

Today is the Memorial of Saint Bonaventure, bishop and doctor of the Church.

Saint Bonaventure was known as the “seraphic doctor,” because he revealed something of the divine fire that exists within each one of us. *Seraph* comes from the Hebrew, and means ‘burning one.’ So, the seraphim, an order of the hierarchy of angels, burn with the Love of God.

St. Bonaventure was also noted for being extremely learned, but also very much able to discern the depths of mystical theology.

Oftentimes, a desire for knowledge can obscure one’s experience of the divine love.

In the First Reading, Moses sees the burning bush, and says:

*“I must go over to look at this remarkable sight,
and see why the bush is not burned.”*

Yet in approaching this phenomenon, Moses not only confronts a mystery – but in the process receives his calling.

Saint Bonaventure speaks of three ways to approach the life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ. The first is from the perspective of the observed data – the stories and holy images. He calls this a ‘dead memorial,’ because one views the experience of Jesus Christ at a distance. The second is in listening to someone else speak of the life, death, and resurrection. This he calls partly living and partly dead – all based on the ability of the speaker to adequately convey their experience of Jesus. The third he calls the living memorial. In this Sacramental experience, one has a direct experience of Jesus Christ. This is the personal experience of the living Christ in the Sacraments.

Moses first is curious about the “*remarkable sight.*” He then hears the voice, which at first stops him, and then draws him nearer. Finally, he experiences God directly and in doing so, receives his mission.

In the Gospel, Jesus praises God the Father for hiding the mysteries of God from the “*wise and the learned*” while revealing “*them to the childlike*”.

Let us pray that we may receive the graces to burn with the fire of divine love. And as we approach this altar to receive Jesus Christ – body, blood, soul, and divinity – we may receive a personal experience of the living Christ, through this Most Blessed Sacrament.

Then may we also receive our call ... our mission ... as beloved daughters and sons of the Father, adopted and redeemed in Christ, and filled with the infinite gifts of the Holy Spirit.