

June 11, 2017

Heart of the World XXVI

The Angle 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.*

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—hence "*by the infinite merits*".

This more than infinite act of Love flows from none other than the Father's Heart and is manifest in Our Lord's Sacred Heart. Remember what Jesus said to Philip at the Last Supper? "*Have I been with you for so long a time and you still do not know me, Philip? Whoever has seen me has seen the Father. How can you say, 'Show us the Father'?*" (Jn 14:9)

When Jesus lived among us in His earthly existence, He was (and still is) fully human *and* fully divine. That means that **although He has both natures, they are not 'merged' and He is not 'split'** either. *He is fully both*. He did not 'draw' on His divinity to work His miracles. That would undermine the whole point of what it means to be human in the image and likeness of God.

It also would undermine His act of Love. The reason His Act of Love destroyed the hold that sin had on us and the resulting Justice that required our death is precisely because He embraced His Passion from a fully human heart, fully functioning in and with divine Love—which is what each and every human heart is made to do. He went to the Cross without drawing on any divine assistance.

The Love manifest in Our Lord's Sacred Heart is none other than that of the Father. It is communicated to us through the Spirit. It is exercised *by* us in Christ as we are members of His Mystical Body.

Do you remember the image of the Sacred Heart? Next week we will talk about the symbolism.

*Fr. Michael*