

*The Mystery of the Church as the
Embodied Intimacy of God*

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1. The *Totus Christus* (The Whole Christ”)

Enarrationes in Psalmos

“Someone may perhaps ask who the speaker is in this psalm. ...”

“Briefly, it is Christ.”

“Sometimes Christ speaks in his own name, ...

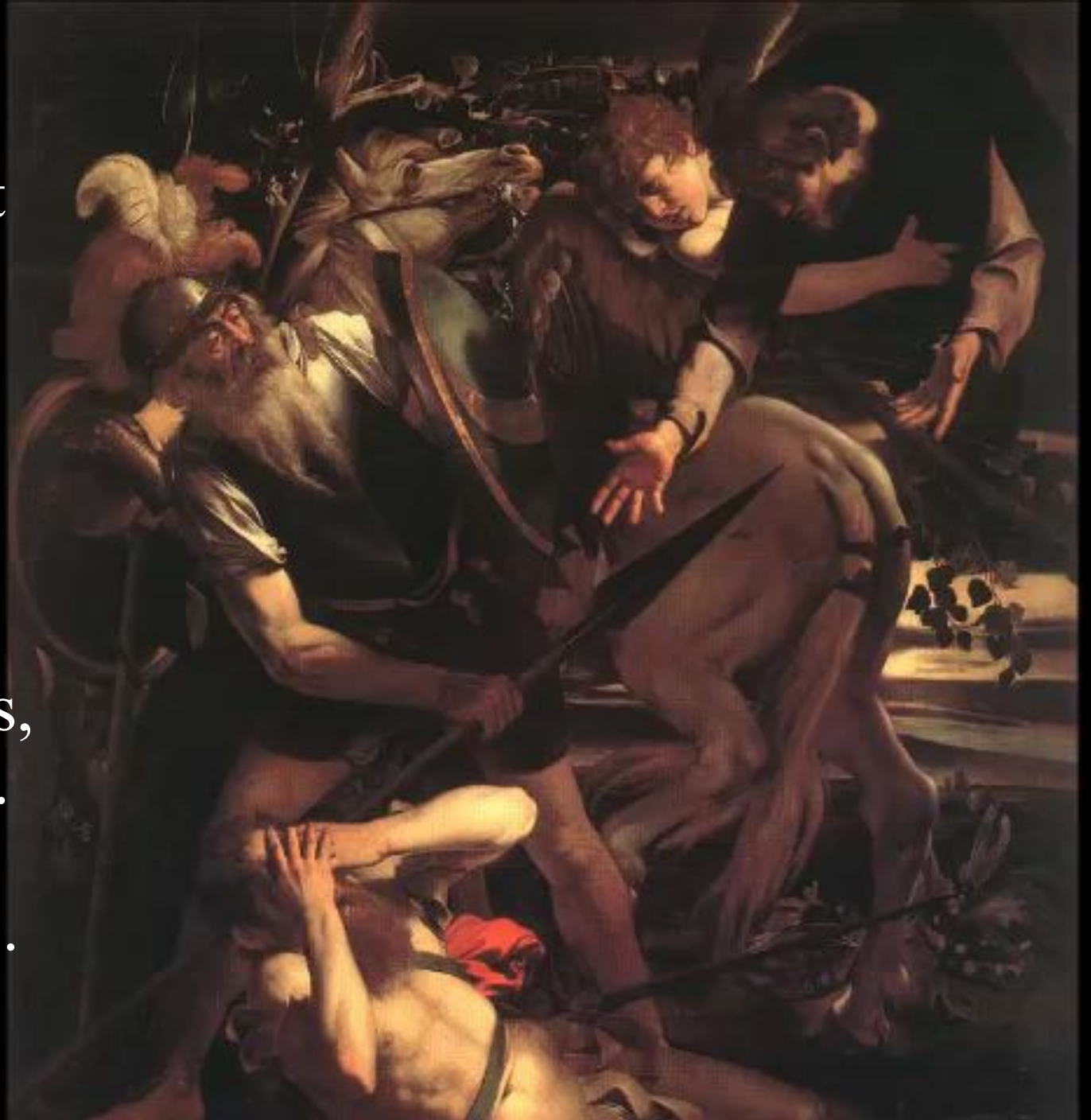
“... sometimes in ours.”

“He is our Head because he graciously willed to become the Head of the body by taking flesh from us in order that he might in that flesh die for us...”

“If he suffers in us, we shall also be crowned in him. This is the surrendering love (*caritas*) of Christ. Can anything else compare with it? He put a hymn about this matter into our mouths, and sings it with the voice of his members” (*En. Ps 39,5.12*)

“Whose fear? Christ’s certainly ... He who deigned to assume the form of a slave, and within that form to clothe us with himself, he who did not disdain to take us up into himself, did not disdain either to transfigure us into himself, and to speak in our words, so that we in our turn might speak in his. ... Facing death, then, because of what he had from us, he was afraid, not in himself, but in us. When he said that his soul was sorrowful to the point of death, we all unquestionably said it with him. Without him, we are nothing, but in him, we too are Christ” (*En. 2 in Psalm 30*, sec. 3; Boulding, vol. III/15, p. 323).

It is the “bond of charity” that links the Head and members so intimately into one Body, that made the Head cry out, “**Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me?**” (Acts 9:4) when Saul was obviously persecuting not the risen Jesus, but his members on earth (*En.* 2 in Psalm 30, sec. 3 (Boulding, vol. III/15, p. 323).



Transformation through Incorporation

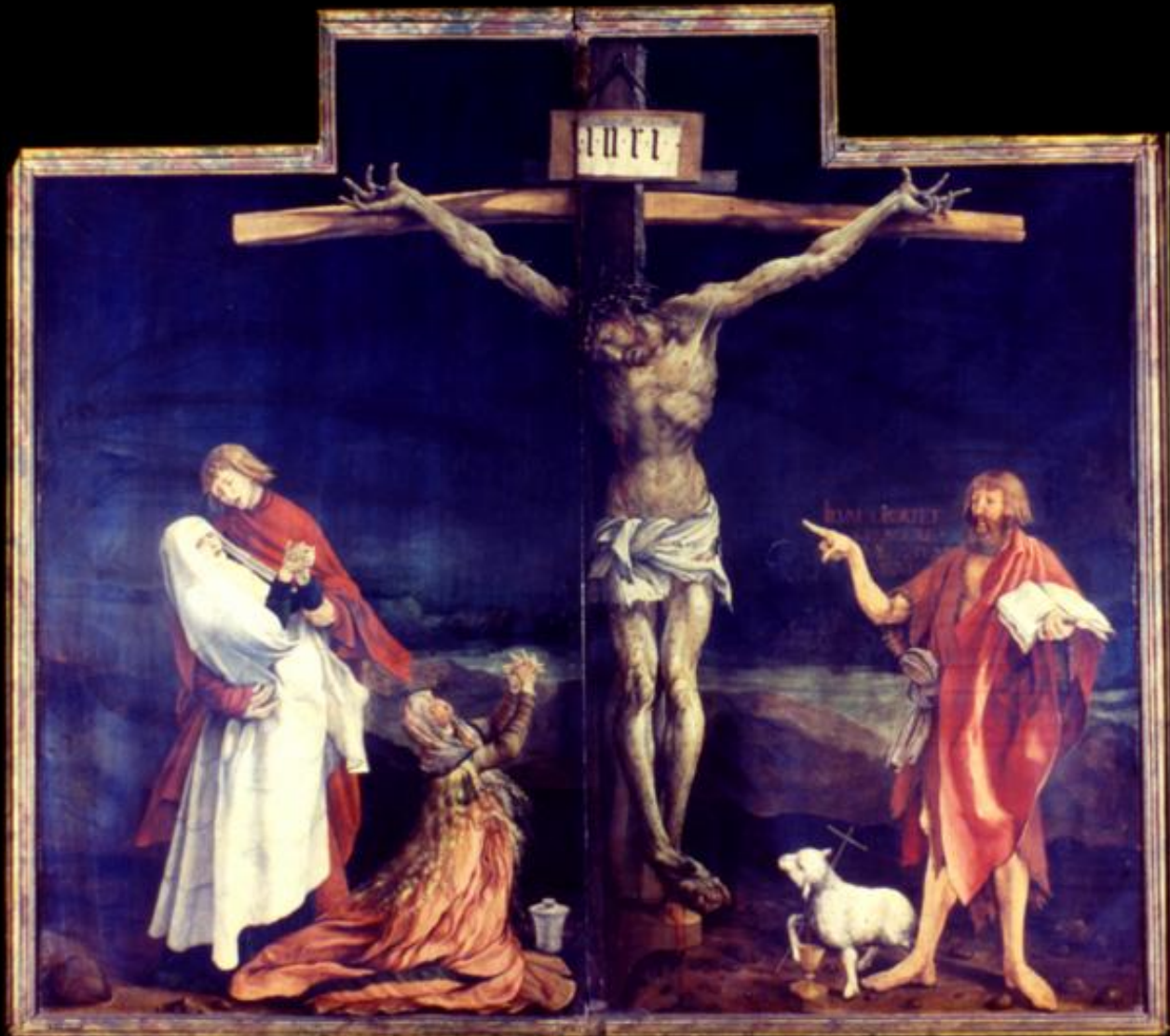


Compassion
(*cum passio*): to
suffer, undergo,
experience with.

Incorporation
(*in+corpus+ation*):
to take into one's
very body (*corpus*).

Augustine points out that the Father never forsook the Son, even in the crucifixion, and yet the Son cried out, “**Oh God, my God, why have you forsaken me?**” speaking the Psalm verse in our flesh, making our situation of abandonment by God because of our sin his own, and yet in making this cry his own, he was “transfiguring it” (*Ibid.*, sec. 11; Boulding III/15, p. 331).





Our very fear can be the place of contact with Christ's compassion.

“This is the **wonderful exchange**, the divine business deal, the transaction effected in this world by the heavenly dealer” (Ibid., sec. 3; Boulding, III/15, p. 323).

Father

Spirit

“He lies in the manger, but contains the world; He sucks at the breasts, but feeds the Angels; He is wrapped in swaddling clothes, but vests us with immortality; He is suckled, but adored; He found no place in the inn, but makes for Himself a temple in the hearts of believers.” (S. 190, 3.4).

Son

#1

The Son's self-emptying for us
and for our salvation
(Phil 2:5-11)

Head

*TAS: Embodied
Expression and
Realization of the
Mystery of God's Heart*

Members

Sacramentum

The *totus Christus* (“the whole Christ”)



2. The Church as Bride, Born of Christ's Pierced Side

**Two in
one flesh**



. “There are many churches, but one Church; many believers, but one bride of Christ” (En. in Ps. 64, sec. 14; Boulding III/17, p. 281).

Or, in the words of St. Paul, which Augustine cites, “As the body is a unit and has many members, and yet all the members of the body, many though they be, are one body, so too is Christ” (1 Cor. 12.12) (En. in Ps. 2 of Ps. 30, sec. 4 (Boulding III/15, p. 324).



“I have the power to lay down my life, and I have the power to take it up again. No one takes it away from me; but I lay it down of my own accord, that I may take it up again” (Jn. 10.18). They disturbed him, but he lay down to sleep (cf. Ps. 56.5). In this respect Adam was a type of Christ. God sent a deep sleep upon Adam, in order to fashion a wife for him from his side. Was God unable to make a wife for the first man by taking her from his side while he was awake? ... Because in Christ’s case, a bride was made for him as he slept on the cross, and made from his side. With a lance his side was struck as he hung there, and out flowed the sacraments of the Church” (En. in Ps. 56, sec. 11; Boulding III/17, pp. 111-12).







3. Reflections on the Mystery of Christ's Body and Bride as Sacrifice



Thank you