

Compare With: "The Catholic Tradition on Defining a Cult"

Lent is the moment of Sacrifices by:

Rev. Barry Stechschulte.

From: The Daily Standard, Celina OH 3-18-2011.

... every year my mom corrected me and said I should be giving up something that really costs me. So I would end up giving up TV after school or soda pop. *And she would tell me to offer that little sacrifice to God for all the souls out there who need His grace more than I.*

I took those lessons from my mom to heart and ever since **Lent** has always had a special place in the practice of my Christian faith. Today it cost me just as much to **give up TV** (like my daily ESPN fix) **or soda pop** (nothing goes better with a burger and fries than a cold Dr. Pepper). I offer these little sacrifices not so much because they have value in themselves, but united to Christ's sacrifice on the Cross, they take on a redemptive value in the whole economy of salvation.

That's the key: We can do little of nothing on our own. But by *uniting it to Jesus' offering we can really make a difference.* This is a fruit of the Incarnation... -- that **God** became one with us by becoming one of us. He sacrificed Himself in a human body and soul, in our place. Now *He allows us to unite Our sacrifices of every day to His.* Not that Christ's sacrifice was insufficient. It was not. But *Christ wants us to participate in our salvation because He participated in our human nature. So our little offering does matter, to us and to Jesus.*

At the Catholic Mass, the priest pours a few drops of water into the cup of wine to be consecrated into the Blood of Christ. This symbolizes our little sacrifices offered along with the Blood of the Lamb on the altar. For it is at the altar that the one redemptive sacrifice of Christ is made present for us, and it is the best moment to offer our sacrifices...

Transform Suffering Into Joy

Michael La Corte SOUL winter 2011 SOUL@BLUEARMY.COM

Without the Consequence of Suffering we wouldn't learn to choose Wisely... Often, suffering appears to be random, severe and unfair... however we can do our best to minimize our suffering and... of others by following God's path.

*We can transform our human suffering into Eternal Salvation for ourselves and for others. **Our Lady of Fatima** brought this message to us through the three shepherd children when she asked them on May 13, 1917, "Will you offer yourselves to God and bear with submission all the sufferings He sends you, in reparation for the sins that offend Him, and for the conversion of sinners?"*

*Towards the end of Jacinta's life **Our Lady** asked her if she wanted to come to Heaven or suffer more from her very painful disease. Jacinta made her choice and took great joy in learning that the Blessed Mother would send her to two more hospitals, not to get better but to continue to suffer for the conversion of sinners.*

We shouldn't seek *suffering* and we should work to overcome it, but as we encounter it or even life's daily aggravations *we should offer them to God as acts of penance for the reparation of sin.* These small acts transform something unpleasant into something spiritually good and we should allow it to bring us joy, because ***By Accepting Suffering In The Way That GOD Has Asked We Will Be Serving GOD, Our Fellow Man And Working Toward Our Salvation.***

The Gate of Heaven:

Mary is called "The Gate of Heaven because no one can enter that blessed Kingdom without passing through her."

"As the moon, standing between the sun and the earth, transmits to the earth whatever light it receives from the sun, so Mary stands between God and human beings and pours His grace upon us." St. Bonaventure. SOUL winter 2011. By: Rev Andrew Apostoli. C.F.R.

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The Heart of OUR LADY'S Urgent Message at Fatima Focuses on the Conversion of Sinners.

When The Little Visionaries Lucia, Francisco, and Jacinta saw The Vision of Hell during **OUR LADY'S** Apparition on July 13, 1917 at The Cova Da Iria, An Indelible Reminder Was Given to Them of *How Urgent it is that the Souls of All God's Children Be Saved.*

The Impact of the Vision Bore Great Fruit in Their Lives. All of Them, but Especially Little Jacinta, the Youngest of the Visionaries, Realized how important it was To Pray For Sinners *So That All Would Be Saved in Heaven and None Would Be Lost in Hell.*

OUR LADY Confirmed This Aspect of Her Message in Her August Apparition. At One Point Toward The End of The Apparition **OUR LADY'S** Face Suddenly Became Sad and She Said To The Three Little Children:

"Pray, Pray Very Much, and Make Sacrifices for Sinners;

FOR MANY SOULS GO TO HELL BECAUSE THERE ARE NONE TO SACRIFICE THEMSELVES AND TO PRAY FOR THEM."

[Gary: What about JESUS?]

Compiled by: Gary Westgerdes. From Catholic Sources.

www.thekeysofheaven.com