

Dear Friends in Christ, the Church teaches that God, the Father, has revealed everything that we need to know for our salvation through Jesus Christ, His Son. Jesus, the Word, communicated this Revelation to His Apostle, who in turned passed it on to others in written form or through their teaching and preaching. The deposit of the Faith, therefore, is to be found in the twin foundations of Public Revelation, that is, in Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition. There exists throughout the centuries, however, what are called "private" revelations, some of which have been recognized by the authority of the Church. According to the Catechism, "They do not belong, however, to the deposit of faith. It is not their role to improve or complete Christ's definitive Revelation, but to help live more fully by it in a certain period of history" (cf. CCC 67).

There is a series of private revelations which always profoundly touches me whenever I reread them. They are found in a book titled, *The Way of Divine Love*. The book captures some of Jesus' inner thoughts which he revealed over a period of time to a nun named Sister Josefa Menendez. Let me recount what Jesus told Josefa when He was about to institute the Eucharist: "I want to tell them (souls) of the poignant sorrows which filled My Heart at the Last Supper... It is love for souls that keeps Me a Prisoner in the Blessed Sacrament. I stay there that all may come and find the comfort they need in the tenderest of Hearts, the best of Fathers, the most faithful of Friends, who will never abandon them....The Holy Eucharist is the invention of Love . . . Yet how few souls correspond to that love which spends and consumes itself for them! . . . I live in the midst of sinners that I may be their life, their physician, and the remedy of the diseases bred by corrupt nature. And in return they forsake, insult and despise Me! . . . Poor pitiable sinners, do not turn away from Me. . . . Day and night I am on the watch for you in the tabernacle. I will not reproach you . . . I will not cast your sins in your face. . . . But I will wash them in My blood and in My wounds. No need to be afraid . . . come to Me. . . . Do I not know that family cares . . . household concerns . . . and the requirements of your position in life . . . make continual calls upon you? . . . But cannot you spare a few minutes in which to come and prove your affection and your gratitude?. . . Were you weak or ill in body surely you would find time to see a doctor who would cure you? . . . Come, then, to One who is able to give both strength and health to your soul, and bestow the alms of love on this Divine Prisoner who watches for you, calls for you, and longs to see you at His side. When about to institute the Blessed Sacrament, Josefa, these were My feelings...." These few sentences powerfully capture the inner longings that Jesus has for souls; a longing that continues unabated. Do not be afraid then to go to Him and share all your needs, brokenness, sins, worries, desires, hopes and dreams. Jesus wants nothing more than to bestow His love on you from the Blessed Sacrament of Love.

Pax Christi, Fr. Thomas