

March 26, 2017

Heart of the World XVI

After last week's review, we are ready to rejoin what the Angel taught Lucia, Jacinta, and Francisco at Fatima in order to prepare them to meet Our Lady. We also remember that this whole series is organized around the fact 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 Grace and the Church in the world flow from it and lead back to it.

100 years ago, in his third apparition, this Angel was holding a consecrated Host and Chalice filled with the precious Blood of Our Lord. He taught the children a prayer:

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.

In this next part of the series, we will take this prayer piece by piece.

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...

The Angel bowing profoundly to the ground (kneeling and placing his forehead on the ground) addresses the Trinity with love, respect, and adoration. He offers the Body and Blood of Our Lord in the Eucharist as an act of worship and reparation.

It is profound and interesting that he offers the Eucharist as reparation to God. It seems to put Christ on both sides of the equation. He is the offended party and also the one making the act of reparation!

The Eucharist is the Sacrament of Our Lord's Love. By its means, He fulfills His promise to remain with us until the end of the world. (Mt. 28:20) He is *physically* present in Creation—not just within our souls by Baptism and Confirmation, but actually, tangibly, and humbly present.

In fact, so humbly that He makes Himself present in the Sacred Hosts of bread and wine. By means of these species He makes himself available to commune with us when we receive Him at Mass and to spend time with Him when we are in church.

Tabernacles are to be beautiful and ornate, but no matter how exquisite, on the inside, they are a prison. Cold in the winter. Hot in the summer. Always dark. Always alone—unless we come to relieve Him. His Love drives Him to this voluntary torture. Amazingly, not just to be present to us, but that He may pray for us to the Father as we ought. As a human. As the Son.

Fr. Michael