Praying the Divine Office

February 7, 2016 – Quinquagesima Sunday

Today we reprint an interesting page concerning praying the Breviary from the web site www.catholicismhastheanswer.com:

Pray the traditional Divine Office of the Roman Rite according to various promulgations, including the monastic usage of the Benedictines, here: http://divinumofficium.com/cst-bin/ horas/officium.pl

To listen daily to the hours of Lauds and Vespers sung in Latin according to the Breviarium Monasticum by the Benedictine Monks of Norcia go here: http://osbnoria.com/en/category/audio. To listen daily (and even LIVE) to the hours of Lauds, Prime, Sext, None, Vespers, and Compline sung in Latin according to the Breviarium Monasticum by the Benedictine Monks of Le Barroux in France go here: http://www.barrouxchant.com.


The Divine Office
By Saint Alphonsus Marie de Liguori

VII. The Recitation of the Office.

The Great Importance of the Divine Office as Regards the Faithful

To praise God, to thank him for his benefits, to ask of him the graces necessary to eternal salvation this is what should be here below the only occupation of all men. But because seculars are absorbed by worldly occupations, the Church wishes that not only ecclesiastics, but that religious of both sexes should consecrate their mission was not to honor but to dishonor him.

The Divine Office Especially Important to Priests

We thence understand what terrible punishments God reserves for those who, obliged to recite the Office, abstain from saying it either through wearisomeness or in order to give themselves to worldly amusements. But let us leave these persons who are struck with blindness, and let us speak of those who recite the Office in a careless manner. What a pity to see how certain priests recite the breviary in the streets, at some window, their eyes fixed on those passing by, or in the society of friends, with whom they laugh and jest, thus intermingling the divine praises with worldly and improper conversation, without paying any attention to the sacred words. If any one of them, when admitted to the presence of a great personage of this world, dared to speak to him in this way, he would certainly be driven away and punished. Alas! some priests have the audacity to treat God as if their mission was not to honor but to dishonor him.

What Treasures of Grace one finds in the Office

On the other hand, when one recites the Office with attention, what merit and what profit does one derive from it. What lights are then obtained from the divine words! With what holy maxims is the soul penetrated! On the contrary, when it is recited with devotion, with a true desire of exalting prayer above eloquence and the most beautiful examples of virtue.

What Happiness is enjoyed in reciting the Office

I add that the Office, recited without devotion and with the only thought of finishing it as soon as possible, becomes one of the heaviest burdens and at the same time is so tedious as to seem to be of an interminable length; on the contrary, when it is recited with devotion, with a true desire of profiting by it, by applying mind and heart to the sacred words, its burden becomes light and sweet: of this all the saints have had experience. The saints found more pleasure in reciting the Office than worldlings find in the midst of pastimes and amusements. One single Office recited with devotion may gain for us many degrees of glory in heaven. What treasures of merit will not they, then, amass after they have recited the breviary for thirty or forty years with the required devotion and piety! This is what has inspired me with the difficult undertaking of translating the psalms. May those who by the duty of their state are bound to recite the breviary, recite it with merit and profit to their souls! May they, while escaping the weariness or in order to give themselves to worldly amusements. But they, while escaping the weariness or in order to give themselves to worldly amusements. But one day to render a terrible account before the tribunal of God and then to expiate the innumerable faults that they have committed!

Tridentine Masses This Coming Week

Mon. 02/08 7:00 PM: Low Mass at St. Josaphat (St. John of Matha, Confessor)
Tue. 02/09 7:00 PM: Low Mass at Holy Name of Mary (St. Cyril of Alexandria, Bishop, Confessor, & Doctor)
Tue. 02/10 7:00 PM: High Mass at St. Josaphat (Ash Wednesday)
Tue. 02/10 7:30 PM: High Mass at St. Alphonsus-Windsor (Ash Wednesday)

Comments? Ideas for a future column? Please e-mail info@windsorlatinmass.org. Previous columns are available at www.windsorlatinmass.org