

***“What is Truth and the call to the deeper Conversion?”***

1. **What is truth?** The Roman leader, Pontius Pilate, says somewhat snidely to Jesus in the Passion narrative according to St. John. Pilate exemplifies the secular compromised mentality of his time and all time. We have political leaders today, some who claim to be “devout” Catholics, who snidely say and act the same way. As Pilate sold out Jesus to an unjust death, for his own ambition and cynicism, so politicians today do the same with allowing the unborn children of our world to be legally slaughtered, Christian marriage to be mocked and downgraded by supporting gay marriage and all the transgender agenda, etc. We are called to love all people and want what’s best for them in God, but it always has to be in His truth – not making it up as we go, which is the natural position of our fallen unredeemed nature – see all the talk today: “my truth”, “your truth” = moral and spiritual relativism of which Pontius Pilate was a sad role model. No, we followers of Jesus follow the Truth who is the Blessed Trinity and all that God has revealed to the human race thru the Sacred Scriptures, the Deposit of Faith in Holy Tradition, and the lives of the saints.
2. **2<sup>nd</sup> Conversion:** It’s not enough to be baptized a Christian; we must put on the Lord Jesus and His way of thinking and acting. Remember He alone is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. There is no other name under Heaven by which human beings are to be saved! The saints tell us that we all need to have what is called a **2<sup>nd</sup> conversion** if we are to fulfill our mission here on earth and to become holy as God is holy. Jesus won these graces for us on the Cross. The symbolic blood and water flowing from his Heart in the Divine Mercy picture shows us that. When we are baptized whether as a little baby or later in life the Blessed Trinity comes to dwell in our souls by sanctifying grace and we are given the theological virtues of Faith, Hope, and Charity which gives us the capacity to have a living personal relationship with the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit as well as the 7 gifts of the Holy Spirit which draw us ever closer to God. This is why we need to avoid mortal sin at all costs which can end that life of the Trinity in our souls until we repent and receive God’s forgiveness in the Sacrament of Confession. The 2<sup>nd</sup> conversion is when we finally take the whole Catholic faith and the spiritual life seriously and make

real efforts to grow in the likeness of Christ. It's not automatic, but it is an invitation from the Lord that is always there – if we desire it, at whatever age we are.

3. **The Life of Reparation:** After we enter into the 2<sup>nd</sup> conversion, in time, God will try to draw us ever deeper into union with Him and that involves sharing in the mystery of the Cross on a much deeper level than prior to our 2<sup>nd</sup> conversion. As St. John of the Cross and other saints note, **the reason God is so patient** with us humans - *although not approving, but tolerating our sins for a time – which can be years or even decades as St. Theresa of Avila points out – in her own life from joining the convent until taken the Faith more seriously in her 30's – because He wants us to freely respond to His invitation not just to help save our own soul, but to help Him and in a special way our Blessed Mother in the salvation of other souls, especially hardened sinners. **Think of little St. Jacinta** who at 8 or 9 was offering extra acts of penance and more and more Rosaries each day to help our Lady bring souls to Jesus; again the beautiful example of her going to daily Mass as often as she could; and when asked why by adults, she would say, *it is an act of reparation to God for all the adults who don't go to Mass regularly on Sunday or the Holy Days.* **St. Louis de Montfort** teaches us the same lessons of reparation in his books the *Secret of the Rosary* and the *True Devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary* in which God thru him teaches us about the Total Consecration of our Life to Jesus thru Mary: which in essence is a call to live a life of reparation for our sins, but also for the conversion of others. If you are interested in learning what that consecration involves, please get in touch with me after Easter. **All of these graces to believe in the Truth, to embrace a 2<sup>nd</sup> conversion in our life, and then hopefully to live more a life of reparation for sin is made possible because of Jesus's supreme act of self-giving love on the Cross.** His love defeated the hatred of satan, sin and death; and it is the reason why we don't call today "Terrible Friday" which it is in that the Son of God was murdered in cold blood – the worst act of evil in the history of the world; but it is called "Good Friday" because Jesus won for us the grace of redemption by His salvific death on the Cross. What a gift! May we never take it for granted! And let's ask the Lord to take us daily into a deeper union with Him, in company with our Lady, for the salvation of souls, especially the many hardened sinners of our world today. God bless you.*