

Enthronement

*of the Sacred
Heart of Jesus*

IN THE HOME



A vertical mosaic on the left side of the page depicts the Virgin Mary and the Christ Child. Mary is shown in the foreground, wearing a blue mantle over a red gown, with her hands clasped in prayer. The Christ Child is visible behind her, also with hands clasped. The mosaic is set against a background of gold and dark tones. The rest of the page has a solid, warm, golden-brown background.

"NOTHING GIVES ME SO MUCH
DELIGHT AS THE HEART OF MAN, OF
WHICH I AM SO OFTEN DEPRIVED. I
HAVE ALL GOOD THINGS IN
ABUNDANCE. THE HEART OF MAN IS
ALONE STILL WANTING TO ME"

- Jesus to St. Mechtilde

A Practical Guide for Enthroning the Sacred Heart of Jesus in the Home

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An Introduction to Enthronement

*The following introduction to the practice of the Enthronement of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in the home is compiled from excerpts of Raymond Leo Cardinal Burke's writings on the subject, and in particular *The Enthronement of the Sacred Heart of Jesus: The Center of Devotion to the Sacred Heart*.*

INTRODUCTION

Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus is a most effective means of living always in the company of Our Lord Jesus, whom we receive in Holy Communion. In other words, our devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus is an extended act of love for Him who shows us the greatest possible love by offering His Body and Blood for us in the Eucharistic Sacrifice.

In His fourth apparition to St. Margaret Mary, Our Lord revealed His Sacred Heart, declaring:

“Behold this Heart which has so loved men that It spared nothing, even going so far as to exhaust and consume Itself, to prove to them Its love. And in return I receive from the greater part of men nothing but ingratitude, by the contempt, irreverence, sacrileges and coldness with which they treat Me in this Sacrament of Love. But what is still more painful to Me is that even souls consecrated to Me are acting in this way.”

— *Louis Verheylozon, SJ, Devotion to the Sacred Heart, Westminster, Maryland: The Newman Press, 1955, p. xxvii*

Our Lord asked St. Margaret Mary to make known His desire for a renewed devotion to His Sacred Heart, so that He might give His love ever more abundantly and we might respond with gratitude and return love for His divine love.

THE CENTER OF DEVOTION TO THE SACRED HEART

The center of devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus is the Enthronement of an image of the Sacred Heart in the home. The enthroned image of the Sacred Heart, which may be a picture or a statue, expresses Christ's true Kingship, daily reminding each member of the family to follow in His royal way by making reparation for sins committed and by striving to serve God and neighbor more lovingly.

By the Enthronement of the Sacred Heart, we link the tabernacle of our parish church to our home, inviting Our Lord to be our constant and most intimate Companion. The Enthronement is a way of life. It means that Christ is King of our hearts, and that we desire Him to be present with us always. By the Enthronement, we signify our desire to make our hearts and our homes holy, to sanctify our lives in every aspect. Enthronement gives outward expression to the inward entrusting of a household—its persons, shared life, and possessions—to the love and protection of Jesus' Sacred Heart.

The Enthronement is not a private thing, but public. Christ's Kingship involves every member of the household in which we live and all our relationships with others, inside and outside the home. Those who carry out the Enthronement inevitably comment on the difference it makes in the relationships of family members with one another and with others.

It should be noted that the Enthronement may be made in every home. Often, reference is made to the family, but it is understood that the home may also be that of a single person. The person living alone, no less than a family household, rightly desires that Christ be his or her constant Companion. Even in solitude, relationships with family and friends are expressed in the Enthronement.



"Behold this heart which has so loved men that it spared nothing, even going so far as to exhaust and consume itself, to prove to them its love.

And in return I receive from the greater part of men nothing but ingratitude, by the contempt, irreverence, sacrileges and coldness with which they treat me in this sacrament of love. But what is still more painful to me is that even souls consecrated to me are acting in this way"

ENTHRONEMENT CHECKLIST

- SELECT A DATE**
Preferably, a feast day or anniversary of special significance. If possible, invite a priest or religious to witness.
- SELECT AN IMAGE OF OUR LORD** preferably with His Heart exposed
Make sure it is beautiful and moves one to devotion.
- DEFINE THE COMMITMENT**
Make sure that all those participating in the Enthronement understand what they are committing to. What are the expectations for the members of the household? How will the King be honored, both outwardly and inwardly?
- SELECT A LOCATION**
The place of Enthronement must be fitting and central to family life. The living room is often ideal, or entryway.
- PREPARE THE THRONE**
The image may be enthroned on a table adorned with flowers, candles, a Bible, prayer intentions, and photographs of the members of the household, or even deceased loved ones. If hung on the wall, a shelf beneath it should serve the same purpose.
- CHOOSE THE CONSECRATION PRAYER**
You can select one of the many family/household consecration formulas found in this packet, or in a treasury of Catholic prayers, or compose your own. The essential thing is to proclaim Jesus Christ King of your household and joyfully dedicate yourselves to His service.
- PREPARE THE ENTHRONEMENT CEREMONY**
Clean the home. Prepare a celebratory feast. Make this a grand occasion! For the ceremony, make sure you have everything needed and everyone knows his or her role.



ENTHRONEMENT OF THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS

Enthroning the Sacred Heart is saying that your family is subject to this King and that nothing is done in the family without Him.



Alicia comes from a large family and each of her brothers and sisters is living a dynamic Catholic life. People ask her parents all the time, "How did you do this?" and they answer, "Consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus." On our wedding day, we dedicated our family, which was formed on that day, to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. We have placed an image of the Sacred Heart prominently in every home where we have lived. This devotion is a refuge for us, and we are blessed to share it with you.

What does "enthronement" mean?

"The Enthronement is the official and social recognition of the sovereignty of the Sacred Heart of Jesus over the Christian family, a recognition affirmed, outwardly expressed, and made permanent by the solemn installation of the image of that divine Heart in a conspicuous place in the home and by the Act of Consecration." (*Enthronement of Sacred Heart*, Fr. Francis Larkin SS.CC.) Enthronement means placing an image of the Sacred Heart in your home in a place of honor. This is a picture or a statue of Jesus with His heart, which burns with love for us, exposed. This is your way of publicly proclaiming that Jesus Christ is the Lord of your home and of your family, so that all who enter can see how you love and honor Him. Enthroning the Sacred Heart is saying that your family is subject to this King and that nothing is done in the family without Him.

Why?

"We do not hesitate to declare that devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus is the most effective school of the love of God; the love of God, We say, which must be the foundation on which to build the kingdom of God in the hearts of individuals, families, and nations" (*Haurietis Aquas no.123*). Enthroning Jesus in your home is a powerful means of obtaining the mercy of the Sacred Heart for your family and for society. We all need more mercy! And it is an effective "school of love" that we desperately need in our Church and our world. Enthronement is a way of asking for God's blessing and mercy so you can love and serve Him better.

How?

Traditionally, enthronement is done on the feast of the Sacred Heart or sometime during the month of June, which is the month dedicated to the Sacred Heart. But honestly, you can enthrone the Sacred Heart any day you choose. It can be a feast day that commemorates the love that Jesus has for us in the Eucharist, such as Corpus Christi, or Divine Mercy, or even Easter.

PRO TIP:

Enthroning on a special day makes it easier to remember when to renew your family's enthronement. And yes, renew the enthronement every year if you can! Whenever you choose to do it, remember that all homage given to Him must be given out of love.

We've included an Enthronement ceremony which involves three days of preparation, followed by the actual consecration. Each of the three days teaches you a little bit about devotion to the Sacred Heart and how Jesus has shown His love for us through His Heart. If you forget one day, no worries! This isn't a magic formula; it's just a way to teach your family more and more about this devotion. On the day of the enthronement or the renewal of the enthronement, go to Mass as a family, and pray for that intention during Mass. If you can, bring your image of the Sacred Heart to Mass and ask your parish priest to bless it. Read the ceremony alone before you do it with your family so that you can decide on details. You can have family members take turns being the reader, or assign one person.

When you are saying your prayers and doing the ceremony, don't expect things to go perfectly. Realize that God knows your hearts and is ready to shower blessings upon you. Enthronement isn't the end; it's a beginning. It is your family beginning to live committed to please Christ your King. Please visit the [Sacred Heart Enthronement apostolate's website](http://www.messyfamilyproject.org) for more information about living under His Sacred Heart.

PREPARATION DAY 1

The Sacred Heart of Jesus shows his love through the Incarnation

Gather together as a family. If you want, sing a favorite song to Our Lord. A song about Him becoming man would work, such as a Christmas hymn.

READER 1: In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Today we consider the first way Jesus showed His love for us: the Incarnation. Though He was King, God became man and took on flesh for us. His Sacred Heart beat with love for us in the womb of the Blessed Virgin. “And the word became flesh and dwelt among us” (John 1:14) “He united to His divine Person a truly human nature, individual, whole and perfect, which was conceived in the most pure womb of the Virgin Mary by the power of the Holy Spirit.” (On Devotion to the Sacred Heart No.39)

READER 2: A reading from the gospel according to Luke.

Luke 2:4-16

Joseph also went from the town of Nazareth in Galilee to Judea, to the city of David called Bethlehem, because he was descended from the house and family of David. He went to be registered with Mary, to whom he was engaged and who was expecting a child. While they were there, the time came for her to deliver her child. And she gave birth to her firstborn son and wrapped Him in bands of cloth, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no place for them in the inn.

In that region there were shepherds living in the fields, keeping watch over their flock by night. Then an angel of the Lord stood before them, and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were terrified. But the angel said to them, “Do not be afraid; for see—I am bringing you good news of great joy for all the people: to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is the Messiah, the Lord. This will be a sign for you: you will find a child wrapped in bands of cloth and lying in a manger.” And suddenly there was with the angel a multitude of the heavenly host, praising God and saying,

“Glory to God in the highest heaven,
and on earth peace among those whom He favors!”

When the angels had left them and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, “Let us go now to Bethlehem and see this thing that has taken place, which the Lord has made known to us.” So they went with haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the child lying in the manger.

ROSARY LEADER: Let us reflect on the third Joyful Mystery, the Birth of Jesus Christ. We meditate on the fact that Jesus is Man, but also our King and God. *All pray a decade of the Rosary together.*

ALL: O Christ Jesus, I acknowledge You to be King of the universe; all that has been made is created by You. Exercise over us all Your sovereign rights. We hereby renew the promises of our Baptism, renouncing Satan and all his works and empty promises, and we promise to lead a truly Christian life. May the kingdom of Your peace be firmly established throughout the earth.

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, may Your kingdom come through Mary!

Sacred Heart of Jesus, protect us!

Immaculate Heart of Mary, queen of heaven, pray for us!

St. Joseph, friend of the Sacred Heart, pray for us!

St. Michael, first champion of the Kingship of Christ, pray for us!

Guardian Angels, pray for us!

PREPARATION DAY 2

The Sacred Heart of Jesus shows His love through His Passion and Death

Gather together as a family. If you want, sing a favorite song to Our Lord. A Lenten song about Christ's sacrifice for us would be appropriate.

READER 1: In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Lord Jesus, as we prepare to enthrone You, we consider the second manifestation of Your love for us, Your Passion and Death. "Thus the love of Jesus Christ the Son of God, by the sacrifice of Golgotha, cast a flood of light on the meaning of the love of God Himself: ... And in truth, it was more by love than by the violence of the executioners that our divine Redeemer was fixed to the Cross" (*On Devotion to the Sacred Heart No.71*)

READER 2: A reading from the gospel according to John

John 3:14-17

And just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, that whoever believes in Him may have eternal life. For God so loved the world that He gave his only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him may not perish but may have eternal life. Indeed, God did not send the Son into the world to condemn the world, but in order that the world might be saved through Him.

READER 3: A reading from the gospel according to John

John 10:11-15

I am the good shepherd. The good shepherd lays down His life for the sheep. The hired hand, who is not the shepherd and does not own the sheep, sees the wolf coming and leaves the sheep and runs away—and the wolf snatches them and scatters them. The hired hand runs away because a hired hand does not care for the sheep. I am the good shepherd. I know My own and My own know me, just as the Father knows Me and I know the Father. And I lay down My life for the sheep.

ROSARY LEADER: Let us reflect on the fifth Sorrowful Mystery, the Crucifixion and Death of Our Lord. We will meditate on the truth that Jesus is our Savior. *All pray a decade of the Rosary together.*

ALL: O Christ Jesus, I acknowledge You to be King of the universe; all that has been made is created by You. Exercise over us all Your sovereign rights. We hereby renew the promises of our Baptism, renouncing Satan and all his works and empty promises, and we promise to lead a truly Christian life. May the kingdom of Your peace be firmly established throughout the earth.

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, may Your kingdom come through Mary!

Sacred Heart of Jesus, protect us!

Immaculate Heart of Mary, queen of heaven, pray for us!

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PREPARATION DAY 3

The Sacred Heart of Jesus shows His love for us by giving us the Eucharist

Gather together as a family. If you want, sing a favorite song to Our Lord. A song about the Eucharist would be appropriate.

READER 1: In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. As we prepare to enthrone You, Lord Jesus, we consider how You showed Your love for us by giving us the Eucharist, Your Sacred Heart here on earth. "It can, therefore, be declared that the divine Eucharist...the sacrament which He gives to men and the sacrifice in which He unceasingly offers Himself from the rising of the sun till its setting is indeed a gift of the Sacred Heart of Jesus." (*On Devotion to the Sacred Heart No.71*)

READER 2: A reading from the gospel according to Luke.

John 6:47-58

Very truly, I tell you, whoever believes has eternal life. I am the bread of life. Your ancestors ate the manna in the wilderness, and they died. This is the bread that comes down from heaven, so that one may eat of it and not die. I am the living bread that came down from heaven. Whoever eats of this bread will live forever; and the bread that I will give for the life of the world is My flesh.'

The Jews then disputed among themselves, saying, 'How can this man give us his flesh to eat?' So Jesus said to them, 'Very truly, I tell you, unless you eat the flesh of the Son of Man and drink His blood, you have no life in you. Those who eat My flesh and drink My blood have eternal life, and I will raise them up on the last day; for My flesh is true food and My blood is true drink. Those who eat My flesh and drink My blood abide in Me, and I in them. Just as the living Father sent Me, and I live because of the Father, so whoever eats Me will live because of Me. This is the bread that came down from heaven, not like that which your ancestors ate, and they died. But the one who eats this bread will live forever.'

READER 3: A reading from the gospel according to Matthew

Matthew 26:26-29

While they were eating, Jesus took a loaf of bread, and after blessing it, He broke it, gave it to the disciples, and said, 'Take, eat; this is My body.' Then He took a cup, and after giving thanks He gave it to them, saying, 'Drink from it, all of you; for this is My blood of the covenant, which is poured out for many for the forgiveness of sins. I tell you, I will never again drink of this fruit of the vine until that day when I drink it new with you in My Father's kingdom.'

ROSARY LEADER: Let us reflect on the fifth Luminous mystery, the Institution of the Eucharist. Let us meditate on the mystery that Jesus is our Friend and Our Lord. *All pray a decade of the Rosary together.*

ALL: O Christ Jesus, I acknowledge You to be King of the universe; all that has been made is created by You. Exercise over us all Your sovereign rights. We hereby renew the promises of our Baptism, renouncing Satan and all his works and empty promises, and we promise to lead a truly Christian life. May the kingdom of Your peace be firmly established throughout the earth.

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, may Your kingdom come through Mary!

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ENTHRONEMENT CEREMONY

All gather around the place of honor where you will enthrone Jesus as King, Savior, and Friend. If you want, sing a favorite song to Our Lord.

The Head of the Household (HH) holds up the image of the Sacred Heart and sets it in the place of honor.

HH: “I now enthrone the Sacred Heart of Jesus as King, Savior, and Friend of this consecrated family. Jesus, it is our desire to make a covenant of love with You. We are determined to live Your life, a life of virtue and simplicity. You will rule over our hearts and our love is for You alone. We will keep this fire of love ever burning by frequent participation in the Celebration of the Eucharist, regular reading of Sacred Scripture, and acts of love and kindness to each other. Accept our prayers and acts of love as a way to repair damage caused by our selfishness.”

ALL: O Sacred Heart of Jesus, we are gathered here today to proclaim Your complete union with our family. From now on we promise to lead a Christ-like life; we will strive to develop in our home all the virtues, which bring with them the peace that You promised. We ask you to be the King of our hearts and to increase our love for You.

Keep us faithful to your commandments, to love God and our neighbor. Divine Heart of Jesus, preside over our family gatherings; bless all of our family undertakings, both spiritual and temporal. Sanctify our joys and comfort us in our sorrows. And if any of the members of our family should separate themselves from You, remind them, O Sacred Heart of Jesus, of Your infinite love and mercy.

When the hour of separation comes and death brings sorrow into our family, we will humbly accept Your Divine will. We will console and comfort ourselves with the thought that the time will come when our whole family will be united lovingly with You in heaven forever. We ask the Blessed Mother and St. Joseph, protector of the Church, to offer our family promise to You. May the memory of this promise be with us always. Amen.

Petitions

HH: We ask that our King, Lord Jesus Christ, would hear these petitions of our hearts:

READER: Lord, we pray that our family will always renounce Satan and all of his empty promises. That each of us invite Mary, the model of purity and love, to make our hearts more like her heart. Let us pray to the Lord.

R. Lord hear our prayer.

READER: For unbounded grace from God that will allow us to show patience and kindness as we begin again every day to love each other as You love us. Let us pray to the Lord.

R. Lord hear our prayer.

READER: For all absent members of our family, both living and dead, that we will all be united through the power of Jesus. Let us pray to the Lord.

R. Lord hear our prayer.

READER: Jesus, you told us, “Whatever you ask the Father in My name, He will give to you.” In Your name, and with great confidence, we pray for _____ *[insert specific petitions]*. And for the petitions that we hold in the silence of our heart. Let us pray to the Lord.

R. Lord hear our prayer.

HH: Let us offer all these petitions to our King as we pray together...

All pray the Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be

HH: Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, we thank You for choosing our family to receive Your presence and love. We ask for the grace to be faithful to our new way of life in You. O Immaculate Heart of Mary, Queen of heaven, unite us with the Sacred Heart of Jesus, our King, Savior and Friend. Amen.

Additional Resources & Meditations

Alternative Enthronement Prayer

Based on the Act of Consecration of the Family to the Sacred Heart of Jesus approved and indulgenced by St. Pius X in 1908. Its language should be adapted to fit the circumstances.

Sacred Heart of Jesus, You made clear to Saint Margaret Mary Your desire of being King in Christian households. We today wish to proclaim Your most complete kingly dominion over our own [family/household]. We want to live in the future with Your life. We want to cause to flourish in our midst those virtues to which You have promised peace here below. We want to banish far from us the spirit of the world which You have cursed. You shall be King over our minds in the simplicity of our faith, and over our hearts by the wholehearted love with which they shall burn for You, the flame of which we will keep alive by the frequent reception of Your divine Eucharist. Be so kind, O divine Heart, as to preside over our assemblings, to bless our enterprises, both spiritual and temporal, to dispel our cares, to sanctify our joys, and to alleviate our sufferings. If ever one or other of us should have the misfortune to afflict You, remind him, O Heart of Jesus, that You are good and merciful to the penitent sinner. And when the hour of separation strikes, when death shall come to cast mourning into our midst, we will all, both those who go and those who stay, be submissive to Your eternal decrees. We shall console ourselves with the thought that a day will come when the entire family, reunited in heaven, can sing forever Your glories and Your mercies. May the Immaculate Heart of Mary and the glorious patriarch Saint Joseph present this consecration to You, and keep it in our minds all the days of our life. All glory to the Heart of Jesus, our King and our Father!

The Meaning of the Heart in Sacred Scripture

To understand more fully the Scriptural account of the piercing of the Heart of Jesus, it is important to recall the meaning of the heart in Sacred Scripture. In the Bible, the heart signifies the center of the human person, where one's deepest thoughts, desires, and decisions take root. When God speaks to us, He speaks to our heart.

In the Gospel according to Saint Mark, our Lord quotes the Prophet Isaiah to expose hypocrisy—claiming love for God while disobeying His commandments:

*“This people pays Me lip service,
but their heart is far from Me” (Mk 7:6).*

Later in the same passage, our Lord teaches that evil

thoughts and actions originate in the heart:

“From within people, from their hearts, come evil thoughts: unchastity, theft, murder, adultery, greed, malice, deceit, licentiousness, envy, blasphemy, arrogance, folly” (Mk 7:21–22).

By uniting our hearts to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, our hearts are purified of disordered thoughts, desires, and inclinations, and inflamed with love of God and neighbor. In the revelation of His Heart to Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque, our Lord showed the mark of the piercing and the purifying flame of divine love, crowned by the Cross. The Sacred Heart is surrounded by the crown of thorns, signifying the Passion through which Christ poured out His life for us.





The Heart of Jesus

What Sacred Scripture teaches about the heart of man applies also to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, for His Heart is truly a human heart. Through the mystery of the Incarnation, God the Son, by the power of the Holy Spirit, assumed a human heart beneath the Immaculate Heart of the Virgin Mary.

The Litany of the Sacred Heart contains a beautiful invocation inspired by this mystery:

“Heart of Jesus, formed by the Holy Spirit in the womb of the Virgin Mary, have mercy on us.”

The invocation which follows reminds us that the human Heart of Jesus is inseparably united to His divine nature:

“Heart of Jesus, substantially united to the Word of God.”

It is to His own Heart that Christ refers in the Gospels:

“My heart goes out to My people” (cf. Mt 15:32),
and again: *“Come to Me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest.”*

Take My yoke upon you and learn from Me,
for I am meek and humble of heart,
and you will find rest for your souls” (Mt 11:28–29).

The outpouring of Christ’s life for us, symbolized in the blood and water flowing from His pierced Heart, continues in the Church, especially through the Sacraments. From earliest times, the Church has seen in the blood and water signs of Baptism and the Holy Eucharist, through which we receive the life of the Holy Spirit and are nourished by the true Body of Christ.

The Heart of Christ in the Life of the Church

Saint Paul reflects upon the mystery of God’s love revealed in the Heart of Jesus in his Letter to the Ephesians (cf. Eph 3:8–19). He writes of the *“inscrutable riches of Christ”* and prays:

“That Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith,
that you, rooted and grounded in love,

may have strength to comprehend with all the holy ones
what is the breadth and length and height and depth,
and to know the love of Christ that surpasses
knowledge,
so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God”
(Eph 3:17–19).

Christ dwells in our hearts through the gift of His life for us, most perfectly in the Holy Eucharist. He dwells in our hearts when we respond to His invitation to place our hearts entirely within His Sacred Heart—especially through participation in the Holy Mass and faithful daily living.

In a profound reflection on devotion to the Sacred Heart, Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger wrote:

“The pierced Heart of the Crucified is the literal fulfillment of the prophecy concerning the Heart of God, which overturns His justice with compassion and precisely in this way remains just. Only in this concordance between the Old and New Testament can we behold the full extent of the biblical message concerning the Heart of God, the Heart of the divine Redeemer.”

(The Paschal Mystery as Core and Foundation of Devotion to the Sacred Heart, in *Towards a Civilization of Love*, Ignatius Press, 1985, p. 159)

Heeding these words, we should frequently return to the Word of God, allowing it to inflame in us sorrow for sin, a desire for reparation, and a renewed generosity in returning love to God for His immeasurable love for us.

The Heart of God

The Sacred Heart of Jesus—God the Son’s human Heart formed in the womb of the Virgin Mary—fulfills the promise spoken by God through the Prophet Ezekiel:

“I will give them a new heart
and place a new spirit within them;
I will remove the heart of stone from their flesh
and give them a heart of flesh,
that they may walk according to My statutes
and observe My ordinances and keep them.
Thus they shall be My people, and I will be their God”
(Ez 11:19–20).

This “new heart” and “new spirit” are nothing less than a heart animated by the Holy Spirit, made possible because the Heart of the Son of God was pierced and now welcomes every contrite heart into its depths of mercy, peace, and joy.

The Prophet Jeremiah also speaks profoundly of the Heart of God, revealing His desire to shepherd His people:

“I will give you shepherds after My own heart, who will shepherd you wisely and prudently” (Jer 3:15).

This promise is fulfilled through the Sacrament of Holy Orders, by which Christ the Good Shepherd continues to lay down His life for His sheep (cf. Jn 10:11–18). Through sacramental consecration, God transforms a man’s heart so that he may act in the very person of Christ for the salvation of the faithful.

After the Resurrection, when Christ appeared to Saint Thomas the Apostle, He invited him to touch His wounds and His open side, beneath which lay His pierced Heart:

“Put your finger here and see My hands; bring your hand and put it into My side, and do not be unbelieving, but believe” (Jn 20:27).

Thomas’s response—“My Lord and my God!” (Jn 20:28)—has become for us a cherished prayer at the elevation of the Host and Chalice during the Holy Mass.

In the revelations to Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque, our Lord extends this same invitation to all who have grown weak or cold in faith, calling them to look upon His pierced Heart and believe anew in the Incarnation of God’s immeasurable love.

The Heart of Christ in the Life of the Church

Saint Paul reflects upon the mystery of God’s love revealed in the Heart of Jesus in his Letter to the Ephesians (cf. Eph 3:8–19). He writes of the “*inscrutable riches of Christ*” and prays:

“That Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith, that you, rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the holy ones what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, so that you may be filled with all the fullness of God” (Eph 3:17–19).

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RECOMMENDED READING

- Rediscovering Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, A heart of fire *James Kubicki, S.J.*
- Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus *Jean Croiset*
- Enthronement of the Sacred Heart *Rev. Francis Larkin, SS.CC.*



"THE LOVE OF THE SACRED HEART
WATCHES WITH GREAT CARE OVER THE
SOULS THAT HAVE CONSECRATED
THEMSELVES TO ITS SERVICE. THEREFORE
WHENEVER A MAN FEELS HIS DEVOTION
DIMINISHED, HIS HEART BECOMING
COLD, AND PERCEIVES THAT HE HAS
STRAYED FROM GOD, HE OUGHT TO CALL
ON THIS LOVE, ENTRUST TO IT ALL HIS
DESIRES, PRAYING IT TO OBTAIN FOR HIM
THE GRACE OR ZEAL OF TRUE DEVOTION.
HE SHOULD ALSO BEG LOVE TO GUARD
ALL THE GOOD HE DOES, AND LOVE WILL
PRESERVE IT CAREFULLY IN THE SASKET OF
THE DIVINE HEART, RETURNING IT
FAITHFULLY TO THE SOUL, INCREASED
AND ENNOBLED. IN ALL HIS SORROWS
AND TRIALS LET HIM CALL LOVE TO HIS
HELP. WITH LOVE MAN FEELS NOT
WEAKNESS AND FAINTS NOT IN
ADVERSITY"

- St. Mechtilde



