

May 21, 2017

Heart of the World XXIII

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...” (Part II)

God gives and always has given Himself to us completely. That gift requires a response, a reciprocation. Even after the Original Sin, He continued to give Himself to us in Love. The problem is that we have never been able to reciprocate in the same manner because of the disordered self-love we inherit from Original Sin.

In light of this, He initiated the Covenant with us and renewed it five times. (Initially with Adam, and then renewed with Noah, Moses, Abraham, and David.) “Time and again you offered them Covenants and through the prophets taught them to look forward to salvation.”(Eucharistic Prayer IV)

The way God established the Covenant itself made accommodation for this problem of our inability to reciprocate appropriately. Instead of offering ourselves in a complete act of Love, we could offer things that were valuable to us instead. This did two things. It showed that we do love, but not completely, and allowed us to still honor His Love as we are able.

For this reason, when he came into the world, he said: “Sacrifice and offering you did not desire, but a body you prepared for me; holocausts and sin offerings you took no delight in. Then I said, ‘As is written of me in the scroll, Behold, I come to do your will, O God.’” First he says, “Sacrifices and offerings, holocausts and sin offerings, you neither desired nor delighted in.” These are offered according to the law. Then he says, “Behold, I come to do your will.” He takes away the first to establish the second. By this “will,” we have been consecrated through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all. (Heb 10:5-10)

The Act of Love in which Christ offered Himself for us on the Cross was so complete and mature that it completely fulfilled the Old Covenant/Testament. It was (and is) an act of infinite merit.

Fr. Michael