

Homily  
Solemnity of Most Sacred Heart of Jesus  
June 7, 2024

“For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in him might not perish but might have eternal life.” John 3:16

This does not sound like a vengeful God, but a God of love and mercy. Sometimes I forget that our eternal, all-knowing and all-powerful God, Who is the just judge, is also our all-merciful Father Who loves us more than we can know, Who created us out of His infinite love, Who only wants what is best for us and for us to love Him and each other.

My wife shared a video of a dog pulling a blanket over a sleeping baby then laying his head down on top of her. And I couldn't help but think it would be so nice to have that kind of unconditional love for myself. But we do, in our Triune God.

Today we celebrate the Solemnity of Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Whose heart was pierced on the cross, Whose blood, from His Most Sacred Heart, poured out for us.

St. John Paul II, a great devotee of the Sacred Heart, said, “This feast reminds us of the mystery of the love of God for the people of all times.”

When we examine our conscience, whether before going to confession, retiring for the evening, or in preparation to receive His Most Precious Body and Blood, we focus on our faults, our mistakes, our failures. It's hard for me to look at myself and see what God sees. God looks at us and loves us, even in our sinfulness. Yet, I struggle with those things I cling to, that aren't of God, that I can't seem to shake.

It is today that we are reminded of God's infinite love and mercy, God becoming one of us, the Incarnate Word, our Brother in all ways but sin, yet merciful and kind, forgiving and loving. Today, we remember that the church was born from the pierced heart of Jesus. We are reminded that we are called to love as God loves, to have mercy on our brothers and sisters as Christ has mercy on us.

In our lives and in our work, we must place all our hope in the One who said, “Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light.” *Matthew 28-30* This is one of the most beautiful scriptural references to the heart of Jesus. His heart, the symbol of his redeeming love, is also a symbol of his meekness and humility. Jesus invites us to learn from his heart and to imitate his love, his meekness, and his humility.

We praise our heavenly Father, we thank our fully divine and fully human brother, and we seek the grace of the Holy Spirit, Who gives us everything we need to follow Him. Today, we look upon the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus and cry out, “Jesus, I trust in You!”