

Reflection Thursday Week 27 St Bruno 2022

St Bruno (c.1033 - 1101) was born in Cologne and educated in Reims and became head of the episcopal school there for many years. In 1075 he was appointed chancellor of the church of Reims to administer the diocese. The bishop, Manasses de Gournai, was impious, corrupt, and violent. Bruno and others at the Council of Autun had Manasses suspended. In 1080, the Pope deposed Manasses.

Bruno was the obvious successor but in 1077 he and two fellow-canons at Reims had made a vow to abandon the world and enter religious life. Unable to act on that vow at the time, now he could. Bruno fled.

He went first to join St Robert at Molesme and gathered followers round him. They later became the Cistercian Order. But this was not his vocation. In 1084, with six companions, he went to St Hugh of Châteauneuf, Bishop of Grenoble, who installed them at Chartreuse, near Grenoble. They built a small monastery and lived in deep retreat and poverty, entirely occupied in prayer and study.

Bruno founded a new monastery in the diocese of Squillace in Calabria, and for the rest of his life led an amphibian existence, being called away periodically to help the Pope with his reform, but always returned.

Bruno pioneered the “mixed” form of religious life, of hermits who live together in a community. He did not plan to found an Order, but the seed he had planted at Chartreuse grew into the Carthusian Order. There are about 24 houses.

Let be inspired by his wisdom:-

- *While the world changes, the cross stands firm.*
- *Only those who have experienced the solitude and the silence of the wilderness can know the benefit and divine joy they bring to those who love them.*
- *For the devil may tempt the good, but he cannot find rest in them; for he is shaken violently, and upset, and driven out, now by their prayers, now by their tears of repentance, and now by their almsgiving and similar good works.*

Judge: Silence in court! The next person who laughs again will be thrown out of court.

Accused: Hahahaha!

Judge: I wasn't talking to you!