



A Newsletter from the Missions Office/Pontifical Mission Societies in the United States
Catholic Diocese of Columbus, Ohio

Oh Blood and Water which gushed forth from The Heart of Jesus as a fountain of mercy of us, we trust in You!

To monthly mission donors: Thank you for your support!

On behalf of His Excellency Robert Brennan, the Bishop of Columbus, and Very Rev. Father Andrew Small, OMI, the National Director of the Pontifical Mission Societies in the United States, I would like to thank you for your prayers, sacrifices and financial support for the missions.

The Catholic Church dedicates the month of July to the Most Precious Blood of Jesus. In the past, the feast of the Most Precious Blood of Christ was celebrated on the first Sunday of July as confirmed by past Popes and recalled by Pope Benedict XVI in his speech after praying the Angelus on July 5, 2009.

He made a special mention of Pope John XXIII's Apostolic Letter "*Inde a Primis*" (dated June 30, 1960) which explained the devotion's significance and approved its litanies.

The Old fulfilled in the New Covenant

Sacrifice is the highest form of worship which man offers to God as an act of praise, thanksgiving, petition or atonement. The most singular and preeminent sacrifice of the Old Law was the immola-

tion of the Paschal Lamb which celebrated the sparing of Israel's first born from the Angel of Death at the time of Moses and Pharaoh.

The imagery of sacrificial blood from slain animals is made more vivid and meaningful if we recall Moses' words from the Book of Exodus, "***And he took the blood and sprinkled it upon the people, and said, 'This is the blood of the covenant, which the Lord has made with you'***" (Exodus 24:8).

The old sacrifice took a new form in the New Testament when the Lamb of God offered Himself on the altar of the Cross to redeem mankind from sin and the slavery of satan.

During the Last Supper, Our Lord offered Himself in an unbloody, yet real sacrifice when he uttered the following words: "***For this is my blood of the new testament which shall be shed for many unto remission of sins.***" (Matt. 26:28).

Truly, this "shedding of blood" or "pouring out of blood" took place and forms one of the Glorious Mysteries of faith.

The Church teaches that the Blood of Jesus Christ is part of His Sacred Humanity and united to the Second Person of the Blessed Trinity. And as such, it is worthy of adoration and

reverence proper to latreutical worship (cultus latria) which is rendered only to God. In other words, we adore the human nature of Christ because it is the intimate and eternal union with the Person of the Divine Word.

The devotion to the Precious Blood

The devotion to the Most Precious Blood is one of the most ancient pious Church practices.

It is said that the Blessed Virgin venerated the Most Precious Blood of her infant Son on the day of His circumcision as she collected the first relics of His Precious Blood on a piece of cloth. On that momentous occasion she united her tears with that of the Word Incarnate.

It was the first of seven Blood-Sheddings of Our Divine Savior. The rest being;

- 2) The Agony in the Garden
- 3) The Scourging at the Pillar
- 4) The Crowning of Thorns
- 5) The Way of the Cross
- 6) The Crucifixion
- 7) The Piercing of His Heart

In his book, *The Precious Blood*, Father Frederick William Faber, calls Saint Paul the Doctor of the Precious Blood owing to his evident fondness to preach on It.

Living a righteous life

The USCCB (United States Conference of Catholic Bishops) designates one weekend a year for a collection to help the Church in Latin America.

In the Diocese of Columbus, the collection will be taken the weekend of August 3 and 4. Please be generous when the collection is taken.

We are accustomed to think that the Catholic Church is the predominant faith in Latin America.

But Latin America is now called, "***the market place of faith***". It is now, a home of Protestant Pentecostals, Buddhism, the new age mysticism, African animism, among others.

Catholicism in the region is on a decline, according to a recent Pew Research Center Survey.

From the 1900 to 1960's, 90% of the Latin American population was Catholic (History of Religious Change).

Today, according to the Pew Survey, 69% of adults across the region identify as Catholic.

In every Latin American country, the Catholic Church experienced net losses from religious switching, or rejected organized religion all together.

Most of the movement away from Catholicism occurred in the span of a single lifetime.

One third of the current Protestants were raised Catholics.

The survey asked former Catholics why they left. The most frequently cited answer is, "they were seeking more personal relationship with God".

Many former Catholics also said that, "they wanted a different style of worship, or a church that helps its members more".

The survey found that Protestants are more likely than Catholics to report sharing their faith with people outside their own religious groups. Protestants go to church more frequently than Catholics.

The survey also states that some Catholics have thought that in order to be more welcoming, the Catholic Church may have to water down its doctrine.

The survey indicated that that was not the case. Rather, ***People are more interested in sharpening or deepening the sense of right and wrong - to go back to the roots of emphasizing the need to live a righteous life in front of God.***

Do you trust your Advocate, or do you trust your Accuser?

Not all guilt is bad. God uses appropriate doses of guilt to awaken us to sin.

We know guilt is God-given when it causes indignation, alarm, longing, concern and readiness to see justice done (2 Cor. 7:11). God's guilt brings us enough regret to change us.

Satan's guild on the other hand, brings enough regret to enslave us. Do not let satan lock his shackles on you.

Remember, "your life is hidden in Christ with God" (Col. 3:3). When God looks at you, God sees Jesus first.

It boils down to one question, "Do you trust your Advocate, or do you trust your accuser"?

Quip:

Whines are products of sour grapes.

Quest:

Most people would learn from their mistakes if they weren't busy trying to place the blame on someone else.

Quote:

The only thing worse than being blind is having sight, but no vision. ~ Helen Keller

Pope Francis'

Prayer Intention:

That those who administer justice may work with integrity, and that the injustice which prevails in the world may not have the last word.

A joke a priest can tell...



The pastor's wife walked into the kitchen to find her husband stalking around with a fly swatter.

"What are you doing?" She asked. "Hunting flies" He responded.

"Oh. Killing any?" She asked.

"Yep, 3 males, 2 females," he replied.

Intrigued, she asked. "How can you tell them apart?"

He responded, "3 were on a beer can, 2 were on the phone."

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