



Marie-Rose Durocher (1811-1849) was born in a little village near Montreal as the 10th of 11 Children. At 18, she lost her mother, and for 13 years she served as housekeeper, hostess and parish worker in her priest brother's parish. At 32, she founded the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary dedicated to education in the faith.

First Reading: (Rom 2:1-11) You have no excuse, O man, whoever you are, when you judge another; for in passing judgment upon him you condemn yourself, because you, the judge, are doing the very same things. We know that the judgment of God rightly falls upon those who do such things. Do you suppose, O man, that when you judge those who do such things and yet do them yourself, you will escape the judgment of God? Or do you presume upon the riches of his kindness and forbearance and patience? Do you not know that God's kindness is meant to lead you to repentance? But by your hard and impenitent heart you are storing up wrath for yourself on the day of wrath when God's righteous judgment will be revealed. For he will render to every man according to his works: to those who by patience in well-doing seek for glory and honour and immortality, he will give eternal life; but for those who are factious and do not obey the truth, but obey wickedness, there will be wrath and fury. There will be tribulation and distress for every

human being who does evil, the Jew first and also the Greek, but glory and honour and peace for every one who does good, the Jew first and also the Greek. For God shows no partiality.

Ps 61:2-3, 6-7, 9

R./ Lord, you repay each man according to his deeds.

Gospel: (Lk 11:42-46) Jesus said to the Pharisees, "Woe to you Pharisees! for you tithe mint and rue and every herb, and neglect justice and the love of God; these you ought to have done, without neglecting the others. Woe to you Pharisees! for you love the best seat in the synagogues and salutations in the market places. Woe to you! for you are like graves which are not seen, and men walk over them without knowing it." One of the lawyers answered him, "Teacher, in saying this you reproach us also." And he said, "Woe to you lawyers also! for you load men with burdens hard to bear, and you yourselves do not touch the burdens with one of your fingers."

REFLECTION

Every encounter with God is a transforming experience that does not lead us primarily to an understanding of the mystery of God but to a realistic understanding about ourselves and the focus of our lives. When one judges others he or she is not open to God-experience that leads to true self-awareness and consequent repentance. **Our self-awareness and inner conversion would lead us to a just and loving life that brings glory to God.** When we do not have this inner security that comes from our surrender to God, we insist on following only the fundamentalist pharisaic attitude of external observance of laws and rituals without any commitment to the values of the Gospel which are liberative and humanizing.