



Heart to Heart with our New Archbishop

A while ago I shared with you the letter Coadjutor Archbishop of Ottawa-Cornwall Marcel Damphousse wrote to us upon his appointment by the Holy Father. Archbishop Marcel moved to Ottawa in mid June. On The Solemnity of the Sacred Heart he joined Archbishop Predergast S.J., Bishop Guy Desrochers, C.Ss.R., and the Apostolic Nuncio in Canada, Archbishop Luigi Bonazzi for Mass at Notre Dame Cathedral and gave the homily. In 2002 St. Pope John Paul II designated this Feast as “The Day of Prayer for the Sanctification of Priests”

I include here a brief synopsis for your edification of Archbishop Marcel’s heartfelt homily. I include a link at the bottom of this message if you wish to view and hear Archbishop Marcel preach this homily on Youtube. He preached in English and French, his words being addressed to the priests in a special way.

Archbishop Marcel spoke of the importance of prayer in the life of the priest and of every christian. He reminded us that one of the primary tasks of the priest is to guide the people of God to holiness. As priests have been entrusted with this task they are to be men of prayer in the heart of the Church. A daily prayer life ensures that their hearts are united to the heart of Christ which will then make them good guides for others to union with Jesus Christ, holiness and mission.

The Archbishop proclaimed that Jesus reveals the blessed Good News that we have a loving Heavenly Father. Jesus throughout his whole life shows us what kind of love our Father has for each and every one of us. In Jesus, the Son of God, we see and experience God’s “Redemptive Love.” Jesus made a total gift of himself: sacrificing himself, giving everything of himself for us that we may be forgiven of sin, reconciled to God the Father and enter into a whole new life.

On the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus we are reminded that Jesus gave his all that we might have the fullness of life. He continues to reach out to us in our humanity saying

“Come to me all you who are burdened and I will give you rest” Matt 11:28

Archbishop Marcel stressed that God does not just want us to know about His love for us but he wants us to experience His love for us with our own heart. Jesus knows our hearts, especially our wounded hearts, our vulnerabilities and struggles. He calls us to himself in prayer that we might encounter his heart of love and receive the healing, grace and courage that we need. In experiencing the merciful heart of Christ and being exposed to the greatness of God’s love in prayer, the Word, the Sacraments and in the Church we are sanctified and in return are enabled and missioned to share that same redemptive love with others. When our hearts are united to the Heart of Jesus we have the Lord’s same passion that all people be brought to the fullness of life that God intends for those who love him.

You can find this homily by searching on YouTube for: Solemnity Sacred Heart of Jesus Ottawa Cornwall
The homily begins at minute 17.

I will now take a break from writing these mid week reflections.

Thank you for your interest and kind words of appreciation for these reflections.

Fr. Charles