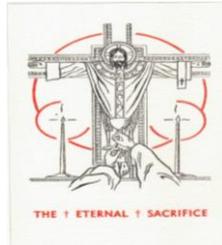


Victim Souls of God's Merciful Love



O my God! Most Blessed Trinity, I desire to *Love You* and make *You Loved*, to work for the glory of Holy Church by saving souls on earth and liberating those suffering in purgatory. I desire to accomplish Your will perfectly and to reach the degree of glory You have prepared for me in Your Kingdom. I desire, in a word, to be a saint, but I feel my helplessness and I beg You, O my God! to be Yourself my *Sanctity!* ...

I offer you, too, all the merits of the saints (in heaven and on earth), their acts of Love, and those of the holy angels. Finally, I offer You, *O Blessed Trinity!* The Love and merits of *the Blessed Virgin, my dear Mother.* It is to her I abandon my offering, begging her to present it to You, Her Divine Son, my *Beloved Spouse....*

I want to console You for the ingratitude of the wicked, and I beg of You to take away my freedom to displease you. If through weakness I sometimes fall, may Your *Divine Glance* cleanse my soul immediately, consuming all my imperfections like the fire that transforms everything into itself. ...

In order to live in one single act of perfect Love, I OFFER MYSELF AS A VICTIM OF HOLOCAUST TO YOUR MERCIFUL LOVE, asking You to consume me incessantly, allowing the waves of *infinite tenderness* shut up within You to overflow into my soul, and that thus I may become a *martyr of your Love, O my God!*

(Cliff Ermatinger, ST. THERESE OF LISIEUX, SPOUSE AND VICTIM, ICS Publications, Washington, D.C. 2010. Appendix, Pages 103-104.)

The above passage written by St. Therese of Lisieux helps us understand what a victim soul is. In this month of November that is dedicated to our men and women in service, so many of whom have laid down their lives for us in defense of our freedoms, a month also dedicated to the Holy Souls in purgatory who need our prayers for their release, it is fitting that we ponder on the role of victim souls and the kind of divine charity that impels them to offer their lives for the salvation of others. Let us likewise ponder how each of us must share, to some degree, in this Victimhood of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, into whose Eternal and Priestly Holocaust of Himself we are all baptized. In our previous newsletter we spoke of Consecration as primarily the action of God Who anointed His own Beloved Son first and foremost to His divine purpose for our redemption. We share in that anointing through baptism and our own individual vocations. **When God gives a mission, He first gives the favor and grace to carry out that mission.** It is He Who chooses us; we do not ordain ourselves to God's purpose. **Some few are called to an extraordinary degree of identification with the victimhood of Christ; all are called to some degree.** Those few come to understand and live in union with Him the depths of His agony, his suffering, persecution, false accusation, physical suffering and the spiritual trials often referred to as the "dark night of the soul." They know the kind of

abandonment Jesus knew in submitting Himself completely to the Will of the Father. **“My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?”** (Mt 27:46.)

St. Therese, the Little Flower, is the most popular saint of our modern era, precisely because of the simplicity of her spirituality, the Little Way of Holy Infancy. She was but a little flower in God’s garden of delights. Hers was a lived theology of charity and the way of the cross, a science of love and communion with Jesus so deep it reached a high degree of divine espousal already here on earth. It stood in striking contrast to the atheistic nihilism of her day. When Therese and her father were on the way to Rome to visit Pope Leo XIII whose permission Therese sought in order to enter Carmel, the registry shows she shared the same hotel as Friedrich Nietzsche, father of atheistic nihilism. She would later offer herself as a Holocaust for the conversion of sinners and release of the souls in purgatory, but especially for the conversion of atheists. Other victim souls in these modern times include St. Gemma Galgani, Blessed Elizabeth of the Holy Trinity, St. Faustina Kowalski, St. Pio of Pietrelcina and our own Sr. Mildred (Mary Ephrem) Neuzil, the visionary of the message of Our Lady of America©.

We have repeatedly presented Our Lord’s appearance to Sister Mildred acknowledging her divine espousal with Him as He invited her to share His own Victimhood in a most extraordinary way. In her August 16, 1956 letter to her spiritual director, Father Paul F. Leibold, we read:

Jesus came to me holding a large cross and a crown of thorns. He said to me smiling, as though He knew what the answer would be (He did of course). “I come with My cross and My crown of thorns; will you accept Me My spouse?” You know the only answer I could give, Father. Who could refuse Jesus anything? During the night I awoke and Jesus said to me, and He said it with a profound emphasis, “I have placed you upon the Altar of Sacrifice.”

[June 14th, anniversary of my perpetual union with Jesus, He asked me again.] **“Bride of My Heart, do you still wish to suffer all things to give Me to souls?” I answered, “Yes, yes dear Lord, I am poor and wretched and unworthy, but you know what is in my heart.” He said, “My little white dove, will you then continue to wear the Crown of Thorns, and permit yourself to be nailed to the Cross?” ... [He assured Sister:] “I will be with you wherever you are, spouse of my Heart. You have nothing to fear.” [It is based on this passage that those closest to Sister believe she endured the invisible stigmata which does not show physical signs, but gives the pain and suffering associated with Christ's afflictions.]**

We recall the altar of Holocaust in the Hebrew covenant when the **fires from heaven would completely consume the victim on the altar.** We see that Holocaust perfectly fulfilled on Calvary where Jesus was wholly consumed with the fire of Infinite Charity and poured out His every drop of Blood in atonement for our sins. That Holocaust is made present on every altar where our Eucharistic Lord is offered anew; where we are invited to join in His Perfect and Eternal Sacrifice for our own salvation and the salvation of all mankind. Sister Mildred’s life was spent in that same kind of consuming love, a sacrificial Holocaust of herself to God for others. When asked if she would be canonized one day, she humbly confessed that she would, not because of her but because of the enormous importance of this message of Our Lady of America© and its central doctrine of our Faith, the Holy Trinity and the Divine Indwelling in every person. Recall the letter from a friend documenting her conversation with Sister Mildred about Our Lady’s words that it would be through the Divine Indwelling, the heart of this message, that

the power of Satan would be definitively destroyed and that this victory would be achieved especially through the Youth of America and of the world, her Torchbearers of the Queen. Is this not the triumph of her Immaculate Heart which she has promised us?

Like the Little Flower and Sister Mildred, we are all called to be like little children in the arms of our loving Father. **"...unless you be converted, and become as little children, you shall not enter into the kingdom of heaven."** (Mt 18:3) And like them, we, too, are called to share in Christ's Holocaust of Himself for the salvation of all, to be co-redeemers with Him in the everyday graces of our own vocations in life. The heroic self-offering of these special victim souls and the martyring physical and spiritual suffering they endured, often but not necessarily accompanied with locutions and/or visions, acknowledged God's acceptance of their great gift of self oblation for His own glory and for the salvation of souls. They are a gift to us to inspire us to greater surrender to the mysterious and inviting ways of God's infinite mercy and love.

Like St. Therese, Sister Mildred composed a prayer of Holocaust and oblation as she accepted Jesus' cross and crown of thorns and allowed Him to nail her to His cross and lay her on the altar of sacrifice with Himself. Her prayer is rich with the language of a Trinitarian spirituality consistent with Our Lady's message for America and the world.

Prayer to the Indwelling Most Holy Trinity

O my Love, my only Good, Most Holy Trinity, I adore You, hidden in the depths of my soul. To You, to Your honor and glory, I dedicate my life. May every thought, word and deed of mine be an act of adoration and praise directed towards Your Divine Majesty enthroned in my heart.

O Father, Infinite Goodness, behold Your child, clothed in the likeness of Your Son. Extend to me Your arms that I may belong to You forever.

O Son, Divine Lord, made man, crucify me with Yourself that I may become, in union with You, a sacrifice of praise for the glory of Your Father.

O Holy Spirit, Fire of Everlasting Love, consume me on the altar of Divine Charity, that at the end of life, nothing may remain but that which bears the likeness of Christ.

O Blessed Trinity, worthy of all adoration, I wish to remain in spirit on my knees, to acknowledge forever Your reign in me and over me, to Your everlasting glory.

Through the Immaculate Heart of Mary the pure Heart of St. Joseph, I consecrate my life to your adoration and glory.

At the moment of death, receive me, O my Triune Love, that I may continue my adoration of love through all eternity. Amen. (200 days)

(Sister Mildred (Mary Ephrem) Neuzil, Diary, OUR LADY OF AMERICA©, Fostoria, Ohio, Pg. 48.)

Nihil Obstat: --- Daniel Pilarczyk, S.T.D.

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Because every one of us is created for God in the image of the Son, we share in the consecration and anointing of Jesus through our Baptism into His Death and Resurrection. Jesus said, **"If any one desires to come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and**

follow me.” (Mt 16:24) As Bishop Fulton J. Sheen would say, one cannot be crowned unless he or she has first suffered. Those who have worked on this new devotion of Our Lady of America® for any length of time understand well the role suffering has in purifying the soul to make it ready to receive initially or a greater infusion of this awesome gift and sanctifying grace of the Divine Indwelling of the Most Holy Trinity. We must be purified from sin before we can enter into God’s Infinitely Pure Presence. This message has a strange way of purifying any person who takes it seriously. Bishop George J. Rehring of the Toledo diocese, who had worked with Father Paul Leibold in approving the Prayer to the Immaculate Conception and the Prayer to the Indwelling Most Holy Trinity and the medal of Our Lady of America®, all essential to this devotion, insisted that the mystery of the Divine Indwelling Trinity must be studied, understood and lived before we can properly promote the message of Our Lady of America®. It must become deep and abiding in our consciousness. In an effort to become more conscious of this awesome mystery of God’s Indwelling Presence let us reflect on the idea of victimhood, especially as seen in the life of Sister Mildred, a victimhood shared, to some degree, with her two faithful cloistered companions by way of their association with and proximity to her mission and sufferings. The remaining companion to Sister Mildred has endured a mountain of hardship in fulfilling her own mission entrusted to her by Sister Mildred, the protection of the integrity of the message with her very life. Let us ponder the following Act of Oblation composed by the cloistered sisters and let it challenge us to live out our own Baptismal consecration and anointing and share in the redemptive mission of Jesus, our Lord and Savior, our Beloved, our God, to the fullest possible degree within our own individual vocation.

Act of Oblation

O my God, I surrender myself entirely and unconditionally to Thee, my Sovereign Master, my Redeemer, and my Sanctifier. Dispose of me as Thou wilt. I cast myself into the arms of Thy loving Providence, abandoning myself unreservedly to Thy Sacred Action.

From Thy Hands, O my God, I accept all that Thou mayest send me whether agreeable or painful.

O my God, help me to acquire that essential disposition of soul so necessary to a surrendered soul, that in all my cares and needs I may manifest a boundless confidence in Thee and that at every moment of my life I may be ready to sacrifice to Thee whatever Thou wilt ask of me, no matter how much it may cost.

Mary, my Mother, help me to love God with my whole heart and soul, to do in all things His holy and adorable Will, and to accept everything from His Hands with the simplicity and trust of a child. (With ecclesiastical approval) ©Cloistered Sisters, New Riegel, Ohio

**"I praise you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth,
because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned,
and revealed them to little children.”** (Mt 11:25)

A little one shall lead them!

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