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**D. Bernardi Primi Clarævallensis Abbatis, Ordinis
Cisterciensium Antesignani, melliflui Ecclesiæ Doctoris
Sermones In Dominicas & Festa per annum**

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dante transeamus ad Christum, quia, ut ait ipse ^m, illum oportet crescere, ^m Ioan. 3. 27
me autem minui. Quomodo minui? Splendore utique, non fervore. Retraxit radios, collegit se ^{*}, ne fieret sicut is qui totum profert spiritum ^{*al. recolle-}
sum. Illum (inquit) oportet crescere, qui exauriri non potest: de cuius ^{git se.}
 plenitudine omnes accipiant: me autem minui, cui datus est spiritus ad
 mensuram, & danda magis opera ut ardere semper valeam, quam lucere.
 Præcessi Solem tanquam lydus matutinum, abscondi neceſſe est orto jam
 Sole. Non est mihi niſi modicum olei quo ungar, volo illud in vase tu-
 tius, quam in lampade possidere.

IN VIGILIA SS. PETRI ET PAULI
 A P O S T O L O R U M ,
 S E R M O .

IN Sanctorum Vigiliis necesse est vigilare hominem spiritualem, qui
 solemnitates eorum celebrare desiderat in spiritu & veritate. Aliæ e- *Vigilia Fef-*
 nim carnalium, aliæ spiritualium vigiliæ. Illi & nitidores cultus, & c- *rum quomodo*
 pulas præparant lautiores, & fortassis in ipsis vigiliis operantur opera te-
 nebrarum, lætantur cum malè fecerint, & exultant in rebus pessimis. Vos
 non ita didicistis Christum, quia Christum secuti estis, qui omnia reli-
 quistis, qui vigilanti oculo vigiliarum nomen debetis attendere. Ad hoc
 enim vigiliæ proponuntur, ut evigilemus si in aliquo peccato vel negli-
 gentia dormiamus, & præoccupemus faciem sanctorum in confessione.
 Non sic filii huius sæculi, non sic, qui potentes sunt ad bibendum vinum,
 & viri fortes ad miscendam ebrietatem; qui obdormierunt in flagitiis &
 facinoribus suis. Illud vos non lateat, quia qui ebrii sunt, nocte ebrii
 sunt: & qui dormiunt, nocte dormiunt: & frustra sonat eis nomen Vi-
 giliarum sanctorum, cum ipsi magis dormire studeant quam vigilare. Vos
 non estis filii noctis, neque tenebrarum, sed lucis & diei, ut non vos præ-
 occupent natalitii Sanctorum dies, & inveniant imparatos.

Tria sunt igitur quæ in festivitatibus Sanctorum vigilanter confide- *Tria in Fef-*
 rare debemus, Auxilium Sancti, Exemplum eius, Confusionem nostram, *vitalib. ss.*
Auxilium eius, quia qui potens in terra, potentior est in cœlis ante faciem *principiæ con-*
 Domini Dei sui. Si enim dum hic viveret, misertus est peccatoribus, & *sideranda.*
 oravit pro eis: nunc tantò amplius quanto yeriùs agnoscit miserias no- *Primo Auxi-*
 stras, orat pro nobis Patrem: quia beata illa patria charitatem eius non *lium ss.*
 immutavit, sed augmentavit. Neque enim quia impassibilis omnino, *Sancti in ter-*
 ideo & incompassibilis factus est: sed nunc potius induit sibi viscera mi- *ris pro nobis o-*
 sericordiæ, cum ante fontem misericordiæ existit. Est & alia causa quæ *rant, quanto*
 magis urget Sanctos ut solicieti sint de nobis, quia juxta vocem Apostoli,

Deus providet pro nobis, ne sine nobis consummentur, sicut ait sanctus
 David ^a. *Me expectant justi donec retribuas mibi.* Debemus etiam atten-
 derē Exemplum eius; quia quandiu in terris visus est, & cum hominibus
 conversatus est, non declinavit ad dexteram, neque ad sinistram: sed viam
 regiam tenuit donec veniret ad illum qui dicit ^b: *Ego sum via, veritas &*
vita. Intuemini humilitatem operum eius, auctoritatem verborum eius,
 & tunc videbitis quomodo tam verbo quam exemplo luxerit inter
 homines: qualia nobis vestigia dereliquerit, ut ambulemus per ea, & non
 erremus in eis. Verè juxta Prophetam ^c, *Semita justi recta est, rectus*
callis justi ad ambulandum.

Sed & diligentiori intuitu Confusionem nostram inspiciamus: quia
 homo ille similis nobis fuit, passibilis, ex eodem luto formatus ex quo
 & nos. Quid ergo est, quod non solum difficile sed & impossibile credi-
 mus, ut faciamus opera quae fecit, ut sequamur vestigia eius? Confusio-
 damur, Fratres, & contremiscamus ad vocem istam, si forte haec confu-
 sio adducat nobis gloriam, si forte generet gratiam nobis timor iste. Ho-
 mines isti fuerunt qui præcesserunt nos, qui tam mirabiliter processerunt
 per vias vitae, ut vix eos homines fuisse credamus. Sie ergo in Sanctorum
 festivitatibus & gaudere & confundi debemus: gaudere, quia Patronos
 præmisimus; confundi, quia eos imitari non possumus. Ita semper gau-
 dium nostrum in hac valle lachrymarum, lachrymarum pane condiri de-
 bet, ut semper non solum extrema, sed & prima gaudi lucretus occupet:
 quia etsi magna est gaudiorum materia, sed maxima est dolorum. *Memor*
fui Dei, clamat justus ^d, & delectatus sum; sed & statim subjungit: De-
fecit spiritus meus, turbatus sum, & non sum loquutus.

Quod si haec in vigiliis uniuscuiusque Sancti cogitare debemus, quid
 faciemus in solemnitate Sanctorum & summorum Apostolorum, Petrum
 & Paulum loquor? Sufficeret unius festivitas ad infundendam exultatio-
 nem universæ terræ, sed amborum juncta est ad cumulum gaudiorum, ut
 quomodo in vita sua dilexerunt se, ita & in morte non sint separati. Quid
 illis potentius dum fuerunt in terris? Quorum alteri traduntur claves re-
 gni cœlorum, alteri magisterium gentium ^e: alter Ananiam & Sapphi-
 ram occidit in verbis oris sui ^f, alter donat quicquid donat in persona
 Christi ^g: & cum infirmatur, nunc fortior est & potens ^h? Quam po-
 tentiores sunt in cœlis, qui tam potentes fuerunt in terris? Et quinobis
 reliquerunt majora exempla, quam illi qui in fame & siti, in frigore & nu-
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mus ergo eos, ut ipsi propitium nobis reddant amicum suum Judicem nostrum, qui est DEUS benedictus in saecula, Amen.

IN FESTO SS. APOST. PETRI ET PAULI.

SERMO I.

Gloriosa nobis solemnitas illuxit, quam præclarí martyres Martyrum duces, Apostolorum principes morte clarissima consecrarunt. Iste sunt Petrus & Paulus, duo magna luminaria, quos Deus in corpore Ecclesiæ suæ constituit quasi geminum lumen oculorum. Hi mihi traditi sunt in Magistros & in mediatores: quibus securè me committere possum: quia & notas mihi fecerunt vias vitæ, & mediantibus illis ad illum mediatorem ascendere potero, qui venit pacificare per sanguinem suum & quæ in cœlis, & quæ in terris sunt. Ille enim in utraque natura purissimus est, qui peccatum non fecit, nec inventus est dolus in ore eius. Quomodo ad illum accedere audebo, qui sum supra modum peccans peccator, qui peccavi numerum arenæ maris, cum ille purior, ego impurior esse non possim? Verendum ne incidam in manus Dei viventis, si illi approximare vel inhærere præsumpsero, quem à me tanta differentia dividit, quantum distat inter bonum & malum. Propterea dedit mihi Deus homines istos, qui & homines essent, & peccatores, & maximi peccatores, qui in seipsis & de seipsis dicerent, quām latè aliis misereri deberent. Magnorum enim criminum rei magnis criminibus facile donabunt veniam, & in qua mensura mensum est eis, remetientur nobis. Peccavit peccatum grande Petrus Apostolus; & fortassis quo grandius nullum est: & tam velocissimè, quam facillimè veniam consecutus est, & sic, ut nihil de singularitate sui primatus amitteret. Sed & Paulus qui in ipsa viscera nascientis Ecclesiæ tam singulariter quām incomparabiliter grassatus est, per ipsius filii Dei vocem ad fidem adducitur, & pro tantis malis, tantis bonis repletus est, ut Vas electionis fieret, ad portandum nomen eius coram gentibus, & regibus, & filiis Israel^a. Vas dignum, & cœlestibus ferculis repletum; de quo & sanus escam, & infirmus accipiat medicinam.

Tales decebat humano generi Pastores & Doctores constitui, qui & dulces essent & potentes, & nihilominus sapientes. Dulces, ut me blande & misericorditer susciperent. Potentes, ut fortiter protegerent. Sapientes, ut ad viam, & per viam dueerent, quæ dicit ad civitatem. Quid Petro dulcius, qui tam dulciter ad se omnes convocat peccatores, sicut & Actus Apostolici, & Epistolarum eius series attestatur? Quid illo potentius, cui & terra obedivit, cum mortuos reddidit^b; & mare sub

*Sancti nobis à
DEO dati in
magistros &
mediatores.*

*Petrus & Pa-
lus olim pecca-
tores nunc Ec-
clesi præda-
tores & pasto-
res.*

^a Act. 9.

^b Act. 9. g