

# 10<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

## St. Mark 14:12-16, 22-26

Last Sunday the Church celebrated Corpus Christi, the Solemnity of the Most Holy Body and Blood of Christ, and we, the parish, commemorated the day with our annual procession of the Blessed Sacrament through the streets of Granville and with solemn Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. And on Friday the Church celebrated the Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. These two solemnities are intimately bound to one another for the Sacred Heart of Jesus is Eucharistic. Of the apparitions of Our Lord to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque 350 years ago in which He made known His desire for devotion to His Most Sacred Heart, three took place within the context of the Holy Eucharist; twice whilst she was at Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and once when she was preparing to receive Holy Communion.

In Our Lord's last revelation to St. Margaret Mary, He pointed to His heart, aflame and crowned with thorns, and said, "Behold the Heart that has so loved men that it has spared nothing, even exhausting and consuming itself in testimony of its love; and in return, I receive from most only ingratitude, by their irreverence and sacrilege, and by the coldness and contempt they have for me in this Sacrament of Love".<sup>1</sup> The "Sacrament of Love" to which Our Lord refers is the Sacrament of the Eucharist because it is His "Heart that has so loved men" which is most clearly seen in the outpouring of His love in His Body and Blood which He gives for our salvation. Our Lord told St. Margaret Mary of His sadness that His love is neglected by so many people. That He, who gave Himself entirely to us to save us from ourselves, who exhausted Himself and was killed on that hill of Calvary, who took on our human nature, bears with us

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<sup>1</sup> Landry, R. "The Sacred Heart and the Eucharistic Revival" in the *National Catholic Register* (ncregister.com)

with enduring patience, who we, His creatures, persecuted, mocked, tortured and crucified, has remained with us and gives Himself to us—Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity—under the appearances of bread and wine.

To hear Our Lord say, as He did to St. Margaret Mary, that for the love He pours out upon us, He receives in return so much “ingratitude, irreverence, sacrilege, coldness and scorn”<sup>2</sup>, should pierce our own hearts just as His heart was pierced on Calvary. It should cause us sorrow, especially those who treat the Sacraments with such contempt, who scorn the Church and see it only as a backdrop to their special occasions like first Holy Communions or Baptisms or weddings, which they turn into something more about themselves than the worship of Almighty God and the reception of His grace. But for those who attend Mass every Sunday, in fulfillment of the command of Our Lord, your faithfulness to Him shows your love for Him. It is a love that is prepared to bear the sacrifices necessary to fulfill His command and it is to such as these that Our Lord says, here is “my brother and sister and mother” (*Mk. 3:34*).

It is why processions such as the parish held last Sunday to honour the Blessed Sacrament, or the procession we have on Good Friday with the Holy Cross or on the Solemnity of the Assumption for the Blessed Virgin Mary, are so very important. They not only express our faith but they are an expression of our gratitude to Our Lord for all that we receive. It is a way in which we publicly make known our love for Him and testify to the world of our love. And even when these processions may be long, or we suffer the heat or the cold or the wind and the rain, they become an act of penance and reparation and they show to the world that we do not long for ease and comfort but for a life that bears hardship and suffering for the sake of Our Lord, who we know will grant us the rewards of our labours if we remain faithful to Him.

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<sup>2</sup> Landry, R. “The Sacred Heart and the Eucharistic Revival” in the *National Catholic Register* (ncregister.com)

It was Our Lord who revealed to St. Margaret Mary that He willed that the celebration of His Sacred Heart would follow the celebration of His Body and Blood. Because it shows that the sacrifice of Himself for us is a sign of His love for us. He who shows His heart to us asks us that we, in turn, show our heart to Him. Even if that heart is wounded by pride, by sin, by suffering, for it is He who will take that heart of ours—battered and bruised as it is—and make it whole again by the grace that flows from His own pierced Heart.