

“Justice For Laura” Novena - 9 Days of Prayer

Day Seven



Scripture Passage: “The Last Supper”

“And taking bread, he gave thanks and brake and gave to them, saying: This is my body, which is given for you. Do this for a commemoration of me. In like manner, the chalice also, after he had supped, saying: This is the chalice, the new testament in my blood, which shall be shed for you.” -LUKE 22:19-20

Prayer Before Meditation:

“O Lord Jesus Christ, Immaculate Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world, draw us close to Your Sacred Heart and fill us with that divine fire of love which so utterly consumed Your heart in the upper room that night as You left Your disciples with an eternal pledge and promise and proof of Your Love. Teach us, O Lord, to make a sincere gift of ourselves in imitation of You.

Come, Holy Spirit. Fill the hearts of Thy faithful and kindle in them the fire of Thy

Love. Send forth Thy Spirit and they shall be created, and Thou shalt renew the face of the earth. O God, who did instruct the hearts of Thy faithful people by the light of the Holy Spirit, grant us that by the same Spirit we may be always truly wise, and ever rejoice in His holy comfort. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.”

Meditation:

Mother Teresa, when speaking of the Eucharist, called the sacrament “a mystery of love,” one which can never be fully understood by our mortal minds, but nevertheless must be appreciated as much as possible.

What is Jesus doing in the upper room? And why?

We cannot see our souls. We cannot see the souls of anyone else, at least not physically with our eyes. We see the inner mystery of each person revealed in and through their physical bodies, which make that which is invisible visible to the world; it is the same with our Blessed Lord. His disciples could not see the inner mystery of Christ's sacred soul, but they could see His body right before their eyes. It is through Christ's body that His very person, His soul, His self, His Being, is manifested to the world, and it is only through His body that we can see and perceive what that soul is doing. “This is my body,” can thus be understood as “this is the very essence of who I am. This is my person, this is my self, this is my heart and my soul, the core of who and what I am.” And this is, “given up for you.” Christ, the Eternal High Priest, GIVES HIMSELF up for us, for the remission of our sins.

Recall what sin is – the word originating from ancient Greek archery which was used when the archers missed their target. They were aiming for something good, yet they “missed the mark.” Christian theologians meant the word “sin” in this same way, and to affirm that the desires of the human heart are in fact very good – it is only when those desires become twisted and distorted, and especially whenever we go to the wrong place to fulfill those desires, that we “miss the mark” and therefore sin. Christ gives himself up for the remission of our sins. But how do we understand that? What does that even mean? Christ said, “I am the way, the truth, and the life.” He said, “No man comes to the Father but by me.” He said, “FOLLOW ME.” Follow me and you will find everything which your heart has ever yearned for and desired. Every hunger of your soul, for love, for intimacy, for touch, for communion, for union... all of these things will be utterly and fully satisfied if you would just believe in me enough to follow and imitate my example. I am going that way, to the cross, to GIVE my body, my self, my soul, my person – FOR YOU. I will SACRIFICE myself for LOVE of YOU, and this I do for your own redemption and the remission of all of your sins. Follow Me!... Our sins are all the ways that we have “missed the mark” in our search for the satisfaction of our hungry hearts. We are all looking for something in this life, and God Himself has

revealed to us that HE is the satisfaction for which we crave. Every other desire is merely a reflection of the deepest hunger of our hearts – which is for God alone. And God, revealed definitively in the person of Jesus Christ, GIVES Himself up for us for the remission of our sins. In other words, He gives Himself up for us to SHOW US THE WAY, to show us “the mark” which we have “missed” so terribly. He shows us that “man cannot fully find himself, except through the sincere gift of self.” THIS is exactly what Christ is doing in the upper room at The Last Supper.

The Eucharist, instituted by Jesus Christ in The Last Supper, is the gift of himself – His person, His being, His body and blood, His soul and divinity, which He GIVES to us. “Take this, all of you, and eat it.” HE HIMSELF nourishes our souls through His GIFT OF SELF. And in doing so, He shows us essentially what it means to be human, to give OURSELVES away in love, and in that self-sacrifice, that “gift of self,” we are in some mystical sense participating in the very same sacrifice of Christ, for the salvation of the world. For we are the mystical body of Christ, and if we join our gift of self to Christ's gift of self in and through his mystical body, the Church, then it becomes Him who gives Himself in and through us, and we participate in that glorious work of salvation for the entire world. Christ showed us how to live, and he said to “do this, for a commemoration of me.” In other words, he is continuing to save the world in and through us, if we are willing to join our sacrifice to His. God allows us to participate intimately in His saving action... AMAZING... This is not really so abstract either. As we give ourselves away in love, we are sowing seeds of love throughout the world, and love begets love, and eventually the world WILL be taken over with this Love - which IS Jesus Christ, and HE is slowly but surely spreading the perfume of His Love throughout the world, and He lets us take part in it! (If we join Him in the freedom of love.)

This is the basic desire of the human heart: love. And love - authentic and true love anyways - always seeks to give itself away in love; it overflows and seeks to expand its own communion. Love cannot be bottled up inside, or it is not really love; love must be shared. And the deepest yearning of every person on this planet, whether they realize it or not, is for love! And again, this love for which we crave must give itself away, it must sacrifice itself for the good of another or many others. And somewhere, deep in our hearts, we all know this, but in this noise-polluted world we so rarely take the time to actually listen to what our hearts are saying to us that we do not even realize what it is that we truly desire in this life. What do we truly desire? One word, really: Love. “GOD IS LOVE.” We discover God in and through love, and in and through self-giving. And it is because of this, that Christ “fully reveals man to himself, and makes his supreme calling clear.” “FOLLOW ME!!!”

Laura's murderer is not unlike any other human being. He desires love more than anything else in this life. He desires to be loved. He yearns for love, longs for it, craves

unceasingly for intimacy, for touch, for union, for... Holy Communion. He desires union with God, just like we all do. Somehow, in some twisted and perverted and horribly distorted way, when that man abducted and murdered Laura years ago, and did God only knows what to her in the process, He was actually seeking God. He was trying to satisfy the ache in his heart for God – the hunger, the longing, the yearning which we all have within us, but so often repress... He did not repress it, but he also did not redeem it with the Blood of Christ, and because of this tragic mistake his desires took on an utterly evil perversion and he sought satisfaction in horrific, evil ways. He “missed the mark” very, very, very badly... The “mark” is Jesus. The mark is love: self-giving, self-sacrificing Trinitarian love. And that is what he was looking for, in some way, in some sense, but he missed terribly. Let us pray for this man, that he may recover proper aim.

“Jesus... You, Lord, are the Love that truly satisfies. You are the “bread come down from heaven” that will satisfy the deepest hunger of our hearts. Have mercy on your child, Laura's murderer, who longs so desperately for your love, perhaps without even realizing it. He was looking for You all along, he was looking for Holy Communion with You, and he just didn't know where to look, so he looked in all the wrong places. Have mercy on him, O Merciful Savior, and reveal to him that love which he has been looking for.”

And we pray for Justice For Laura.

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Abba, Father,

You have revealed Yourself as the God of Love Who desires all Your children to be saved, and Who will run to embrace any soul who sincerely turns back to You.

We lift up the soul of Laura's killer, Your beloved child who has wandered in a far away land squandering the inheritance which You, his most Loving Father, have bestowed upon him. We beg the Holy Spirit to sing Your song of Love into his heart. Speak to his soul of his dignity and beauty as Your child, and give him the confidence to turn back to You in trust and repentance.

We ask this through the infinite merits of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, the Divine Mercy Whose compassion knows no bounds.

Amen.

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