

Day 31

PILGRIMAGE OF GRACE

RECONCILIATION



First and Second Conversion (1427-1429)

* "Repent and believe in the Gospel" (Mk 1:15). This first conversion is for those who do not know Christ. By faith and Baptism, a person first gains forgiveness of sins and new life.

* The "second conversion" (of Christians) is the uninterrupted task of the Church (who "clasps sinners to her bosom"). This conversion is beyond merely human endeavor and must come from a contrite heart which responds to God's mercy.

* St. Peter himself wept at Jesus' look of mercy (Lk 22:61) and made a three-fold profession of love (Jn 21:15-17). There is a communitarian dimension to this second conversion because Christ says "repent" to the whole Church.

A Radical Reorientation (1430-1431)

* Jesus' primary call is to an interior conversion which gives fruitfulness to the exterior works of penance.

* Interior repentance is a radical reorientation of life, a total turning to God and away from sin, which includes a resolution to change one's life. This conversion entails a certain pain, called "affliction of spirit" and "repentance of heart."

The Young Church

* St Clement of Rome (35-99AD)

"Let us fix our eyes on Christ's blood and understand how precious it is to his Father"

* St Ambrose (339-397 AD)

"There are water and tears: the water of Baptism and the tears of repentance"

A Gift from God (1432-1433)

* Only God can give us "a new heart" (Ezek 36:26-27). Man is converted by gazing on Jesus Crucified.

* The Holy Spirit, who proves "the world wrong about sin" (Jn 16:8-9), is also the Consoler who gives grace for repentance and conversion.

(See CatholiCity.com).

