

April 9, 2017

HEART OF THE WORLD XVIII

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. This series is organized around that fact.

100 years ago, in his third apparition, this Angel was holding a consecrated Host and Chalice filled with the precious Blood of Our Lord. He taught the children a prayer:

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.

In this part of the series, we will take this prayer piece by piece. Last week we looked at the notion of Reparation. It is a component of Justice similar to Restitution. The difference is that Restitution seeks to restore balance or fairness, while Reparation seeks to heal the damage caused. We then considered what “outrages” are. Outrages are serious acts of blasphemy and dishonor toward the Holy Eucharist. I wish I could tell you that this is uncommon. Whether malicious stealing of consecrated Hosts for ritual desecration or simply ignoring the Presence of the Lord in the Tabernacle by acting as though He were not there, outrages are fairly common. For example, sporadically, but perhaps once a month someone comes to me with a consecrated Host that they have found on the floor or in a pew or outside.
...sacrileges...

Sacrilege, in general, is the deliberate violation of sacred things. The Angel, here though, is speaking specifically of the Eucharist. There are a number of ways that this can happen, but St. Paul was very conscious of one way in particular:

“For as often as you eat this bread and drink the cup, you proclaim the death of the Lord until he comes. Therefore, whoever eats the bread or drinks the cup of the Lord unworthily will have to answer for the body and blood of the Lord. A person should examine himself, and so eat the bread and drink the cup. For anyone who eats and drinks without discerning the body, eats and drinks judgment on himself. That is why many among you are ill and infirm, and a considerable number are dying.” (1Cor 11:26-30)

The Church has always said that it is necessary to be in the state of Grace to receive the Body and Blood of the Lord in a worthy manner. Specifically, sacrilege happens when conscious of an unconfessed mortal sin, but we will pick this up next week.

Fr. Michael