

June 25, 2017

Heart of the World XXVIII

Last Sunday we celebrated Corpus Christi and this past Friday was the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. This year, instead of celebrating the Immaculate Heart of Mary the next day, we observed the Feast of the Birth of John the Baptist. That means it is only six months until Christmas—in case you want to finish your shopping.

Omitting the Immaculate Heart, though, this year is interesting to me because it is during the 100th Anniversary of the appearances of the Blessed Mother to Lucia, Francisco, and Jacintha at Fatima. She said that there would be no safe refuge outside of her Immaculate Heart. I think we are in it in a special way right now. The six months of the apparitions of Fatima end on October 13th.

At the Mass of the Sacred Heart this past Friday, we prayed in the Preface (the prayer right before the *Holy, Holy, Holy*): “For raised up high on the Cross, He gave Himself up for us with a wonderful love and poured out blood and water from His pierced side, the wellspring of the Church’s Sacraments, so that, won over to the open Heart of the Savior, all might draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.”

Jesus’ Hour of triumph was His Passion. The fruits of it are what are described in the Preface prayer.

His being raised up on the Cross was His enthronement.

His Love was manifest in His sacrifice was Himself and it was His ordination to the Eternal Priesthood as both priest and victim. (cf Heb 3:1 – 5:10)

Out from His lanced open side came the earned right to give us His life in the blood of the Eucharist and the water of Baptism. (CCC #1225)

Into His lanced open side we are invited to find refreshment (Mt. 11:28-30), nourishment (cf CCC #1406 – 1419), shelter (cf the Anima Christi prayer), healing and life (Is 12:3; Jn 3:5 and 4:13)

By means of Jesus’ Sacred Heart, He reveals to us the very depths of the inner reality of God. (Jn 14:9) The Father is not some distant, cold, and angry deity looking to extract His pound of flesh from us in vengeful Justice. He gave us His Son in an act of love that refashioned all of Creation and our eternal destinies. (Cf. Gen 22; Lk 22:42; Gal 3:16, 28-29; Heb 1:1-4; 10:5-10; etc)

The sacred heart is a symbol of the great self sacrifice and unconditional love of God for us. It is an invitation to find the supply of everything we could ever need and to become life giving lovers like unto Him. “This is my commandment: love one another as I love you.” (Jn 15:12)

Fr. Michael