

The Precious Blood of Jesus, Born of Mary and Poured Out on Us

During the time of the scourging of my adorable Spouse, I sat in the vicinity, in a part which no Jew dared approach, for fear of defiling himself; but I did not fear defilement, I was only anxious for a drop of our Lord's blood to fall upon me, to purify me. I felt so completely heartbroken that I thought I must die as I could not relieve Jesus, and each blow which he received drew from me such sobs and moans that I felt quite astonished at not being driven away. When the executioners took Jesus into the guardhouse, to crown him with thorns, I longed to follow that I might again contemplate him in his sufferings. Then it was that the Mother of Jesus, accompanied by the holy women, approached the pillar and wiped up the blood with which it and the ground around were saturated. The door of the guard-house was open, and I heard the brutal laughter of the heartless men who were busily employed in finishing off the crown of thorns which they had prepared for our Lord. I was too much affected to weep, but I endeavoured to drag myself near to the place where our Lord was to be crowned with thorns.

I once more saw the Blessed Virgin; her countenance was wan and pale, her eyes red with weeping, but the simple dignity of her demeanour cannot be described. Notwithstanding her grief and anguish, notwithstanding the fatigue which she had endured (for she had been wandering ever since the previous night through the streets of Jerusalem, and across the Valley of Josaphat), her appearance was placid and modest, and not a fold of her dress out of place.... She moved quietly, and although her heart was a prey to the most bitter grief, her countenance was calm and resigned. ... Her beauty was great, but indescribable, for it was superhuman—a mixture of majesty, sanctity, simplicity, and purity.

(Blessed Anne Catherine Emmerich, THE DOLOROUS PASSION OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, Dover Publications, Mineola, NY, Pgs. 218-219.)

Mel Gibson's movie, "**The Passion of the Christ**," portrays this passage from Blessed Anne Catherine's book with such tenderness, reverence and grief that our own hearts are moved to weep with Mary over the sins of mankind that exacted so terrible a price to secure our redemption. O that we might ponder, endlessly, just how precious the Blood of God's own Sacrificial Lamb truly is! O that we might be as anxious as Blessed Anne Catherine was to have even one drop of Jesus' Blood fall on us to purify us! During His Passion, the unruly mob cried out: "Crucify Him! Crucify Him! Let His Blood be upon us and upon our children!" And the great irony is that, indeed, unless the blood of Jesus falls upon us and our children, we shall not be saved!

In the message of **Our Lady of America**© Our Lady's tears beg us to cleanse ourselves in the Precious Blood of her Son and to weep with her over the sins of men. It is a plea she makes especially to her children in America. Must she weep in vain?

"Behold, O my children, the tears of your Mother! Shall I weep in vain? Assuage the sorrow of my Heart over the ingratitude of sinful men by the love and chasteness of your lives. Will you do this for me, beloved children, or will you

allow your Mother to weep in vain? I come to you, O children of America, as a last resort. I plead with you to listen to my voice. Cleanse your souls in the Precious Blood of My Son. Live in His Heart, and take me in that I may teach you to live in great purity of heart which is so pleasing to God. Be my army of chaste soldiers, ready to fight to the death to preserve the purity of your souls. I am the Immaculate One, Patroness of your land. Be my faithful children as I have been your faithful Mother. These are my words, O my daughter. Make them known to my children.”

(Sister Mildred Neuzil, The Diary, OUR LADY OF AMERICA®, Fostoria, OH, Pg. 12.)

Live in the heart of Jesus! Father Frederick William Faber speaks of the spear that tore open the Heart of Jesus so we might do just that, take refuge in it.

The spear has opened a home, a refuge, a hermitage, in that Wounded Heart in which souls in all ages, in these latter days especially, have nestled in all their sorrows and trials, have renewed themselves in the weariness of their exile, and have hidden themselves from the strife of tongue and from an evil world. It is the very glory of devotion to the Precious Blood that this wound of the Sacred Heart proves that our dearest Lord shed every drop of His Blood for us. To us, therefore, for these and many other reasons, the piercing of His Heart is one of our greatest spiritual consolations. But we have to regard it here as one of Mary’s chiefest sorrows.

(Frederick William Faber, D.D., THE FOOT OF THE CROSS, Tan Books and Publishers, Rockford, IL 61105, Pg. 290.)

Devotion to the Precious Blood of Jesus speaks to the infinite love of God for His creatures which prompted the Father to send His only begotten Son into our world to be the true Paschal Lamb sacrificed on the cross and offered on our altars in atonement for our sins, the perfect and only sacrifice that can actually reconcile us to God with the forgiveness of sin. Jesus, the new Moses, leads us out of sin’s slavery, through the desert of our own temptations, to a share in His Passion and death and then in His Resurrection into glory with the Holy Trinity Who created, redeemed and sanctifies us. Yes, the only way to glory is the Via Crucis, being nailed with Jesus upon His cross. The Blood of Jesus has been revered by Christians since it first stained the wood of that cross on Calvary. It was from Christ’s pierced side that the Church was born and the sacraments flowed forth with His Blood. The shedding of His Blood in the New Covenant was prefigured in every animal whose blood was let on the altar of sacrifice in the temple of the Old Covenant, but animal sacrifice could only symbolize what Jesus would effect for our salvation.

In July of 1808, Gaspar del Buffalo, destined to be the Apostle of the Precious Blood, was ordained a priest in Rome. Using a relic, a cloth said to be soaked with the Precious Blood and preserved in the Basilica of St. Nicola in Carcere in Rome, he hoped to stir up greater love for God and a desire for the salvation of souls. He and a companion founded the Confraternity of the Most Precious Blood to spread the devotion. In 1809, however, Napoleon annexed the Papal States and Rome to his empire and was, in turn, excommunicated from the Church. Napoleon then forcibly seized the Pope and began his

persecution of the clergy. When Gaspar was called forth to make an oath of allegiance to Napoleon, he responded: "I cannot, I will not, I must not." He was then exiled from Rome to the city of Piacenza, a city about 250 miles north of Rome, a city with a very damp climate. Gaspar, not the most robust of men, fell ill to the point of death, received Holy Viaticum and was resigned to die. Thereon his spiritual director informed him of a nun's vision about a young zealous priest who, in an evil day, would found a new order of missionary priests under the title of the Precious Blood and would foster the reform of morals and the salvation of souls. Gaspar did recover and it was he who founded the Congregation of the Missionaries of the Precious Blood on the feast of the Assumption, August 15, 1815. Gaspar Melchior Balthazar del Buffalo, born January 6, 1786 and named after the Three Kings on their feast, died December 28, 1837. He was canonized on June 12, 1954 by Pope Pius XII.

In 1849 Blessed Pius IX extended the feast of the Precious Blood to the whole church on the first Sunday of July; it was later moved to July 1st where it still remains in the extraordinary rite. It is deleted from the ordinary rite where it is combined with the feasts of Corpus Christi, Holy Week, the Sacred Heart and the Exaltation of the Cross. In his June 30, 1960 encyclical letter, *Inde a primis*, St. John XXIII speaks fondly of this devotion to the Blood of Jesus as the marvelous manifestation of Divine Mercy towards individuals, Holy Church and the whole world which has been redeemed by it. He approved the *Litany of the Precious Blood* for public and private use. He spoke of the "*unbreakable bond*" which must exist between these three essential devotions that more effectively actuate the fullness of salvation wrought by our one Mediator between God and man, Jesus Christ: the Most Holy Name of Jesus; His Sacred Heart; and His Most Precious Blood. **"The infinite love of the Savior is announced in His Name, is symbolized in His heart, and is made eloquent in His Blood."** –St. John XXIII

St. John XXIII, in his love for the Mother of the Redeemer, might well have addressed the inseparable bond of this trinity of devotions to that of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Co-redeemer with Christ in the work of redemption, and Mediatrix of His grace, she whose intercession is guaranteed to win favor with her Divine Son.

"I am the Mother of the sacred humanity, and it is my special work as co-redemptrix of the human race to help souls reach the sanctity of the Father in eternal union by showing them how to put on Christ, to imbibe His Spirit, and thus become one with Him." (The Diary, Pg. 24.)

"My child, nothing is accomplished without pain. Prepare to suffer much. You see the sword in the Heart of your Mother. Suffering completed the work of divine grace in my soul. He who refuses to suffer will never abide in the Spirit of Christ, will never be formed into His image." (The Diary, Pg. 23.) **"Weep, then, dear child, weep with your Mother over the sins of men. Intercede with me before the throne of mercy, for sin is overwhelming the world and punishment is not far away."** (The Diary, Pg. 34.)

While we weep with Mary over the sins of men and our own sins, let us also beg her to plead the blood of Jesus over us, our families, the Church and our world, and to place us

beneath the mantle of her mercy. Let us remember with gratitude: **“You are ransomed . . . not with perishable things like silver or gold but with the precious blood of Christ.”** (1 Peter 1:18-19) No matter how overwhelmed we are with the sense of evil enveloping our world, the Blood of Jesus is our sure hope for victory in the end.

“The Blood of Christ is the pledge of God’s faithful love for human-kind. By gazing at the wounds of the crucified Christ each man, even in conditions of abject moral poverty, can say: ‘God has not abandoned me, He loves me, He gave his life for me’, and thus rediscover hope.” (Pope Benedict XVI, 5 July 2009)

“It is [the blood of Christ] that is the most powerful source of hope; indeed it is the foundation of the absolute certitude that in God’s plan life will be victorious.” (St. John Paul II, *Evangelium Vitae*, 25.)

Saints who have achieved great holiness by pondering the crucified Christ and reflecting on His Passion teach us ways to make devotion to the Precious Blood, which includes the three devotions previously mentioned, exceedingly fruitful in our lives.

- 1) Jesus told Sister Mary of St. Peter that nothing would be refused to those who offered His Holy Face to His Eternal Father and many sinners would be converted by doing so. He further told her: **“Ask My Father for as many souls as I shed drops of Blood during My Passion.”** By asking for the Precious Blood to be poured out on souls we prevent its being, as it were, spilled out on the ground in vain. In His mysterious Providence God has put the salvation of others in our hands: we must ask for it, and ask fervently and often.
- 2) To St. Elizabeth of Hungary, St. Matilda and St. Bridget He promised that those who prayed for 3 years 2 Our Fathers, 2 Hail Marys and 2 Glory Bes **in honor of the drops of blood He lost on the way to Calvary** would receive a plenary indulgence, remittance of their sins and deliverance from purgatory. He promised that upon death it would be the same as if one had shed all his or her blood for the Faith. And He promised that, at death, He would descend from Heaven to take one’s soul and those of one’s relatives to the fourth generation!
- 3) To St. Gertrude the Great Our Lord promised to release 1,000 souls from purgatory each time this prayer is said; **“Eternal Father, I offer Thee the Most Precious Blood of Thy Divine Son, Jesus, in union with the Masses said throughout the world today, for all the Holy Souls in Purgatory, for sinners everywhere, for sinners in the Universal Church, for those in my own home and within my family. Amen.”**

St. Catherine of Siena, a Doctor of the Church, had great devotion to the Precious Blood and Passion of Jesus. She often lived on nothing more than the Eucharist. It is said that at her deathbed there was an effusion of blood mystically poured out in the separation of her body and soul; she was indeed crucified with Christ, having been beaten over her whole body by blows from demons. How like St. Catherine was our own Sister Mildred Neuzil who, too, accepted victimhood with Jesus by allowing Him to nail her to His cross and lay her on the altar of sacrifice.

We have the *Litany of the Precious Blood* and *The Seven Offerings of the Precious Blood*, (see preciousbloodspirituality.org/prayers) but there is no offering, no prayer more pleasing or more efficacious before the throne of heaven than the Holy Sacrifice of the

Mass where, with the priest, we offer, not only ourselves and the fruits of our labors, but the very Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity of Jesus Christ, our Lord and our God, in union with the Eternal High Priest, to the glory of the Father for the redemption of all mankind. This most holy, public prayer of the Church, gathered as one mystical body with Christ, is the greatest prayer and sacrificial offering we can offer to God. Could there be any gift more precious to give the Father than His own Son? Let us offer the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass with greater sincerity of heart, devotion and gratitude. Let us gather at the altar with Mary and all the Church Triumphant and the Church Suffering, to intercede for Christ's Church on earth which is always in spiritual battle with the infernal forces of hell that seek to destroy it and the souls entrusted to it who have been redeemed at such a great price.

In every era the Lord has inspired certain devotions to stem the tide of iniquity. We also see that in times past the Church was attacked in this or that doctrine. Today the war is being waged against religion as such and against Christ Crucified. We need, therefore, to reemphasize the glories of the Cross and of our Crucified Redeemer, to reopen the fountains of mercy just when the devil would make us the victim of wrath. Now, more than ever, it is opportune to tell people at what price our souls were redeemed. We must let it be known how the Blood of Christ cleanses the souls and sanctifies them, particularly by means of the sacraments. We must arouse them from their insensibility by reminding them that His Blood is offered up every morning upon the altars and that instead of blasphemy and insult, we should give it adoration and praise.

[www.catholicculture](http://www.catholicculture.com) quoting St. Gaspar

We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee, because by Thy holy cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

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