

July 15, 2008  
Tuesday of the Fifteenth Week in Ordinary Time  
Memorial of Saint Bonaventure

Readings of the day may be found on the following link:

<http://www.nccbuscc.org/nab>

Isaiah 7:1-9

Psalms 48:2-3a, 3b-4, 5-6, 7-8

Matthew 11:20-24

*Jesus began to reproach the towns where most of his mighty deeds had been done, since they had not repented.*

At first glance at today's readings, I was distracted by the mention of the memorial of St. Bonaventure. Growing up in western New York, where the center of college basketball was the rivalry of Canisius, Niagara, and St Bonaventure, this feast day took me back to days of my youth and the enjoyment of these times. In addition, St. Bonaventure's college holds dear memories for me personally. One year during high school I was selected to attend a weeklong workshop (we would call them camps today) on journalism and writing. I remember the look of the campus, the tone of the week, the encouragement of the teachers who led us through the process, and the safe, warm, peaceful feeling during the stay. I realize now how little I know about the life of this man for whom this college was named. While that is sad, it is sadder yet, that we still allow the life of Jesus to elude us. How much and how little do we know about the life of Jesus? What are the sins of our lives that we fail to repent? I am convinced that all the rules of the institutional church cannot teach me the way I must go or the sins I must repent as well as the life of Jesus can teach me. It seems that once again we return to that crucial question: "Who do you say that I am?"

*A man who was completely innocent, offered himself as a sacrifice for the good of others, including his enemies, and became the ransom of the world. It was a perfect act*  
--Mahatma Gandhi

*I am an historian, I am not a believer, but I must confess as a historian that this penniless preacher from Nazareth is irrevocably the very center of history. Jesus Christ is easily the most dominant figure in all history.--H.G. Wells*

*Jesus is God spelling Himself out in language that men can understand. --S.D. Gordon*

*Jesus is the God whom we can approach without pride and before whom we can humble ourselves without despair. -Blaise Pascal*

Reflect on the various definitions of Jesus and then imagine Jesus asking you;  
Who do you say that I am?