

## *The External Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus*

*(Extraordinary Form)*

Sunday, Jun 21<sup>st</sup>, 2020

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A week before the crucifixion our Lord was acclaimed as a King of Israel. Our Lord entered the Holy city mounted on a poor animal acclaimed by the crowd as the long-expected King. Was fulfilled in that moment the prophesy of the prophet Zechariah: *“Tell the daughter of Zion, Behold, your king is coming to you, humble and mounted on a donkey...”* (Zach 9:9). In a humble figure of our Lord entering the Holy city is clearly seen his mission: He is the king of peace and of simplicity. Yet, few days later the people of the Holy City found him to be an accursed blasphemer and exiled Him from the Holy city Jerusalem. And as we know from the book of Leviticus such was a law: *“As for the transgression-victims whose blood was carried into the sanctuary to make expiation there, the carcasses must be taken away from the camp and destroyed by fire.”* (Lev. 16:27). Our Lord similar to an expiatory victim was brought out of the camp – the Holy City - to be crucified for our salvation. Jesus was longing for this hour and it finally has come - the hour to bring the fire of his love to this world. Even the tomb and death were unable to withstand such a great love. Our Lord as a victim of expiation was brought outside the Holy City Jerusalem in order to be burned out of love given himself up completely and thus teaching us the true meaning of love. In fact, He taught us that anyone who was to be his disciple must take up his Cross and follow Him.

The vocation of each one of us and our own first meeting with Jesus has its own unique story. And each one of us have experienced in his life the merciful glance of the divine Master saying: ‘Come. Follow me’. Our Lord chose those whom He himself willed and called them. *God, as the Scripture teaches us, chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong.* On the road to calvary there were thousands who were interested in seeing a man going to death. There were many curious people wishing to see those condemned to death. Writes Mons. Fulton Sheen: *“Simon was probably one of those who stood on the roadway until the long arm of the roman law forced him to share the ignominy of a Cross. It was the first time the Savior laid His Cross on anyone; to Simon belongs the*

*privilege of first sharing the Cross of Christ. Though at first reluctant because compelled, he nevertheless must have found, as our Lord said His followers would, "the yoke sweet and burden light". His followers will be for centuries paying heed to the words of the St. Therese of Jesus: "Help to Simone Cyrene carry the Cross". In the figure of Simone Cyrene, who could have been Jewish, judging by his name, or a Gentile, we can find each one of us. Each one of us have a different stories and vocation and yet we, as Simon Cyrene were once called by the Divine Master to share in his sweet yoke. Only being the shares in the sweet yoke of Our Divine Master we'll be "able to grasp with all the saints the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know that the love of Christ surpasses all knowledge". For the Apostles, the crucifixion and death of the Lord was the end of all their hopes and expectations. The suffering of their divine Master and His death was something completely impossible for their understand. Yet, God was preparing something far greater. Something far greater coming after the days of sorrow and sufferings. Says the Scripture: "For my thoughts are not your thoughts, neither are your ways my ways, declares the Lord. For as the heavens are higher than the earth, so are my ways higher than your ways and my thoughts than your thoughts" (Isaiah 55:8-9). After the crucifixion, to the Apostles were meant to encounter again their Master and to meet His loving glance of compassion and forgiveness.*

Brethren: today's celebration of the Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, should move us on to ponder again upon the mystery of God's love and our personal response to the gift of His love. No matter where we came from and what we have done in the past for today's solemnity is a motive for us to rejoice in the contemplation of such a great love for men! Writes St. Bonaventure: *"Arise, then, beloved in Christ! Run with eager desire to this source of life and light, all you vowed to God's service. Come, whoever you may be, and cry out to Him with all the strength of your heart"*. Let us approach Our Lord with confidence in His mercy and forgiveness asking Him to be ever thankful for such a great gift of His love. Let us entreat Him to help us to give a generous response to His mercy in our daily lives.

May Our Lady mother of Mercy obtain for us today this grace.