

THE COLIN YEAR, 2012-13 - WEEKLY REFLECTION

'FROM THE LIPS OF THE FOUNDER'



Week 17: 'Gentlemen, it does not rain all the time: when the garden is dry, the gardener draws up water by hand from the well and waters the plants. That is how he makes them grow. And yet you expect God to open all his graces to you every morning without your doing anything to receive them. I tell you he will not do it, he even ought not to. I would go so far as to say that he owes it to his own glory not to. Man must come to feel his emptiness, his weakness, his nothingness, his dryness... and otherwise he would not.' (FS 9:10)

Week 18: 'If we wanted to, we would become saints. There are many who, with a stronger and more determined will, would accomplish extraordinary things. They would lead an ordinary life, it is true, but ordinary to an extraordinary degree. That is to say, they would be saints. Are you going to say that God has not called them to such high perfection just because they have not wanted to achieve it? He has, but they have been unfaithful!' (FS 27:2)

Week 19: 'Consider well if the pain you feel in your moments of dryness does not come less perhaps from the pain you may be giving to God but rather from vanity. You have seen those little dogs who are always rubbing against their master. If the master is speaking to someone else, the little animal does not, for all that, stop frisking about him, licking his hand. But if it sees that the master is paying no attention to it, well, it still does not go off, but settles at his feet. You should do the same.' (FS 28)

Week 20: 'In the novitiate people must form themselves for action as well as for prayer. If the novices left the novitiate as raw as they leave the major seminary – so that they cannot be set to work at anything – our novitiate would no longer be worth anything. It is in the active life that we die to ourselves.' (FS 16:2)