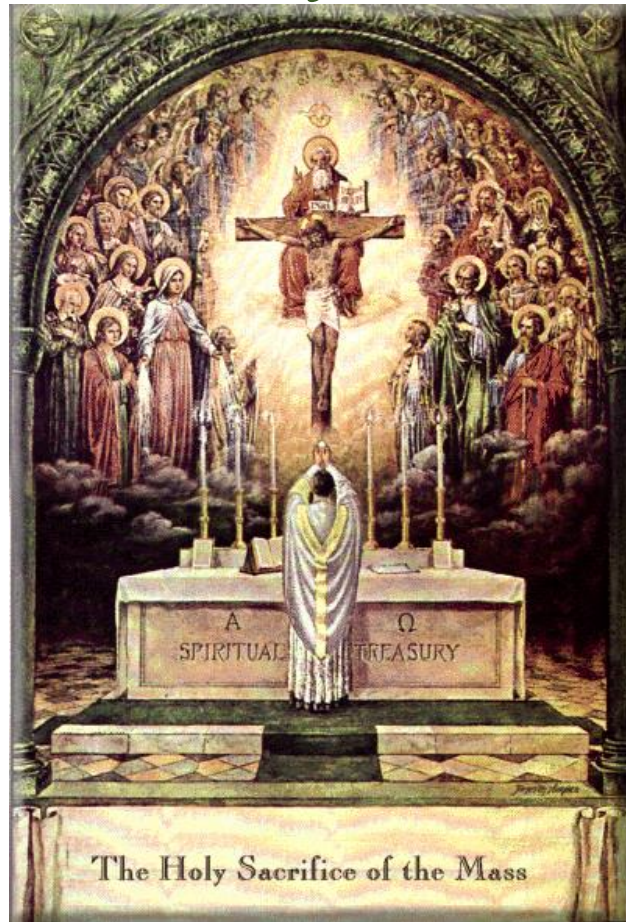


Sacrificial Love

July 11



III. The Mysteries of Jesus' Public Life (CCC)

The proclamation of the Kingdom of God

545 ...The supreme proof of His Love will be the sacrifice of His own life "for the forgiveness of sins."260

Epehsians 5:2

And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath delivered himself for us, an oblation and a sacrifice to God for an odour of sweetness.

From the Book of Heaven

V1 - *(Although I remember that in all these things that He told me, He always added that everything should be done for love of Him, and that the most beautiful*

virtues, the greatest sacrifices, would become insipid if they did not take origin from love.

V8 – Oct. 29, 1908 – “...But it is in sacrifice that this love is more ennobled, more strengthened, more confirmed and expanded. So, love is the flame, sacrifice is the wood. Where there is more wood, the flames are higher, and the fire is always greater.

What is sacrifice? It is to empty oneself out in the love and in the being of the beloved; and the more one sacrifices himself, the more he is consumed in the being of the beloved, losing his own, and acquiring all the features and the nobility of the Divine Being. See, it is so also in the natural world, though very imperfect: who acquires a name, nobility, heroism? – a soldier who sacrifices himself, who exposes himself in battle, who lays down his life for love of the king, or another who stands arms akimbo? Certainly the first one. The same for a servant: who can hope to sit at the table of his master? – the faithful servant who sacrifices himself, who lays down his life, who has greater care for the interests of his master than for his own, out of love for his master; or the servant who, though he fulfills his duty, when he can shun the sacrifice, shuns it? Certainly the first one. The same for a son with his father, for a friend with his friend, and so with all the rest. Therefore, love ennobles and unites, and forms one single thing; sacrifice is the wood to make the fire of love grow; obedience, then, orders everything.”

V8 – Dec. 25, 1908 - "My daughter, the best way to make Me be born in one's own heart, is to empty oneself of everything, because in finding empty space, I can place all my goods in it. And only then can I remain in it forever, if there is room to be able to carry all that belongs to Me, all that is my own. A person who went to live in the house of someone else, could be called happy only if he found empty space in which to be able to put all of his belongings; otherwise, he would be unhappy. So I am.

The second thing in order to make Me be born and to increase my happiness, is that everything the soul contains, both internal and external - everything, must be done for Me; everything must serve to honor Me, to execute my orders. If only one thing, one thought, one word, is not for Me, I feel unhappy, and while I should be the master, they make Me a slave. Can I tolerate all this?

The third one is heroic love, magnified love, love of sacrifice. These three loves make my happiness grow in a marvelous way, because they render the soul capable

of works which are superior to her strengths, as she does them with my strength alone. They will expand her, by making not only her, but also others love Me. And she will reach the point of enduring anything, even death, in order to triumph in everything, and be able to say to Me: 'I have nothing else; everything is only love for You.' In this way, she will not only make Me be born, but will make Me grow, and will form a beautiful paradise in her heart."

V12 - Feb. 4, 1919 - *I felt I was dying in seeing my sweet Jesus being killed. Many times I would have wanted to spare just one death for the One who loves me so much. Oh, how well I understood that only the Divinity could make my sweet Jesus suffer so much, and could claim the merit of having loved men to folly and excess, with unheard-of pains and with infinite love. Neither Angel nor man had this power in hand: being able to love us with such heroism of sacrifice - like a God...*

FIAT!