

Holy Family B SML 2020
LK 2:22-40

No two hearts in the world ever grew together like the hearts of the Son and the Mother, like Jesus and Mary. Matthew 6:21 says, “For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be.” His treasure was His Mother, her Treasure was Her Son. These two hearts, the Immaculate Heart of Mary and the Sacred Heart of Jesus, kept Their treasures in one another and in the will of the Father. In a certain sense, theirs were not two hearts but one,

- ✓ so deep was their love for each other,
- ✓ so united were their wills,
- ✓ and so united were their minds.

These two hearts, the Immaculate Heart of Mary and the Sacred Heart of Jesus, threw defiance to the world’s warning not to wear your heart upon your sleeve, for they romanced the world openly. Shakespeare wrote: “I will not wear my heart upon my sleeve for birds to peck at.” But the Savior, wearing His Heart upon His sleeve, said, “Come to me, all you that labor and are burdened; I will give you rest.” (MT 11:28) The love of Jesus and Mary for mankind was so open, they left their hearts exposed to every sinful arrow from the bow of mankind.

Standing at the entrance of every heart in the world, Jesus and Mary could say, "Behold, I stand at the door and knock." (REV 3:20) Neither would break down our doors, for our knobs are on the inside.

No other human being in the world contributed to His Sacred Heart except Mary. From Mary's own body and blood, He was nourished for life in the world. She supplied the materials for that Divine Eucharist, His Flesh and His Blood, which, if a man eats, he will live forever. Jesus received His divinity from His heavenly Father, but He received His humanity from His Mother. Reversing Eden, a Man now comes from a woman, and not woman from a man. "Jesus was bone of Mary's bone, flesh of Mary's flesh."

So submissive was He to Mary's care, that the doors slammed in her face in Bethlehem were slammed in His Face too. If there was no room for her in the inn, then there was no room for Him either. As Mary was the tabernacle before He was born, so Mary was the monstrance after He was born. Mary exposed Jesus, the Blessed Sacrament, body, blood, soul and divinity. In the chapel of a stable, Mary exposed Him for adoration before the Wise Men and the shepherds, the very learned and the very simple.

Through Mary's hands, Jesus received His first gifts, and, as all mothers do, she would keep until He grew up. None of them were toys or baby blankets. Two of these gifts were gold and frankincense, because He was a king. But the third gift was bitter myrrh, signifying death. She accepted that gift too, as a sign that, even at the crib, she would help to fashion Him for the Cross, as that is why He came.

Through her arms He goes out to other arms. Men do not receive Jesus except through Mary. Simeon "took Him (from Mary's arms) in(to) his arms." But in no other arms is He really safe, not even in the arms of the saintly old man Simeon. For Simeon, by his words, brought myrrh as well, when he said to Mary, "Behold, this Child is destined for the fall and rise of many in Israel; a sign that will be contradicted, and you yourself a sword will pierce, so that the thoughts of many hearts may be revealed."

"A sign that will be contradicted" means the cross: one bar in contradiction to another bar, man's will in contradiction to God's will. Nowhere in all the world is He safe from contradiction, except with His mother, for being conceived without sin, she was immune from this contradiction.

When a Wise Man at the Nativity first saw Him, he gave

myrrh for His death. When another old wise man Simeon in the Temple held Him, he spoke of a cross. And as for you Mary, the cross will have a sword that will pierce your heart too. At the crucifixion, the spear that lanced His Sacred Heart would pierce her Immaculate Heart as well.

For nine months Mary bore Him in her womb, but for 33 years she bore Him in her heart. As one can kill two birds with one stone, so two hearts can be pierced with one sword. Announcing the reason for His coming did not wait until He was thirty and began His ministry. Simeon announced the reason for His coming when he was forty days old, and that announcement was made through His Mother.

One of my favorite lines in all of scripture is told at the Last Supper. "One His disciples, the one Whom Jesus loved, was reclining at Jesus' side . . . and he leaned back against Jesus' chest . . ." (JN 13:25-26) This disciple was John. Jesus was Mary's first-born of the flesh. John was Mary's second-born of the spirit at the foot of the Cross, when Jesus said to John, "Behold thy Mother. And from that hour, the disciple took her into his home." (JN 19:26-27) Imagine how intimate John the Beloved was to Jesus and to Mary. For I can only think that Good Friday night, John took Mary into his home, and they

consoled one another. They held each other and perhaps, John was privileged to lean against Mary's Immaculate Heart as He leaned against Jesus' Sacred Heart at the Last Supper.

From 2007 – 2016, a monk received messages from Our Lord and Our Lady in the silence of Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. These messages were written down in his book entitled *In Sinu Jesu*, or in English, "On the Chest of Jesus." Often included in these messages is the Beloved Disciple, John. Here is one such message, received on December 20, 2011:

Time spent in My presence is not time wasted. It is the ground and support of every word spoken by My priests in the exercise of their ministry; it is the secret of a priestly action that is supernaturally fruitful, bearing fruit that will last. If this is true of the priests whom I have chosen to labour in the vineyard of My Church, how much more must it be true of those whom I have chosen and set apart to live cloistered in the Upper Room with My most holy Mother and with Saint John, My beloved disciple. John was most at home in My Eucharistic presence and in the company of My

Mother. John understood better and more than the other Apostles the mysteries that I instituted in the Upper Room on the night before I suffered. John was the first of a long line of Eucharistic priests called to love Me and abide in My Eucharistic presence, close to My Heart, and in the radiance of My Face. This is the particular grace that Saint John would share with those who, responding to My call, will find their way to the Upper Room of adoration that I am bringing to birth as a living organism within My Church, enlivened by the Holy Spirit and formed in the Heart of My Immaculate Mother. Be faithful, then, to this work to which I have called you. You have only to cooperate with Me, for I am leading and guiding you. Act boldly, trusting in My power to confirm and ratify all that you do for love of Me with a pure heart and a humble spirit.

And in another message, one week later on December 27th, nine years ago today, Jesus simply said, “Be another John for my Sacred Heart.”