



Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, I place my trust in You!

The Heart of Jesus was no different than ours.

The heart is a symbol of love, pumping lifeblood through our bodies about 100,000 times a day. The physical heart of Jesus symbolizes the total love of Jesus, divine and human.

Why do you think the heart of Jesus is shown on the outside of His body? A child answered, because He loves us so much that He can't keep it in!

“O God, what will You do to conquer the fearful hardness of our hearts?

Lord, you must give us new hearts, tender hearts, sensitive hearts, to replace hearts that are made of marble and of bronze.

You must give us Your own Heart, Jesus. Come, lovable Heart of Jesus.

Place your Heart deep in the center of our hearts and enkindle in each a flame of love as strong, as great, as the sum of all the reasons that I have for loving You, my God.

O Holy Heart of Jesus, dwell hidden in my heart, so that I may live only in You and only for You, so that, in the end, I may live with You eternally in Heaven.”

~ ~ ~ Prayer of St. Claude la Colombiere to The Sacred Heart of Jesus ~ ~ ~

What is a devotion to the Sacred Heart all about – It is the practice of selfless love.

We seem to be living in a love-starved world – a selfish world – a world so preoccupied with space and time that almost no thought is given to the joys that await those who faithfully serve God in the here and now. What does God want from us – He wants us to love Him with all our heart and to serve Him faithfully. It's not a difficult task. It is not beyond our reach. It is not impossible. When we give ourselves to the needs of all who cross our paths on this journey of life, we are serving our God.

There is no paved road to Heaven. No golden staircase to reach the gates. The way to meet God face-to-face is to practice selfless love here on earth.

44 But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, Matthew 5:44

Sometimes there seems to be so many obstacles on our path. We encounter people who are unkind, unjust and even outright cruel. It is then that we are asked to reach out, to extend a hand, to show the kind of love that God expects from His followers. The same love that Jesus showed for us by dying on the cross.

St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, a Visitation Sister and St. Claude la Colombiere, a Jesuit priest worked together to spread the devotion to The Sacred Heart. The devotion flourished in the later 1600's. School, hospitals, retreat centers, parishes and universities were named in it's honor. In 1675 The Sacred Heart appeared before Sr. Margaret Mary saying, "behold this heart burning with so great a love for men".

We invite you to take a few minutes to sit before the Sacred Heart in the new prayer garden.

Meditate on some of the most important questions:

Do I show love to my family, friends and neighbors...

Do I show love to strangers and outcast as Jesus would expect from me...

Do I love my enemies and pray for those who persecute me...

Do I express love for the earth, sea, sky...the universe...

Do I love as Jesus loves...

Respectfully submitted: Virginia Portanova