

Week Four/Day Seven: *Christ Our Redeemer*

1. **Place yourself in God's presence.**
2. **Ask for the grace that you seek in this meditation:** *knowledge of Jesus Christ so as to love Him more deeply and serve Him with greater fidelity.*
3. **Today's Meditation:**

*"God so loved the world that he gave his only Son,
that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life." (John 3:16)*

"The truth is that only in the mystery of the Incarnate Word does the mystery of man take on light. For Adam, the first man, was a type of him who was to come (*Rom 5:14*), Christ the Lord. Christ the new Adam, in the very revelation of the mystery of the Father and of his love, *fully reveals man to himself* and brings to light his most high calling".

These words, belonging to the Second Vatican Council, were ones that Pope St. John Paul II repeatedly referenced throughout his pontificate. Why? Because "the Great" understood that not only *the world* but more importantly *the heart* of each one of us longs for an identity. We all yearn for that truth which will give our lives a definitive meaning; which will set our lives on a path of complete freedom. St. John Paul II knew, as did the Council Fathers, that this longing, this yearning could only be fulfilled in Jesus Christ.

As we come to the end of our 33 day preparation for total consecration to Jesus through Mary we must examine the conviction we hold concerning this truth. If we are not convinced that Christ is the sole Redeemer of mankind and that He alone brings meaning to our lives, then consecrating ourselves to Him through Mary will be just not checkmark on the list of Catholic "to do's".

But how does Christ fully reveal "humanity" to us? He does so through love. To borrow the words of St. John Paul II, you and I cannot live without love. We remain beings that are incomprehensible for ourselves, our lives are senseless, if love is not revealed to us, if we do not encounter love, if we do not experience it and make it our own, if we do not participate intimately in it. Christ the Redeemer "fully reveals man to himself" precisely in this: in Him we encounter divine love, we experience it as personal, and we are called to receive it and participate intimately in it.

Yesterday we said that too few of us really "love" Christ with that purity of love which is ready to bear any cross or suffering necessary; the consequence of that is that we lose out on the opportunity to experience divine love, i.e. love in its truest form. It is divine love alone that can truly re-create us and bring us to experience the fullness of life. And this divine love is not something far away or inaccessible. It has come to us in human form and appearance. It has come to us in Christ: Christ the Redeemer of man and woman!

"The man who wishes to understand himself thoroughly-and not just in accordance with immediate, partial, often superficial, and even illusory standards and measures of his being-he must with his unrest, uncertainty and even his weakness and sinfulness, with his life and death, draw near to Christ. He must, so to speak, enter into him with all his own self, he must 'appropriate' and

assimilate the whole of the reality of the Incarnation and Redemption in order to find himself. If this profound process takes place within him, he then bears fruit not only of adoration of God but also of deep wonder at himself... In reality, the name for that deep amazement at man's worth and dignity is the Gospel, that is to say: the Good News. It is also called Christianity. This amazement determines the Church's mission in the world and, perhaps even more so, 'in the modern world.'" wrote St. John Paul II.

Let us take the time to meditate on this fundamental truth: that in Christ alone I find my life, I find my purpose, I find my future, I find my worth, I find my Redeemer. Then, let us be "amazed" that He is calling me to share in the Church's mission by being His slave through Mary. It's not a slavery of bondage, but one of love; one that we freely accept for the great love He has poured out on us. To the world "slavery" sounds ludicrous, but the children of God and of Mary it means a complete gift of self and a complete gift of love. Praised be God who has chosen us in Christ!

- Today's Prayer -

O Jesus living in Mary, come and live in your servant in the Spirit of your holiness, in the fullness of your gifts, in the perfection of your ways, in the truth of your virtues, in the communion of your mysteries. Subdue within me the power of flesh and demon by you Holy Spirit, for the glory of God the Father. Amen.