

The Sacred Heart Devotion: Why it Matters

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1. Opening Prayer - Lord, we ask for the grace to know, love and serve You above & beyond all things, and to see, love & serve You created as You do. May all we think, do, say and pray this day, give glory, honor and praise to You; and be for the benefit of the salvation of souls and reparation of sins, that all would come to believe, adore, hope, love and trust in You. Amen. *The Sacred Heart Disciple Prayer*
2. Next month - Enrollment Mass for the Sodality of the Sacred Heart of Jesus
2. This is an appropriate time to re-familiarize ourselves with the Sacred Heart Devotion.
3. **The Basic Understanding of the Devotion to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus**
 1. The Devotion to the Sacred Heart is “accordingly a worship of and a response to the Person of Christ as viewed from the perspective of His divine and human love which is manifested through His Sacred Humanity and is symbolized by His wounded physical Heart. The veneration of our Lord’s Heart, insofar as it honors Christ as the source and substance of our redemption, is no ordinary devotion. It is truly *latreutical* - a devotion which is rendered to God alone.” -Dr. Timothy O’Donnell, *Heart of the Redeemer*
 2. The definition of “Devotion” according to Saint Thomas Aquinas-
“a willingness to give oneself readily to what concerns the service of God.”
 3. So we, as devotees of the Most Sacred Heart our giving ourselves to the concerns and desires of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus.
 4. What are the concerns and desires of the Sacred Heart of Jesus?
 1. “For God so loved the world that He gave his only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.” John 3:16
 2. Jesus entered humanity, suffered and died that all would come to know how greatly loved they are by our Father in heaven and be eternally united to Him. Jesus came to reveal the heart of the Father, He came for the salvation of ALL souls.

5. The Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus has existed since our Lord resided in the womb of Our Blessed Mother. ("History of the Sacred Heart Devotion" pages available on table)
1. The Sacred Heart has continually revealed itself for the benefit of the salvation of souls through a purer understanding of His love and desire that all men be saved.
 2. His Sacred Heart is often experienced very intimately, but always leads His beloved to a greater charity and mercy for all of His created.
 3. Revelations of Our Lord's Sacred Heart often counteract a heretical movement in society. ie. The Reformation and development of Jansenism in the 17th century (Eudes, Margaret Mary de Sales); the World Wars of the early 20th century (Faustina)

4. Our Devotion today and Why it Matters

1. It is a fundamental teaching of the gospels.
 - a) Jesus is the personified revelation of the Father's infinite love;
 - b) as true God and true man, he has a personal interest in every human being. *"But as for you the very hairs of your head are numbered"* - Mt. 11:30
 - c) His caring love was seen from the very beginning to be symbolized in Christ's human heart.
2. The Church instructs us.

"Devotion to the Sacred Heart is a wonderful historical expression of the Church's piety for Christ, both Spouse and Lord: it calls for a fundamental attitude of conversion and reparation, of love and gratitude, apostolic commitment and dedication to Christ and His saving work. For these reasons, the devotion is recommended and its renewal encouraged by the Holy See and by the bishops. - Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, Directory on Popular Piety and the Liturgy: Principles and Guidelines, 2001
3. The Lord asks us.

"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. They must burst through you and reveal My Heart to the world, so as to enrich mankind with My precious treasures." -the words of Jesus to Saint Margaret Mary of Alacoque, Dec. 27, 1673

"In the Heart of Jesus, God shows us that He wants to be understood in His absolute desire to love, forgive, and save us." -Saint Pope John Paul II

5. The establishment of the Sodality of the Most Sacred Heart, February 2016

1. October 16, 2103 - encounter
2. Prayer & Fasting
3. The fruit

"First of all, then, I urge that supplications, prayers, intercession, and thanksgivings be made for all men,...This is good, and it is acceptable in the sight of God our Savior, who desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of truth." - Timothy 2:1-4

"Rescue those who are being taken way to death: hold back those who are stumbling to the slaughter." - Proverbs 24:11

6. Love with and for the Sacred Heart of Jesus

1. "The gifts received from the open side, from which 'blood and water' flowed (Jn 19:34), ensure that our lives will also become for others a source from which 'rivers of living water' flow (Jn 7:38). The experience of love, brought by the devotion to the pierced side of the Redeemer, protects us from the risk of withdrawing into ourselves and makes us more ready to live for others. "By this we know love, that He laid down His life for us; and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren' (1 Jn 3:16). It was only the experience that God first gave us His love that has enabled us to respond to His commandment of love." - Pope Benedict XVI, letter to superior general of the Jesuit order, 2006
2. All for the Reparation of sins and the Consolation of the Sacred Heart of Jesus
 1. Reparation of sins
 1. When "Love has either been passed over through forgetfulness or saddened by reason of our sins, then we should repair such outrages, no matter in what manner they have occurred...in order to expiate the injury done to God by sins and to reestablish by means of penance, Divine order which has been violated: and of love, in order to suffer together with Christ, patient and covered with opprobrium, so that we may bring to Him, in so far as our human weakness permits, some comfort in His sufferings." - Pope Pius XI, *Miserentissimus Redemptor*, p 169
 2. "Though the ample redemption of Christ more than abundantly satisfied for all our offenses, nevertheless, by reason of that marvelous disposition of Divine Wisdom by which we may complete those "things that are wanting of the sufferings of Christ in our own flesh, for His body, which is the Church," we are able, in fact we should, add to the acts of praise and satisfaction which "Christ in the name of sinners has presented to God," our own praise and satisfaction. However, we must always remember that the expiatory value of our acts depends solely on the bloody sacrifice of Christ. - *Ibid.*, pp. 170-171
 2. Consolation of Christ

1. "Consolation is essentially an act of love. Authentic consolation finds its origin in the intellect of a loving person who sees a friend suffering. From this knowledge comes an act of the will motivated by charity which seeks to comfort the friend in distress." - O'Connell, *Ibid.*, p 175

2. "At the present time, we too, in a marvelous but no less true manner, may and ought to console that Sacred Heart which is being wounded continually by the sins of thoughtless men, since- and we read this also in the sacred liturgy- Christ Himself, grieved over the fact that He was abandoned by His friends. For He said, in the words the Psalmist, "My heart hath expected reproach and misery. And I looked for one that would grieve together with Me, and I found none." - Pius XI, *Ibid.*, pp 173-174

3. What Consoles the Heart of Christ?

1. Why did Christ take on flesh and enter the world?
2. Why did He suffer and die?

FOR YOU, FOR THE PERSON NEXT TO YOU, FOR YOUR CHILD, FOR THE PERSON THE CUT YOU OFF EARLIER TODAY....The Greatest Consolation of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, is that all will come to know how greatly loved they are by Our Father in heaven and be eternally united to Him. Jesus came to reveal the heart of the Father, He came for **the salvation of ALL souls**. "For God so loved the world that He gave his only Son, that a whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life." John 3:16

Why it Matters: Because YOU can make a difference. Your prayers matter, Your actions matter. Unite your heart to the Sacred Heart of Jesus - "for with God nothing will be impossible." - Luke 1:37

Christ has no body now but yours.
No hands, no feet on earth but yours.
Yours are the eyes through which He looks compassion on this world.
Yours are the feet with which He walks to do good.
Yours are the hands through which He blesses all the world."
-Saint Teresa of Avila

"Jesus loves us with a human love of such wondrous depth that we cannot begin to imagine it and an eternal love so infinite and magnanimous that it transcends the understanding" -Dr. Timothy O'Donnell, STD, *Heart of the Redeemer*

Living as a disciple of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

1. Immerse oneself in the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus - acknowledging that by giving our hearts to our Lord and allowing Him to live and love through us, we can more perfectly love those around us. Through fervent prayer and the reception of His Love, especially through the Holy Sacraments, that we will strive to walk in forgiveness, humility and sacrifice with the ultimate goal of bring our Lord's love, mercy and care to those around

2. Unite all we think, do, say and pray with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.
 1. Be present, if possible, at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass
 1. "We are called not only to meditate on, and contemplate, this mystery of Christ's love; we are called to take part in it. In the mystery of the Holy Eucharist, the center of our faith, the center of our worship of Christ's merciful love manifested in His Sacred Heart." -Saint Pope John Paul II
 2. Eucharistic adoration.
3. Develop a personal prayer life. Devote time to mental prayer, pray with others, unite yourself with the prayers of the Church: Holy rosary, Divine Office, Chaplet of Divine Mercy, etc.
4. Make a formal Act of Consecration to the Heart of Jesus in which you surrender and re-dedicate yourself to the Heart of the Divine King. "Consecration to the Sacred Heart is a way of responding to the love that fills His Heart. It is a way of committing oneself to the Sacred Heart and declaring, "I want to be devoted to you and to live my life as a response to Your love for me. I want my heart to be filled with the thoughts and feelings of Your heart. I want our two hearts to beat as one so as I go through my day, I will live in such a way that other hearts will be set on fire with the love of Your Heart in me. In consecration, we are basically saying to Jesus, "You've given me everything. You've given me your very self. I give myself back to you." - Fr James Kubicki
5. Family Consecration and Home Enthronement - declaring the Heart of Jesus to be the Sovereign ruler of your family and home. "No one who has a deep devotion to the Sacred Heart will ever lose his soul. Since all blessings come from our Lord, they will be lavished especially on those places where an image of the Sacred Heart is displayed to win Him love and honor. In this way, He will mend broken homes, help and safeguard families in time of need." - St. Margaret Mary
6. Attend Mass on the First Fridays of each month as our Lord requested and make a communion of reparation in which you thank the Lord for the loving sacrifices of His life.
7. Make a Holy Hour on the Thursday night before First Friday (at church or at home). During this Holy Hour we can read, pray the litany or so whatever helps us to give consolation to Christ in His agony. We can simply offer our love and presence to Jesus who continues to suffer in his members on earth and unite our own personal sufferings to His.
8. To ardently strive to console the Heart of Jesus by offering our prayers, deeds and sacrifices for the reparation for sins and salvation of souls.

Closing Prayer - Nothing is more practical than finding God, than falling in Love in a quite absolute, final way. What you are in love with, what seizes your imagination, will affect everything. It will decide what will get you out of bed in the morning, what you do with your evenings, how you spend your weekends, what you read, whom you know, what breaks your heart, and what amazes you with joy and gratitude. Fall in Love, stay in love, and it will decide everything. - Pedro Arrupe, SJ

