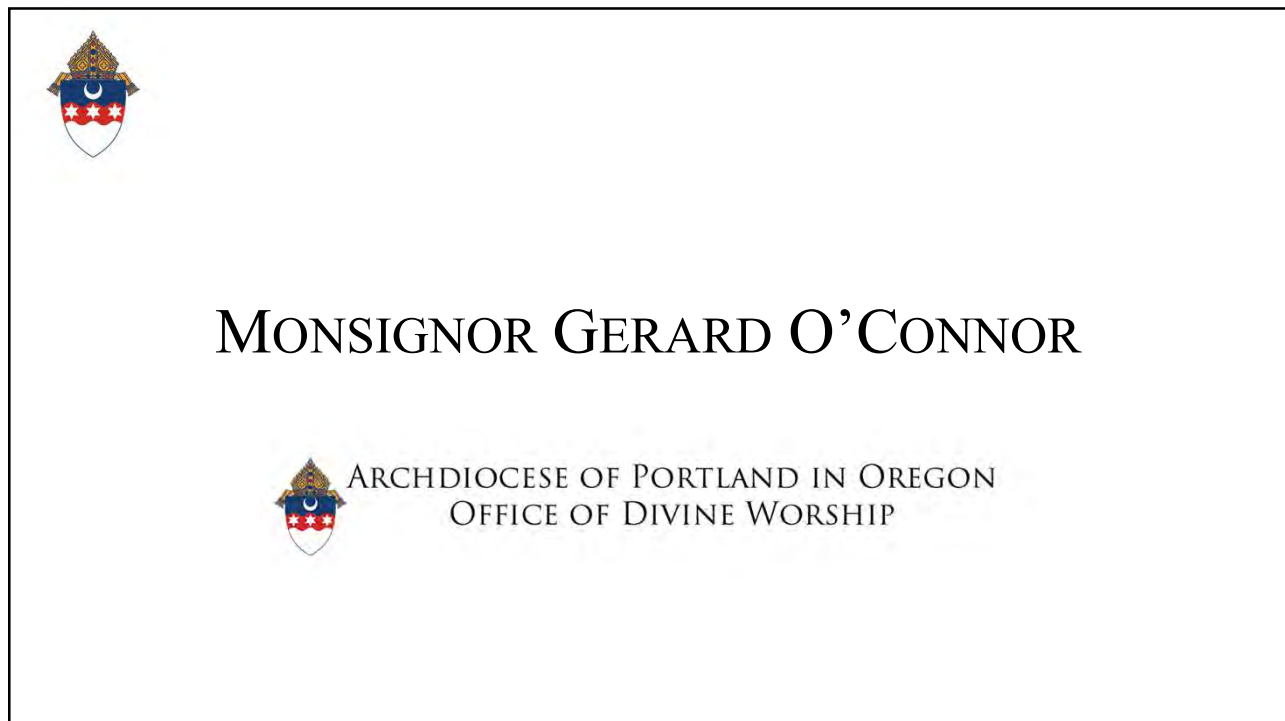




1



2



ADVENT RETREAT

St. Bernard's
Three Comings of Christ

(Peter of Blois)

3



ST. BERNARD OF CLAIRVAUX

St. Bernard of Clairvaux is clearly one of the greatest preachers of all time. Born to a noble family near Dijon France in 1090 AD, St. Bernard was inspired by the example of a new religious congregation, the Cistercians, who had abandoned the relative ease and security of Benedictine monasticism of that day to live according to the primitive pattern of St. Benedict through hard manual labor, solitude, and rigorous prayer. When St. Bernard decided to abandon the privilege of noble life to enter the monastery, he brought over 30 noble relatives with him. Once professed, he was very soon made abbot and went on to found over 40 monasteries in his lifetime.

4



ST. BERNARD OF CLAIRVAUX

St. Bernard's magnetic preaching and exemplary character changed the lives of thousands and his writing continues today to inspire Christians everywhere. His words were so sweet that he came to be known as the Melifluous ("full of honey") Doctor. St. Bernard died in 1153 and was later proclaimed a saint and a Doctor of the Church. His feast day in the Roman Calendar is August 20.

5



ST. BERNARD OF CLAIRVAUX

“We know that there are three comings of the Lord. The third lies between the other two. It is invisible, while the other two are visible.”

6



ST. BERNARD OF CLAIRVAUX

“In the first coming he was seen on earth,
dwelling among men; he himself testifies that
they saw him and hated him.”

7



ST. BERNARD OF CLAIRVAUX

“In the final coming all flesh will see the
salvation of our God, and they will look on
him whom they pierced.”

8



ST. BERNARD OF CLAIRVAUX

“The intermediate coming is a hidden one; in it only the elect see the Lord within their own selves, and they are saved.”

9



ST. BERNARD OF CLAIRVAUX

“In his first coming our Lord came in our flesh and in our weakness; in this middle coming he comes in spirit and in power; in the final coming he will be seen in glory and majesty.”

10



ST. BERNARD OF CLAIRVAUX

“In case someone should think that what we say about this middle coming is sheer invention, listen to what our Lord himself says: If anyone loves me, he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we will come to him. There is another passage of Scripture which reads: He who fears God will do good, but something further has been said about the one who loves, that is, that he will keep God’s word. Where is God’s word to be kept? Obviously in the heart, as the prophet says: I have hidden your words in my heart, so that I may not sin against you.”

11



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12



ST. BERNARD OF CLAIRVAUX

“Keep God’s word in this way. Let it enter into your very being, let it take possession of your desires and your whole way of life. Feed on goodness, and your soul will delight in its richness. Remember to eat your bread, or your heart will wither away. Fill your soul with richness and strength.”

13



ST. BERNARD OF CLAIRVAUX

“Because this coming lies between the other two, it is like a road on which we travel from the first coming to the last. In the first, Christ was our redemption; in the last, he will appear as our life; in this middle coming, he is our rest and consolation.”

14



ST. BERNARD OF CLAIRVAUX

“If you keep the word of God in this way, it will also keep you. The Son with the Father will come to you. The great Prophet who will build the new Jerusalem will come, the one who makes all things new.”

15



ST. BERNARD OF CLAIRVAUX

“This coming will fulfill what is written: As we have borne the likeness of the earthly man, we shall also bear the likeness of the heavenly man. Just as Adam’s sin spread through all mankind and took hold of all, so Christ, who created and redeemed all, will glorify all, once he takes possession of all.”

16



PETER OF BLOIS

“There are three comings of the Lord; the first in the **FLESH**; the second in the **SOUL**; and the third at **JUDGEMENT**.”

17



PETER OF BLOIS

“The first was at midnight.”

“We are now in that second coming.”

“The third coming is most uncertain.”

18



PETER OF BLOIS

“Nothing is more sure than death;
and nothing less sure than the
hour of death.”

19



PETER OF BLOIS

“First coming humble and hidden.
Second is mysterious and full of
love.
Third will be majestic and terrible.”

20



PETER OF BLOIS

“**First:** Christ was judge unjustly by men.

Second: He renders us just by his grace.

Third: He will judge all things with justice.”

21



PETER OF BLOIS

“Nothing is more sure than death;
and nothing less sure than the
hour of death.”

22



INTERMEDIATE COMING

- ❖ Soul
- ❖ Grace
- ❖ Spirit & Power