

JULY



THE MONTH DEDICATED TO THE PRECIOUS BLOOD OF JESUS

During the month of July, we hear the litany to the Most Precious Blood of Christ sung in churches during evening services. A few months after our Lenten contemplation of the greatest mystery of our faith, the image of God tormented and suffering comes back to us. We may wonder why, during the summer month associated with holidays, the Church desires to direct our spiritual gaze to the streams of blood flowing from the pierced Heart of Jesus. Certainly this is due in part to St. Gaspar del Bufalo – called by Pope John XXIII the world's true and greatest apostle of devotion to the Most Precious Blood of Jesus.

Saint Faustina was so taken by the sorrowful passion of our Lord Jesus Christ, that for example, she did not miss to do the Via Crucis on a single day of her life as a nun.

She fully understood the ultimate sacrifice that Jesus did for mankind, that in Diary there are many passages where she expresses her love for the Blood of our Lord given as a gift to us.

We find in her diary the following entries:

I feel there is not a single drop of blood in me that does not burn with love for You (Diary, 343).

Numerous mystical experiences gave her a profound understanding of this grace given to mankind:

O Jesus, be mindful of Your own bitter Passion and do not permit the loss of souls redeemed at so dear a price of Your most precious Blood. O Jesus, when I consider the great price of Your Blood, I rejoice at its immensity, for one drop alone would have been enough for the salvation of all sinners (Diary, 72).

We, too, are all invited to come to know more deeply the gift of the Blood of Christ so that after the example of the Apostle of Divine Mercy we may declare:

I love You, Jesus, with every drop of my blood, and I would gladly shed my blood for You to give You a proof of the sincerity of my love (Diary, 57).

DEVOTION TO THE MOST PRECIOUS BLOOD OF JESUS



The Church teaches that the entire human nature of Christ is worthy of adoration because of its intimate and unending union with the Person of the Divine Word. Devotion to any one of the parts of the human nature of Christ properly takes the form of adoration.

The motive of such adoration is the Godhead itself, or the Divine Word, Who is inseparably united with Christ's sacred Humanity.

But there are certain parts of Christ's human nature which are particularly deserving of honour because of the singular part they played in the mystery of Redemption or because of a special symbolism they possess. The special reason underlying devotion to the Most Precious Blood of Christ is the fact that we were redeemed with the Precious Blood. The Precious Blood of Christ, shed to the last drop during the Passion, is the price He paid for our salvation.

The Blood of Christ is true sacrificial blood shed to ratify the New Covenant. His Blood was far more excellent than the blood of sacrificial victims of the Old Covenant to cleanse and purify us. By the Will of God and according to His Divine plan, the New Covenant required dedication by the blood of a

victim, Jesus Christ. At the Last Supper Jesus said, "This cup is the New Covenant in My Blood, which will be poured out for you" (Lk 22:20).

The Precious Body and Blood of Christ is offered in the Mass as the sacrifice of Christ's Mystical Body, as the sacrifice of each of us. The Precious Body and Blood of Christ received in Holy Communion gives food, drink, refreshment, and health to the life of the soul. The Lamb of God, slain for the sins of mankind, is the sacrifice and the banquet of the Christian soul, the very strength and inspiration for Christian living. Thus devotion to the Most Precious Blood encourages a greater love for the Mass.

The Blood of Christ is real drink and, together with His flesh, is food for our eternal life. Jesus promised the Eucharist in these words: "Whoever eats My Flesh and drinks My Blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up on the last day.

For My Flesh is real food and My Blood is real drink. Whoever eats My Flesh and drinks My Blood dwells in Me, and I dwell in him"(Jn 6:54-56).

A single drop of the Blood of Jesus would have sufficed to save us, for being the God-Man, everything in Him is of infinite value. But it was to manifest to us the extent of His love that He shed His Blood to the last drop when His Sacred Heart was pierced. Now, if He shed His very life's blood for us, it is but right that we live only for Him.

LITANY

Lord, have mercy. *Lord, have mercy.*
Christ, have mercy. *Christ, have mercy.*
Lord, have mercy. *Lord, have mercy.*
Christ, hear us. *Christ, graciously hear us.*

God, the Father of Heaven, *have mercy on us.*
God, the Son, Redeemer of the world, *have mercy on us.*
God, the Holy Spirit, *have mercy on us.*
Holy Trinity, One God, *have mercy on us.*

Blood of Christ, only-begotten Son of the Eternal Father, *save us.*
Blood of Christ, Incarnate Word of God, *save us.*
Blood of Christ, of the New and Eternal Testament, *save us.*
Blood of Christ, falling upon the earth in the Agony, *save us.*
Blood of Christ, shed profusely in the Scourging, *save us.*
Blood of Christ, flowing forth in the Crowning with Thorns, *save us.*
Blood of Christ, poured out on the Cross, *save us.*
Blood of Christ, price of our salvation, *save us.*
Blood of Christ, without which there is no forgiveness, *save us.*
Blood of Christ, Eucharistic drink and refreshment of souls, *save us.*
Blood of Christ, stream of mercy, *save us.*
Blood of Christ, victor over demons, *save us.*
Blood of Christ, courage of Martyrs, *save us.*
Blood of Christ, strength of Confessors, *save us.*
Blood of Christ, bringing forth Virgins, *save us.*
Blood of Christ, help of those in peril, *save us.*
Blood of Christ, relief of the burdened, *save us.*
Blood of Christ, solace in sorrow, *save us.*
Blood of Christ, hope of the penitent, *save us.*
Blood of Christ, consolation of the dying, *save us.*
Blood of Christ, peace and tenderness of hearts, *save us.*
Blood of Christ, pledge of eternal life, *save us.*
Blood of Christ, freeing souls from purgatory, *save us.*
Blood of Christ, most worthy of all honour, *save us.*

Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world: *spare us, O Lord.*
Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world: *graciously hear us, O Lord.*
Lamb of God, You take away the sins of the world: *have mercy on us.*

V. You have redeemed us, O Lord, in your Blood,
R. And made us, for our God, a kingdom.

Let us pray:

Almighty and Eternal God, You willed to honour the standard of the life-giving Cross by the Precious Blood of Your only-begotten Son. Grant, we beg You, that they who rejoice in honouring the same holy Cross and His Precious Blood may rejoice also in Your ever-present protection. We ask this through the same Christ our Lord. R. Amen.

PRAYERS TO THE MOST PRECIOUS BLOOD OF JESUS

(These may be used as novena, prayed for 9 days consecutively or for occasional use, particularly during July)

Jesus, Man of Sorrows, accept the homage I wish to render Your most Precious Blood during this novena, as a token of my sincerest appreciation for the sorrows and sufferings You have willingly borne to atone for my many sins and to prove how much You love me. I adore You as my very God, Who willed to become Man in order to save me from eternal death. I thank you as the best Friend I have, Who laid down Your life as proof of the greatest love possible.

I ask pardon for having so little thought of You, the Man of Sorrows, and for having caused Your sorrows and sufferings by the many sins I have committed.

I pray to You, good Jesus, for all the graces I need to know You, to love You and serve You faithfully until death, and to save my soul. Give me a fervent devotion to Your Sacred Passion by which I was redeemed, venerating especially Your Precious Blood. Teach me how to unite the sorrows and sufferings of my life with Your own. Through the merits of Your most Precious Blood and the prayers of Your Mother of Sorrows, I ask for this special favour:

(Mention your request)

With childlike trust I abandon myself to Your holy Will concerning my request. If it should not please You to grant what I ask, I beg You, give me that which You know will be of greater benefit to my soul. Grant me the grace to know You, to love You, and to be truly sorry that I have offended You. I ask this grace by Your Precious Blood:

By that Precious Blood which bathed Your sacred Body and trickled down to the ground in the Garden of Olives.

By that Precious Blood which poured forth from Your sacred Body during the scourging.

By that Precious Blood which covered Your Sacred Face when You were crowned with thorns.

By that Precious Blood which burst from Your hands and feet on Calvary.

By that Precious Blood which came forth from Your Sacred Heart after Your Death.

By that Precious Blood which is still offered daily on our altars at Holy Mass.

By that Precious Blood which we drink in Holy Communion and of which You said, "He who feeds on My Flesh and drinks My Blood has life eternal."

OFFERING

Eternal Father, I offer You the most Precious Blood of Jesus Christ in atonement for my sins, in supplication for the holy souls in purgatory, and for the needs of holy Church. Eternal Father, I offer You the most Precious Blood of Jesus with all its merits:

To expiate all the sins I have committed during all my life.

To purify the good I have done poorly during all my life.

To supply for the good I ought to have done, and that I have neglected all my life.

SAINT FAUSTINA'S PRAYER

Jesus, may Your pure and healthy blood circulate in my ailing organism, and may Your pure and healthy body transform my weak body, and may a healthy and vigorous life throb within me, if it is truly Your holy will that I should set about the work in question; and this will be a clear sign of Your holy will for me. (Diary 1089)

**OH BLOOD AND WATER, THAT GUSHED FORTH FROM THE HEART OF JESUS
AS A FOUNTAIN OF MERCY FOR US, I TRUST IN YOU**

(Diary 309)