

October 29, 2017

Heart of the World XLVI

“Like the heart in the body, the very center and life-moving force of the Church is the Eucharist. All of the other Sacraments and the whole life of Grace and the Church in the world flow from it and lead back to it.” Do you remember this? As we began this series last Advent, it was to be a reflection of our understanding and practice of the Eucharist.

In the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC), the Eucharist is described as “...the source and summit of the Christian life.” “The other sacraments, and indeed all ecclesiastical ministries and works of the apostolate, are bound up with the Eucharist and are oriented toward it. For in the blessed Eucharist is contained the whole spiritual good of the Church, namely Christ himself, our Pasch.” (CCC #1324)

This series was also to look at the message and importance of the apparitions at Fatima of which 2017 was the celebration of the centenary. Do you remember the prayer taught to the children by the Angel? Have you resolved to pray a daily rosary? Wear the Brown Scapular? Make use of frequent Confession? Observing of the Five First Saturdays in honor of Our Lady’s Immaculate Heart? Make prayers and acts of penance in reparation for the “outrages, sacrileges, and indifferences” by which the Lord is grieved and “poor sinners” are lost because they have no one to pray for them?

If you have a really good memory, you will recall that the initial idea of this series was to transition from the Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy (and all the Graces we had received and resolutions that we made) onwards into the rest of our lives. If you will, to solidify and habitualize the spiritual practices we had adopted and to craft a plan to continue the development of our deepened relationship with the Lord and His Mercy. Have you kept that up?

It is not too late to turn things around, but the longer that we delay, the more difficult it becomes. As we gaze across the pot at that proverbial frog, we think “Well, its maybe a little warmer than I prefer, but it isn’t so bad, really...”. Until it is. What resolutions have you put into action? If you do nothing, then not even God can help you. He *can’t* if you *won’t*.

Last week I mentioned that I would love it if here at St. Francis Xavier Parish, everyone would spend at least a moment in prayer of gratitude after Mass before rushing out into the parking lot and the rest of life. Sometimes we are squeezed for time and that is practically out of our control. However, if you find that you are habitually running off immediately, then go to another Mass. There are many from which to choose. You will find some very beautiful prayers inside and on the back cover of our missalette. Look up Lk 17:11 – 19.

Fr. Michael