

World Day of Prayer for the Sanctification of Priests - Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

(The Month of June takes special note of the Sacred Heart of Jesus)

There was a time, still pervasive in many areas today, where the intellect and cold logic seemed to be damaging the Heart of the Church. St. Margaret Mary Alacoque had a vision in 1675 that has been judged by the Church as worthy of belief. It is as if Christ was using this opportunity to encourage us to reflect more deeply on the matters of the Heart and not being lost solely in intellectual pursuits. Simply put, true Devotion to the Sacred Heart is devotion to the very essence of Jesus. It is NOT devotion to the blood pump of Jesus. In Hebrew the concept for Heart entails the very core of our being, "the heart of the matter" for example. Pope Francis has established a year of mercy. This is a great opportunity to renew our devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Jesus is believed to have related 12 promises to this saint and they are as follows:

Promises of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

1. I will give them all the graces necessary for their state of life.
2. I will give peace in their families.
3. I will console them in all their troubles.
4. I will be their refuge in life and especially in death.
5. I will abundantly bless all their undertakings.
6. Sinners shall find in my Heart the source and infinite ocean of mercy.
7. Tepid souls shall become fervent.
8. Fervent souls shall rise speedily to great perfection.
9. I will bless those places wherein the image of My Sacred Heart shall be exposed and venerated.
10. I will give to priests the power to touch the most hardened hearts.
11. Persons who propagate this devotion shall have their names eternally written in my Heart.
12. In the excess of the mercy of my Heart, I promise you that my all powerful love will grant to all those who will receive Communion on the First Fridays, for nine consecutive months, the grace of final repentance: they will not die in my displeasure, nor without receiving the sacraments; and my Heart will be their secure refuge in that last hour.

Many often mis-characterize such devotions as superstitious. That is an unfair characterization. Sacramentals point to the Sacraments and are great ways to remind us of our faith. Devotion helps us to foster what some call the Catholic imagination. I would encourage each and everyone of you to have a picture or a statue of the Sacred Heart in your home. There is even a little ceremony that could be done by the priest or led by the father or mother or guardian of the household. Below is a description of such a ceremony. If we center our life on Jesus, we will be made whole and be motivated by the core of the matter.

Brief Enthronement Ceremony

Historical sketch

St. Margaret Mary Alacoque had a vision in 1675 where Jesus had expressed His desire to foster devotion to His Sacred Heart. This came at a time when the Church seemed to be drawn to merely speculative aspects of the faith. Devotion to the Heart of Jesus is something that can speak to our hearts.. Jesus' Sacred Heart reflects the abyss of His deep and abiding mercy, something the world is in deep need.

Today most in our world fail to grasp the need for mercy. Most people have convinced themselves that they really do nothing wrong. Not unlike ages past when most tolerated slavery as just the way life is, today a certain class of individuals have been deemed subhuman as well, this class includes a human at early stages of development, or even the sick or elderly who have been judged to not be useful. Many in their own minds have even justified the experimentation on early developing humans.

There is still the deep and profound instinct for goodness in all human beings. Technically there is no such thing as a bad person, God only makes good stuff. Sadly many humans are deceived and do horribly bad things.

Let us all pray that by reflecting on this image of the Sacred Heart we will indeed be drawn closer to the very essence of Jesus and that we might be more effective instruments of His love.

Now a designated person takes a picture or an image of the Sacred Heart and "enthrones" it in a place worthy of devotion, e.g. above or on the mantle of the fire place or some other prominent place in the home.

Let us close by praying the Litany of the Sacred Heart.

From <http://www.miraclerosarymission.org/litshj.htm>

V/ Lord, have mercy.

R/ Lord, have mercy.

V/ Christ, have mercy.

R/ Christ, have mercy.

V/ Lord, have mercy.

R/ Lord, have mercy.

V/ Jesus, hear us.

R/ Jesus, graciously hear us.

God, the Father of Heaven, *have mercy on us* God, the Son, Redeemer of the world,God, the Holy Spirit, Holy Trinity, One God, Heart of Jesus, Son of the Eternal Father. Heart of Jesus, formed by the Holy Spirit in the womb of the Virgin Mother, Heart of Jesus, substantially united to the Word of God, Heart of Jesus, of Infinite Majesty, Heart of Jesus, Sacred Temple of God, Heart of Jesus, Tabernacle of the Most High, Heart of Jesus, House of God and Gate of Heaven, Heart of Jesus, burning furnace of charity, Heart of Jesus, abode of justice and love, Heart of Jesus, full of goodness and love, Heart of Jesus, abyss of all virtues, Heart of Jesus, most worthy of all praise, Heart of Jesus, king and center of all hearts, Heart of Jesus, in whom are all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge, Heart of Jesus, in whom the Father was well pleased, Heart of Jesus, of whose fullness we have all received,

Heart of Jesus, desire of the everlasting hills, Heart of Jesus, patient and most merciful, Heart of Jesus, enriching all who invoke you, Heart of Jesus, fountain of life and holiness, Heart of Jesus, propitiation for our sins, Heart of Jesus, loaded down with opprobrium, Heart of Jesus, bruised for our offenses, Heart of Jesus, obedient to death, Heart of Jesus, pierced with a lance, Heart of Jesus, source of all consolation, Heart of Jesus, our life and resurrection, Heart of Jesus, our peace and reconciliation, Heart of Jesus, victim for our sins, Heart of Jesus, salvation of those who trust in you, Heart of Jesus, hope of those who die in you, Heart of Jesus, delight of all the Saints,

Lamb of God, who take away the sins of the world. R/ *spare us, O Lord.*

Lamb of God, who take away the sins of the world, R/ *graciously hear us, O Lord.*

Lamb of God, who take away the sins of the world, R/ *have mercy on us.*

Jesus, meek and humble of heart. R/ *Make our hearts like to yours.*

Let us pray. Almighty and eternal Father, look upon the Heart of your most beloved Son and upon the praises and satisfaction which he offers you in the name of sinners; and to those who implore your mercy, in your great goodness, grant forgiveness in the name of the same Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, One God, forever and ever.

R/ Amen.