

Saint Bernard 20 August



About Saint Bernard of Clairvaux (1090 - 1153)

Saint Bernard was born near Dijon, in France, in 1090 to a noble family. In 1112 he joined the monastery at Cîteaux. This monastery had been founded fourteen years before as a means of rejecting the laxity and riches of the Benedictine Order (for example, the great monastery at Cluny) and to return to a primitive and austere lifestyle in monasticism.

Bernard arrived at Cîteaux with four of his five brothers and twenty-four friends. Within three years he was sent out to Clairvaux, in Champagne, to found a new monastery. He was the abbot there for the rest of his life. When he died, the Cistercian Order had grown from one house to 343.

Saint Bernard was a man of great holiness and wisdom, and very often found himself in poor health. However, he did not let his health problems prevent him from being active in the life of the Church. He was continually active in the public debates of his day and was clear in his opposition to the luxurious lifestyle of some of the clergy of his day and fought against the persecution of the Jews. He was also a prolific writer, of an inspiring rather than a technical kind.

How does the life of Saint Bernard apply to our lives today?

Saint Bernard jam-packed a lot into his earthly life. He did not wait for an invitation to do something, he just did it and invited others to follow him. He was a leader. He did not let poor health **prevent him from doing God's work or proclaiming the gospel message. He was a man of his convictions** and sought to renew the Church with his followers in his monasteries. So let our words, deeds and positive lifestyle imitate Saint Bernard and be a leader for Christ, bringing others to follow and know Him by our example, not by long-winded doctrinal lessons.

Saint Bernard very much tried to save the Church in his time from corruption by his program of renewal. We must always ensure that we renew our commitment to Christ every day by our lifestyle and do our best to make sure it is in accord with the teachings and way of Christ.

Quote

"The road to hell is paved with good intentions."

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Quote:

“The road to hell is paved with good intentions.”

Prayer: Memorare

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary,
that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection,
implored thy help, or sought thine intercession was left unaided.
Inspired by this confidence, we fly unto thee, O Virgin of virgins, our mother;
to thee do I come, before thee we stand, sinful and sorrowful.
O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not our petitions,
but in thy mercy hear and answer us.
Amen.

Collect

O God, who made of the Abbot Saint Bernard
a man consumed with zeal for your house
and a light shining and burning in your Church,
grant, through his intercession,
that we may be on fire with the same spirit
and walk always as children of light.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

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Gospel

John 17:20-26

Father, may they be completely one

Jesus raised his eyes to heaven and said:

'Holy Father,

I pray not only for these,

but for those also

who through their words will believe in me.

May they all be one.

Father, may they be one in us,

as you are in me and I am in you,

so that the world may believe it was you who sent me.

I have given them the glory you gave to me,

that they may be one as we are one.

With me in them and you in me,

may they be so completely one

that the world will realise that it was you who sent me

and that I have loved them as much as you loved me.

Father, I want those you have given me

to be with me where I am,

so that they may always see the glory you have given me

because you loved me before the foundation of the world.

Father, Righteous One,

the world has not known you,

but I have known you,

and these have known that you have sent me.

I have made your name known to them

and will continue to make it known,

so that the love with which you loved me may be in them,

and so that I may be in them.'

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Antiphon

As the Father loves me, so I also love you; remain in my love, says the Lord.

Hymn for the Solemnity of Saint Bernard

Saint Bernard of Clairvaux,
you were holy and wise,
laziness and earthly riches you
did despise.

May we like you
seek poverty
and die to self
for God's glory.

Saint Bernard in your life,
poor health would play its part,
yet you spoke out against
wrong things you took to heart.
May we like you
with gift of speech
convert the world
and Christ's Name preach.

Saint Bernard in your time,
Cistercians daily grew,
in the monastic life
which you sought to renew.
May we like you,
each day increase
in faith and to
the world bring peace.

Text: Chris deSilva and Alessio Loiacono
Tune: Darwalls 148th

Music Links to the Scripture Readings

[Blest are They](#)

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