

REFLECTION ON THE DECEMBER 2016 MI INTENTION

*O Immaculata please intercede
that the Incarnation and Nativity of Christ may cause us to ponder the
mercy of God for mankind and instill in us the courage to look to the
future with hope.*

All the earthly experience of Christ is the triumph of his merciful love. Saint Maximilian "reads" the way of the Lord among humankind with this special "lens." His Incarnation, public life, passion and death express the infinite love of God for man, manifested in Jesus and poured out over all creation. Here are the touching and significant words of the Polish martyr, contemplating with sublime expressions the divine benevolence.

"Who would dare imagine that You, O infinite and eternal God, have loved me for ages, and more than that, from before the ages? In fact, your love for me exists, as long as You exist as God, so it follows that You have loved me and will always continue to love me!... even before I existed, You already loved me, and precisely because You loved me, O good God, You brought me to existence from nothingness!...

"For me You created the heavens adorned with constellations of stars, for me the earth, the seas, the mountains, the rivers and the many, many beautiful things here on earth...

"As if this was not enough, to show me that You really love me tenderly, You descended from the pure delights of heaven to this degraded world full of tears. You led a hard life in poverty and suffering; finally, despised and derided, You chose to be hung up on a base scaffold in terrible pain between two thieves... O God of love, You have redeemed me in this terrible but generous way!...

"Who would dare imagine?...

"Alas, You were not content with this, knowing that I would appear here on earth 19 hundred years after this moment of the effusion of Your revelations of love, You have provided even for this! Your heart did not consent that I would be nourished only by the memory of Your immeasurable love. You remain upon this miserable world in the Most Holy and exceedingly admirable Sacrament of the altar, and now You come to me and unite Yourself intimately to me as nourishment... Now, Your Blood already flows into mine, Your Soul, O incarnate God, penetrates my soul, strengthening and nourishing it...

"What miracles! Who would dare to imagine?...

"What could You have given me more, O God, after having offered Yourself to me to become mine?...

"Your heart, inflamed with love for me, suggested to You another gift, yes, yet one more gift!...

"You asked us to become children, if we wish to enter the heavenly kingdom (cf. Mt. 18:3). You well know that a child needs a mother: You Yourself established this law of love. Your goodness, Your mercy, therefore, created for us a Mother, the personification of Your goodness and infinite love. From the cross, on Golgotha, You offered her to us and us to her... Furthermore, You, O God of love, arranged to make her the omnipotent Dispenser and Mediatrix of all Your graces: You refuse nothing to her, but neither is she capable of refusing anything to anyone... Who therefore, will be damned? Who will not reach heaven?" (KW 1145)

Even the Immaculata is an expression of the merciful love of God. He does not limit Himself to saving humanity in Jesus Christ, but He gives us a mother to whom we can turn to in every circumstance of life. In the following prayer, the martyr of Auschwitz expresses his gratitude to the Holy Trinity for the gift of the Virgin Mary. In this prayer is the perception of a triune God, great, infinite, omnipotent, Almighty, who, even so, Saint Maximilian feels close, intimate to his heart. He speaks to God with the familiar “You,” with confidence and in a spirit of abandonment, even if he is aware of His grandeur. The intent is to praise and worship God: a prayer of blessing the Trinity and not to ask God favors or graces.

He is aware of his littleness before the omnipotence of God, he exalts Him in His work of salvation and for His love for mankind and his journey of sanctity. He expresses his adoration for the gift of the Immaculata, of whom he underlines the work of perfect cooperation in the divine plan of salvation.

For reflection

“I adore You, Our Father in Heaven, because You placed her most pure womb Your only-begotten Son.

“I adore You, O Son of God, for You have deigned to enter her womb and became real, true Son of her.

“I adore You, Son of God, for You have deigned to shape in her immaculate womb the body of the Son of God.

“I adore You, O Most Holy Trinity, one God in the Holy Trinity, for having raised up the Immaculata in such a divine way.

“And I shall never cease, every day, as I wake up from sleep, to most humbly adore You, O Triune God, with my face to the ground, repeating three times: “Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.” (KW 1305)

(Translated by Ann O'Donnell, FKMI)