

May 7, 2017

## Heart of the World XXI

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.

“...by which He is offended.”

What does it mean to offend the Lord? We talk about sin this way all of the time, but we never *really* talk about what it means. Perhaps in another time and place it was generally understood, but that has not been the case for many a long year.

“Sin is an offense against God: “Against you, you alone, have I sinned, and done that which is evil in your sight.”(Ps 51:4) Sin sets itself against God's love for us and turns our hearts away from it. Like the first sin, it is disobedience, a revolt against God through the will to become “like gods,”(Gn 3:5) knowing and determining good and evil. Sin is thus “love of oneself even to contempt of God.”(St. Augustine) In this proud self-exaltation, sin is diametrically opposed to the obedience of Jesus, which achieves our salvation.”(Cf. Phil 2:6-9)—(Catechism of the Catholic Church—CCC #1850)

Following Scripture, the CCC clearly shows that sin does indeed offend God, yet in the very next paragraph, (#1851) it also explains that sin is precisely the context of His Mercy.

“It is precisely in the Passion, when the mercy of Christ is about to vanquish it, that sin most clearly manifests its violence and its many forms: unbelief, murderous hatred, shunning and mockery by the leaders and the people, Pilate's cowardice and the cruelty of the soldiers, Judas' betrayal - so bitter to Jesus, Peter's denial and the disciples' flight. However, at the very hour of darkness, the hour of the prince of this world”(Jn 14:30) the sacrifice of Christ secretly becomes the source from which the forgiveness of our sins will pour forth inexhaustibly.”

In #'s 1846-1848, the CCC explains from Scripture that it is His greatest desire to set us free from sin and its effects. When He sees us stuck in sin it breaks His Heart. That is the offense. Not angry—devastated.

*Fr. Michael*