

Reflection Saturday Week 20 St Bernard 2022

St Bernard of Clairvaux was born near Dijon, in France, in 1090, of a noble family. In 1112 he joined the new monastery at Cîteaux, founded fourteen years earlier, to reject the laxity and riches of the Benedictine Order and return to a primitive poverty and austerity of life. Bernard arrived at Cîteaux with four of his five brothers and two dozen friends. Within three years he was sent to found a new monastery at Clairvaux, in Champagne, remaining abbot there until his death in 1153. At his death, the Cistercian Order had grown from one house to 343, of which 68 were daughter houses of Clairvaux itself. Bernard was a man of great holiness and wisdom but suffered very poor health. He was active in many great public debates. He strongly opposed the luxurious lives of some of the clergy, and fought against the persecution of the Jews. He was also a prolific and inspiring writer.

St Bernard inspired renewal in the same way as Jesus. It is clear that Jesus lived in Bernard and worked through him for the good of the whole Church. Why was Bernard so successful in bringing others to Christ? Because of the love of Jesus that lived and worked through him. It was a love that attracted people to want to give their lives to God.

Pope Francis

*Jesus expressed God's love concretely on a small scale by feeding someone who was hungry, giving the thirsty something to drink, visiting a prisoner or someone who is ill. The works of mercy are the path of love that Jesus teaches us. There is no need for grand speeches about love, but there is a need for men and women who know how to do these little things for Jesus, for the Father. Works of mercy continues that love, which is made small so it can reach us and **we carry it forward.***

*I changed my password to "incorrect". So, whenever I forget what it is, the computer will say **"Your password is incorrect"**.*

*I saw a documentary on how ships are kept together. **Riveting!***

Not saying I live in a rough area but I just bought an advent calendar and half the windows are boarded up!