



misericordiæ

The Quarterly Newsletter of the Priestly Society of Mercy
Quarter I, 2021

MY SONG FOR TODAY

By Saint Thérèse of Lisieux

My life is but an instant, a passing hour.
My life is but a day that escapes and flies away.
O my God! You know that to love you on earth
I only have today !...



Oh, I love you, Jesus! My soul yearns for you.
For just one day remain my sweet support.
Come reign in my heart, give me your smile
Just for today!

Lord, what does it matter if the future is gloomy?
To pray for tomorrow, oh no, I cannot!...
Keep my heart pure, cover me with your shadow
Just for today.

If I think about tomorrow, I fear my fickleness.
I feel sadness and worry rising up in my heart.
But I'm willing, my God, to accept trial and suffering
Just for today.

O Divine Pilot! whose hand guides me,
I'm soon to see you on the eternal shore.
Guide my little boat over the stormy waves in peace
Just for today.

Ah! Lord, let me hide in your Face.
There I'll no longer hear the word's vain noise.
Give me your love, keep me in your grace
Just for today.

Near your divine Heart, I forget all passing things.
I no longer dread the fears of the night.
Ah! Jesus, give me a place in your Heart
Just for today.

Living Bread, Bread of Heaven, divine Eucharist,
O sacred Mystery! that Love has brought forth...
Come live in my heart, Jesus, my white Host,
Just for today.

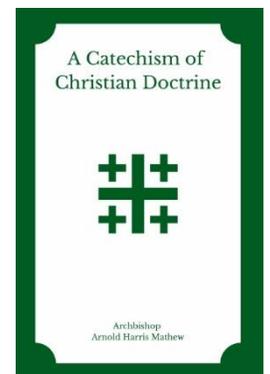
Deign to unite me to you, Holy and sacred Vine,
And my weak branch will give you its fruit,
And I'll be able to offer you a cluster of golden grapes
Lord, from today on.

CATECHISM PUBLISHED

First Time Published Since 1914

On March 5, 2021, the Catechism of Christian Doctrine was published by Saint Gabriel Theological Press. The Catechism of Christian Doctrine was first published by Archbishop Arnold Harris Mathew in 1914. It is a valuable resource for Old Roman Catholics as it details the beliefs of the church near its founding. It is available from Lulu Press here:

<https://www.lulu.com/en/us/shop/arnold-harris-mathew-and-william-myers/a-catechism-of-christian-doctrine/paperback/product-6d5g7k.html?page=1&pageSize=4>



Born Again: A Lenten Call to Conversion

By Father Joshua Shawnee, SSM

In the gospels we find an unconventional but timely Lenten story. You know the passage. The Pharisee Nicodemus sneaks to see Jesus under cover of darkness. “Rabbi,” he says, “these signs and miracles show us that you are indeed a teacher sent from



God.” Flattery gets Nicodemus nowhere, unfortunately. As usual, Jesus cuts to the quick. “No one can see the kingdom of God without being born from above, born of water *and* Spirit.” Many translations of this passage read “you must be born anew,” or, more commonly, “you must be born again.”

I am blessed to live and serve in Tulsa, Oklahoma – the gleaming buckle of the bible belt. You can’t throw a bible in this town without hitting a church. And with the high concentration of Evangelical churches here, Catholics are frequently confronted with a seemingly benign but pointed question, “Have you been born again?”

It can be a difficult for Christians in the sacramental traditions to answer that question. Like Nicodemus, the notion of being “born again” can leave us a little puzzled. When we start to dig a little deeper with our well-meaning Evangelical brothers and sisters, we learn that being “saved,” being “born again” means having a grace-filled conversion experience in which we turn our lives over to Jesus Christ and confess Him as Lord and Savior.

To be sure, there are people in the Church Catholic who have had meaningful conversion experiences, people who have had powerful encounters with the Holy Spirit that have blessed them with a very personal, visceral experience of the

Risen Christ. I am one of them, and I wouldn’t trade those life-altering experiences for anything.

But there also those who have experienced the grace-filled work of the Holy Spirit in an entirely different way, people whose conversion came about more gently from a still small voice heard in the quiet study of sacred scripture or in prayerful encounters with the sacraments. There are those among us who have experienced conversion by the gradual renewing of the mind in diligent study and thoughtful reflection or through a reconciling experience of the Risen Christ in beloved, sacred community.

These quiet, gradual conversion experiences are no less valid. They are no less the work of the Holy Spirit in the life of the believer and in the community of faith. They, too, are conversion experiences.

So, have you been born again? Have you been born from above, of both water and Spirit? Lent reminds us that all Christians must undergo conversion. Yes, even us Catholics. That conversion experience may be a life-altering, overpowering experience of the Holy Spirit or it may be a gradual, persistent, still small voice calling us to repentance and to holiness over years, decades, over a lifetime even.

Each experience of conversion is unique because each person’s relationship with God is unique. It doesn’t matter how conversion takes place really. All that matters is that it does take place. All that matters is that our experience with Christ changes us completely and eternally.

It was true for Nicodemus. It is true for us today. We must be born again. Our Lenten journey calls us to conversion in the hopes that, having entered the Paschal Mystery with Christ, we may be born anew on Easter morning. May we be born anew by water and the spirit this year as we journey ever closer to the cross and what lay beyond it – resurrection life!