

Sunday in the Octave of Christmas, 2009

The Holy Innocents

“And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of His Son into your hearts, crying, Abba, Father.”
(Gal. 4:6)

The anniversary of Christ's birth brings with it many feasts which help us to live in the Love and life of the Church. “Faith tells us that God has given His Son for our sakes and gives us the victorious certainty that it is really true: God is Love.”¹ And again, “Whoever loves Christ loves the Church, and desires the Church to be increasingly the image and instrument of the love which flows from Christ.”



Let us bear in mind that each one of us is a masterpiece of God's creation. Every individual will have to account for his own time of trial on this earth; and when we come face to face with Christ who loved lived and died for us, as the Son of Man, He will not seek to find the Curé of Ars, or The Little Flower, or Blessed Mother Theresa — but He will want to see us as that masterpiece created by God; and from his very creation destined to love and serve God using whatever talents God bestowed upon each of us to fulfil the particular vocation in this life as perfectly as possible. God desires to see the masterpiece that He created for His own glory. And so the Church provides us with the help of her yearly calendar, with the Holy Eucharist and prayer in praise, and thanksgiving to God.

Immediately after Christmas we celebrate the first Martyr, Stephen, who was a Deacon who bearing witness to Christ saw the Son of Man beside the glory of the Father in heaven — and imitated the love of Christ in forgiving his enemies. Then, St John, the only Apostle to follow Christ to Calvary, where he stood at the foot of the Cross. Today, the Holy Innocents, slaughtered by the wrath of a jealous earthly king. So many in those days turned to the things of this world, forgetting the promise, fulfilled when Mary Immaculate gave birth to the Light of the world; welcomed by poor shepherds; welcomed by members of the priestly Caste of Persia, who were led

¹ Pope Benedict XVI

by a star to the Light of Life and came to adore Him. That light that each of us must carry in our hearts, in which God has sent the Spirit of his Son!

Time now to waken up and examine how we have fulfilled – how we have used – our talents to bear fruit because of that Light which enlighteneth every man born into this world. And what gifts God has bestowed; especially the gift of His own Immaculate Mother to be a second Eve, Mother to all the world. How deep is that gift of Faith through which the love of God should radiate from us as children of that Immaculate Mother, as children of the God who brought us out of nothing and showered His gifts and blessings on every one of us. Meditate on the Joyful Mysteries of the Holy Rosary and never cease to implore our heavenly Mother's help.

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