

Daily Homily

Twenty-Fourth Week in Ordinary Time, Monday

18 September 2023

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All sorts of saints had their brand of spirituality, their way of relating to Jesus and the world around them to help them and others inherit eternal life.

Ignatius of Loyola had the Spiritual Exercises.

St. Therese of Lisieux had the Little Way.

St. John of the Cross had the Spiritual Canticle and the Dark Night of the Soul.

St. Theresa of Avila has her Interior Castle.

All of this steeped in Scripture and the Church's Tradition.

Then there is this spirituality that the Gospel today holds out for us... Backrow Spirituality.

In the Gospel this is the one time that Jesus is not brought forward to be front and center. This is the one time that Jesus is not asked to be in the spotlight. This is the one time that Jesus has no pressure placed upon him to "perform" immediately. He is not in the front row of this Centurion's life, and He's not in the front row for the Centurion's slave who is on his deathbed.

Jesus is in the backrow. Away from the scene. Away from the crowds. Away from the attention... almost anonymously... except to those who have been sent to talk to Him. That's great faith... even from the backrow of our lives, Jesus can still be God... and present.

Is there someone in your life... near or far... someone you can't get close to... someone who needs help and prayer... but for whatever reason they won't let you or you just can't step into their front row... someone in your life where you can't be directly involved... so you're relegated to the backrow? Still, Jesus has blessed that placed, that spot, great things can still be worked from the backrow. So, from their backrow offer your prayers, petitions, thanksgiving, sacrifices and supplications for them... and, in time, see if "good health" has been restored.