

PRAYER II: SERVICE TO THE CHURCH

Source text: Letter 42, 2

“The second act [of prayer] looks at him [Jesus] as head of a moral body. Look at him in this body that is his Church, wounded and crucified, poor, needy, persecuted, rejected and scorned. And under this consideration, offer yourself to take care of it and render it services that are within your ways and means. Moreover, look at him as Lord and owner and king of the universe and since he does not reign in us without us, except with us, in us and for us, under this point of view offer yourself also for whatever he wants from you. (...) Besides the prayer, you could offer yourself for work according to and under the plans that providence have for you; conforming your life with the laws of the holy Gospel and arranging your actions according to the style prescribed by obedience and offer yourself to suffer and endure whatever suits with his plans”

Christ is never alone. He is in every moment mystically united with his body, the Church. To love Jesus, is to love the Church. And to love Jesus and Church is to offer yourself to give remedy to all their needs taking care in every means and ways that are in your hands. God has plans for each one of us, He needs us to fulfill His plan of salvation for whole humanity. He needs lovers totally available to His will, ready to endure whatever it takes. “*Love is deeds*”, in words of Saint Teresa of Avila. “*If you love me, you will keep my commandments*”, Jesus said (Jn 14:15) and there is only one commandment that we are called to keep: to love God and to love our neighbor. “*There is no other command greater than that*” (Mt 12:31). And “*there is no greater love than to lay down one’s life for one’s friends*” (Jn 15:13).

Canon:

This is His body, this is Him:
Wounded, rejected, poor and in need.
This is His Church, my only love
And for this love I offer it all.

Invitation for silence:

Imagine a person wounded, crucified, poor, needy, persecuted, rejected, scorned. This person is the love of your life. What are you willing to do for him?