 and was extolled in 1953 as *doctor mellifluus* in an encyclical of Pope Pius XII – Catholic Online and Encyclopaedia Britannica

### Readings This Sunday

Reading I: Isaiah 56: 1, 6-7

Reading II: Romans 11: 13-15, 29-32

Gospel: Matthew 15:21-28

### Readings For Next Sunday

Reading I: Isaiah 22: 19-23

Reading II: Romans 11: 33-36

Gospel: Matthew 16: 13-20

**Finance / Stewardship Collection:** The plate last weekend was **\$1,906** and Building & Maintenance was **\$495**.

### Eureka Holy Mass Intentions

#### Saturday 15

4:00 pm SJ Mary Hunter †

#### Sunday 16

7:30 am SJ No Intention

9:00 am SH Mass for the People

10:30 am SB Chad Kryla Int.

12:15 pm SH Michael Tully † (Sp)

4:30 pm SH No Intention

#### Monday 17

12:15 pm SB No Intention

5:30 pm SH No Intention

#### Tuesday 18

7:30 am SJ Bob Satterlee †

5:30 pm SH No Intention

#### Wednesday 19

12:15 pm SB Elizabeth Davis †

6:00 pm SH Adoration

7:00 pm SH For the strength of the bishops to be holy shepherds in protecting and leading their sheep from all harm. (Sp)

#### Thursday 20

7:30 am SJ Jane Giulieri †

5:30 pm SH No Intention

### Friday 21

12:15 pm SB Judy Giulieri †

5:30 pm SH No Intention

### Saturday 22

4:00 pm SJ Don Michael †

### Sunday 23

7:30 am SJ Daniel Cloney †

9:00 am SH VanderVeldt Family Int.

10:30 am SB Mass for the People

12:15 pm SH Raquel Pliego † (Sp)

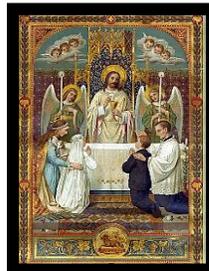
4:30 pm SH No Intention

### PLEASE WEAR YOUR MASK!!!

**Please pray for :** Baby Olivia, Arlene Mitchell, Monica Rose Clinewerk, Chad Kryla, Don DeHennis, Basil & Santos Mainus, Harold Giacomini, Chet Branum, Florence, Tommy McCollister, Fran Hill, Isela Adams, Lindy Timmerman, Mary James, Dave Silverbrand, John Bertain, Denise Sledge, James Iron Shell, James Lemon, Wm. Hahn Family, Rose Ann Hurst, Armado De Los Santos, Judy Mill, Julia Walters, Connie Mather, Steve Mill, Ryan Pepper, Fred Pepper, Paul Shabata & Family.

### RCIA

BERNEDETTE ADIGHEJI received the sacraments of initiation on Monday, 8/3 at St. Bernard Church! She was baptized, confirmed and received Eucharist at the noon Mass with Fr. Bernard officiating and her sponsor encouraging and supporting her. Since the Easter Vigil service was cancelled due to the virus, this has been a long-awaited occasion. We welcome her and thank God for His call and her response.



### First Holy Communion and First Reconciliation Congratulations to:

\*Maritza Rojas Gonzalez, \*Esaul Martinez, \*Ramon Posos, \*Andy Galindo-Ramirez, \*Diane Angon-Soto, \*Daniel Angon-Soto, \*Alyn Garcia and \*Ashlyn Garcia.

We're so blessed to be able to hold Sacraments over the summer for our children who have been preparing for their First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion. Please contact Kim Farrell, DRE at 442-2233 for more information.

\*First Reconciliation Thursday, August 20 6:00 pm SH

\*First Holy Communion Saturday, August 22 11:00 am SH