

THE TWO HEARTS

The joint devotion to the Hearts of Jesus and Mary formally started in the 17th century. Saint Jean Eudes (1601–1680) established the Society of the Heart of the Mother Most Admirable, which resembled the Third Order of Saint Francis and dedicated the seminary chapels of Caen and Coutances to the Sacred Hearts.

Although Jean Eudes always associated the two Sacred Hearts, he began his devotional teachings with the Heart of Mary, and then extended it to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Eudes was partly influenced by the writings of Saint Francis de Sales on the *perfections of the Heart of Mary* as the model of love for God.

Popes supported the individual and joint devotions to the hearts through the centuries. In the 1956 encyclical *Haurietis Aquas*, Pope Pius XII encouraged the joint devotion to the hearts. In the 1979 encyclical *Redemptor Hominis*, Pope John Paul II explained the theme of unity of Mary's Immaculate Heart with the Sacred Heart.

In his Angelus address on September 15, 1985 Pope John Paul II coined the term *The Alliance of the Hearts of Jesus and Mary*, and, in 1986 addressed the international conference on that topic held at Fátima, Portugal .



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Novena Prayers to the Two Hearts of Jesus and Mary

**Recited nine days ending on the Feast Day of the
Sacred Heart for that particular year
(Movable Feast Day from year to year)**



The Two Holy Hearts

Prayer to the Two Hearts of Jesus and Mary

*The **Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus** is a **solemnity** in the Roman Catholic Church and is celebrated nineteen days after **Pentecost**. Since Pentecost is always celebrated on Sunday, the Feast of the Sacred Heart will always be on a Friday nineteen days after the Feast day of Pentecost for that particular year (**Movable Feast Day from year to Year**). The Alliance of the Heart of Jesus and Mary is based on the joint devotions to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary.*

*The **Feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary** is celebrated on the Saturday after the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. In preparation for these two Feasts, here is a **Novena Prayer to the Two Hearts of Jesus and Mary**.*

O Heart of Jesus pierced for our sins and giving us your Mother on Calvary! O Heart of Mary pierced by sorrow and sharing in the sufferings of your divine Son for our redemption! O sacred union of these Two Hearts! Praised be the God of Love who united them together!

May we unite our hearts and every heart so that all hearts may live in unity in imitation of that sacred unity which exists in these Two Hearts. Triumph, O Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart of Mary! Reign, O Most Sacred Heart of Jesus! – in our hearts, in our homes and families, in the hearts of those who as yet do not know you, and in all nations of the world. Establish in the hearts of all mankind the sovereign triumph and reign of your Two Hearts so that the earth may resound from pole to pole with one cry: **Blessed forever be the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart of Mary!**

Obtain for me a greater purity of heart and a fervent love of the spiritual life. May all my actions be done for the greater glory of God in union with the divine heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Hear and answer our prayers and intentions (**mention your petition**) according to your most merciful will. Amen.

JOINT DEVOTIONS AND PRAYERS

In Catholic teachings, the object of the devotion to the Heart of Mary is her physical Heart that burned so intensely with love for God. Because of the inherently close relationship of Mary and Jesus in the Catholic teachings on salvation, the Heart of Mary is associated with the Heart of Jesus. The Sacred Heart is viewed as the source of God's boundless love and charity, while the devotion to the Immaculate Heart stresses the nature of Mary's love and concern for all who call upon her.

The link and the relationship between the Hearts of Jesus and Mary is also manifested in various Catholic prayers. The conclusion to the *Litany of the Sacred Heart of Mary* is an example:

O most merciful God, Who, for the salvation of sinners and the refuge of the miserable, wast pleased that the Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary should be most like in charity and pity to the Divine Heart of Thy Son Jesus Christ; grant that we, who commemorate this most sweet and loving Heart, may by the merits and intercession of the same Blessed Virgin merit to be found according to the Heart of Jesus.
Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

The *Morning offering to the Sacred Heart of Jesus* specifically refers to the Immaculate Heart of Mary as it seeks reparation for sins:

O Jesus through the Immaculate Heart of Mary,
I offer You my prayers, works, joys, sufferings of this day,
in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass throughout the world.
I offer them for all the intentions of Your Sacred Heart:
the salvation of souls, the reparation for sin,
the reunion of Christians;
and in particular for the intentions of the Holy Father this month.
Amen.