

The Holy Face of Jesus Newsletter

Issue 6, Seek the Summum Bonum

November 4th, 2024



Blessed are the pure in heart, they shall see God (Matt. 5:8).



Christ Glorified in the Court of Heaven by Fra Angelico (1423-4)

A Pure Heart seeks the greatest Good

Last week, we acknowledged we see through a glass darkly in this life. If we want to see God for all eternity, that vision which alone can fully appease all the desires of our mind and body, we have only to purify our heart. To have a pure heart is certainly to be chaste, that is, to be no slave to the lusts of the flesh, but it means much more than that. To have a pure heart means to aim at God alone, to love God alone, to focus on Him, to want Him, to have no facades. It is to seek in all things only what will lead to Him. It is to be **detached from anything that is not Him** or that could take us away from Him.

St Augustine and St Thomas Aquinas tell us that it is the virtue of **faith** that makes **this passionate search for the face of God** possible; it is the Gift of understanding which incites us

to purify our vision and seek what eye has not seen nor ear heard, nor the human heart conceived, those things that God has prepared for those who love Him (1 Cor 2:9). If that desire grows in us, then **the temptation to find satisfaction in creatures will lose its hold** on us.

This past All Saints Day, we asked for the grace that our minds and hearts might truly dwell on high and share through faith in the beatitude of all the brothers and sisters who are already there and who, as the great crowd of witnesses (cf. Hb 12:1), are cheering us on. They who, in the inspired words of St John (Rev 7:15-17): *“are before the throne of God, and worship him day and night within his temple, and the One who is seated on the throne will shelter them. They will hunger no more, and thirst no more; the sun will not strike them, nor any scorching heat; for the Lamb at the centre of the throne will be their shepherd, and He will guide them to springs of the water of life, and God will wipe away every tear from their eyes.”* Last Sunday, the 31st Sunday in ordinary time, the gospel showed Jesus being asked:

What is the greatest commandment? Bishop Robert Barron notes that for the Jews, their core prayer; **the Shema** (see left) is referenced directly by Jesus in the Sunday gospel. This is from Deuteronomy 6. *Hear Oh Israel, the Lord our God is Lord alone, therefore you shall the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul and with all your strength.* Pope Benedict noted the Shema is echoed in the Christian Creed: **I believe in One God.** Even high civilisations, e.g. Hindu, Greek and Roman, all believed in many gods. But our God brooks no competition when it comes to the **‘summum bonum’** the highest good. Otherwise multiple gods compete in us, in a



soul divided seeking other goods outside Him; the miserable human condition. Nothing and no one must compete with our jealous God, (not in the sense of emotional insecurity), but in **the call to be first place in all our goods.** The whole of our lives must fall into order with this. **How do I order my life?** If listening attentively and following the Shema, then our hearts can be pure and we may hope to see the Face of our God, by faith now and Face to Face in heaven.

PRAYER: Oh Jesus, save us. Help us to honestly review our lives and see where we have other goods first before You, **the summum bonum**. Help us to amend our lives so that we may join the great crowd of witnesses Who see You Face to Face. Amen.

Call to Action: HLI Ireland aims to get the Holy Face of Jesus into **every parish** internationally.

Partner with us, become a HLI Ireland ally and Holy Face missionary to the world.

Become familiar through books, videos and talks. Pray the prayers for your priests to know the Holy Face. Embed the prayers in your parish by praying them all in one or one prayer daily divided over five days. Organise events: video showings, book clubs, prayer meetings onsite and online. Contact us at info@theholysface.com and let us know if we can help.

<p>For an overview of the devotion go to our website right:</p>	<p>www.theholysface.com</p>
<p>History & Promises of the Holy Face devotion: >>></p>	<p>Click History & Promises</p>
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Human Life International Ireland, The Guadalupe Centre, Main Street, Knock, Claremorris, Co.Mayo, F12 K709 [Unsubscribe {recipient's email}](#)