

How A Devout Layman Heard Holy Mass

In the life of M. Bernieres, who at one time occupied a prominent position in the French Court, we read the following words, which were a testimony to the faith and piety which reigned in his heart:

"I would willingly prefer to lose the entire world, if it belong to me, rather than neglect to assist at one Mass at which it was in my power to assist; for I know that in hearing Mass I am present at the greatest action that can be performed on this earth, and that I can thereby offer infinite honor to God, because Jesus Christ Himself, Who is equal in all things to His Eternal Father, annihilates Himself and renews the sacrifice He once offered upon the Cross.

"It is true that it is the priest at the altar that offers up this great Sacrifice, but he offers it in the name of the whole Church, and in particular of those who are present, and who have the happiness of offering it up along with him.

"Oh, what consolation fills my soul when I have had the privilege of assisting at Holy Mass! I have offered up to God a sacrifice of infinite value, and although I have not the honor of being a priest I have given Him infinite glory; I have worthily thanked Him; I have paid him a price sufficient to cancel the debts I have contracted by my sins; in a word, by that one action, I have performed a work greater than all the other works of my life.

"O my Jesus, what an inestimable treasure we possess in Thee if we only knew its greatness as we ought!"

The Catechism in Example by Rev. D. Chisholm

My Dear Friend in Christ, Could you please help with the printing and mailing of these letters with a donation? Thank you. God bless you and Mary keep you.

Paul H. Monette

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Please Pray for Our Deceased Members

Irene Arnold
St. Joseph -- Waite Park, MN

Judy Blommer
St. Joseph -- Waite Park, MN

Harvey Kalla
St. Joseph -- Waite Park, MN

Mary Kelly
St. Luke's -- Schenectady, NY

Margaret Ward
St. Margaret -- Pearl River, NY

Dennis Valdez
Cathedral Basilica of St. Francis -- Santa Fe, NM

Josie Hance
Sacred Heart Cathedral -- Pueblo, CO

John Passarelli
Holy Family Church -- Pueblo, CO

Mr. Vito Larocca
St. Mel -- Flushing, NY

Rev. Andrew Johnson
St. Matthew -- San Mateo, CA

Patricia Marie Firenze
St. Matthew -- San Mateo, CA

John Bush (Chapter President)
Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary -- Brockport NY

Each month, a Mass is offered for deceased members listed in the monthly letter as above; and another Mass is offered for all past deceased members.

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Communion Thanksgiving: Jesus sits in our soul as on a throne of grace. St. Alphonsus di Liguori

NAS Letter
April
2022

... in His Presence

The Love of The Eternal Father In Having Given Us his son

God so loved the world that He gave His only-begotten Son. (John, iii. 16) God, says Jesus Christ, has loved the world to that degree that He has given it His own and only Son.

The love of this God did not content itself with having given us so many good things on this earth, until it had reached the point of giving us its whole self in the person of the Incarnate Word: "He gave us not a servant, not an Angel, but His own Son.

Too Great Love: Who but a God of infinite love could ever have loved us to such a degree? **St. Paul** writes: But God, who is rich in mercy, on account of the too great love where-with He loved us when we were dead in sins, quickened us together in Christ. (Ephes. ii. 4) The Apostle calls "too great" this love which God showed us in giving to men, by means of the death of His Son, the life of grace which they had lost by their sins.

Forgiveness & Eternal Life: But to God, who is love Itself, this love was not too great: *God is love.* (1 John. iv. 16) **St. John** says that herein He wished to make us see the

Please take and keep this letter and reflect on its contents during the month in your visits to the Blessed Sacrament and see that your heart and mind will open to His grace into knowledge and love of God, Our Lord, Jesus Christ.

extent to which the greatness of the love of a God towards us reached, in sending His own Son into the world to obtain for us, by His death, forgiveness and life eternal: *By this hath appeared the charity of God in us, because God hath sent His own only-begotten Son into the world, that we might have life through Him.* (1 John, iv. 9)

Deformed to Precious In The Sight Of God:

By sin, we were dead to the life of grace: and Jesus, by His death, has brought us back to life. We were miserable, deformed objects of abomination; but God, **by means of Jesus Christ**, has rendered us pleasing and precious in His divine sight. *He hath made us*, wrote the apostle, *acceptable through His beloved Son.* (Ephes. 1. 6) He hath made us acceptable (or pleasing). And therefore **St. John Chrysostom** adds that were there a poor leper all covered with wounds and disfigurements, and any one were to heal his body of the leprosy, and make him beautiful and rich besides, how great would be the sense of obligation that he would retain towards this his benefactor!

What Return of Gratitude are We Obligated, O Lord? How much more, then, are we now beholden to God, since when our souls were disfigured and hateful on account of our sins, He hath, by means of Jesus Christ, not only delivered us from our sins, but has made our souls beautiful and lovely besides; *He hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ.* (Ephes. i. 3)

Gifts of great Value: The Eternal Father, then, in giving us Jesus Christ, hath loaded us with all gifts, not indeed earthly ones in the body, but spiritual ones in the soul: *In heavenly places*; giving us, together with His Son, a heavenly life in this world, and a heavenly glory in the other.

Affections:

Holy Desires

Give me, then, Thy blessings and Thy benefactions, O my most loving God, and may the benediction draw me wholly to Thy love: "Draw me by the chains of Thy love." Let the love which Thou hast borne me make me enamored of Thy goodness. Thou dost deserve an infinite love;

Aspirations

I love Thee with all the love I can command; I love Thee above everything; I love Thee more than myself. I give Thee my whole will; and,

Supplication

this is the grace that I ask of Thee: make me from this day forth to live and do everything according to Thy divine will, wherewith Thou desirest nothing but my good, and my eternal salvation.

Passion of Jesus Christ

Reflection on the Passion:

St. Augustine says that there is nothing more conducive to the attainment of eternal salvation than to think every day on the pains which Jesus Christ has suffered for the love of us. "Nothing is more salutary than to think daily on what the Man-God has endured for us."

Our Lord revealed to a holy solitary that there is no exercise better calculated to kindle in the heart the fire of divine love than the meditation on his Passion. Hence, Father Balthazar Alvarez used to say that ignorance of the treasures that we have in the Passion of Jesus Christ is the ruin of Christians. Hence, he would tell his penitents that they should not consider themselves to have done anything until they had succeeded in always keeping in the heart Jesus crucified.

According to **St. Bonaventure**, the wounds of Jesus are wounds which soften the hardest hearts, and inflame the most frozen souls.

Reflections and Affections by St. Alphonsus de Liguori

From the Cross to the Altar

Jesus' Sacrifice On Our Altars: The heart of liturgical worship is the Mass. Just as the redemptive work of Jesus reached its culminating point on Calvary in His death on the Cross, so too, the liturgical action, which continues His work in the world, has its climax in the Mass, which renews and perpetuates on our altars the Sacrifice of the Cross.

Our Share In The Fruits Of Redemption: Jesus has willed that the precious fruits of redemption, which He merited on Calvary for the whole human race, be applied and transmitted to each of the faithful in a particular way by their participation in the Eucharistic Sacrifice.

Fountain of Grace: This fountain of grace which Jesus opened on Calvary continues to pour over our altars: all the faithful are obliged to approach it at least once a week by attending Sunday Mass, but we may approach it even daily, each time we are present at the Holy Sacrifice.

Fountain Of Life: Holy Mass is truly the "fountain of life." By offering and immolating Himself continually, on our altars, Jesus repeats to us, "If any man thirst, let him come to Me and drink". (John 7,37)

Divine Intimacy by Father Gabriel of St. Mary Magdalen, O.C.D.

The Ends For Which Holy Mass Is Offered

There are four ends, my dear friend in Christ, for which the Holy Mass is offered, and every time you assist at Mass you should try to recall these four ends to your mind.

The first is to give supreme honor and glory to God; the second is to thank Him for all His benefits; the third, to obtain pardon for our sins; and the fourth to obtain all other graces and blessings through Jesus Christ.