

June 4, 2017

Heart of the World XXV

Last week, we interrupted our regularly scheduled programming for a review and refocusing. The review was explaining the inner-logic to this series as I was planning it out last Autumn and how it is coming to something of a climax with the upcoming feasts of Corpus Christi (June 18th), the Sacred Heart of Jesus (June 23rd), and the Birth of John the Baptist (June 24th). We also mentioned that this year John's Birth and the usual feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary converge on the same day. (The day after the Sacred Heart is usually the Immaculate Heart.)

Jesus' Sacred Heart as it is manifest in the Eucharist is the Heart of the World. Our Blessed Mother (in her Immaculate Heart) brings Jesus to us and us to Him. She has much to say to us about how we can open ourselves to Him and what effect this has on the whole world. That is why we have been fixing our gaze on her appearances at Fatima.

The Angel of Peace (or Portugal, or Fatima—and as we have deduced, St. Michael) was sent to the three shepherd children Lucia, Francisco, and Jacintha to prepare them to meet Our Lady and to bring her message to the world. We have been considering the various components of the prayer that he taught them.

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.

As I am planning to conclude the study of this prayer with the Two Hearts, last week we briefly considered what the Angel means by "...conversion of poor sinners...".

We are all sinners. Every last one of us. Not the best person you have ever met, or known, or even read of in a book, gets into Heaven because they are a good person who has done good things. No one. Nope. Not one person. We get into Heaven because we have fallen in love with God and ask for His Mercy.

On the other hand, what the Angel was specifically referring to is those people who are addicted to sin and sinful attitudes and most specifically, those who don't know any better.

The world is full of these kind of "poor sinners". Their poverty is in their ignorance or rejection of God's Love and Mercy. Poor sinners are those who live more like animals than human because no one has ever really loved them or because they have chosen the path of power and security over love and vulnerability. If you have never wondered which path you have chosen, you are likely one of them!

Fr. Michael