

Midday Prayer - 415

19-6-75
11-9-78 (63)

Prayer of St Francis
(Another Dawn)

A lot of effort, time and money is spent by big companies (and small), and by all sorts of other human groupings, to identify themselves clearly, easily and simply: to find a sign, a shape, a design that is theirs: what's called a "logo".... when you see it, you recognise and remember what it stands for. Simple letters do the same: UN, KMB, BBC, ICAC — I suppose almost every English-speaker living in HK would know what they stand for. And every Chinese will know how individual a thing a seal or clap is. It's not just an invention of the modern advertising/PR industry that things and people carry a significance beyond a literal or a surface recognition: in life we learn to read these signs, to understand, to see beyond what our eyes see, to hear beyond what our ears hear, to come in touch with the spirits of people, of groups, even of institutions — of creation and the whole reality. The world, and all of us are signs, initials of God whom our eyes and ears and touch cannot reach. Only, we have some leanings to do, to recognize the initials and know what they mean. What I've been trying to say is put more nicely by a south-american poet-priest in a book published in English translation ^{a few years ago} (some months ago), from which I've quoted once or twice before in these programmes: Love, by Ernesto Cardenal. Here's his chapter "Initials": QQ. 26 ff.

Let's pause for a prayer of praise & music now:

RMA
ERA-0-167
13 3:33

("Sanctus")
"Benedictus"

from Durufle's Mass 'Cantabile'
Poulenc's Mass - G

MUSIC: PRAYERS

To conclude with Ernesto Cardenal's
chapter 'Initials' Q.

[Fred and Anne]