

1st Nail of our Interior Crucifixion
Purification of our Desires
LC Encounter 2020
5th Reflection part I

Desire Solely the Cross

❖ On The Dignity And Vocation Of Women

Apostolic Letter, Mulieris Dignitatem, John Paul II

Christ has entered history and remains in it as the Bridegroom who "has given himself". **"To give" means "to become a sincere gift" in the most complete and radical way: "Greater love has no man than this" (Jn 15:13).** According to this conception, all human beings - both women and men - are called through the Church, to be the "Bride" of Christ, the Redeemer of the world. In this way "being the bride", and thus the "feminine" element, becomes a symbol of all that is "human", according to the words of Paul: "There is neither male nor female; for you are all one in Christ Jesus" (Gal 3:28). #25

In the Church every human being - male and female - is the "Bride", in that he or she accepts the gift of the love of Christ the Redeemer, and seeks to respond to it with the gift of his or her own person. #25

- *Simple Path*, 4-H: Spousal Union with Jesus, pp.255-272
- **96. As a Spouse, Your Life Must Be Lived to Console Him —Diary of a MOC.p.269**

During the Consecration of the Mass, I felt God the Father speak in my soul. He said, *"Are you now ready to become My Son's sacrifice of love? ...You can no longer be concerned about what others think of you nor your reputation, you can be concerned only with pleasing My Son. You are no longer His handmaid but His spouse. As His spouse, your life must be lived to console Him and to be faithful out of love to His desires."* (2/19/11)

❖ "be concerned only with pleasing My Son" & "be faithful out of love to His desires"

- **Galatians 5:22-25** The Fruit of the Spirit
"By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things. And those who belong to Christ Jesus have crucified the flesh with its passions and desires."
- What desires in me need to be crucified?
 - Desire to separate
 - Desire to act in resentment

- Desire to “bite” Gal.5:15 “If, however, you bite and devour one another, take care that you are not consumed by one another.”
- Desire for comfort
- Desire to insist on my own way – “Love does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful” 1 Cor 13:5
- Desire to control
- Desire to be recognized, seen, wanted, affirmed, desired, understood, applauded, successful, admired, liked
- Desire to be provided for, protected, defended
- Desire for worldliness: material things... to be pretty, look young, fashion, lust
- Desire for distractions: TV, alcohol, porn, masturbation, shopping, computer, social media...

- Questions for personal introspection:
 - How do I live to please myself – my good name, reputation...?
 - What I am doing, is it pleasing Christ?
 - Do I desire to live my life “hidden”, in secret- prayer, fast, alms giving, sacrifices...?
 - Am I doing this “good” work because it’s God’s Will or to make myself important, look good, feel good, loved, wanted, affirmed...?

- Desire to be great
 - Mark 9:30-35 Jesus Again Foretells His Death and Resurrection

“They went on from there and passed through Galilee. And he would not have any one know it; 31 for he was teaching his disciples, saying to them, “The Son of man will be delivered into the hands of men, and they will kill him; and when he is killed, after three days he will rise.” 32 But they did not understand the saying, and they were afraid to ask him. And they came to Capernaum; and when he was in the house he asked them, “What were you discussing on the way?” 34 But they were silent; for on the way they had discussed with one another who was the greatest. 35 And he sat down and called the twelve; and he said to them, “If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all.”
 - We all have a deep desire to be great, to be important... Do I recognize this desire in me? This desire is based on a lie—It’s all about me. I’m going to make a difference....
 How many times does God do something good and important through me and I desire to take a drop of His glory? This deep and hidden desire to be glorified goes all the way back to Adam and Eve. That was the temptation—to not live in the image and likeness of God, consumed in His Fatherly embrace, obedient to such a good God, knowing themselves to be utterly NOTHING and God EVERYTHING. This DISORDERED DESIRE is a consequence of original sin and exists in all of us. It is not until we recognize it that it can be put to death through the power of God.

- "If anyone would be first, he must be last of all and servant of all."

▪ **Pope Francis Homily Palm Sunday 2020:**

"But how did the Lord serve us? By giving his life for us. God saved us by taking upon himself all the punishment of our sins. Without complaining, but with the humility, patience and obedience of a servant, and purely out of love. And the Father upheld Jesus in his service. He did not take away the evil that crushed him, but rather strengthened him in his suffering so that our evil could be overcome by good, by a love that loves to the very end. The Lord served us to the point of experiencing the most painful situations of those who love: betrayal and abandonment.

❖ **DESIRES OF THE SPIRIT – HUMILITY**

➤ **Desire to "take the lowest place"**

"When you are invited, go and take the lowest place... for everyone who exults himself will be humbled, but the one who humbles himself will be exulted." (Luke 14:10-11)

➤ **Desire to suffer with Christ – "I rejoice in my sufferings for your sake" (Col.1:24)**

"I am now rejoicing in my sufferings for your sake, and in my flesh I am completing what is lacking in Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the church." (Colossians 1:24)

Jesus knew who He was and why the Father sent Him into the world. He rejoices in His Cross because He knew that we would be saved and reconciled back into Abba's embrace. Jesus knew that His death and resurrection was our means of salvation. He knew its power and glorified Abba through His obedience. He rejoices in His sufferings for our sake.

St. Paul receives this knowledge of Divine Love and Mercy. This knowledge is the fire of the Holy Spirit in his heart that moves him to respond to participate through Christ, with Christ and in Christ in Divine Love. Therefore, **he desires to participate through his own "body of flesh" in Christ's sufferings.**

He rejoices in his sufferings because in the midst of great pain, trials, persecution and darkness he believes that he may "present every man mature in Christ" (Col.1:28). We too are called to this, "provided we suffer with Him" (Rom 8:17).

It's so SIMPLE; God is SIMPLE. We complicate everything as we make everything about ourselves. We can spend all our lives focused on our own wounds or we can unite our wounds in Jesus' wounds and look at Him to live in His pain and love. **The SHIFT OF OUR GAZE from self to God is so difficult for us.**

➤ **Why do I lack rejoicing in my sufferings?**

Our self-willfulness comes from our desires that are still attached to our "I". It is still all about me. This self-love expresses itself in our disorder to insist, push, control, force, try to make happen...

In every broken human person, we must see our Love Crucified, broken and disfigured for us. Yet, this is so difficult for us because we are seeing the most difficult persons to love in our lives through our own hearts with all our desires/expectations and not through the Heart of God.

We must continue to love and suffer all the piercings that come from the disorders and brokenness of the souls we love as one with Love Crucified, believing with all our heart that Christ's death and resurrection is powerful and at work in souls bringing forth redemption and salvation. **Our role, mission, is to live this grief with Christ, in Abba, desiring God's desires and hoping in the Mystery of the Power of the Cross, which is the Power of Love**, and then WAIT upon God to act. In this way, we become the GAZE OF MERCY.

➤ **What is a Victim Soul?**

I, Jesus Christ, am a Victim of Pure Love. I am your Victim in order to receive your brokenness, sinfulness and all your misery. If I had not received all your misery, you would be in a state of total darkness and with no hope of heaven, of the bliss of living in God.

For you to be a victim means you have chosen to follow Me in My footsteps. You, as victim, have chosen the greater path because only as My victim can you become ONE with Me – "No longer two but one." This is My Kingdom on Earth because it is the purest essence of love that can be lived on earth. 9/11/19