



Advent meditation 11 by Father Robbie Low

ADVENT XI

MOSES II

The extraordinary richness of the life of Moses means that we could probably do a whole Advent meditating on his various adventures and encounters. Today I am not going to choose either the Passover – foundational as it is – nor the giving of the Commandments. Rather I want us to dwell on the remarkable passage that is in Exodus 24 v 1 – 11. In essence it seems very simple. Its outcome is, however, profound.

The People of God have been set free from slavery by the blood of the Passover Lamb, sacrificed, whose blood on the doorposts of the faithful turns away the Angel of Death. They have escaped the pursuing armies of the enemy by the miracle of the Red Sea. They are on their way to the Land of the Promise. Moses gathers them together and together they make sacrifice. The People hear the Word of God and pledge themselves to faithfulness and ever following. Moses takes the blood of the sacrifice in great bowls and casts half of it upon the altar – i.e. Godward. The other half he casts over the People. God and His people are bound together in the Blood of the Sacrifice. The blood is the sign of life. It is this life that holds the Divine and Human covenant together.

God promises (sacramentum) He is bound by His Word which is Christ. Man promises, he is bound by his word and his life.

And then something unique and consequently remarkable occurs. We are

told that Moses and the seventy elders enter the Holy Mountain and see the God of Israel. Under His feet is a pavement of Sapphire. God did not harm them. They gazed on Him and, in His Presence, they ate and drank. This is the revelation of what, in Christ, will become the reality of the mystery of the Mass. The People gathered, hearing the Word, penitent, pledged to God forever, bound by the Blood of the once for all and eternal sacrifice, enter the Presence, gaze on God and, unharmed, commune on the mountaintop (where Heaven and Earth meet) and eat and drink of the divine banquet.

It is no accident that Mother Church chooses this account for the lection of Corpus Christi.

Spiritual exercise:

Reflect, in the light of this story, how you approach the Sacred Presence.