

January 13, 2023

Good Morning!

1. Today's Readings: [Friday of the First Week in Ordinary Time | USCCB](#)

2. The RE Corner with Jan Heithaus: For those of you who are fans of the Chosen series, you may recognize the following quote which was made into a song in season 1: *"Behold, how good and pleasant it is for brothers to dwell in unity."* It is from Psalm 133. St. Hilary of Poitiers gives us some insights into this Scripture in today's article.

Saint Hilary, who was born in 315 in Poitiers, France, is the doctor of Christ's divinity. As bishop, he brilliantly defended the sacred humanity of Jesus. He protected the church and its members by defeating Arianism which denied the divinity of Christ.

This staunch defender of the divinity of Christ was a gentle and courteous man, devoted to writing some of the greatest theology on the Trinity, and was like his master in being labeled a "disturber of the peace." In a very troubled period in the Church, his holiness was lived out in both scholarship and controversy.

Raised a pagan, he was converted to Christianity when he met his god of nature in the Scriptures. His wife was still living when he was chosen, against his will, to be the bishop of Poitiers in France. He was soon taken up with battling what became the scourge of the fourth century, Arianism, which denied the divinity of Christ.

The heresy spread rapidly. St. Jerome said, "the world groaned and marveled to find that it was Arian." When emperor Constantius ordered all the bishops of the west to sign a condemnation of Athanasius, the great defender of the faith in the east, Hilary refused and was banished from France to far off Phrygia. Eventually he was called the "Athanasius of the west." While writing in exile, he was invited by some semi-Arians (hoping for reconciliation) to a council the emperor called to counteract the council of Nicea. But Hilary predictably defended the church, and when he sought public debate with the heretical bishop who had exiled him, the Arians, dreading the meeting and its outcome, pleaded with the emperor to send this troublemaker back home. Hilary was welcomed by his people.

He was proclaimed doctor of the church in 1851.

3. Quotes of the Day: St. Hilary of Poitiers

~"Servants of the truth, ought to speak the truth."

Daily Parish Communication

~"I am well aware, almighty God and Father, that in my life I owe you a most particular duty. It is to make my every thought and word speak of you."

~"Little children follow and obey their father. They love their mother. They know nothing of covetousness, ill-will, bad temper, arrogance and lying. This state of mind opens the road to heaven. To imitate our Lord's own humility, we must return to the simplicity of God's little ones."

St. Hilary of Poitiers, Pray for Us!
St. Joseph, Pray for Us!

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Commentary on the psalms by Saint Hilary of Poitiers, bishop

Behold, how good and pleasant it is for brothers to dwell in unity. It is good and pleasant for brothers to dwell in unity, because when they do so their association creates the assembly of the Church. The term “brothers” describes the bond of affection arising from their singleness of purpose.

We read that when the apostles first preached, the chief instruction they gave lay in this saying: *The hearts and minds of all believers were one.* So, it is fitting for the people of God to be brothers under one Father, to be united under one Spirit, to live in harmony under one roof, to be limbs of one body.

It is pleasant and good for brothers to dwell in unity. The prophet suggested a comparison for this good and pleasant activity when he said: *It is like the ointment on the head which ran down over the beard of Aaron, down upon the collar of his garment.* Aaron’s oil was made of the perfumes used to anoint a priest. It was God’s decision that his priest should have this consecration first, and that our Lord too should be anointed, but not visibly, by those who are joined with him. Aaron’s anointing did not belong to this world; it was not done with the horn used for kings, but with the oil of gladness. So afterward Aaron was called the anointed one as the Law prescribed.

When this oil is poured out upon men of unclean heart, it snuffs out their lives, but when it is received as an anointing of love, it exudes the sweet odor of harmony with God. As Paul says, *we are the goodly fragrance of Christ.* So just as it is pleasing to God when Aaron was anointed priest with this oil, so it is good and pleasant for brothers to dwell in unity.

Now the oil ran down from his head to his beard. A beard adorns a man of mature years. We must not be children before Christ except in the restricted scriptural sense of being children in wickedness but not in our way of thinking. Now Paul calls all who lack faith, children, because they are too weak to take solid food and still need milk. As he says: *I fed you with milk rather than the solid food for which you were not yet ready; and you are still not ready.*

Source: liturgies.net