



St John Gabriel Perboyre (1802-1840) was born in Montgesty in southern France into a family which gave three missionaries of St. Vincent and two Daughters of Charity to the Church. As a missionary he went to China where he was martyred. He was strangled to death on a cross at Wuchang. His body was retrieved and buried in the mission cemetery by a catechist.

First Reading: (1 Cor 9:16-19, 22-27) If I preach the gospel, that gives me no ground for boasting. For necessity is laid upon me. Woe to me if I do not preach the gospel! For if I do this of my own will, I have a reward; but if not of my own will, I am entrusted with a commission. What then is my reward? Just this: that in my preaching I may make the gospel free of charge, not making full use of my right in the gospel. For though I am free from all men, I have made myself a slave to all, that I might win the more. To the weak I became weak, that I might win the weak. I have become all things to all men, that I might by all means save some. I do it all for the sake of the gospel, that I may share in its blessings. Do you not know that in a race all the runners compete, but only one receives the prize? So run that you may obtain it. Every athlete exercises self-control in all things. They do it to receive a perishable wreath, but we

an imperishable. Well, I do not run aimlessly, I do not box as one beating the air; but I pommel my body and subdue it, lest after preaching to others I myself should be disqualified.

Ps 83:3-6, 12

R./ How lovely is your dwelling place, Lord, God of hosts.

Gospel: (Lk 6:39-42) Jesus told his disciples a parable: "Can a blind man lead a blind man? Will they not both fall into a pit? A disciple is not above his teacher, but every one when he is fully taught will be like his teacher. Why do you see the speck that is in your brother's eye, but do not notice the log that is in your own eye? Or how can you say to your brother, 'Brother, let me take out the speck that is in your eye,' when you yourself do not see the log that is in your own eye? You hypocrite, first take the log out of your own eye, and then you will see clearly to take out the speck that is in your brother's eye."

Reflection: Jesus asks us to take a critical look at ourselves before evaluating others. Some of us feel that we are strong in our decisions and correct in our understanding of the other, and have the capacity to identify the hidden motives behind other's actions. We share our views about others based on our perception. We hear beyond the words, we see beyond the visible and we comprehend beyond the real. We should take a critical look at our thoughts and words. **Self-awareness is a prerequisite for discipleship.** Do I commit the very faults that I condemn in others?