

May 28, 2017

Heart of the World XXIV

This week's column marks a transition. Notice the title? Way back in December when we began this series, this is where we were headed. With the help of the Angel of Fatima, and the prayer that he taught Lucia, Francisco, and Jacintha, we have been preparing for this point.

We are now in the 6 months time period of May 13<sup>th</sup> – October 13<sup>th</sup> that is the 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of our Blessed Mother's appearances at Fatima. I feel in my spirit that this is a unique time of Grace for us. It is not a specifically declared time like the Year of Mercy, however, I feel that we (and perhaps the world) will not be in the same place at the end of this time as at the beginning. How are you making yourself open to Heaven's plan for you?

In our review of the Angel's prayer, I am skipping over the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary this week. I want to end with these things as we head into these feasts: Corpus Christi (June 18<sup>th</sup>); the Sacred Heart of Jesus the following Friday (June 23<sup>rd</sup>); and uniquely this year, instead of the Immaculate Heart of Mary being on celebrated the next day, June 24<sup>th</sup> is the Solemnity of the Birth of John the Baptist.

The connections of all these Feasts are beautiful and profound. We know from Scripture that the Baptist is 6 months older than Jesus. John is the Forerunner who points the way and prepares the world for Christ. He (John) was himself introduced to Christ by Mary when she visited his mother Elizabeth. Therefore, there is a deep link to the ministry of St. John and the Blessed Mother.

We celebrate John's birth at the summer solstice—the brightest point of the year. This reminds us that God remembers His promises and that remembrance gives us light and hope.

We celebrate Jesus' birth at the darkest time of the year to remind us that He comes to us in our darkness and at our darkest point. It doesn't matter how we got there—even if it is our own fault. He will not abandon us ever, and we are to look for Him when our strength, ingenuity, and abilities fail and fade into darkness.

He also promised not to leave us orphans (Jn 14:18) and gave us at the Last Supper His abiding Presence—the Eucharist. We celebrate this on Corpus Christi. The Eucharist is truly His pledge of His Heart to us in the act of Love in which He died—His Sacred Heart pieced, crowned with thorns and burning for our love—us poor sinners.

*"...conversion of poor sinners..."*

That would be you and me, but specifically, those who are addicted to sin and sinful attitudes and most specifically, those who don't know any better. Do you despise them or pray for them?

**Fr. Michael**