

1st Nail of our Interior Crucifixion:
LC Encounter 2020 – Second reflection

Second Level of Humility

The first nail of interior crucifixion takes us to the purification of our desires and the second level of humility. This is the beginning of chapter four of *The Simple Path* and the entrance into the furnace of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

The Bible has many references to God's desire to refine us in His fire to make us blameless and holy onto Him:

The souls of the righteous are in the hand of God, and no torment will ever touch them... Having been disciplined a little, they will receive great good because God tested them and found them worthy of himself; like gold in the furnace, he tried them, and like a sacrificial burnt offering, he accepted them. In the time of their visitation, they will shine forth. (Wisdom 3:1, 5-7)

For he is like a refiner's fire and like fullers' soap; 3 he will sit as a refiner and purifier of silver, and he will purify the sons of Levi and refine them like gold and silver, till they present right offerings to the Lord. (Malachi 3:2-4)

—Disordered tendencies > Dying to self > God's Will—

We are so accustomed to living in our disordered tendencies that they come easiest, and we view them as normal. But as long as we act in those tendencies, we are not living in the Will of God. Dying to self is difficult because it requires allowing the Spirit to purify us through a long and painful process that brings us to see ourselves naked before God.

63. The Purification of your desires —Diary of a MOC, p.187

*The purification of your desires is the first stage of purification in My Sacred Heart. **You begin to move only according to My desires and not yours.** You no longer do what you want to do, nor go where you want to go; but now, you go only where I take you. You choose to live each day according to what is most difficult, not what is easiest. This will require a greater discipline of your will, greater silence, and stillness of soul in Me.*

This raises important questions:

- 1) What keeps us stuck in our own will and desires?
- 2) How do we discern the difference between our desires and those of Jesus?

As we begin humbly to live this purification, we discover the answers (*Simple Path* p.188)

Purity = Union of our will with God's Will

Most of our desires are tainted with impurity by our ego. But desires in themselves may be good. God has desires—His Holy Will. The work of the Holy Spirit is to purify our desires so that they are one with God's desires. Then we long and pray for God's desire, and our hearts expand.

Can a desire be good but still impure? Yes. If an insect falls in a glass of milk, the milk is good but has become impure. The same is true with our desires. I may want good things, but if I have not entirely surrendered them to God, they are still tainted by my ego. We may justify what we desire to do by thinking there is nothing wrong with it but is it what would please the Lord the most? Is it what He desires and how He desires it? We should not be afraid to ask Him if we trust He loves us and wants our happiness. The more we are conscious that we are loved, the more we love in return, and the greater is going to be our desire to surrender.

Saint Augustin teaches about desires: 'Our heart longs for God'¹

'We have been promised that we shall be like him, for we shall see him as He is.'... Let us turn to this source of knowledge, and because you cannot see, make it your business to desire the divine vision.

The entire life of a good Christian is, in fact, an exercise of holy desire. You do not yet see what you long for, but the very act of desiring prepares you so that when He comes, you may see and be utterly satisfied.

As victim souls, we desire to see God and desire heaven, but there are other desires in our hearts that are also the work of God:

1. To be one with the sacrifice of love, Jesus crucified.
2. To be His light as one with the Light, Jesus Christ.
3. To be His victim souls.
4. To love and serve our brothers and sisters.

¹ [Augustine on the First letter of John, tra. 4](#)

To be one with God is only possible by being one with Christ, which means that we desire to walk with Him to Calvary and suffer with Him.

Saint Augustine continues:

Suppose you are going to fill a sack and know that you will be given a large amount; you try to stretch it. Why? Because knowing the quantity you want to put in it, your eyes tell you there is not enough room. By stretching it, you increase the capacity of the sack. This is what God does with us. **By making us wait, He increases our desire, which in turn enlarges the capacity of our soul, making us able to receive what He wants to give us.** — St. Augustine, Ibid.

—Immediate obedience and the obedience of waiting upon the Lord—

While some situations require immediate obedience, in others, we must wait upon the Lord. The second part of message 63 (above) teaches the importance of waiting:

You have come to recognize My voice and the promptings of My Divine Spirit. At times God requires immediate obedience; at others, your obedience is lived as you wait upon the Lord. The latter obedience requires greater abandonment and trust and, therefore, is more pleasing to Abba, Our Father. This is a complete dying to moving in your will. (1/16/14)

Saint Augustine continues:

So, my brethren, **let us continue to desire, for we shall be filled.** Take note of Saint Paul stretching, as it were, his ability to receive what is to come: ‘Brethren, I do not consider that I have already obtained it.’ We might ask him, ‘If you have not yet obtained it, what are you doing in this life?’ ‘This one thing I do,’ answers Paul, ‘forgetting what lies behind and stretching forward to what lies ahead, I press on toward the prize to which I am called in the life above.’ Not only did Paul say he stretched forward, but he also declared that he pressed on toward the chosen goal. He realized, in fact, that he was still short of receiving what no eye has seen, nor ear heard, nor the heart of man conceived. —St. Augustine, *ibid.*

In *The Simple Path*,² the Lord speaks about the expansion of our hearts:

The love of God will stretch your love beyond your physical capacities. The expansion of the tent of your hearts is a most painful process.

The Lord desires this painful process only for the good of filling our hearts with His fullness.

—We need to empty ourselves to be filled—

Saint Augustine:

By desiring heaven, we exercise the powers of our soul. This exercise will be effective only to the extent that we free ourselves from desires leading to infatuation with this world. Let me return to the example I have already used, of filling an empty container. God means to fill each of you with what is good, so cast out what is bad! If He wishes to fill you with honey and you are full of sour wine, where is the honey to go? The vessel must be emptied of its contents and then be cleansed. Yes, it must be cleansed even if you have to work hard and scour it. It must be made fit for the new thing, whatever it may be.

...We must extend ourselves toward the measure of Christ so that when he comes, he may fill us with His presence. Then we shall be like Him, for we shall see Him as He is. —St. Augustine, *ibid*.

—We need to be transparent—

Be My Clear, Pure Chalice —Diary of a MOC. *Simple Path* p. 235

Just as you can see the liquid through a clear glass, you are called to be My clear, pure chalices. You are chosen to hold My Precious Blood.

My Blood is My life. My Blood is healing fire. Therefore, first, My chalice must be emptied and purified. This is what I have been accomplishing in you at My feet and in My pierced side. It is now, in My

² Page 294, #106

Sacred Heart, in the furnace, which is the fire of the Holy Spirit, that you are formed as My living chalices.

My fire purifies all blemishes and tarnishes. You are of pure glass, but when filled with My Precious Blood, you radiate to the world the golden light of the Holy Spirit. My Blood always heals, restores, refreshes, and brings new life. Therefore, the gaze of your eyes will radiate pure love, the touch of your hands will heal, and your words will pour forth the wisdom, knowledge, and understanding of God. This is how you put on your Lord, Jesus Christ, so that you are the light of the world.

My little ones, help Me and My mother form many victims of love by radiating the pure love of the Trinity. (10/7/11)

—Only when we surrender our ways can the Spirit draw us to faith—

The few that allow the Holy Spirit to purify and crucify their desires, plans, expectations, and perceptions enter the Mystery of Divine Love.

Message from the Lord to Love Crucified:

*The Mystery of the Cross is unveiled to the pure and innocent of heart. Its meaning with its power and glory is known and understood by My little ones that approach Me with sincerity and simplicity of heart. **Those that allow the Holy Spirit to destroy their plans, expectations, perceptions, and desires enter into the Mystery of Divine Love.***

My apostles at first could not receive the mystery of God's plan of salvation, which opens the passage to enter into God through His Son, because their desires and expectations kept their minds and hearts concealed to the knowledge of God's love, but when their expectations and desires were shattered, and their hearts were humbled in grief, the Holy Spirit could begin to reveal to them the Mystery of Divine Love found and encountered in the Cross and through the Cross.

Till this day, the Mystery of the Cross continues to be veiled to the majority of people because they are not willing to allow the Spirit to pierce through their pride, control, stubbornness, plans, and self. Continue to enter through the passage I have created for you with the innocence of My little ones, and receive the graces of Abba's love,

protection in maintaining perfect peace, and the joy of the saints who live with perfect faith and hope in the knowledge of Divine Love.

*Once My apostles received the knowledge of My death and resurrection, they lived in the power of the Holy Spirit amidst great tribulations and darkness. **Fear no longer had a hold on them.** It is the same for you during these times of tribulations and great darkness—My hidden martyrs of love living in the knowledge of Divine Love through the Mystery of the Cross will shine like bright stars during the darkness of the great persecution. Persevere living as My hidden martyrs of the end times. 9/30/19*

The apostles loved Jesus; they left everything for Him, but they did not realize who He was or where He was leading them because they were still viewing things according to their culture and expectations. Through the crisis of the Cross, the rug was pulled from beneath their feet; their worldview crashed. But then they were able to open their hearts to faith. The same happens to us. The crisis of our lives are opportunities to grow in faith.

The revelation of the Heart of Jesus is what eyes have not seen, what ears have not heard, and what the heart cannot understand. But God gives it to the saints to have the courage and zeal to die with Christ, either in a white or red martyrdom. With the power of God, they pierced the darkness and changed the world.

In 2020 we experienced the crisis over COVID, and the darkness keeps growing, yet the Lord tells us that fear will not have a hold on us if we are formed and refined by Him to be His light, His saints, in these times! Therefore, temptations, attacks, and pandemics are all opportunities to exercise abandonment and total trust in God to grow in humility in living the life of Christ. Let us respond!

Throughout the Scriptures, we see people stuck in their way of perceiving life. They were controlled by their plans, desires, attachments, and expectations of how God, others, and themselves should act.

In the Book of 2 Kings 5, Naaman comes to Elisha for healing. Elisha tells him,

“Go and wash in the Jordan seven times, and your flesh shall be restored, and you shall be clean.” But Naaman was angry and went away, saying, “Behold, I thought that he would surely come out to me, and stand, and call on the name of the Lord his God, and wave his hand over the place, and cure the leper. Are not Abana and Pharpar, the rivers of Damascus, better than all the waters of Israel? Could I not wash in them, and be clean?” So, he turned and went away in a rage. (2 Kings 5:10-12)

Naaman had a good desire: recovery of his health, but he was attached to his expectations of how that could happen. So, when Elisha tells him to bathe seven times in the Jordan River, he gets angry and refuses to do so.

–Overwhelming Grief and the Circumcision of our Hearts–

Our hearts are so attached to desires that only purification by fire can free us so that we can be attached to God’s Will. Think of circumcision as an analogy:

Deuteronomy 10:16

Circumcise, then, the foreskin of your heart, and do not be stubborn any longer. –

The apostles experienced the circumcision of their hearts

The apostles at first held on to their expectations of what a life ministering with Jesus should be:

- To be freed from Roman oppression
- To see Jesus established as the King Messiah on earth with them at His side ruling the people.

These are good human desires, plans, and expectations, but they were manipulated by Satan. The Lord tells Peter, “Get behind me, Satan... for you are setting your mind not on divine things but on human things.” (Mt 16:23)

The ways of God are not our ways. The Apostles had to undergo the painful process of the circumcision of their hearts so that their deep desires could be “cut out,” crucified, and put to death. Jesus begins this process by speaking the hard truth that they don’t want to hear:

Mt 17:22-27

As they were gathering in Galilee, Jesus said, “The Son of Man is going to be betrayed into human hands, and they will kill him, and on the third day, he will be raised. And they were **overwhelmed by grief.**”

This overwhelms them with grief because Jesus, for the second time, has told them that He would be killed. But their grief is not yet fully purified because **the intentions of their hearts are not yet pure. Their love is not yet filial love—pure love.** At this point, the painful process of purification, “the circumcision of the foreskin of their hearts” (Dt 10:16), has only begun. Pure love can only be attained when **our deepest desires and longings have been totally surrendered to God. This is the First Nail of crucifixion with Jesus.**

We, too, need to live the disciples’ experience of “overwhelming grief.” It should be lived in the knowledge of who God is and His Will, with our gaze set upon

God's mercy, goodness, and power, and in the knowledge that His ways are perfect and bring forth new life. Otherwise, we can enter an oppressive sadness because our eyes are fixed on ourselves and not God.

The surgical removal of a boy's foreskin is painful. Our desires are the foreskin attached to our hearts. The Divine Physician comes to cut away this foreskin because it keeps our hearts attached to our ego and not to God. When the skin is removed, the boy feels greater sensitivity. This also happens to our hearts—When the foreskin of our desires is removed, our hearts become more sensitive to God; we allow the Spirit to search our hearts and grow in knowledge and understanding of God. We can then live in TRUST and ABANDONMENT to His Will.

Psalm 139:13, 23-24

For it was you who formed my inward parts; you knit me together in my mother's womb.

Search me, O God, and know my heart; test me and know my thoughts.
See if there is any wicked way in me and lead me in the way everlasting.

1 Cor 13:5 —Love does not insist on its own way.

We, too, have many good desires, but they are attached to our wills and egos. We want our desires fulfilled according to our ways, not the way of the Cross. For example, we desire that our loved ones be freed from their oppressions and healed of their wounds and disorders. So, we control, insist, push, pull and force, to try to change them.

God calls us to bear with Christ, as a crown of thorns, the sins and disorders of our loved ones, and to be scourged and pierced by for them as the Way of the Cross to make all things new.

In the first nail—the crucifixion of our desires—we begin to shed our blood.

In your struggle against sin, you have not yet resisted to the point of shedding your blood. (Hebrews 12:4)

In the following message, Jesus invites us to receive knowledge of our disordered desires so that we can replace them with His desires and discipline ourselves to pursue them.

“Mission of the 12” Diary of a MOC

My little one, I have chosen you to bear fruit for the Kingdom of God on earth. The mission is not easy, for the ways of God are never the ways of the world. All who are chosen by God to fulfill his plan on earth are hated by some, rejected by others, ill-treated, persecuted, for I came

upon the earth to set one against another, for the ways of God will never be accepted nor appreciated by those who live for the things of this world.

*You have been asked by God to bring Him victim souls. **A victim soul must fix his eyes on Christ, must desire with all his being to become one with his Master, must be willing to learn from Him and imitate Him. He must be willing to fight against all his disordered desires.** This requires certain disciplines for my disciples:*

“Take no gold, nor silver, nor copper”— that means detached from the riches of this world, trusting that God will provide.

“No bag for your journey” — that means that My disciples must allow My spirit to detach them from all disordered attachments. (My Lord, how do we know what a disordered attachment is?) Anything that weakens your desire for Me distracts you from loving Me, takes your gaze from Me.

“Nor two tunics” — My disciples must live simply as I did, poor, never in excess.

“Nor sandals” — a life dedicated to sacrificial love, penance, and renunciation.

“Nor a staff”— My disciples lean on Me; I become their support; I lead the way.

My disciples wear My yoke, the wood of the Cross, united to Me. I am their All. My disciples are the men and women consumed in love and desire for Me. They choose to live this way of life for love of Me and the consuming desire to be made perfect, which is to become Love. Only in this way, will My disciples reflect the face and light of God in the world. These are My victim souls that possess the power of God on earth.

1/30/18

The Lord desires that we desire with all our hearts to imitate Him and become **one with Him crucified**. That is the goal of every Christian. This does not mean that God causes evil, rejection, or abuse. He doesn't want anybody to be abused. What He wants is that we be **willing to love so much that we bear abuse**, and that is what we need to desire. Often, our most remarkable transformations occur when we choose to love when it is most difficult.

Work for Reflection:

As you gaze on Love Crucified and seek to imitate Him, ask yourself, “What are my disordered desires?”:

1. Desires for the riches of this world
2. Desires that weaken my desire for Christ (prayer, daily Mass, Adoration)
3. Desires distract me from loving and gazing at Him
4. Desires that bring me to excess (alcohol, TV, Clothing, shoes, tools, gadgets, food...)
5. Desires that keep me from sacrificial love, penance, and renunciation
6. Desires to be in control instead of trusting God completely

—Testimony of a Missionary of the Cross—

It all started one day in prayer when God asked me to read the First Nail of Crucifixion in chapter four of *The Simple Path* and to ponder the purification of my desires. I read the passage of the First Nail that says: “You begin to move only according to My desires and not yours.” I meditated these words, entered the depth of my heart, and asked the Lord, “Lord, where do I still act according to my desires and not yours?” In the depth of my heart, I heard,

“What is your greatest desire?”

I responded, “Lord, my greatest desire is to love you.”

He said, “Oh! And have you asked Me what My desires are?”

I answered, “Lord, what are your desires?”

He said, “That you love Me with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength.”

I noticed that my desires were good but imperfect and that the desires of Our Beloved Lord are the plenitude of pure and perfect love. So, I began to meditate on these words in prayer:

You no longer do what you want to do, nor go where you want to go; but now, you go only where I take you.

Here I began to meditate on what circumstances of my life are still subject to my desires. What are my plans? How do I exert control, and what are the expectations of my heart? I stayed attentive, meditating on these very profoundly throughout the days.

Then something happened. I wanted to go to the movies to see St. Faustina’s movie. I asked a Mother of the Cross to buy the tickets so the family could see this beautiful movie. As the Mother of the Cross was in the process of purchasing the tickets, we realized how expensive the tickets were.

The Lord used this Mother of the Cross by saying, “Oh, how many poor people are there in the world suffering from hunger? (Insinuating that the money could be used in a better way).” But blinded, I started to argue, “This is to evangelize, we are going to take people to see it, and it will be for the good of these souls.” So, I told her to go ahead and buy them. As she tried to buy them, an error kept preventing her. I became impatient; it bothered me. I realized it and entered the silence of my soul.

I asked the Lord, “Why am I becoming impatient? Lord, if You truly do not want me to go, if this is not Your will, do not allow that we buy the tickets.” It was so. The Lord did not allow it. I remained meditating on the events. Why did I act in that way? I realized that I had become impatient and acted that way simply because I wanted to go with my desires, my plans, and not God’s. I wanted to do my will and not God’s will. The Lord allowed me to see that I needed to die to myself and my desires and abandon myself to His desires and His will.

A beautiful thing happened. The Lord sent an “angel” who said, “I will buy the tickets so you can go.” It was a surprise for me. This time, I went first to the Lord and asked, “Lord is it Your will that I go to see the movie? If it is not, do not allow us to buy the tickets, but if You want me to go, open the doors.” Then this Mother of the Cross attempted again to buy the tickets and this time she could buy them easily! How beautiful it is when a soul abandons itself first to the Beloved and is attentive to do only His will and not its own. Amen.