

August 6, 2017

### Heart of the World XXXIV

We started this series as last year's Extraordinary Jubilee of Mercy was concluding. The idea was twofold: to initiate a plan to carry forward the Grace of that time into the rest of our lives, and to look at how we can better cooperate with this Grace in our day-to-day lives. We began with the Eucharist.

In #1324, the Catechism of the Catholic Church quotes from a document of Vatican II where it explains that like the heart in the body, the very center and life-moving force of the Church is the Eucharist—the Heart of the World.

This year (2017) also marks the 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the appearance of Our Lady to the three children (Lucia, Jacinta, and Francisco) at Fatima. We have discussed the prayer that the Angel taught them and have looked at Our Lady's requests and pleas for us to love Our Lord in the Eucharist (as well as prayers and sacrifices for sinners, etc.)

One of the things the Angel taught the children was how important Reverence (or Piety) is. We discussed that in this column over the winter (end of December into January), but I would like to revisit that now from a different angle.

St. Cyril of Jerusalem lived in the 4<sup>th</sup> Century (c313 – 386). Both because of his teachings and how many of them we have in written form, he is a giant among the Early Church Fathers regarding the formation of the Faith. He gave a series of lectures (23 of them) on the sacraments of initiation (Baptism, Confirmation, and Eucharist) that are profound and extensive.

These lectures are teachings for those preparing to receive these sacraments. Most of them are preparatory, but the last 5 are explanatory—they were given to those who have just received the sacraments. The first 18 are called Catecheses (teaching/forming). The last 5 are called Mystagogies (further explaining the mysteries they have just experienced).

There was a theological movement in the Church that took strong shape in the roughly 150 years leading up to Vatican II. It was called the Liturgical Movement. Saints and scholars together praying and thinking about how we pray—particularly at Mass. One of the main principles of this movement was a concept called *ressourcement*. It means a revisiting of where our practices and traditions came from and how they developed in order to carry that same movement into our time.

Following Vatican II our practice of receiving Holy Communion went through a change. In the explanation of this, St. Cyril's is cited. Next week we will look at what he said and how it has been applied in our own day.

*Fr. Michael*