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FOR A SYNODAL CHURCH: COMMUNION, PARTICIPATION, MISSION
SYNOD 2021-2023



Year 27 No. 3

Votive Mass of the Sacred Heart of Jesus (A) — White

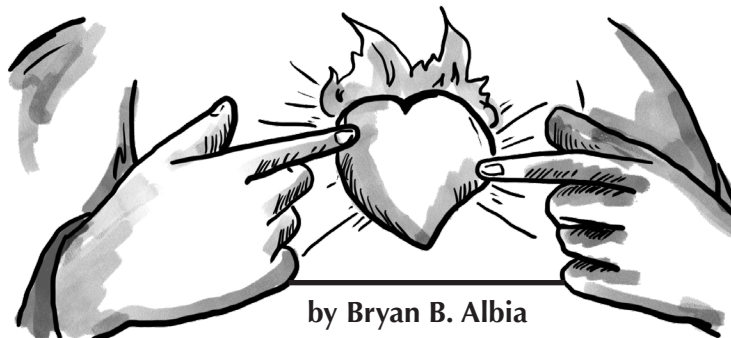
October 6, 2023

WE ARE CALLED TO LOVE LIKE JESUS

People would often say that the heart is shaped after our ears combined. This leads us to the understanding that a good heart knows how to listen and obey. A listening and obedient heart is a treasure of immense spiritual significance. It is a heart that not only hears but also heeds the voice of God, responding with humility, trust, and a willingness to act. Such a heart is attuned to the divine whisper amidst the cacophony of the world. A listening and obedient heart mirrors the heart of Christ. Jesus, in His earthly life, demonstrated perfect obedience to the Father.

The devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus holds a profound place in Christian spirituality, symbolizing the boundless love, compassion, and mercy that Jesus Christ has for humanity. This devotion centers on the representation of Christ's heart as a flaming furnace of love, often depicted crowned with thorns and pierced, signifying His sacrificial suffering for the salvation of mankind.

The image of the Sacred Heart reminds us of the immense love Christ has for us. It is a love that surpasses human understanding, a love willing to endure suffering and death to reconcile humanity with God. The crown of thorns and the pierced heart prompts us to consider the depth of Christ's sacrifice. It tells us that Jesus understands our pain and struggles because He experienced them Himself. While the gospel passage contains warnings of judgment, it also highlights God's mercy. The Gospel emphasizes the importance of responding to God's message. The cities' lack of repentance serves as a warning against complacency and indifference to the teachings of Jesus. It reminds us that



by Bryan B. Albia

encountering God's Word requires a heartfelt response. The cities had the privilege of witnessing Jesus' miracles and teachings firsthand, which created a higher level of accountability. This teaches us that having access to spiritual blessings and knowledge comes with a responsibility to heed God's call and teachings. This reflection draws us into a deep appreciation for Christ's selflessness and moves us to respond to this love with gratitude and love in return.

The Prophet Baruch reminds us that acknowledging our sins and failures is an essential step towards repentance and reconciliation with God. Baruch's prayer illustrates the importance of humility in recognizing our shortcomings. Baruch's role as an intercessor, praying on behalf of the people, exemplifies the concept of intercessory prayer in religious traditions. It emphasizes the idea that individuals can plead for God's mercy not only for themselves but also for their community. Despite the dire circumstances, the passage from the writings of the Prophet Baruch conveys a message of hope. His plea for God to restore the exiled Israelites to their land reflects the belief in God's power to redeem and restore even in the face of overwhelming challenges.

In a world filled with distractions and competing voices, cultivating a listening and obedient heart

requires intentional effort. It involves carving out moments of stillness for prayer and reflection, embracing humility, and yielding to God's leading. The Sacred Heart of Jesus then becomes our home for we are always in the heart of Christ as we nurture and align our hearts with God's divine rhythm, allowing His love and guidance to shape our lives in beautiful and transformative ways.

The devotion to the Sacred Heart also challenges us to love as Christ loved. His heart is willing to forgive, heal, and embrace all, regardless of their faults or backgrounds. The Sacred Heart invites us to cultivate a love that seeks to heal divisions, extend forgiveness, and reach out to those in need. It encourages us to have a heart that is open and receptive to the transformative power of God's love and live lives of compassion, mercy, and selflessness, mirroring the love of Christ Himself continuously beating for God and for others.

Through this devotion, let us continue to pray to find solace, inspiration, and a call to transform our hearts and the world around us through the power of Christ's all-encompassing love as the Psalmist leads us: "May your mercy come quickly to meet us, for we are in desperate need. Help us, God our Savior, for the glory of your name; deliver us and forgive our sins for your name's sake." Amen.

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

Entrance Antiphon

(Cf. Dn 3: 31, 29, 30, 43, 42)

(Recited when there is no opening song.)

**All that you have done to us,
O Lord, you have done with
true judgment, for we have
sinned against you and not
obeyed your commandments.
But give glory to your name
and deal with us according
to the bounty of your mercy.**

Greeting

(The sign of the cross is made here.)

P—The Lord be with you.

All—And with your spirit.

Introduction

*(These [or similar words] may be used
to address the assembly.)*

P—Today's Gospel recalls Jesus' lament over the towns where he preached and worked miracles. The response of the people is contrary to what was expected of them by Jesus.

Listening to Jesus is equivalent to listening to his "messengers," those whom he has sent to proclaim sincerely his word by their words and their lives. Do we respond generously to what we have heard from Jesus?

Penitential Act

P—Brethren (brothers and sisters), let us acknowledge our sins, and so prepare ourselves to celebrate the sacred mysteries.
(Pause)

P—Have mercy on us, O Lord.
All—For we have sinned against you.

P—Show us, O Lord, your mercy.
All—And grant us your salvation.

P—May almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.
All—Amen.

P—Lord, have mercy.
All—Lord, have mercy.
P—Christ, have mercy.
All—Christ, have mercy.
P—Lord, have mercy.
All—Lord, have mercy.

Collect

P—Let us pray. *(Pause)*

O God, who manifest your almighty power above all by pardoning and showing mercy, bestow, we pray, your grace abundantly upon us and make those hastening to attain your promises heirs to the treasures of heaven.

Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. and ever.

All—Amen.

LITURGY OF THE WORD



First Reading (Bar 1:15–22) *(Sit)*

The Israelites during their exile prayed intensely before Yahweh acknowledging that they have sinned in the Lord's sight and disobeyed him.

A reading from the Book of Prophet Baruch

DURING the Babylonian captivity, the exiles prayed: "Justice is with the LORD, our God; and we today are flushed with shame, we men of Judah and citizens of Jerusalem, that we, with our kings and rulers and priests and prophets, and with our ancestors, have sinned in the LORD's sight and disobeyed him. We have neither heeded the voice of the LORD, our God, nor followed the precepts which the LORD set before us. From the time the LORD led our ancestors out of the land of Egypt until the present day, we have been disobedient to the LORD, our God, and only too ready to disregard his voice. And the evils and the curse that the LORD enjoined upon Moses, his servant, at the time he led our ancestors forth from the land of Egypt to give us the land flowing with milk and honey, cling to us even today. For we did not heed the voice of the LORD, our God, in all the words of the prophets whom he sent us, but each one of us went off after the devices of his own wicked heart, served other gods, and

did evil in the sight of the LORD, our God."

—The word of the Lord.

All—Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm (Ps 79)

R—For the glory of your name,
O Lord, deliver us.

1. O God, the nations have come into your inheritance; they have defiled your holy temple, they have laid Jerusalem in ruins. They have given the corpses of your servants as food to the birds of heaven, the flesh of your faithful ones to the beasts of the earth. **(R)**

2. They have poured out their blood like water round about Jerusalem, and there is no one to bury them. We have become the reproach of our neighbors, the scorn and derision of those around us. O LORD, how long? Will you be angry forever? Will your jealousy burn like fire? **(R)**

3. Remember not against us the iniquities of the past; may your compassion quickly come to us, for we are brought very low. **(R)**

4. Help us, O God our savior, because of the glory of your name; Deliver us and pardon our sins for your name's sake. **(R)**

Verse before the Gospel

(Ps 95:8) *(Stand)*

All—Alleluia, alleluia. If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel (Lk 10:13–16)

P—A reading from the holy Gospel according to Luke
All—Glory to you, O Lord.

JESUS said to them, "Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida! For if the mighty deeds done in your midst had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would long ago have repented, sitting in sackcloth and ashes. But it will be more tolerable for Tyre and Sidon at the judgment than for you. And as for you, Capernaum, 'Will you be exalted to heaven? You will go down to the netherworld.' Whoever

listens to you listens to me. Whoever rejects you rejects me. And whoever rejects me rejects the one who sent me." —The Gospel of the Lord.
All—Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily *(Sit)*

Prayer of the Faithful

P—Jesus warned the towns and villages who heard his preaching and saw his miracles but did not repent. Had the pagan cities heard the same message, they would have repented. Let us ask for the grace to respond to God's grace. For every petition we say:

R—Father, hear our prayer.

C—Lord, if today we hear your voice, may we not harden our hearts. May we not let the opportune time you give us pass in vain. We pray. **(R)**

C—May we listen gladly to your Word proclaimed in the Mass, explained in homilies, and shared in Bible sharing. We pray: **(R)**

C—The apostles were to shake the dust of the unhospitable towns off their feet as a witness against them. May we not persist in our refusal to hear you. We pray: **(R)**

C—It is not enough to rejoice in the privileges you gave us. May we respond to your grace with a change of heart. We pray: **(R)**

C—May we willingly share our time, talents, and possessions with others, for ultimately we have received from you, Father, freely and without cost. We pray: **(R)**

C—Let us pray for the urgent concerns of our community and our personal intentions *(pause)*. We pray: **(R)**

P—Hear our prayers, Father. May your faithful people collaborate in the spread of your Kingdom, some to announce the Gospel and others to receive it with joy. May your peace reign in the heart of everyone. We ask this

through Christ our Lord.
All—Amen.

LITURGY OF THE EUCHARIST

Presentation of the Gifts
(Stand)

P—Pray, brethren...
All—May the Lord accept the sacrifice at your hands for the praise and glory of his name, for our good and the good of all his holy Church.

Prayer over the Offerings

P—O Grant us, O merciful God, that this our offering may find acceptance with you and that through it the wellspring of all blessing may be laid open before us.
Through Christ our Lord.
All—Amen.

Common Preface VI

P—The Lord be with you.
All—And with your spirit.
P—Lift up your hearts.
All—We lift them up to the Lord.
P—Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
All—It is right and just.
P—It is truly right and just, our duty and our salvation, always and everywhere to give you thanks, Father most holy, through your Beloved Son, Jesus Christ, your Word through whom you made all things, whom you sent as our Savior and Redeemer, incarnate by the Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin.

Fulfilling your will and gaining for you a holy people, he stretched out his hands as he endured his Passion, so as to break the bonds of death and manifest the resurrection.
And so, with the Angels and all the Saints, we declare your glory, as with one voice we acclaim:

All—Holy, Holy, Holy... (Kneel)

Acclamation *(Stand)*

All—Save us, Savior of the world, for by your Cross and Resurrection you have set us free.

THE COMMUNION RITE

The Lord's Prayer

All—Our Father...
P—Deliver us, Lord...
All—For the kingdom...

Invitation to Peace

Invitation to Communion
(Kneel)

P—Behold the Lamb of God...
All—Lord, I am not worthy that you should enter under my roof, but only say the word and my soul shall be healed.

Communion Antiphon
(Cf. Ps 119 [118]: 49–50)

Remember your word to your servant, O Lord, by which you have given me hope. This is my comfort when I am brought low.

Prayer after Communion
(Stand)

P—Let us pray. *(Pause)*
May this heavenly mystery, O Lord, restore us in mind and body, that we may be coheirs in glory with Christ, to whose suffering we are united whenever we proclaim his Death.
Who lives and reigns for ever and ever.
All—Amen.

THE CONCLUDING RITES

P—The Lord be with you.
All—And with your spirit.

Prayer over the People

P—Bow down for the blessing. *(Pause)*
May the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, keep your hearts and minds in the knowledge and love of God, and of his Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.
All—Amen.

P—And may the blessing of almighty God, the Father, and the Son, (+) and the Holy Spirit, come down on you and remain with you for ever.
All—Amen.

Dismissal

P—Go in peace, glorifying the Lord by your life.
All—Thanks be to God.



PRAYER TO THE SACRED HEART *of Jesus*

Divine Jesus, you have said, "Ask, and you shall receive; seek, and you shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you," behold me kneeling at your feet, filled with a lively faith and confidence in the promises dictated by your Sacred Heart and pronounced by your adorable lips. I come to ask this favor: *(Here silently mention your petition/s).*

To whom can I turn if not to you whose Heart is the source of all graces and merits? Where should I seek if not in the treasure which contains all the riches of your kindness and mercy? Where should I knock if not at the door through which God gives himself to us and through which we go to God? I have recourse to you, Heart of Jesus. In you I find consolation when afflicted,

protection when persecuted, strength when burdened with trials, and light in doubt and darkness.

Dear Jesus, I firmly believe that you can grant me the grace I implore, even though it should require a miracle. You have only to will it, and my prayer will be granted. I admit that I am most unworthy of your favors, but this is not a reason for me to be discouraged. You are the God of mercy and you will not refuse a contrite heart. Cast upon me a look of mercy, I beg of you, and your kind Heart will find in my miseries and weaknesses a reason for granting my prayers.

O Sacred Heart, whatever may be your decision with regard to my request, I will never stop adoring, loving, praising and serving you. My Jesus, be pleased to accept this my act of perfect resignation to the decrees of your adorable Heart which I sincerely desire may be fulfilled in and by me and all your creatures forever.

Sacred Heart of Jesus, I know that there is but one thing impossible to you: to be without pity for those who are suffering or in distress. Look upon me, I beg of you, dear Jesus, and grant me the grace for which I humbly implore you through the Immaculate Heart of your most sorrowful Mother. You have entrusted me to her as her child, and her prayers are all-powerful with you. **Amen.**

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