

TRINITY NEWS

WEEK 33
August 14, 2022

Today, were it not a Sunday, we would be celebrating a relatively minor commemoration observed primarily in the American Church, that of Jonathan Myrick Daniels, a seminarian who was martyred in Alabama at the height of the Civil Rights movement in 1965. Tomorrow is a major feast of the Church – the Feast of St. Mary the Virgin on August 15th, who needs no further introduction.

The two feasts are connected in that it was Mary's song – the Magnificat – from Luke, that inspired Daniels to take a leave from the seminary and head down South to work with Martin Luther King, which in the end is what got him killed, when he threw himself between a black girl and a white storekeeper with a shot gun.

Daniels describes that moment as follows:

"... I had come to Evening Prayer as usual that evening, and as usual I was singing the Magnificat with the special love and reverence I have always felt for Mary's glad song. ... As the lovely hymn of the God-bearer continued, I found myself peculiarly alert, suddenly straining toward the decisive, luminous, Spirit-filled "moment" ... Then it came. "He hath put down the mighty from their seat, and hath exalted the humble and meek. He hath filled the hungry with good things." I knew then that I must go to Selma. The Virgin's song was to grow more and more dear in the weeks ahead.'

Jon Daniels was moved by Mary's words to join the nonviolent struggle for racial justice, not just in word, but in deed, by giving himself up to the cause.

Jon's commitment, was almost *inevitably* going to provoke a violence to those like him posed a threat to their power, to their privilege. The closer we hew to Jesus' teaching, the more trouble we will stir up for ourselves, and it is very important that we be aware of this so that it does not take us by surprise. The path we have chosen to follow is not an easy one; let us not try to fool ourselves into thinking otherwise.

From the Sayings of the Desert Fathers; "When Abba Anthony thought about the depth of the judgments of God, he asked, 'Lord, how is it that some die when they are young, while others drag on to extreme old age? Why are there those who are poor and those who are rich? Why do wicked men prosper and why are the just in need?' He heard a voice answering him, 'Anthony, keep your attention on yourself; these things are according to the judgment of God, and it is not to your advantage to know anything about them.'

SAINTS:

The Blessèd Virgin Mary, 15 August.

Mary was a young Jewish girl living in Nazareth when a messenger from the Lord announced that she was to be the bearer of the Son of God to the world. Her response "Let it be to me according to your word" revealed her natural sense of obedience to God and her reverence for his Word, showing her worthy to be the bearer of the Word made flesh. This day is now celebrated as the major feast of the Blessèd Virgin Mary throughout most of Christendom.

Bernard, Abbot of Clairvaux.

20 August.

Bernard was born at Fontaines, near Dijon, in France in the year 1090. He entered the Benedictine abbey at Cîteaux in 1112, taking with him many of his young companions, some of whom were his own brothers. He was a leader of the reform within Benedictinism at this time and in 1115 was sent to establish a new monastery at a place he named Clairvaux, or valley of light. Though times were hard, he built up the community with his remarkable qualities of leadership. Bernard preached widely and powerfully and proved himself a theologian of renown. Literally hundreds of houses were founded on the Cîteaux or Cistercian system and Bernard's influence on his own generation and beyond was immense. He died on this day in 1153.