

Now, therefore, O our God, hear the supplication of Thy servant and his prayers: and shew Thy face upon Thy sanctuary, which is desolate, for Thine own sake... for it is not by our own righteousness that we present our prayers before Thy face, but for the multitude of Thy tender mercies. Dan. 9, Epistle of Today's Mass

Monday in the Second Week of Lent

Dear Members and Friends of the Society of the Sacred Heart,

I continue to pray for a fruitful Lenten pilgrimage for you all. At the beginning of this season, I emphasized to you the importance of making a good confession early on with a view to making many fervent Communion throughout Lent. Now we are especially aware of the fact that we should be adding a particular thought to our thanksgiving after Holy Communion: we are thankful that we are able to attend Mass and receive Holy Communion! Of course such a thought should often be on our minds, when we consider the large portions of the world that are deprived of priests or in a state of persecution. But the current panic in Europe over the corona-virus and the suspension of public Mass in many places has, I think, roused us from our complacency.

Lent is the great season of almsgiving. If, as St. Augustine says, fasting and almsgiving are the two wings by which we ascend to God in prayer, it is clear we cannot fly by physical mortification alone. The Fathers teach that the purpose of curbing our cravings and quieting our curiosity is to make us abound in generosity. St. Thomas reminds us that almsgiving is just another word for the works of mercy (Summa Theo. IIaIIae Q. 32 a.1-2). And so, in this second week of Lent, I have a spiritual work of mercy to propose to you: offer up your Sacramental Communion especially for those throughout the world who long to receive the Sacraments but cannot. I appeal most of all to those of you who have the inestimable grace of receiving Holy Communion daily. Imagine someone who, at this moment, must content himself with kneeling down wherever he finds himself and directing his longing for Our Lord toward the nearest tabernacle. Unite that person's spiritual communion to your Sacramental one, and pray that the graces you receive may be shared with him. What greater act of love can we make toward our fellow members of the Mystical Body of Christ?

Let us be united as well in our novena to St. Joseph, Celestial Patron and Protector of Holy Church. As we recite his litany together, let us implore his fatherly care over the sick and dying and his mighty protection from all those who would thwart the Bride of Christ in Her divine mission to bring that true healing which comes only from the Sacraments instituted by Her Spouse.

Sincerely Yours in His Most Sacred Heart,
Canon Aaron B. Huberfeld
Provincial Chaplain