

Study Lesson Number:21

THE REDEMPTION: (continued)

There are three things we learn from the sufferings and death of Christ:

1. GOD'S LOVE FOR MAN. St. John tells us, "In this we have come to know His love, that He laid down His life for us: (1 John-3/16)
2. THE EVIL OF SIN. "He bore our sins in His body upon the tree, that we, having died to sin, might live to justice" (1 Peter-2/24). We cannot see the harm sin does to our soul, but studying the crucifix will help us to realize it. Our sins did that to Christ!
3. THE NEED OF SATISFACTION. God could have forgiven sin without requiring any satisfaction! But He did even better. If he forgave us without any satisfaction, His justice would not have been satisfied and we would always feel guilty. So He made it possible for us to make satisfaction for the sins that we OURSELVES have committed.

THIS IS THE WAY THAT GOD HAS CHOSEN AS THE PROGRAM:

- (A) God has sent His only Son, whose loving obedience even to the death of the Cross pleased Him more than sin displeased Him.
- (B) God has made it possible for us to share in Christ's satisfaction through:

- (1) Baptism
- (2) The Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

(Note Well: IF THE HOLY MASS IS SOMETHING OTHER THAN A SACRIFICE, IT CANNOT MAKE SATISFACTION TO GOD! The modern attitude that the Mass is a Worship Service - a MEAL - a BANQUET - makes NO satisfaction to God. This point is absolutely necessary to remember.)

By Baptism, which makes us members of the Mystical Body of Christ. Then Christ, the head of the Body, can satisfy for us. It is like apologizing with your tongue for something you did wrong with your hands.

By the HOLY SACRIFICE OF THE MASS, which offers to God all our actions, especially our sufferings, in union with those of Christ.

IN THE PERFECT SACRIFICE OF THE MASS we offer up GOD to GOD. If we fail to do this, then WE DO NOT MAKE SATISFACTION FOR OUR SINS. There is no other way!!!

Our own actions, even our best ones, and our own sufferings, even the worst ones we endure, could NEVER of themselves please God as much as the sins we have committed have hurt and displeased Him.

But when our actions, our sufferings, our love are all UNITED with the actions, the sufferings and the love of Jesus Christ, AND OFFERED UP WITH HIM IN THE MASS, then we can have the understanding that WE CAN AND DO please God MORE than we have hurt Him by our sin.

IN OTHER WORDS, WE CAN MAKE FULL SATISFACTION FOR OUR SINS THROUGH CHRIST.

NO OTHER WAY WORKS TO OUR BENEFIT, AND CONSEQUENTLY NO OTHER WAY CAN EFFECTIVELY REMOVE OUR FEELINGS OF QUILT AND UNREST OF MIND.