

St. Marguerite Bourgeoys (1620-1700) was born in Troyes, France. She is foundress of the Congregation of Notre Dame of Montreal. She dedicated her life in educating young girls and the poor. She is also significant for developing one of the first non-cloistered religious communities of women.



First Reading: (Heb 2:5-12) It was not to angels that God subjected the world to come, of which we are speaking. It has been testified somewhere, "What is man that thou art mindful of him, or the son of man, that thou carest for him? Thou didst make him for a little while lower than the angels, thou hast crowned him with glory and honour, putting everything in subjection under his feet." Now in putting everything in subjection to him, he left nothing outside his control. As it is, we do not yet see everything in subjection to him. But we see Jesus, who for a little while was made lower than the angels, crowned with glory and honour because of the suffering of death, so that by the grace of God he might taste death for every one. For it was fitting that he, for whom and by whom all things exist, in bringing many sons to glory, should make the pioneer of their salvation perfect through suffering. For he who sanctifies and those who are sanctified have all one origin. That is why he is not ashamed to call them brethren, saying, "I will proclaim thy name to my brethren, in the midst of the congregation I will praise thee."

Ps 8:2,5-9

R. / Your Son you gave power over the works of your hand.

Gospel: (Mk 1:21-28) Jesus and his disciples went into Capernaum; and immediately on the sabbath he entered the synagogue and taught. And they were astonished at his teaching, for he taught them as one who had authority, and not as the scribes. And immediately there was in their synagogue a man with an unclean spirit; and he cried out, "What have you to do with us, Jesus of Nazareth? Have you come to destroy us? I know who you are, the Holy One of God." But Jesus rebuked him, saying, "Be silent, and come out of him!" And the unclean spirit, convulsing him and crying with a loud voice, came out of him. And they were all amazed, so that they questioned among themselves, saying, "What is this? A new teaching! With authority he commands even the unclean spirits, and they obey him." And at once his fame spread everywhere throughout all the surrounding region of Galilee.

REFLECTION

Jesus spoke with authority and even the evil spirits acknowledged him as the Holy one of God. We do not hear of people being possessed by evil Spirits any more, may be because psychologists have identified them as emotional problems. However, we come across people in our churches, families and neighborhoods who are abusive, violent or even downright criminals who sometimes even have no power over themselves or their actions.

Jesus confronted the possessed man in the temple with his problem. It was tough love. Many of our people need to be shown tough love. **Failing to bring the problem to the notice of the person and challenging them to change, is to encourage that person to remain as he or she is.** Let us ask God's grace to confront our problems and seek help from God to change.