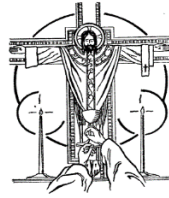


Our Lady's Love Letter to Her Beloved Sons, Our Priests



THE † ETERNAL † SACRIFICE

Back of Father Paul F. Leibold's Ordination Card

The human race has always felt the need of a priesthood: of men, that is, who have the official charge to be mediators between God and humanity, men who should consecrate themselves entirely to this mediation, as to the very purpose of their lives, men set aside to offer to God public prayers and sacrifices in the name of human society. For human society as such is bound to offer to God public and social worship. It is bound to acknowledge in Him its Supreme Lord and first beginning, and to strive toward Him as to its last end, to give Him thanks and offer Him propitiation. ...The priest is the minister of Christ, an instrument, that is to say, in the hands of the Divine Redeemer...."another Christ", for in some way, "he is himself a continuation of Christ."

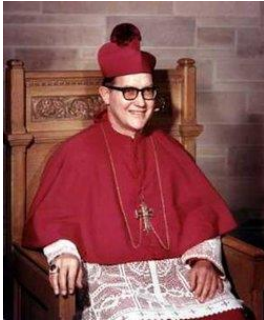
Jesus Christ at the Last Supper instituted the sacrifice and the priesthood of the New Covenant: ... because death was not to put an end to his priesthood, at the Last Supper, the same night in which He was betrayed in order to leave to His beloved spouse the Church, a sacrifice which should be visible (as the nature of man requires), which should represent that bloody sacrifice, once and for all to be completed on the cross, which should perpetuate His memory to the end of time, and which should apply its saving power unto the remission of sins we daily commit, showing Himself made a priest forever according to the order of Melchisedech, offered to God the Father, under the appearance of bread and wine, His Body and Blood, giving them to the apostles (whom He was then making priests of the New Covenant) to be consumed under the signs of these same things, and commanded the Apostles and their successors in the priesthood to offer them, by the words 'Do this in commemoration of Me.' "

But among all these powers of the priest over the Mystical Body of Christ for the benefit of the faithful, there is one of which the simple mention made above will not content us. This is that power which, as St. John Chrysostom says: "God gave neither to Angels nor Archangels" - the power to remit sins.... "Who can forgive sins but God alone?" And, when we see it exercised by a mere man there is reason to ask ourselves, not, indeed, with pharisaical scandal, but with reverent surprise at such a dignity: "Who is this that forgiveth sins also?" But it is so: the God-Man who possessed the "power on earth to forgive sins" willed to hand it on to His priests; to relieve, in His divine generosity and mercy, the need of moral purification which is rooted in the human heart.

(Pope Pius XI, *Ad Catholici Sacerdotii*, December 20, 1935.)

Pope Pius XI spoke of the wickedness and crimes of his day which cry to heaven for God's mercy and pardon, for the enemies of God seek to destroy Christ's Church which imparts the merits of His redeeming grace to all who seek it by the attempt to destroy its priesthood. [It was in 1938 during his reign that "a night illumined by an unknown light" would signal the rise of World War II. "Slay the shepherd and the sheep

scatter!” **“But the gates of hell shall not prevail!”** Benedict XV and Pius XI reigned between WWI and WWII, Fatima era, and are the only two popes of the 20th century who **have not been canonized**, or whose cause has not been introduced.] Although the priest is the ordinary minister of nearly all the sacraments, the true sublimity of the Catholic priesthood lies in its power over the Most Precious Body and Blood of Jesus Christ, to make it present on our altars every moment of every day somewhere in the world, and in that power not even given to the Angels and Archangels, the power to remit sins. Such is the great dignity and awesome power God has bestowed upon His Catholic priests.



In a 1954 letter of Sister Mildred (Mary Ephrem) Neuzil, Our Lord calls Father Paul F. Leibold, her spiritual director, a priest after His own Heart and makes this promise to him.

As a priest after My Own Heart, I will be with him in all his trials and sorrows. Tell him not to become discouraged at the crosses awaiting him for I, the great High-Priest, go before him carrying the heaviest part of his cross. I seek always the humble and lowly of heart and since I have found two such, so I have entrusted to them a great Mission, but become not vain, for I have chosen him and you only because of your unworthiness and lack of virtue. Let this thought be with you always, that you may remember that it is I working through you, Who sanctify you for His glory and the salvation of souls. You are poor instruments in My hands, but through you a Great Work will be accomplished. I am the Great Sculptor of souls. With hammer and chisel I form them that they may glorify My Father by their beauty and perfection. Be pliant in My Hands, oh My two lowly ones, My chosen Priest and My little white dove, and then will you be formed into My Likeness and through you I will be formed in souls. (Sister Mildred’s Letter, February 20, 1954.)

Similar words were spoken by God of King David: **“I have found David, the son of Jesse, a man after my own Heart; he will do everything I want him to do.”** (Acts 13:22.) Can there be any better description of that humble, parish priest, Jean-Baptiste-Marie Vianney,



the Cure of Ars, who died on August 4, 1859? He was canonized in 1925 by Pope Pius XI and declared the Patron Saint of Parish Priests. For St. John Vianney, **“The priesthood is the love of the Heart of Jesus.”** It is said that the last ten years of his life he spent sixteen to eighteen hours a day in the confessional extending the mercy and love of Christ to repentant souls. A relic of the saint’s heart is kept in Ars, France for veneration by the faithful. He is the only diocesan priest ever to be canonized. Perhaps today we should look seriously at the humble life of Archbishop Paul F. Leibold, the holy priest chosen by God to guide Sister Mildred in this great cause of Our Lady of America for the renewal of the whole world, beginning with the United States of America.

The message of Our Lady of America given to Sister Mildred contains this beautiful exhortation and expression of special love for her beloved sons, our priests.

My dear daughter, sweet child, write my words carefully, because they are of the utmost importance. I address them to my beloved sons, the priests, dedicated to the most intense and extraordinary imitation of my Son in the perfect carrying on of His Eternal Priesthood.

Beloved sons, so cherished and greatly blessed among the sons of men, be careful to uphold the sanctity and dignity of your calling. Let the faithful see in you the favored and especially loved imitators of the Son of God. Be modest in your dress and speech as becomes those of so exalted a vocation. The apparel and manners of a man of the world is not for you, who, though living in the world, must not take on its ways. It is through you that the grace of the Sacraments is given to souls. Strive then to make yourselves more worthy receptacles to receive these graces and transmit them in turn to the souls under your care.

Dear sons, I ask you to practice self-denial and penance in a special manner, because it is you who must lead my children in the way of peace. Yet this peace will come only by way of the sword, the flaming sword of love. If, therefore, you love my Son and wish to honor me, heed my admonition and be the first to give the example of a life of penance and self-denial. Thus, by sanctification from within you, you will become a bright and burning light to the faithful, who look to you for help and guidance. I am pleased, dearly beloved sons, by the honor and love you have until now accorded me. Will you now go further and honor me yet more by taking my words to your hearts and doing what I ask? (Sister Mildred (Mary Ephrem) Neuzil, Diary, OUR LADY OF AMERICA, Page 20.)

Many worry that Our Lady of America's requests, especially her ultimate request made to her beloved sons, our bishops of the United States, that a statue of her as Our Lady of America be enthroned in a place of honor in her own Shrine, our Patronal Church, the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, after being carried in solemn procession, are not being carried out as Our Lady has asked. On August 14, 1980, Our Lady spoke gently again to her beloved sons, and to all of us, her children in this regard.

Beloved daughter, you are not being accepted because you are a small one. But in the end all will come as I desire. Those who oppose you will receive light to understand. These good people mean well and if they are in authority it is for you to listen respectfully and obey. I will speak to them in their hearts and the Divine Spirit who makes all things clear will give them wisdom and understanding. In the end they will do as I wish. So, have patience, dear one, it will happen as I have said and those who have opposed me will become my most ardent and courageous supporters. Until this comes to pass, wait in trust, knowing that I never fail those who place their confidence in me. My Son blesses you, be at peace. (Diary, Page 37.) [Let us remember the words of St. John Vianney: "God commands you to pray but forbids you to worry!"]

We would be remiss if, during this month the Church has dedicated to the Most Precious Blood of Jesus, we did not mention that holy priest, Gaspar del Buffalo, founder of the Missionary priests of the Precious Blood, canonized by Venerable Pope Pius XII on June 12, 1954, and hailed by Pope St. John XXIII as **"the world's greatest apostle of devotion to the Most Precious Blood of Jesus."** The Holy Spirit set hearts aflame when St. Gaspar spoke to them of the Precious Blood of Jesus. Could there be any gift more precious to give the Father than His own Son?



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 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. (Reference: Catholic Culture, quoting St. Gaspar del Buffalo.)

“There is nothing so great as the Eucharist. If God had something more precious, He would have given it to us.” St. John Vianney

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Please pray for all our priests. One bishop has asked the faithful to say one Hail Mary every day asking for Our Lady’s protection of her beloved sons, our priests, and for an increase of vocations to the priesthood. This is a good time to sign up for an Hour of Adoration with the July Rosary Congress in honor of Our Lady of America in prayer for our priests. Sign up here:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040445AAAC29A3FC1-50185593-ourlady#/>