

The Veneration of the Saints

SOMETIMES our non-Catholic friends suspect us of sinning against the first commandment because of the honor we pay to the saints. This accusation would be true if we paid to the saints the divine worship that is due to God alone. But we do not, not if we are in our right minds. Even the honor which we pay to Mary, the Blessed Mother of God, surpassing as it does the reverence we pay to the angels and the other canonized saints, is still of an entirely different nature from the adoration which we give, and may give, only to God.

When we pray to our Blessed Mother and to the saints in heaven (as we should), and beg their help, we know that whatever they may do for us will not be done of their own power, as though they were divine. Whatever they may do for us will be done for us by God, through their intercession. If we value the prayers of our friends here upon earth and feel that their prayers will help us, then surely we have the right to feel that the prayers of our friends in heaven will be even more powerful. The saints are God's chosen friends, heroes in the spiritual combat. It pleases God to encourage our imitation of them and to show his own love for them by dispensing his graces through their hands. Nor does the honor we show to the saints detract one whit from the honor that is due to God. The saints are God's masterpieces of grace. When we praise them, it is God—who made them what they are—whom we honor most. The highest honor that can be paid to an artist is to praise the work of his hands. We honor the

statues and the pictures of the saints, yes; and we venerate their relics. But we are not adoring these representations and relics. No more so than a hardheaded businessman is adoring the picture of his sainted mother before which he places a fresh flower every morning, or the lock of whose hair he carries reverently in his wallet. And when we pray before the crucifix or the image of saint, in order to better fix our mind upon what we are doing, we are not so stupid (let us hope) as to suppose that the plaster or wooden image has in itself any power to help us. That would be a sin against the first commandment, which forbids the making of images in order to adore them. But we do not, of course, adore them....

How then could anyone profess to have a genuine love for Jesus Christ without also having a love for his Mother? The objection that honor given to Mary is honor taken from God; the criticism that Catholics have added a second mediator to the "one mediator between God and man, the Man Christ Jesus," shows how little understood is the truth of Christ's genuine humanness. Because Jesus loves Mary not merely with the impartial love which God has for every soul, not merely with the special love which God has for holy souls; Jesus loves Mary with the perfect human love which only the Perfect Man could have for the perfect Mother. He who belittles Mary does Jesus no service. On the contrary, he who dishonors Mary by reducing her to the stature of a "good woman," dishonors God in one of his most noble works of love and mercy.

Commentary from The Faith Explained by Fr. Leo J. Tresse (1902-1970).

Proper Prayers of the Mass in the Extraordinary Form Votive Mass of the Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary (after Pentecost)

Introit (Hebrews 4:16)

ADEÁMUS cum fidúcia ad thronum grátiae, ut misericórdiam consequámur, et grátiam inveniámus in auxílio opportúno. *Ps. 44:2.* Eructávit cor meum verbum bonum: dico ego ópera mea Regi. *V.* Glória Patri, et Fílio, et Spíritui Sancto. Sicut erat in princípio, et nunc, et semper, et in saécula saeculórum. *R.* Amen. — Adeámus cum fidúcia ...

LET US COME with confidence to the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and may find grace in seasonable aid. *Psalm.* My heart hath uttered a good word: I speak my works to the King. *V.* Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen. — Let us come with confidence ...

Collect

OMNÍPOTENS sempitérne Deus, qui in Corde beátæ Mariæ Virgínis dignum Spíritus Sancti habitáculum præparásti: concede propítius; ut ejúsdem immaculáti Cordis festivitátem devóta mente recoléntes, secúndum cor tuum vívere valeámus. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum ...

ALMIGHTY everlasting God, who in the heart of the blessed Virgin Mary didst prepare a dwelling worthy of the Holy Ghost; grant in Thy mercy, that we who with devout minds celebrate the festival of that immaculate heart, may be able to live according to Thine own Heart. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son ...

Lesson (Ecclesiasticus 24: 23–31)

EGO QUASI VITIS fructificávi suavitátem odóris: et flores mei, fructus honóris et honestátis. Ego mater pulchræ dilectiónis, et timóris, et agnitiónis, et sanctæ spei. In me grátia omnis viæ et veritátis: in me omnis spes vitæ et virtútis. Transíte ad me, omnes qui concupísцитis me, et a generatióibus meis implémini. Spíritus enim meus super mel dulcis, et heréditas mea super mel et favum. Memória mea in generatióibus saeculórum. Qui edunt me, adhuc esúrient: et

AS THE VINE I have brought forth a pleasant odor, and my flowers are the fruit of honor and riches. I am the mother of fair love, and of fear, and of knowledge, and of holy hope. In me is all grace of the way and of the truth, in me is all hope of life and of virtue. Come over to me, all ye that desire me, and be filled with my fruits; for my spirit is sweet above honey, and mine inheritance above honey and the honey-comb. My memory is unto everlasting generations. They that eat me, shall

yet hunger; and they that drink me, shall yet thirst. He that hearkeneth to me shall not be confounded, and they that work by me shall not sin. They that explain me shall have life everlasting.

Gradual (Psalm 12: 6)

MY HEART shall rejoice in Thy salvation: I will sing to the Lord, Who giveth me good things: yea I will sing to the name of the Lord the most High. (Ps. 44:18.) They shall remember Thy name throughout all generations. Therefore shall people praise thee for ever. Alleluia, alleluia. (Luke 1:46-47.) My soul doth magnify the Lord and my spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior. Alleluia.

Gospel (John 19: 25–27)

AT THAT TIME, there stood by the cross of Jesus His Mother, and His Mother's sister, Mary of Cleophas, and Mary Magdalen. When Jesus therefore had seen His Mother and the disciple standing whom He loved, He saith to His Mother: Woman, behold thy son. After that, He saith to the disciple: Behold thy mother. And from that hour, the disciple took her to his own.

Offertory (Luke 1: 46)

MY SPIRIT hath rejoiced in God my Savior: because He that is mighty hath done great things to me and holy is His Name.

Secret

WE WHO offer to Thy majesty the Lamb without blemish, beseech Thee, O Lord, that our hearts may be kindled by that

qui bibunt me, adhuc sitient. Qui audit me, non confundetur: et qui operantur in me, non peccabunt. Qui elúcidant me vitam ætérnam habébunt.

EXSULTÁBIT cor meum in salutári tuo: cantábo Dómino qui bona tríbitur mihi: et psallam nómini Dómini altíssimi. V̄. Mémores erunt nóminis tui in omni generatióne et generatióne: proptérea pópuli confitebúntur tibi in ætérnum. Allelúia, allelúia. V̄. Magnificat ánima mea Dóminum: et exsultávit spíritus meus in Deo salutári meo. Allelúia.

IN ILLO TÉMPORE: Stabant autem iuxta crucem Jesu, mater ejus, et soror matris ejus Mariá Cléophæ, et Mariá Magdaléne. Cum vidisset ergo Jesus matrem, et discipulum stantem, quem diligébat, dicit matri suæ: Múlier, ecce filius tuus. Deínde dicit discipulo: Ecce mater tua. Et ex illa hora accépit eam discipulus in sua.

EXULTÁVIT spíritus meus in Deo salutári meo: quia fecit mihi magna qui potens est et sanctum nomen ejus.

MAJESTÁTI tuæ, Dómine, Agnum immaculátum offeréntes, quæsumus: ut corda nostra ignis ille divínus accéndat, qui

Cor beátæ Mariæ Virginis ineffábiliter inflammávit. Per eúndem Dóminum ...

Preface of the Blessed Virgin Mary

VERE DIGNUM et justum est, æquum et salutáre, nos tibi semper, et ubique grátias ágere: Dómine sancte, Pater omnipotens, ætérne Deus. Et te in Festivitaté beátæ Mariæ semper Virginis collaudáre, benedicere et prædicáre. Quæ et Unigénitum tuum Sancti Spíritus obumbratióne concépit: et virginitátis glória permanénte, lumen ætérnum mundo effúdit Jesum Christum Dóminum nostrum. Per quem majestátem tuam laudant Ángeli, adórant Dominatiónes, tremunt Potestátes. Cæli, cælorúmque Virtútes, ac beáta Séraphim, sócia exsultatióne concélebrant. Cum quibus et nostras voces, ut admitti júbeas, deprecámur, súpplici confessiόne dicéntes: — Sanctus.

Communion (John 19: 27)

DIXIT JESUS matri suæ: Múlier, ecce filius tuus: deinde dixit discipulo: Ecce Mater tua. Et ex illa hora accépit eam discipulus in sua.

DIVINIS refécti munéribus te, Dómine, suppliciter exorámus: ut beátæ Mariæ Virginis intercessiόne, cujus immaculáti Cordis solénnia venerándo égimus, a præsentibus periculis liberáti, ætérnæ vitæ gáudia consequámur. Per Dóminum nostrum Jesum Christum ...

divine fire which so ineffably inflamed the heart of the blessed Virgin Mary. Through the same Jesus Christ ...

IT IS TRULY meet and just, right and for our salvation, that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to Thee, holy Lord, Father almighty, eternal God: and that we should praise and bless and proclaim Thee on the Festivity of the Blessed Mary ever Virgin: who conceived Thine only-begotten Son by the overshadowing of the Holy Ghost, and the glory of her virginity still abiding, gave forth to the world the eternal Light, Jesus Christ our Lord: through Whom Angels praise Thy Majesty, Dominations worship, Powers stand in awe. The Heavens and the hosts of heaven with blessed Seraphim unite, exult, and celebrate; and we entreat that Thou wouldst bid our voices too be heard with theirs, singing with lowly praise: — Sanctus.

JESUS SAITH to His mother: Woman, behold thy son. After that, He saith to the disciple: Behold thy mother. And from that hour, the disciple took her to his own.

Postcommunion

REFRESHED by these divine gifts we humbly beseech Thee, O Lord, that by the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary whose immaculate heart we now solemnly celebrate, we may be delivered from present dangers and obtain the joys of eternal life. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son ...