

April 2, 2017

## Heart of the World XVII

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. This series is organized around that fact.

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

*...in reparation for the outrages ...*

The idea of “Reparation” is a component of Justice. It is a bit vague both in secular and religious contexts. In the most general of terms it means the making of amends for a wrong one has done, by paying money to or otherwise helping those who have been wronged.

The idea is to *heal* or *repair* the injury done. It is related to the idea of Restitution, but is less specific. Restitution is the restoration of something lost or stolen to its proper owner or the payment of it equivocal value. The idea is the restoration of *balance*—not necessarily *healing*.

In religious context, Reparation is even more vague and multifaceted. It refers primarily to the work of redemption which Jesus accomplished on the Cross—the repairing of the damage done by sin from Adam to the present. By His act of Love in which He died, Christ restores us to the relationship with God for which we were created.

In spiritual theology, Reparation refers to the making of amends for insults given to God through sin—one’s own or another’s. This is typically done through acts of adoration, prayer, and sacrifice.

“Outrages”, in the context of the prayer, are serious acts of blasphemy and dishonor toward the Holy Eucharist. I wish I could tell you that this is uncommon.

Did you know that there is a black market for consecrated Hosts? Various occult groups use them in witchcraft rituals. It is easy to pocket a host received in the Communion line. Less malicious, yet none-the-less outrageous is the complete ambivalence toward Our Lord in the Eucharist both in the Tabernacle and in the host. Sporadically, but perhaps once a month someone comes to me with a consecrated Host that they have found on the floor on in a pew.

**Fr. Michael**