

History of the Sacred Heart Devotion:

"In fact, there have always been individuals specially dedicated to God who have practiced the devotion of thanksgiving, adoration and love towards the most sacred human nature of Christ, and especially towards the wounds by which His body was torn when He was enduring suffering for our salvation." - Pius XII, Haurietis Aquas, AAAS 48 (1956), p. 338

1. **Our Blessed Mother** - whose womb held within it, the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus.
2. **Saint John, the beloved disciple** - "And leaning against the bosom of Jesus was one of His disciples, the one who Jesus loved." (Jn 13:23)
3. **Saint Longinus** - the centurion who tradition holds witnessed the miraculous flow of blood and water, which led to his immediate conversion to Christianity.
4. **Saint Mary Magdalen and Mary, the wife of Cleophas** (along with Saint John and Blessed Mary) - were the first to weep and adore the pierced Sacred Heart of Jesus.
5. **Saint Justin Martyr** (100 - 163 AD) - "We the Christians are the true Israel which springs from Christ, for we are carved out of His Heart as from a rock."
6. **Saint Irenaeus** (130-202) - gives us the earliest reference to the mystery of Christ's heart
7. **Saint Hilary** (315-367) - interprets Psalm 69, "Insult has broken My Heart, and I am weak...", to be Christ's longing for consolation from those He suffered for, Saint Hilary states, "Ready to die for us, He was assailed by another wish reflected in the Psalms: 'I looked for compassion, but there was none, for comforters, but found none.'"
8. **William of St. Thierry** (d. 1148) - wrote that he longed to come "to the most holy wound of His side...that I may put not only my finger or my whole hand, but enter wholly into the very Heart of Jesus, into the Holy of Holies."
9. **Saint Bernard of Clairvaux** (1070-1153) - taught that the piercing of Christ's side shows forth His goodness and the love of His Heart for us. Much credit is given and due for the rise of the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.
10. **Saint Francis of Assisi** (d. 1226) - had a deep devotion to the interior (and exterior) sufferings of Christ.
11. **Saint Lutgard** (d. 1246) - The first recorded apparition of Jesus revealing His own pierced Heart as a symbol of His love for mankind.,
12. **Saint Mechtilde of Hackeborn** (1241-99) - Our Lord invited her to rest on His Heart and said: "Take wholly My Divine Heart."
13. **Saint Gertrude the Great** (1256 -1302) - "O Sacred Heart of Jesus, fountain of eternal life, Your Heart is a glowing furnace of Love. You are my refuge and sanctuary. O my adorable and loving Savior, consume my heart with the burning fire with which Yours is aflame. Pour down on my soul those graces which flow from Your love. Let my heart be united to Yours. Let me will be conformed to Yours in all things. May Your Will be the rule of all my desires and actions. Amen"
14. **Saint Bonaventure** (d.1274) - "Oh, what a blessed lot is mine to have one heart with Jesus! Having found this Heart, both yours and mine, O sweet Jesus, I will pray to you my God." St. Bonaventure's heart was one with the Heart of Jesus, allowing him to pray to the Father with the thoughts and feelings of Jesus.
15. **Saint Albert the Great** (d. 1280) - "By the blood of His side and of His Heart our Lord watered the garden of His Church, for with this blood He made the sacraments flow from His Heart." St. Albert made a strong connection between the Heart of Jesus as the source of the Church and its sacraments.
16. **Saint Julian of Norwich** (1342-1442+) - May 13, 1373 received the "Revelations of Divine Love". Jesus showed her His Blessed Heart, "Lo, that I have loved thee."
17. **Ludolph of Saxony** (d. 1378) - "The Heart of Christ was wounded for us with the wound of love, that through the opening of His side we may in return enter His Heart by means of love, and there be able

to unite all our love with His divine love into one love, as glowing iron is now with the fire." (*The Life of Christ*)

18. **Saint Catherine of Siena** (d. 1380) - "Put your mouth at the Heart of the Son of God, since it is a Heart that casts fire of charity and pours out blood to wash away your iniquities."
19. **Saint Francis de Sales** (1567-1622) - "...God's love is seated with in the Savior's Heart as on a royal throne...that Heart of divine love, always sees our hearts and looks on them with His eyes of love.."
20. **Saint John Eudes** (1601-1680) - lifelong apostolate was to popularize the devotion to the Hearts of Jesus and Mary. He is said to be the author and apostle of the liturgical worship of the Sacred Heart. "The most loving Heart of our benign Savior is a burning furnace of most pure love for us; a furnace of purifying love, of illuminating love, of sanctifying love, of transforming love, and of deifying love."
21. **Saint Margaret Mary of Alacoque** (1647 - 1690) - Jesus revealed His Heart as a heart on fire with love. "My divine Heart is so passionately fond of the human race,...that It cannot keep back the pent up flames of its burning charity any longer. Jesus asked her to have a feast instituted in honor of His Sacred Heart. Her visions began December 27, 1673 through June 1675 *Had her famous vision of the Sacred Heart on the feast day of Saint Lutgard
22. **Saint Claude La Colombiere, SJ** (1641-1682) - St. Margaret Mary's confessor; played a central role in the future spread of the Sacred Heart Devotion.
23. **Father Jean Croiset, SJ** (1656-1738) - suffered terribly in his attempts to further spread the Sacred heart devotion. He remained steadfast in both his obedience to his superiors and his love for the devotion to the Sacred Heart.
24. **Father Joseph Francois Galliffet, SJ** (1663-1749) - labored unceasingly to spread the Sacred Heart Devotion. He inspired the Jesuits to take the lead in promoting the Sacred Heart Devotion.
25. 1765, Approval of the Feast and Office of the Sacred Heart, **Pope Clement XIII**, February 6th.
26. 1856, **Pope Pius IX** - established the Feast of the Sacred Heart as obligatory for the whole church, to be celebrated on the Friday after Corpus Christi.
27. 1899, **Pope Leo XIII** - approved the universal form of the Litany of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and consecrated the entire human race to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, *Annum Sacrum*. Pope Leo encouraged the faithful's personal consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesu, since it is the "symbol and sensible image of the infinite love of Jesus Christ which moves us to love one another."
28. 1925, **Pope Pius XI** - instituted the Feast of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King and decreed that on that day, annually, there is to be renewed the consecration of mankind to the Sacred Heart of Jesus (*Quas Primas*). In his encyclical *Miserentissimus Redemptor*, the pope addresses reparation for sins and the consolation of Christ. He raised the feast of the Sacred Heart to the highest rank and added an octave.
29. 1956, **Pope Pius XII** - stresses that the infinite love of God for the human race is the principal object of the devotion. "... this devotion is an act of religion of high order; it demands of us a complete and unreserved determination to devote and consecrate ourselves to the love of the divine Redeemer, Whose wounded Heart is its living token and symbol." *Haurietis Aquas*
30. **Saint Faustina Kowalska** (1905-1938) - broadened the devotion to the Sacred Heart to a greater understanding of our trust in God's limitless love and mercy the pours form His Sacred Heart. "Most sweet Jesus, set on fire my love for You and transform me into Yourself."
31. **Saint Pope John Paul II** - the wisdom of JP II on the greatest on the Sacred Heart can be found in the book, *Holy Father, Sacred Heart*, edited by Carl Moell, SJ
32. **Pope Benedict XVI**, - strongly promoted devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, viewing it as a powerful expression of God's infinite love and will for universal salvation, rooted in Scripture and Tradition, particularly the Gospel of John. (*Deus Caritas Est, Sacramentum Caritas, Behold the Pierced One, Benedict XVI*)
33. **Pope Francis** - encouraged devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, calling for a renewal in authentic devotion to avoid forgetting the tenderness of faith lived out in his encyclical, *Dilexit nos*.