

Thursday 17 October

Rom 3:21-30, Ps 130:1b-6ab, Lk 11:47-54

Memorial of St. Ignatius of Antioch

From Baptised and Sent

Paul rejects the attitude of those who would consider themselves justified before God on the basis of their own works. Such people, even when they obey the commandments and do good works, are centred on themselves; they fail to realise that goodness comes from God. Those who live this way, who want to be the source of their own righteousness, find that the latter is soon depleted and that they are unable even to keep the law. They become closed in on themselves and isolated from the Lord and from others; their lives become futile and their works barren, like a tree far from water. (p. 139-140)

From Pope Francis

Jesus is not present in ideologies. Jesus is tenderness, love and meekness, whereas ideologies of whatever sort are always rigid. So much so, that they risk making a Christian “a disciple of a particular way of thinking” rather than “a disciple of Jesus”. This is not a new illness... and the illness is caused by a lack of prayer, since without prayer the door of the heart closes. Therefore the key to opening the door to faith is prayer.ⁱ

From the Good Samaritan Benedictine Story

Just then a lawyer stood up to test Jesus. “Teacher,” he said, “what must I do to inherit eternal life?” He said to him, “What is written in the law? What do you read there?” He answered, “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your strength, and with all your mind; and your neighbour as yourself.” And he said to him, “You have given the right answer; do this, and you will live.” But wanting to justify himself...

(Lk 10: 25-29)

ⁱ Morning meditation in the Chapel of the *Domus Sanctae Marthae*. “Disciples of the Lord and not of ideology,” Thursday, October 17, 2013