

Scripture Reading

A Reading of the Gospel According to John (John 17:20-23)

“My prayer is not for them alone. I pray also for those who will believe in Me through their message, that all of them may be one, Father, just as You are in Me and I am in You. May they also be in Us so that the world may believe that You have sent Me. I have given them the glory that You gave Me, that they may be one as We are one - I in them and You in Me - so that they may be brought to complete unity. Then the world will know that You sent Me and have loved them even as You have loved Me. The Gospel of the Lord. R. Praise to You Lord Jesus Christ.

Reflection– Unity with God Brings Fruitfulness into our lives and Salvation to Souls

I have given them the glory that You gave Me, that they may be one as We are one - I in them and You in Me - so that they may be brought to complete unity (John 17:22-23). As the Last Supper draws to a close, Jesus prays to God the Father in a moving heart-felt prayer, known frequently as Jesus’ high priestly prayer. The petition to God the Father for His disciples and believers to be united with Him is ardently repeated by Jesus. Jesus desires a very high degree of unity: “that they maybe one as We are one – I in them and You in Me.” Jesus desires passionately to be one with each and every believer so that each can attain his/her fullest potential and that all souls can be saved.

God wants all people to be saved and to come to a knowledge of the truth (cf. 1 Timothy 2:4). The name “Jesus” means saviour and it sums up the mission of Jesus on earth. Yes, God the Father ardently desires all His children to be with Him after their earthly lives, to claim the eternal inheritance that has been prepared for each of His children since the foundation of the earth. Of such an inheritance St Paul says: What no eye has seen, what no ear has heard, and what no human mind has conceived - the things God has prepared for those who love Him (cf. 1 Corinthians 2:9). Yes, the glory God plans for His children cannot be imagined!

“I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in Me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from Me you can do nothing (John 15:5). We receive life from God. Every breath we take is sustained by the Holy Spirit who dwells within us. Once God withdraws His Spirit from our body, our life on earth comes to an end – our last act of obedience to God. The Holy Spirit dwells in us to inspire us to holiness as this is God’s will for us (cf. Matthew 5:48). The omnipotence of the Holy Spirit in us is hampered by the reserves of unacknowledged selfishness that resides in our hearts. However, to those who are willing to deny themselves and allowed themselves to be led along the road of holy love and obedience, the Spirit can cultivate a beautiful garden of virtues in each of these souls, and render it a mighty instrument to bring many souls closer to God, thus helping each to discharge our sharing of Christ’s mission as priest, prophet and king (cf. CCC 783-786).

Whoever eats my flesh and drinks my blood remains in me, and I in them (John 6:56). When Jesus teaches on the Bread of Life He gives a startling promise: that He will remain in those who receive His Body and Blood in Holy Communion. It is a wondrous promise borne out of the great love and generosity of God. However, few believers can really understand its significance. God is present everywhere but in a very special way in His believers who receive His most holy Body and Blood during Holy Communion in Mass. Do we really believe God is so near? Do our actions testify to this belief?

Conversation with Jesus

Precious Lord, a good test of love is the commitment to spend time with the beloved. Not only do You want to be with me but You desire to be one with me through the sweet bondage of sacrificial love. Your wondrous commitment to me requires a similar response. In love I surrender to You my heart and life so that I may no longer live for myself but for my Blessed Saviour who died for me. I unite my life and suffering to the bread and wine during the offertory of each Mass taking place throughout time so that they will become meritorious, redemptive and infinite in value through a sharing of Your infinite merits. With the food I take, I will alleviate Your hunger in the desert; with every drink I take, I will alleviate Your thirst on the cross. Let every step that I take help You on the painful way to Calvary. Let our hearts be one as I unite my every breath to the beating of Your Sacred Heart. In uniting our hearts and lives, I hope to gain merits for souls. Mary, Protectress of the Faith, I consecrate myself to You. Guard me as Your special child and keep me in union with Jesus. Thank You Jesus. Praise You Jesus.