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Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus (B) — White

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Day of Prayer for the Sanctification of Priests

Heart on His Sleeves

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Shakespeare's play "Othello" popularized the phrase "Do not wear your heart on your sleeves," cautioning against showing emotions that may be misconstrued as weakness. Unfortunately, this is how the world sees the Sacred Heart and the redeeming sacrifice of Christ—foolish and irrelevant. Yet, there is more to the love of God than what we can comprehend.

The readings show the great extent of God's love for humanity, to the point of not sparing his Only Begotten Son from an ignominious death on the Cross. Today's solemnity proves the humanity of Christ and the significance of his sufferings to mankind. No one can say that "God does not understand what I'm going through," because he does. Ever wonder why the Word became flesh and made his dwelling among us? He experienced what it is like to be human, and no one in this world can boast that their pain and suffering are worse than what Christ went through.

The heart, a vital organ in the human body, has a never-ending workload. Like a furnace that continuously radiates the heat of Divine love, the Sacred Heart tirelessly waits to feel the heat of man's love for God. Man is supposed to mirror God's reflection as he is made in God's image and likeness. And the priest, who is the closest to the Sacred heart, must live up to this image because he is not your regular joe, he is an *alter Christus*—another Christ.

The priest is not his own; he is there to minister to the needs of the People of God. As another Christ, he must be the mediator between God and his people and not the cause of division among the flock entrusted to his care. As another Christ, he must be the shepherd of souls by being the source of inspiration in their pursuit of holiness rather than causing scandal. As another

Christ, he must be the source of grace and healing just as Our Lord emptied himself for the forgiveness of our sins. As another Christ, his ministry must be fashioned according to the heart of Christ as he imitates Christ's love and compassion for the least, the last, and the lost.

To love is a great sign of courage as we risk the possibility of being hurt or getting rejected. Through the piercing of the Sacred Heart, God saw it fit to become vulnerable and weak by exposing his love and giving himself entirely. It was necessary that water would flow out from his sacred side so that it would empty his heart of the remaining drops of blood.

The Sacred Heart manifests God's infinite love and mercy for man. Christ didn't count the cost of loving when he wore his heart not on his sleeves but on the gibbet of the Cross.

THE INTRODUCTORY RITES

Entrance Antiphon

(Ps 33[32]: 11,19)

(Recited when there is no opening song.)

The designs of his Heart are from age to age, to rescue their souls from death and to keep them alive in famine.

Greeting

(The sign of the cross is made here.)

P—Grace to you and peace from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ.

All—And with your spirit.

Introduction

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

P—Today we celebrate the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Although this devotion focuses on the heart of Jesus, it extends further than the heart of flesh, and we are being directed to that divine love which Jesus showed when he laid down his life on the cross. May this devotion ever more draw us closer to the whole person and life of 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.

Gloria

All—Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to people of good will. We praise you, we bless you, we

adore you, we glorify you, we give you thanks for your great glory, Lord God, heavenly King, O God, almighty Father. Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son, Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us; you take away the sins of the world, receive our prayer; you are seated at the right hand of the Father, have mercy on us. For you alone are the Holy One, you alone are the Lord, you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ, with the Holy Spirit, in the glory of God the Father. Amen.

Collect

P—Let us pray. *(Pause)*

Grant, we pray, almighty God, that we, who glory in the Heart of your beloved Son and recall the wonders of his love for us, may be made worthy to receive an overflowing measure of grace from that fount of heavenly gifts.

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.

All—Amen.

THE LITURGY OF THE WORD



First Reading

(Hos 11:1,3-4, 8c-9) *(Sit)*

The prophet Hosea compares God's love with the love of a father. Despite the Israelites' ingratitude and inability to appreciate God's profound love, God does not lose patience or let his anger override his love.

A reading from the Book of the Prophet Hosea

THUS SAYS the LORD: When Israel was a child I loved him, out of Egypt I called my son. Yet it was I who taught Ephraim to walk, who took them in my arms; I drew them with human cords, with bands of love; I fostered them like one who raises an infant to his cheeks; Yet, though I stooped to feed my child, they did not know that I was their healer.

My heart is overwhelmed, my pity is stirred. I will not give vent to my blazing anger, I will not destroy Ephraim again; For I am

God and not a man, the Holy One present among you; I will not let the flames consume you.

—The word of the Lord.

All—Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm (Is 12)

R—You will draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.

1. God indeed is my savior;/ I am confident and unafraid./ My strength and my courage is the LORD,/ and he has been my savior./ With joy you will draw water at the fountain of salvation. **(R)**

2. Give thanks to the LORD,/ acclaim his name;/ among the nations make known his deeds,/ proclaim how exalted is his name. **(R)**

3. Sing praise to the LORD for his glorious achievement;/ let this be known throughout all the earth./ Shout with exultation,/ O city of Zion,/ for great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel! **(R)**

Second Reading

(Eph 3:8-12, 14-19)

St. Paul echoes the Lord's invitation to enter the divine love He implores that love be the root and foundation of Christian life.

A reading from the Letter of Saint Paul to the Ephesians

BROTHERS AND SISTERS: To me, the very least of all the holy ones, this grace was given, to preach to the Gentiles the inscrutable riches of Christ, and to bring to light for all what is the plan of the mystery hidden from ages past in God who created all things, so that the manifold wisdom of God might now be made known through the church to the principalities and authorities in the heavens. This was according to the eternal purpose that he accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord, in whom we have boldness of speech and confidence of access through faith in him.

For this reason I kneel before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth

is named, that he may grant you in accord with the riches of his glory to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in the inner self, and that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith; that you, rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the holy ones what is the breadth which surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.

—The word of the Lord.

All—Thanks be to God.

Alleluia (1 Jn 4:10b) (*Stand*)

All—Alleluia, alleluia. God first loved us and sent his Son as expiation for our sins. Alleluia, alleluia.

Gospel (Jn 19:31-37)

P—A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

All—Glory to you, O Lord.

SINCE it was preparation day, in order that the bodies might not remain on the cross on the sabbath, for the sabbath day of that week was a solemn one, the Jews asked Pilate that their legs be broken and they be taken down. So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and then of the other one who was crucified with Jesus. But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs, but one soldier thrust his lance into his side, and immediately blood and water flowed out. An eyewitness has testified, and his testimony is true; he knows that he is speaking the truth, so that you also may come to believe. For this happened so that the Scripture passage might be fulfilled: Not a bone of it will be broken. And again another passage says: *They will look upon him whom they have pierced.*

—The Gospel of the Lord.

All—Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily (*Sit*)

Profession of Faith (*Stand*)

All—I believe in one God, the Father almighty, maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, born of the Father before all ages. God from God, Light from Light, true God from true God, begotten, not made, consubstantial with the Father; through him all things were made. For us men and for our salvation he came down from heaven, (*At the words that follow up to and including and became man, all bow.*) and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under Pontius Pilate, he suffered death and was buried, and rose again on the third day in accordance with the Scriptures. He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father. He will come again in glory to judge the living and the dead and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life, who proceeds from the Father and the Son, who with the Father and the Son is adored and glorified, who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic, and apostolic Church. I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness of sins and I look forward to the resurrection of the dead and the life of the world to come. Amen.

Prayer of the Faithful

P—Let us pray to the Lord Jesus, whose heart is filled with immense love, that we may be granted the grace of his protection, strength to bear our trials, and light in our doubt and darkness. With confidence, we pray:

R—Lord, hear our prayer.

C—Lord Jesus, whose heart is moved with pity for the hungry crowd, attend to the hungry, the weak, and the lost. We pray: (R)

C—Lord Jesus, meek and humble of heart, give rest to those overly burdened, and restore to them the joy of living. We pray: (R)

C—Lord Jesus, from whose wounded Heart blood and water flowed out, draw us to the fountain of salvation in the sacraments you gave us. We pray: (R)

C—Lord Jesus, whose Heart is pierced by our sins yet loving us still, have pity on us sinners and grant us your forgiveness. We pray: (R)

C—Lord Jesus, whose Heart is broken by our ingratitude, accept the consecration we make to you of all that we are and all that we have. We pray: (R)

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

P—Father, we rejoice in the gifts of love we have received from the heart of Jesus your Son. Open our hearts to share his life and continue to bless us with his love.

All—Amen.



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—Look, O Lord, we pray, on the surpassing charity in the Heart of your beloved Son, that what we offer may be a gift acceptable to you and an expiation of our offenses.

Through Christ our Lord.

All—Amen.

Preface: *The boundless charity of Christ*

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, Lord, holy Father, almighty and eternal God, through Christ our Lord.

For raised up high on the Cross, he gave himself up for us with a wonderful love and poured out blood and water from his pierced side, the wellspring of the Church's Sacraments, so that, won over to the open heart of the Savior, all might draw water joyfully from the springs of salvation.

And so, with all the Angels and Saints, we praise you, as without end we acclaim:

All—Holy, Holy, Holy Lord God of hosts. Heaven and earth are full of your glory. Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest. *(Kneel)*

Acclamation *(Stand)*

All—We proclaim your Death, O Lord, and profess your Resurrection until you come again.

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, behold him who takes away the sins of the world. Blessed are those called to the supper of the Lamb.

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

(Jn 19:34)

One of the soldiers opened his side with a lance, and at once there came forth blood and water.

Prayer after Communion

(Stand)

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 petitions).*

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 by me and by 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.

P—Let us pray. *(Pause)*

May this sacrament of charity, O Lord, make us fervent with the fire of holy love, so that, drawn always to your Son, we may learn to see him in our neighbor.

Through Christ our Lord.

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)*

Be near to those who call on you, O Lord, and graciously grant your protection to all who

place their hope in your mercy, that they may remain faithful in holiness of life and, having enough for their needs in this world, they may be made full heirs of your promise for eternity.

Through Christ our Lord.

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.