

Carmelites of the Holy Face

St. Joseph's Carmelite Hermitage, O.Carm
Inchincurka, Dunmanway, Co. Cork, Rep. of Ireland



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“The sacrifice of the just is acceptable, and the Lord will not forget the memorial thereof.” (Ecclesiasticus 35:9)

The penitential season of Lent is approaching once again, and in addition there is the likelihood of yet another World War breaking out in the near future. Human nature naturally shrinks from the prospect of suffering and sacrifice, but we must face reality. The grace of God, combined with a correct understanding of the value of suffering, will enable us to face the inevitable courageously; and for this reason we want to share with you a few thoughts on sacrifice.

The greatest sacrifice of all, as you know, was the Sacrifice of Calvary, which is continued and renewed in an unbloody manner upon the altar every day in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. At least, this is true of the Traditional Latin Rite and Eastern Rite. On the other hand, (in many cases at least) the new vernacular Mass of Pope Paul VI fosters the illusion that the Mass is merely a communal meal symbolising our fellowship with one another, rather than the actual re-enactment of the Sacrifice of Calvary. This false idea is encouraged by the prayers of the New Mass, which, for the most part, omit the references to **sacrifice** which occur so frequently in the traditional prayers.

The spirit of the world promotes the gratification of nature and contempt for the supernatural; therefore, it hates suffering and sacrifice. That is one reason why the New Mass is generally accepted, approved, and promoted, while the True Mass is hated, persecuted, and even outlawed by those who are filled with this worldly spirit. The general falling away from the Faith which followed the introduction of the New Mass is something which should sadden us, but not surprise us, for it was predicted by St. Paul:

“Now the Spirit manifestly saith, that in the last times some shall depart from the Faith, giving heed to spirits of error and doctrines of devils.” — 1 Timothy 4:1

It is indeed a spirit of error which leads souls to believe that there is no more need for sacrifice, and that we can have a good time here as well as hereafter; and it is a diabolical doctrine which proclaims that peace, unity and happiness are possible without God. The very people who profess this doctrine of Lucifer are the exact same individuals who are pushing for war and for the death of billions of people. Lest we be seduced by the spirit of error, it is

important that we love the Truth and know our Faith. The Traditional Latin Mass summarises, expresses, and preserves the unchanging Catholic doctrine received from Our Lord Jesus Christ, as it was handed down to us in an unbroken line by the Apostles and their successors. And just as Catholic doctrine can never change, so also, the Mass in its essential parts can never change. Now let us consider how to reap the fruits of this Holy Sacrifice, and how to put into practise, in our daily lives, the lessons it teaches us.

In a certain sense each one of us, regardless of our state in life, is called to spend our entire life “offering Mass,” which we do by offering ourselves in sacrifice in union with Jesus. This is why St. Peter wrote, not only to priests, but to all the faithful in general:

“Be you also as living stones built up, a holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ.” – 1 Peter 2:5

And a little later, he writes:

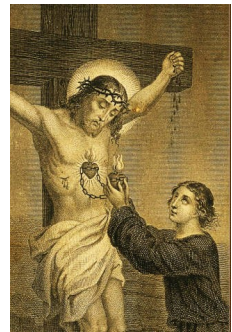
“But you are a chosen generation, a kingly priesthood, a holy nation, a purchased people...” – 1 Peter 2:9

All too often it happens that the Mass is regarded as a ceremony performed by the priest, during which the faithful are present merely as spectators. Nothing could be further from the truth. We are all called to participate in the Mass in a very real way; not necessarily in an active way but by spiritually uniting ourselves to the Holy Sacrifice. This is how Pope Pius XII explained it:

“The Sacred Ministers act in the person not only of our Saviour, but of the whole Mystical Body, and of every one of the faithful. Christ offers not only Himself as Head of the Church, but in Himself His mystical members as well.” (Encyclical letter, ‘Mediator Dei’)

The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass always begins with the Sign of the Cross, just as our Christian life begins when the Sign of the Cross is traced on our heads in Baptism. This teaches us that since we are members of Christ’s Mystical Body, we must share in the sufferings of our Head, participating in the Work of Redemption which was accomplished in no other way than through the cross.

The Confiteor (which has been entirely removed from the New Mass) is a humble acknowledgement that we are sinners, and a plea for mercy. Contrition for our sins is an important part of our preparation for profitably participating in the Mass. The goal of the Mass is to sanctify us so that we may be united with God. This goal cannot be achieved unless we are in the state of grace. The time will come when there will be no priest available to



hear our Confessions; when, as Our lady said to Marie-Julie Jahenny, we will have only her Divine Son as Sovereign Priest to forgive us. In such cases, let us humbly confess our sins to the Lord, crying out like the leper whom Jesus healed:

“Lord, if Thou wilt, Thou canst make me clean.” – Matthew 8:2

Nevertheless, we must not forget the importance of sacramental Confession when it is available. One of the instructions Jesus gave to the leper after having healed him was to go and show himself to the priest, which the Fathers of the Church interpret as prefiguring the Sacrament of Penance.

The Epistle and Gospel, as well as certain other portions of every single Mass, are taken from various parts of Holy Scripture. It is unfortunate that, generally speaking, Catholics are less inclined to read the Bible than Protestants. While it is true that it is not our only rule of Faith as it is for them, every single word of the Bible has been written for our instruction; and so, great profit can be derived from reading and reflecting upon it.

The Offertory is the beginning of the most solemn and sacred part of the Mass. The bread and wine are offered up in order to become Christ’s Body, Blood, Soul and Divinity, through the miracle of **transubstantiation**. In our daily lives, if we have a true spirit of sacrifice, we participate in this part of the Mass by offering ourselves – body and soul – in place of the bread and wine, so that we too may become one with Jesus.

“Every time that we deny ourselves in any way, and to that extent offer ourselves to Jesus, He comes and takes possession of us to that same extent and says, “This is My Body.” – Fr. Eugene Boylan, ‘Difficulties in Mental Prayer’, p. 87

The greatest sacrifice any of us can make, and the one which God asks of us all, is the sacrifice of our own will. While many Catholics desire sanctity, few have understood – or at least, few are willing to give – the very things which God asks. The penances God chooses for us are much more meritorious than those we choose for ourselves. Thus, for example, if it happens that while resolving to fast on bread and water every Friday during Lent, we find that we are often complaining, or losing our temper, or failing to bear patiently with our neighbour’s defects, it would be a more valuable penance in God’s eyes if we were to make an earnest effort to correct these shortcomings. By bearing these little daily crosses which are not of our own choosing, we will be more prepared to accept greater ones when they come; and we will thus gradually grow accustomed to seeking God’s will rather than our own in every detail of our lives. Otherwise He may well address to us the same reproach He made to the Jews:

“Behold in the day of your fast your own will is found...” – Isaiah 58:3

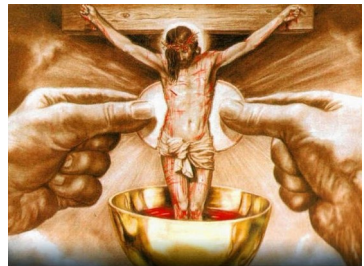
Since our union with God depends upon the conformity of our will to His, whenever we are engaged in doing His will, whatever that might entail, we are actually living in Spiritual Communion with Him. By so acting, we are truly assisting in spirit at every Mass being offered at that time in any part of the world, even if we are not consciously thinking of it. This Spiritual Communion will only be interrupted when we voluntarily choose our own way in preference to His. If we learn to participate in the Mass in this way, it will be our best preparation for the difficult times ahead of us.

Catholic prophecies, as well as a constant tradition among the Fathers of the Church, have made it plain that the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass will cease to be offered publicly during the reign of the Antichrist. This may be inferred from various passages of the Bible, especially in the Book of Daniel:

“...they shall defile the sanctuary of strength, and shall take away the continual sacrifice, and they shall place there the abomination unto desolation.” – Daniel 11:31

During the lockdowns many of you already experienced the spiritual hardship of being deprived of the Sacraments. But if we learn to truly **live** the Mass in the way described above, we will have a spiritual treasure which no power on earth can take away from us. It is up to each of us to make the effort required to secure such a treasure. We have only to will it, not just in theory, but in practise as well. Then the will of God shall become our sacrament, and no suffering which He allows us to meet with will dismay us. Jesus comes to meet us through the crosses and the Calvary which we find in our daily lives; and our sufferings, whether small or great, will only serve to unite us more closely with Him, if we accept them with a truly Christian spirit.

While a priest by virtue of his ordination has truly become Christ's representative on earth, not only priests, but every single one of us is called to become “another Christ.” This is simply our vocation as Christians. The more we become like Christ in His suffering life, the more truly and fully we will experience the benefits of the Mass. If we are faithful in this, He will call us, when our earthly exile is over, to enter with Him into the glory of His Resurrection.



“Know you not that all we, who are baptized in Christ Jesus, are baptized in his death? For we are buried together with him by baptism into death; that as Christ is risen from the dead by the glory of the Father, so we also may walk in newness of life. For if we have been planted together in the likeness of his death, we shall be also in the likeness of his resurrection.” – Romans 6:3-5

Living The Mass

The Sign with which the Mass begins
Implies a sacrifice;
The same is used for Baptisms:
The Holy Cross of Christ.

Within our souls at Baptism
Christ's life began, and we
Must henceforth offer Mass with Him,
Renewing Calvary.

Our lives are like the bread and wine,
Transformed by Consecration
Into His Flesh and Blood Divine.
This is our chief vocation.

The wheat must first be crushed and ground;
The grapes are likewise pressed.
The cross by each of us is found;
Upon us it must rest.

The bread must pass through burning heat;
The wine must be matured.
Our gift of self must be complete
For union with the Lord.

By doing all in Jesus' Name
We offer our oblation,
And He will offer up the same
With words of Consecration.

As much as we do God's will now
With self-renunciation,
In just this measure we allow
This sacred transformation.

Communion time need never end,
For while our wills agree
With His, no power on earth can rend
This bond of unity.

If we raise no impediment,
The Mass will change our day.
God's will shall be our Sacrament,
Which none can take away.

So through Him, with Him, in Him, thus
May everything be done.
In this way Mass is lived by us
And He and we are one.

*Cf. 1 Corinthians 10:16-17, Galatians 2:19-20,
Colossians 1:24, Romans 4:3-4, 12:1, 1 Peter 2:5*

*See also Ephesians 1:9 ("...sacramentum voluntatis
suae...the sacrament of His will..." in the Latin
Vulgate)*

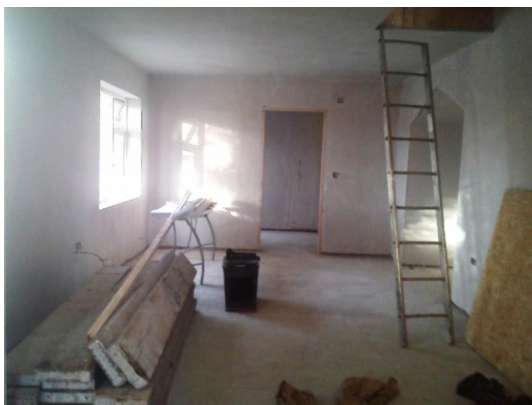


Hermitage News

- + November 2021 – Three garden sheds were delivered and assembled. Once they have been insulated and have had a solid fuel stove installed, they will serve as additional cells for future candidates.
- + 17th November, 2021 – After a three-week live-in experience, Georgina returned to Canada. We continue to receive vocational enquiries, and we are confident that soon our numbers will increase. Your continued prayers for this intention, as well as for a permanent chaplain for our Community, are much appreciated.
- + 7th December, 2021 – A hurricane brought strong winds from the west which tore off the extra roof we had added to our temporary shipping container Oratory to prevent it leaking. It is no longer very waterproof, however, several weeks later, St. Joseph sent us a professional carpenter named Tom, who offered to repair it for us.
- + Late December 2021 – Several volunteers kindly spent part of their holidays helping out at the Hermitage.
- + January 2022 - The interior plastering was completed on the house, but as it took a long time to dry in our damp Irish climate, this delayed further progress for several weeks. The same skilled carpenter, mentioned above, has offered to build the stairs for us, and the digger is currently on site to carry out the necessary work for the wastewater system. The first coat of paint for the interior walls has been purchased, and half of the flooring; but beyond that the house is still in a very raw state. We have yet to purchase a range cooker and a solid fuel stove to serve for cooking and heating, as well as simple second hand kitchen units, the rest of the flooring, and all the plumbing and electrical fittings. We are deeply grateful for the generous response which we have met with so far, and without which, none of these developments would have been possible. We truly appreciate your continued contributions towards the further development of St. Joseph's Hermitage.
- + 2nd February 2022 – On the Feast of the Purification, a visiting priest offered Mass at the Hermitage for all our friends and benefactors. Tom, the Carpenter from the USA (formerly from Galway), voluntarily insulated two



Cells, repaired our temporary Oratory, and built stairs for our new house. St. Joseph never fails to hear our prayers.



We pray that you will all be especially sheltered under the mantle of our Blessed Mother throughout 2022. May she, together with St. Joseph and all the holy Angels and saints, intercede for you, protect you, and guide you safely through these troubled times till you reach the harbour of eternal salvation.

Wishing you every blessing in Jesus Christ,

Your Sisters in Christ & Mary,

Mother Irene of the Holy Face O.Carm and Community

Available from our Carmelite Shop:

Holy Face Chaplet Beads (Colours: Dark green, Dark Orange).....	€6.00
Miraculous Medal, Standard Size (Colour: Silver).....	€1.00
Miraculous Medal on Coloured Leather Necklace (var. colours avail.).....	€5.00
Blessed Oil of the Holy Face.....	Free
1 Decade Chaplet Rosary Beads.....	€4.00

Hand-made blue plastic Rosary beads with Miraculous Medal.....	€6.00
Hand made Greeting & Mass Cards.....	€3.00 each or €25.00 for 10
Brown wool Scapulars of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel.....	€3.00
Large Ornate St. Benedict Medal (Colour: Silver).....	€7.00
St. Christopher & St. Anthony Bronze Medal.....	€4.50
Heavy Copper-Coloured Crucifix Key Ring.....	€9.50
St. Benedict Copper- Coloured Crucifix.....	€2.00
1 Decade Chaplet Rosary Beads.....	€3.50
Wooden Rosary Beads (black or brown) with painted wooden crucifix.....	€5.00
Holy Face Medal (Shroud Image).....	€1.00
Holy Face Medal 3D (Colours: Bronze, Gold, Silver).....	€2.00
Miraculous Medal, Small (Colours: Gold, Silver).....	€1.00
Pardon Crucifix (Colours: Gold, Silver).....	€7.00
Blessed 100% Beeswax Candle.....	offering, €0.50
Blessed Salt.....	Free

HOW TO HELP US?

- ✓ **By your prayers**, especially that Our Lord will send us good vocations, courageous “Veronicas” to wipe and honour His Adorable Face and make reparation for poor sinners.
- ✓ **By your generosity**: bank transfer made payable to
Mother (Sr.) Irene Gibson
Carmelite Nuns of the Holy Face
St. Joseph's Carmelite Hermitage
Inchincurka, Dunmanway,
Co Cork

Bank Name: **Bank of Ireland**
Bank Address: **Westport Co Mayo**
Bank Identifier Code (BIC): **B0FIIE2D**
Branch Code: **90-39-98**
Account Number: **27746013**
IBAN: **IE34 B0FI 9039 9827 7460 13**
- ✓ **PayPal**: monabyrne@rocketmail.com
- ✓ **GiveSendGo**: <https://www.givesendgo.com/G22N8#>