

that the holy Church was founded, through the bath of re-generation and the renewal of the Holy Spirit. Through baptism, I mean, and the mysteries which are seen to flow from the side of Christ. Thus from His side Christ built up the Church, as from Adam's side his wife Eve was brought forth. That is the gist of Saint Paul's testimony, "We are made from His body and His bones," meaning Christ's side. For, just as Adam's side God caused the woman to be created, so also from His side did Christ give us the Blood and water from which the Church is built up.



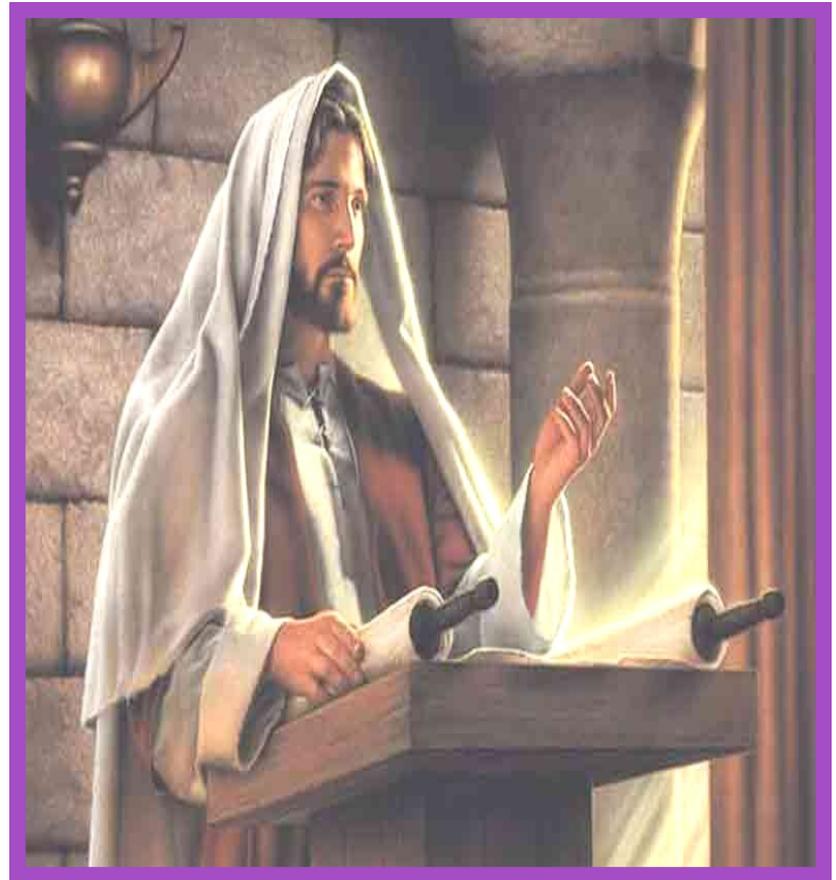
On the nineteen hundredth anniversary of the redemption of the human race, Pope Pius XI wished to celebrate a holy Jubilee to honor such an unutterable benefit, so that more abundant fruit of that precious Blood of the immaculate lamb by which we were redeemed might flow to men and its

memory more vividly be brought home to the faithful, the same Pope raised the celebration of the Most Precious Blood of our Lord Jesus Christ to the rank of a first-class feast, to be celebrated each year by the universal Church.



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**SERMON ON  
PRECIOUS BLOOD OF JESUS  
FROM THE FATHER'S OF THE CHURCH  
# 160 - 2**



**JESUS, OUR FIRST PREACHER!**

**FEAST OF THE PRECIOUS BLOOD OF JESUS  
Month of July**

## **Based on the Divine Office-Douay-Rheims Version**

Volume 2 - Pages 1940 - 1943 (1962 edition)

Commentary on the Gospel of John 9: 30 - 35

by: Saint John Chrysostom, Bishop and Doctor

Do you wish to know the power of Christ's sacred Blood? Let us then review its Old Testament antecedents, let us recall what prefigured it, listening to what sacred Scriptures says. Take the story of the tenth plague. The scene is Egypt, and God has foretold the death of all Egypt's first-born at midnight because they retained His firstborn people. But that His chosen nation would be spared - for they were living together in the same land - God devised a visible sign that would save them. A wonderful symbol, one which vividly brings home to us the power of blood!

Now the divine wrath is striking the land, now the Destroyer is hurrying to every home! What does Moses do? He says, "Slay a yearling lamb and smear the doorposts with its blood." Such advice, O Moses? Is sheep blood capable of delivering a human being? Yes, he says; not, of course, because it is blood, but because it foreshadows the Blood of the Lord.

For just as the statues of kings which lack life and speech in times past delivered men with spirit and mind who embraced them - not, of course, because they were cast of bronze, but because they represented the king himself - similarly brute blood saved the

Israelites, not by its own merits but because it pointed to the advent of divine Blood, and the Destroyer passed by the homes whose entrances were smeared with blood and dared not enter. Likewise the devil must now flee from the soul sealed, not with the blood of an ancient type, but with the very Blood of Christ, the divine Lamb. If the Destroyer fled in terror from the mere figure, with what unimaginable fright will Satan shrink away when he beholds the true reality!

Do you desire to learn another power of this Blood? I want you to look and see whence it first runs and from what source it flows, its origin is in the Lord's side. What the soldier did was to open His side: he laid open the wall of that holy temple; what I have done is to find there a magnificent treasurer: I have had the joy of discovering shining riches.

It was the same way with the lamb: what the Jews did was to kill a lamb; what I have done is to experience the fruit of the sacrament typified by the lamb. From His side flowed Blood and water. Dear listener, I would not have you pass too lightly over the secrets of such a mystery. I still have to discourse on hidden, mystical matters.

I have said that the water and the Blood symbolized baptism and the mysteries of the altar. For it was from these