

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

DESIRE ONLY THE CROSS

❖ IDENTITY AND MISSION

Who am I? What is my mission? Where am I going?

- Our growth in holiness is united to our growth in the knowledge of our identity and mission in Christ. Holiness is living authentically our identity and mission as one in Christ.

A Mother of the Cross and Missionary of the Cross identity is in Love Crucified. It is becoming more-and-more the **image and likeness of Jesus crucified**. Our hearts possess the desires of Christ and our lives become the living image of Love crucified.

- What were Jesus' desires on earth?
 - To do the Will of the Father – perfect obedience to glorify Abba
 - To be ONE – Jn 17
 - To serve and not to be served – selflessness – *“Whoever wishes to be great among you must be your servant, 27 and whoever wishes to be first among you must be your slave; 28 just as the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve, and to give his life a ransom for many.”* (Mt 20:26-28)
 - Solely the Cross
 - “During my life, I never desired anything except the Cross, and ever the Cross, wanting to show the world that which is the sole wealth and happiness on earth, the currency which will buy an eternal happiness.” Bl. Conchita, cited in *Simple Path*, p. 137-138)
 - To suffer with us and for us.
 - “As God-Man, I could suffer infinitely to pay the price of the salvation of so many souls.” Bl. Conchita, *Simple path*, p. 137
 - To make the Father known to us, so that we can live glorifying Him in all things and loving Him as one with Christ.
 - To redeem and save us
 - To reveal Truth- speak it and defend it
- What is the Image and Likeness of Love Crucified?
 - Rejected, betrayed, denied, abandoned, ridiculed, misunderstood, persecuted, insulted, calumniated, pierced, stripped (Mt 27:28,31), mocked (Mt 27:29), struck (Mt 27:30)... Jesus allowed Himself to be stripped of all the honor and glory that was due Him as God; Stripped of His reputation, of all affirmations, recognition, importance, respect that was rightfully His...

- In the Eucharist: ignored, forgotten, hidden, left alone, not sought after, unwanted, unappreciated...
- THESE MUST BECOME OUR DESIRES! THEN WE WILL BE RESTORED IN GOD'S IMAGE AND LIKENESS!
 - We too must allow ourselves to be stripped of all our desires to be honored, respected, recognized, liked, praised... because they are rooted in pride, our ego.
 - *"It is through My crucified gaze that you will desire to be One with The Victim of Love; you will **desire solely the Cross**; you will desire the salvation of all your brothers and sisters and forget yourself; you will receive the power of the Holy Spirit to lay down your life as My sacrifice of love for the salvation of many." (Simple Path #12, p.53, cf Jn 8:29-30)*
- ❖ The 2nd level of humility is to desire rejection, ridicule, abandonment; to be misunderstood, forgotten, not desired, nor wanted; to be fully stripped of our ego. This desire must become the prayer that we lift up to heaven with every breath.

Litany of Humility 2nd part

That others may be loved more than I,
 —Jesus, grant me the grace to desire it *(repeat)*
 That others may be esteemed more than I...
 That, in the opinion of the world,
 others may increase and I may decrease...
 That others may be chosen and I set aside...
 That others may be praised and I unnoticed...
 That others may be preferred to me in everything...
 That others may become holier than I, provided that I may become as
 holy as I should...

❖ SILENCE

Silence accompanies Jesus every step of His Passion. He is silent as the soldiers strip Him of His garments. The silence needed to live fully His mission.
 The silence that keeps Him fully centered in glorifying His Father and conquering all darkness through perfect love.
 The silence that keeps Him focused on His goal- where he is going – to the Cross.
 The silence that allows Him to receive every blow, mockery, piercing and suffer it for our redemption and salvation.
 The silence that maintains Him, despite all the forces of Satan lashed upon Him, in His Father's embrace with the Holy Spirit.

Mary lives this silence as one with Christ and in this way participates fully in the redemption of mankind as co-redemptrix.

We come to know Christ and receive the grace to live in Christ – His desires rooted in His identity and mission – by meditating His Passion and responding to His invitation to follow Him. To come to know Christ intimately is to come to know the HUMILITY OF GOD – Jesus seated at the right hand of the Father, the King of Kings, the Lord of Lords, lowers Himself into the pit of the earth, the lion's den, to be torn to pieces and shredded to save us and give us new life.

This humility brings us to desire to “lose our life”, for our “I” to be fully crucified, so that Christ can live in us and God can be glorified through us.

❖ This new desire allows Christ to crucify us with Him so that we can become ONE

➤ John 21:15,18,19

15 When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these?” He said to him, “Yes, Lord; you know that I love you.” ...18 Very truly, I tell you, when you were younger, you used to fasten your own belt and to go wherever you wished. But when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands, and someone else will fasten a belt around you and take you where you do not wish to go. 19) After this he said to him, **“Follow me.”**

➤ #63, Simple Path 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.*

➤ As I began my Holy Hour, I heard Jesus tell me to open my Bible and read Revelations 8. After I read Rev. 8, He spoke these words:

*My little one, much will have to take place on earth before the establishment of My Eucharistic Reign. You (plural) are My saints of the end times united as one with the holy saints in heaven. Because My saints on earth are united to My sacrifice of love in your abandonment to suffer with Me, your prayers are powerful before the throne of Abba. Know, My little one, that your prayers are continuously before the throne of our Father as pure incense. He delights in your prayers and He hears the cry of the poor. The poor are not only the poor of body but also the poor of spirit – those who **have died to themselves** so that I can live in them and through them. Much affliction must take place*

*on earth because of the rebelliousness of the human heart, but God in His infinite mercy and goodness, will bless the prayers of His saints –past, present and future -- and establish His Kingdom on earth. Be at peace with complete abandonment to the God who loves you and listens to the cry of the poor. **Persevere in your own crucifixion** for the glory of God and the establishment of His Kingdom on earth as it is in heaven. Go in peace to be My Light in the world. 11/3/19*

→ Pope Francis Homily Palm Sunday 2020:

“Dear brothers and sisters, what can we do in comparison with God, who served us even to the point of being betrayed and abandoned? We can refuse to betray him for whom we were created, and not abandon what really matters in our lives. We were put in this world to love him and our neighbours. Everything else passes away, only this remains. The tragedy we are experiencing summons us to take seriously the things that are serious, and not to be caught up in those that matter less; to rediscover that life is of no use if not used to serve others. For life is measured by love. “