October 9th: Memorial of Saint John Henry Newman, priest and cardinal

Gospel text (*Mt* 13:47-52): Jesus said to the disciples (...): "Then every scribe who has been instructed in the Kingdom of heaven is like the head of a household who brings from his storeroom both the new and the old."

Saint John Henry Newman (1801-1890)

EDITORIAL TEAM evangeli.net (based on texts by Benedict XVI)
(Città del Vaticano, Vatican)

Today, Cardinal Newman's motto, "Cor ad cor loquitur" (Heart speaks unto heart), gives us an insight into his understanding of the Christian life as a call to holiness, experienced as the profound desire of the human heart to enter into intimate communion with the Heart of God. He reminds us that faithfulness to prayer gradually transforms us into the divine likeness.

Our divine Master has assigned a specific task to each one of us, a "definite service", committed uniquely to every single person: «I have my mission —he wrote— I am a link in a chain, a bond of connexion between persons. He has not created me for naught. I shall do good, I shall do his work; I shall be an angel of peace, a preacher of truth in my own place». The definite service to which Blessed John Henry was called involved applying his keen intellect and his prolific pen to many of the most pressing "subjects of the day".

—He lived out that profoundly human vision of priestly ministry in his devoted care for the people of Birmingham during the years that he spent at the Oratory he founded, visiting the sick and the poor, comforting the bereaved, caring for those in prison.