

DAY SIX READING AND PRAYERS

Morning Reading

Scripture Text: Romans 9:22-29

“How has this happened in Ireland? Never before did they know of God except to serve idols and unclean things. But now, they have become the people of the Lord, and are called children of God. The sons and daughters of the leaders of the Irish are seen to be monks and virgins of Christ!

“An example is this. There was a blessed Irish woman of noble birth, a most beautiful adult whom I baptized. She came to us a few days later for this reason. She told us that she had received word from a messenger of God, who advised her that she should become a virgin of Christ, and that she should come close to God. Thanks be to God, six days later, enthusiastically and well, she took on the life that all virgins of God do. Their fathers don’t like this, of course. These women suffer persecution and false accusations from their parents, and yet their number grows! We do not know the number of our people who were born there. In addition, there are the widows and the celibates. Of all these, those held in slavery work hardest — they bear even terror and threats, but the Lord gives grace to so many of the women who serve him. Even when it is forbidden, they bravely follow his example.” *Confession*

Morning Prayer

How has this happened in Ireland — that a people who once embraced the light have reverted to the darkness? God, what shame, that the Irish and other Europeans have deserted the faith in droves — a continent once ‘christianized’ is in need of Christ. What fault could they have possibly imagined in you that they apostastized? Though it flickers, the light of your church yet remains in Europe and other dark places. Stir the embers, Jesus, enflame the members! Give courage, creativity, and power to your servants there who are serving and speaking for you.

Noon Reading

“I could wish to leave them to go to Britain. I would willingly do this, and am prepared for this, as if to visit my home country and my parents. Not only that, but I would like to go to Gaul to visit the brothers and to see the faces of the saints of my Lord. God knows what I would dearly like to do. But I am bound in the Spirit, who assures me that if I were to do this, I would be held guilty. And I fear, also, to lose the work which I began — not so much I as Christ the Lord, who told me to come here to be with these people for the rest of my life. May the Lord will it, and protect me from every wrong path, so that I do not sin before him.” *Confession 43*

Noon Prayer

Jesus, you are the Head of the Church and the Spirit sends it out into the world. Some have left home and homeland, and may be homesick. Help them to remember your commission to us, and your calling on them. Give them the grace of perseverance to complete the task. Help me to pray and encourage them.

Evening Reading

Scripture Text: Romans 8:1, 2; I Thessalonians 5:23, 24

“I hope to do what I should. I know I cannot trust myself as long as I am in this body subject to death. There is one who is strong, who tries every day to undermine my faith, and the chastity of genuine religion I have chosen to the end of my life for Christ my Lord. The flesh can be an enemy dragging towards death, that is, towards doing those enticing things which are against the law. I know to some extent how I have not led a perfect life like other believers. But I acknowledge this to my Lord, and I do not blush in his sight. I am not telling lies: from the time in my youth that I came to know him, the love and reverence for God grew in me, and so far, with the Lord’s help, I have kept faith.

“Those who wish may laugh and insult. But I will not be silent, nor will I hide the signs and wonders which the Lord has shown me even many years before they came about. He knows all things even before the beginning of time.” *Confession 44, 45*

Evening Prayer

Who will rescue me from this body of death, O God? From this weak, self-centric source of overall human malfunctioning — you, God, have rescued me through Jesus Christ our Lord! The law of Christ and the Spirit has set me free indeed. I know that nothing good resides in my own self independent of you, and I am still prone to

neglect and resist you. What I am no longer and am becoming, however, is due to your grace and glory. Praise you!