

## Notes from the Liturgist...

### Through Jesus' Wounded Heart Brings Eternal Life

"The devotion to the Sacred Heart (also known as the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus) is one of the most widely practiced and well-known Roman Catholic devotions, taking Jesus Christ's physical heart as the representation of his divine love for humanity.

The devotion is especially concerned with what the Church deems to be the longsuffering love and compassion of the heart of Christ towards humanity. The popularization of this devotion in its modern form is derived from a Roman Catholic nun from France, Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque, who said she learned the devotion from Jesus during a series of apparitions to her between 1673 and 1675, and later, in the 19th century, from the mystical revelations of another Roman Catholic nun in Portugal, Blessed Mary of the Divine Heart, a religious of the Good Shepherd, who requested in the name of Christ that Pope Leo XIII consecrate the entire world to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Predecessors to the modern devotion arose unmistakably in the Middle Ages in various facets of Catholic mysticism, particularly with Saint Gertrude the Great." *(Wikipedia)*

This weekend I just want to share with you the words of Fr. Gil A. Alinsangan, SSP as he described and contemplate the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The Gospel reading of Year B on this Solemnity of Sacred Heart of Jesus, we contemplate John's account of Jesus' death on the cross, when his side (heart) is pierced by a lance. In the Gospel of John is very symbolic and theological. St. John does not only give us the detailed account of what took place. He gives us the deeper meaning of these events. He tells us that the piercing of Jesus' side is linked to a prophecy: "They shall look on him whom they have pierced" (Zec. 12:10). The oracle refers to the death of God's servant, rejected by the people; this opens a new era marked by a spirit of grace and petition.

The blood from the side of Christ symbolizes his life poured out on the cross, a life given that it may bear abundant fruit. Joined with water it symbolizes the life-giving sacrifice of Christ.

The water from the side of Christ refers to the gift of his resurrection, the Holy Spirit is given to the disciples once Jesus dies and rises from the dead, and is received through baptism. The Spirit is the rivers of living water that flow from within the Christian.

The Preface of the Mass captures the deeper meaning of this event for the believers: From his wounded side flowed blood and water, the fountain of sacramental life in the Church. To his open heart the Savior invites all men and women, to draw water in joy from the springs of salvation.

My dear friends, as we contemplate the wounded heart of Jesus, we are reminded and invited to repent of our sins so that the Lord may shower us his graces and blessings, so that from his wounded heart we may receive with joy the graces flowing through the sacraments we celebrate.