

Heart of the World III

For a couple of weeks now, we have been looking at the Eucharist as it is described in the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) as “...the source and summit of the Christian life.” “The other sacraments, and indeed all ecclesiastical ministries and works of the apostolate, are bound up with the Eucharist and are oriented toward it. For in the blessed Eucharist is contained the whole spiritual good of the Church, namely Christ himself, our Pasch.” (CCC #1324)

We have talked about how this is actually a combination of quotes from two of the principle documents of Vatican II, *Lumen Gentium (LG)*, and The Decree on the Ministry and Life of Priests, *Presbyterorum Ordinis (PO)*.

In *LG #11*, it further explains that like the heart in the body, the very center and life-moving force of the Church is the Eucharist. All of the other Sacraments and the whole life of the Church in the world flow from it and lead back to it.

Last week we mentioned that 2017 commemorates 100 years since the apparitions of the Blessed Mother to the three children (Lucia, Jacinta, and Francisco) at Fatima. Prior to her meeting with them an angel was sent to teach them how to pray. This angel appeared to them three times. Sometimes referred to as “Angel of Peace” or “Angel of Portugal”, this angel revealed in his third apparition that he is St. Michael.

In this third apparition, he was holding a Host and chalice filled with the precious Blood of Our Lord. He suspended the Host in the air with the chalice underneath. He then prostrated himself before Our Lord in the Eucharist. The children said that there were drops of Blood forming on the Host and dripping into the chalice.

St. Michael, still prostrated, then taught them to pray: *Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, I adore You profoundly. I offer You the most precious Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ, present in all the tabernacles of the world, in reparation for the outrages, sacrileges, and indifference, by which He is offended. By the infinite merits of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I pray for the conversion of poor sinners.*

This was the last time he appeared to them. These meetings with St. Michael were to teach them that (1) Jesus is truly present in the Eucharist; (2) He suffers when we do not remember this, not just when He is abused. Finally, truly recognizing Jesus in the Eucharist and knowing how to pray is how they were prepared to meet Our Lady.

As we receive Our Lord today on the day we celebrate His Birth, ask Him for the gift of Reverence. That is what the Angel taught, and what we will talk about going forward.