

centered on it, as an inexhaustible store of graces and blessings.

The touchstone of sincerity in the spiritual life for all Christians, of whatever age or mental maturity, is to serve God with their whole heart in the person of Jesus Christ, and their neighbor as themselves for the love of God. But, we do not serve unless we love. Unless our wills are duly trained to respond to the goodness of God, to His great mercy and love for us even becoming man and remaining with us in the Eucharist, we shall not serve Him, at least not in the measure that His goodness deserves.

The vast majority of people seem to depend completely upon their prayer books to entertain Christ in their hearts after Holy Communion. Small wonder, then, that they do not enjoy that sweet intimacy which could be theirs if they learn to listen to Him while pressing Him close to their hearts, and talk to Him in that intimate, familiar, and confident conversation which they use for their closest friends, telling them their troubles, their joys, their sorrows, and asking them for advice when they do not know or are not sure what they ought to be doing.

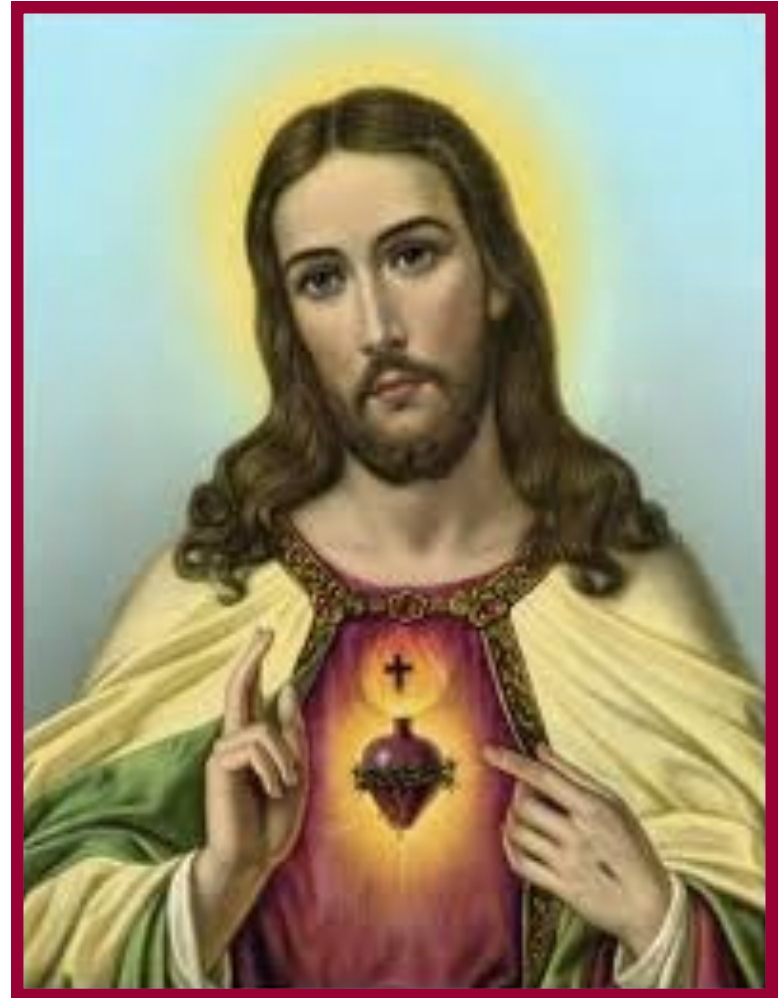
The theme of the Sacred Heart can be adapted to almost any form of presentation. It has all the elements that make for aesthetic appeal and strong imagery, and a certain touch of simplicity that even adult "children" can appreciate. This presumes, however, that the teacher has mastered the idea that the whole gamut of Christ's life on earth-- mortal and risen, mystical and Eucharistic-- belongs to the Sacred Heart devotion.

Therefore, devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus is truly as old as Christianity. When the side of Christ was pierced on Calvary, there immediately flowed out blood and water. The Church has interpreted this to mean the outpouring of grace through the Church, which began the moment that Christ expired on the Cross.

*(excerpted from: www.ewtn.com; www.therealpresence.org)

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June is the month dedicated to
The Sacred Heart of Jesus



**SACRED HEART OF JESUS,
MAY THE WHOLE WORLD BURN
WITH
LOVE FOR YOU!**

The Sacred Heart of Jesus

*Devotion to the Sacred Heart, as we know it, began about the year 1672. On repeated occasions, Jesus appeared to Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque, a Visitation nun, in France, and during these apparitions He explained to her the devotion to His Sacred Heart as He wanted people to practice it. Jesus asked to be honored in the symbol of His Heart of flesh; He asked for acts of reparation and for frequent communion. Communion on the First Friday of the month, and the keeping of the Holy Hour.

There are two things that must always be found together in the devotion to the Sacred Heart: Christ's Heart of flesh and Christ's love for us. True devotion to the Sacred Heart means devotion to the Divine Heart of Christ insofar as His heart represents and recalls His love for us. In honoring the heart of Christ, our homage lingers on the Person of Jesus in the fullness of His love. This love of Christ for us was the moving force of all He did and suffered for us--in Nazareth, on the Cross, in giving Himself in the Blessed Sacrament, in His teaching and healing, in His praying and working. When we speak of the Sacred Heart, we mean Jesus showing us His Heart and all His love for us.

Jesus Christ is the incarnation of God's infinite love. The Human Nature which the Son of God took upon Himself was filled with love and kindness that has never been equal. He is the perfect model of love of God and neighbor.

The meaning of love in the life of Jesus was especially evident in His sufferings. Out of love for His Father He willed to undergo the death of the Cross. "The world must know that I love the Father and do just as the Father has commanded Me" (Jn. 14:31). The love that Jesus bore towards us also urged Him to undergo the death of the Cross. At the Last Supper, He said, "There is no greater love than to lay down one's life for one's friends" (Jn. 15:13). The Heart of Jesus never ceases to love us in heaven. He sanctifies us through the Sacraments. These are inexhaustible fountains of grace and holiness which have their source in the boundless ocean of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

The importance of associating the Holy Eucharist with devotion to the Sacred Heart can scarcely be overemphasized. Our instinctive Catholic sense tells us that no devotion is worth cultivating unless it is grounded on the solid dogmas of revelation and its roots go back to the tradition of the Apostolic Church. The question before us, therefore, is whether and to what extent the cultist of the Sacred Heart, which in its modern form is only three hundred years old, actually rests on that sublime mystery of love which the Son of God instituted at the Last Supper when He gave us the Sacrament of the Altar. The answer to this question will determine in great measure our attitude toward the Sacred Heart, whether we shall consider it just another devotion, based on some private revelations given to a saintly nun in the 17th century, or whether we should associate it with an essential doctrine of the Catholic Faith, outside of which there is no salvation.

We may say that devotion to the Sacred Heart began on Calvary. When the Heart of Christ was pierced on the Cross, it opened the door to realizing how deeply Jesus loves us. In return, He wants nothing more than for us to love Him with all our hearts. There is nothing that God wants more than for us to love Him without reserve. What do we mean when we say that the Sacred Heart is in the Holy Eucharist.

Most of us know that Devotion to the Sacred Heart is part of our Catholic religion. We have known from childhood about the nine first Fridays. We often recite the Litany of the Sacred Heart. Annually we celebrate the solemn feast of the Sacred heart. We may even know several aspirations, like: "Sacred Heart of Jesus, I place all my trust in thee."

Devotion to the Sacred Heart is as simple and as complex, as evident and as elusive, as love. No one who is familiar with the authentic literature on the subject can doubt that devotion to the Sacred Heart is an infinitely rich treasure. Our Lord Himself referred to His Heart, and to the devotion