



HIS LOVE ENDURES FOREVER

by Sister Maria Marguerite

November 2010

Dear Friends of the Heart of Christ,

As the liturgical year draws to a close and Advent's quiet joy is a mere anticipation, the Church invites us to reflect upon time and eternity. The solemnity of our Scripture readings, together with November's focus on the saints and holy souls of the Church Triumphant, underscore our mortality and turn our thoughts inward – in a more somber direction. Each season of the Church and of our lives bears a unique quality, and likewise, November echoes life's transiency: bare branches, once clothed in Autumn finery, now seem to be reaching to heaven in supplication; dawn greets us in a darkened hush rather than with the pastel hues and songbird melody of recent weeks; cold, gray days quickly darken into dusk and a browning landscape lies eager to rest under a blanket of snow.

All of nature seems to exclaim that this life is fragile and is marked by time and season. The ebb and flow of life is further articulated in the series of recent tragedies, economic woes, and natural disasters with which our world has endured leaving us uncertain and even fearful of the future. Yet, November closes with Thanksgiving, a day to remember all the good with which God has blessed us during the year, and with the Feast of Christ the King, so we may trust in Jesus and not be afraid.

On a recent visit to our monastery, Fr. Gregory Noel, OFM. cap., Sacred Scripture educator and spiritual director, described an image used in a course he currently teaches on the Book of Revelation. The image depicts two thrones. Upon one is seated God the Father motioning to a younger man to take the seat beside Him. The man instead kneels at the Father's Feet, arms extended, in a posture of humble prayer. It is only the pierced Hands that enable us to recognize that this man is Jesus, the Loving Son and Incarnate Word. Because of the infinite love He bears for His Father and for us. Christ the King defers His royal birthright at the Father's side in favor of the throne of the cross.

In Jesus, the Sacred Heart, pierced with love and flowing with compassion, becomes the gateway to the Father of All Love. The Savior has redeemed us once and for all, it is true, yet, He continues to intercede because humanity continues to turn away. Perhaps due to fear, apathy, or unknowing, we often content ourselves in embracing the values of secular culture where God is not needed rather than live in loving relationship with Him and with each other. Our faith, as well, may be challenged by the stress of our daily striving or by seemingly unanswered prayer and we wonder whether God really listens. Pope Benedict XVI, writes "Faith gives joy. When God is not there, the



world becomes desolate and everything becomes boring and everything becomes completely unsatisfying. It is easy to see today how a world empty of God has become a wholly joyless world. The great joy comes from the fact that there is a great love and that is the essential message of faith – you are unswervingly loved.”

If we take a moment to consider the image of Father and Son, we discover that such a manifestation of God’s love is not some far away event, but rather, one that occurs every day unceasingly. It occurs most particularly at every Mass, at every Holy Hour, and in every Tabernacle where the Blessed Sacrament is reserved. Our Eucharistic King is forever pleading before the Father on our behalf that we may receive the graces necessary to respond to the great love He wishes to shower upon us. Jesus wants nothing more than that we allow ourselves to be loved and be made whole so that we may return that love to Him and to each other. He indeed is the Savior and in Him, with Him, and through Him we can live in hope.

Again, our Holy Father speaks: The human race – every one of us – is the sheep lost in the desert which no longer knows the way. The Son of God will not allow this to happen: he cannot abandon humanity in so wretched a condition. He leaps to His Feet and abandons the glory of heaven, in order to go in search of the lost sheep and pursue it, all the way to the Cross. He takes it upon His shoulders and carries our humanity, He carries us all.... His Eucharistic Heart is ever waiting, ever watchful, ever ready to embrace each soul and present us to His Father as His own. This great mystery of love goes even deeper because Jesus, the King of Mercy, places Himself in our hands and invites us – implores us – to make Him our offering of sacrifice. Jesus Himself becomes the only acceptable sacrifice before the Father, and thus He Himself becomes our reparation. All the merits of His Passion, Death, and Resurrection are freely available for our use through His Eucharistic Heart.

Like our holy sister, St. Margaret Mary, Jesus made Canadian mystic, Bl. Dina Belenger (1897-1929), an intimate of His Eucharistic Heart. Known in religion as Sr. Marie-Cecile de Rome of the Congregation of Jesus and Mary and an accomplished musician, Bl. Dina was described as a person of infectious joy even when suffering with the tuberculosis that claimed her life at age 33. In an ongoing exchange of heart speaking to heart, Jesus tells His confidante: I want you to arrest the avenging arm of My Father’s justice and permit My Mother to lavish on all souls the treasures of the love of My Heart. I want My Mercy to triumph. I want to bestow the grace of repentance on souls, pardon them and establish them in friendship with their God ... My Heart overflows with graces for souls. Bring them to My Eucharistic Heart.

Through the entries of her diary, Bl. Dina’s penetration into the Heart of the Blessed Trinity further reveals the compassionate Jesus. She writes:



If souls but understood the Treasure they possess in the Divine Eucharist, the churches would overflow with adorers consumed with Love for the Divine Prisoner no less by night than by day ...When a soul in whom Jesus lives freely and divinely, offers Him to the His Father for His glory, the Eternal Father can refuse nothing to His Son; moreover, He is satisfied with this offering. This is how I make the offering each time: Eternal Father, through Mary and Thy Spirit of Love, I offer Thee the Eucharistic Heart of My Jesus... Infinite Mercy is exercised on our behalf in the measure that it finds us miserable and unworthy... If (only) I could pour boundless confidence into all those poor souls who mistrust their heavenly Father! ...

He often waits only for a gesture or a thought of love on our part to grant an extraordinary grace to some sinner. If we but open ourselves to grace – in faith, hope and love – the golden rays of the Eucharistic Heart replace the tenacity of our November shadows with blessing for ourselves and those for whom we pray.

Heart speaks to heart, said our Holy Father on His recent pilgrimage to Britain and says now here to us, I ask each of you, first and foremost, to look into your own heart. Think of all the love that your heart was made to receive, and all the love it is meant to give. After all, we were made for love. This is what the Bible means when it says that we are made in the image and likeness of God: we were made to know the God of love, the God who is Father, Son and Holy Spirit, and to find our supreme fulfillment in that divine love that knows no beginning or end. We were made to receive love and we have.

Every day we should thank God for the love we have already known, for the love that has made us who we are, the love that has shown us what is truly important in life...I ask you to look into your hearts each day to find the source of all true love. Jesus is always there, quietly waiting for us to be still with Him and to hear His voice. Deep within your heart, He is calling you to spend time with Him in prayer. But this kind of prayer, real prayer, requires discipline. Often it means waiting for the Lord to speak. Even amid the busy-ness and the stress of our daily lives, we need to make space for silence, because it is in silence that we find God and in silence that we discover our true self... May the November landscapes of our spirits bear much fruit in the new year! ~

Give thanks to the Lord for He is good and His love endures forever – Psalm 118.