

May 14, 2017

Heart of the World XXII

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 the infinite merits...”

Last week we examined the explanation of how sin “offends” God according to the Catechism (CCC). In #'s 1846 – 1851, it lays out the over-all understanding of the effect sin has and God’s attitude toward it. Following from Scripture, it shows 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. He is not angry, but is devastated.

This devastation was in His Heart from the first moment of sin as it is recounted in Genesis ch. 3. His plan of our salvation was born of this devastation and is fulfilled in the Act of Love in which Christ offered Himself for us on the Cross.

This Act of Love was so complete and mature that there was no stain of sin in it at all—no taint of even the disordered self-love which is the effect of Original Sin from which we all suffer.

When you have been injured or violated by someone, no matter how authentically apologetic and contrite they are, they can never take back what happened or fully undo it in any way. In practical terms, the debt is infinite. On the other hand, when someone shows you profound, even if not completely unconditional love, it salves that wound. When someone shows gratitude to you for your magnanimity in being willing to forgive, in our hearts, we experience payment in full—even if the debt was infinite.

Jesus’ Act of Love in His Passion, Death, and Resurrection began at the Last Supper with the institution of the Eucharist, which *means* ‘thanksgiving’ in Greek. His ‘leaving’ Heaven to come to be our Savior and Redeemer and to give Himself for us in this Act of Love is the most profound act of generosity and Love that could ever be. It is *beyond* infinite.

Fr. Michael