

The Immaculate Heart of Mary: Your Praises We Sing

Last Saturday (June 4th), we celebrated the feast day of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary is primarily based upon the Sacred Scriptures. In the New Testament, there are references to the Heart of Mary in the Gospel according to St. Luke: (Luke 2:19): "But Mary kept all these words, pondering them in her heart." (Luke 2:35): "And thy own soul a sword shall pierce, that, out of many hearts thoughts may be revealed." (Luke 2:51): "And he went down with them and came to Nazareth and was subject to them. And his mother kept all these words in her heart." The Immaculate Heart of Mary is a devotional name used to refer to the interior life of Mary. It includes all of her joys, sorrows, virtues, hidden perfections, her maternal love for Jesus, compassionate love for all people and above all her love for God the father. Traditionally, her heart is depicted pierced with seven swords, in homage to the seven sorrows of Mary. Typically, there are also roses or other types of flowers wrapped around her heart. Devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary began in the Middle Ages with saints like [Anselm of Canterbury](#) and [Bernard of Clairvaux](#). In 1942, the twenty-fifth anniversary of Fatima, Pope Pius XII consecrated the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. That same year, he assigned the feast day to August 22, the octave of the Assumption. Two years later on May 4th, he extended the Feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary to the Universal Church. With the liturgical reforms of the Second Vatican Council in 1969, the feast was given a more suitable place on the day following the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary means two things: invoking her and imitating her. We pray through her to God. We imitate her as we strive to become like her. The Blessed Virgin Mary is: Our Life, Our Sweetness and Our Hope as the Salve Regina the Hail Holy Queen prayer of 1000-years expresses so well. May our sweet Mother Mary hold you close your loving immaculate heart. -Sherrie Clutts D.R.E.