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A Newsletter from the Missions Office/Pontifical Mission Societies in the United States
Catholic Diocese of Columbus, Ohio

Jesus' Heart Pumps out Grace, Mercy and Life for all of Humanity

***To monthly mission donors:
"Thank you for your support!"***

On behalf of His Excellency Frederick F. Campbell, the Bishop of Columbus, and Father Andrew Small, OMI, the National Director of the Pontifical Mission Societies in the United States, I would like to thank you for your prayers, sacrifices and financial support for the missions.

The Church dedicates the month of June to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus to remind God's children that God is love.

The heart is a symbol of the center of a human being. Jesus' heart started beating more than 2000 years ago in the womb of Mary.

Now, Jesus' heart continues and will continue to beat for all of eternity in Jesus' glorified body – pumping out God's grace, mercy and life to all of humanity.

Through the Gospels we have a glimpse of Jesus' heart. Jesus was moved with pity for the crowds (Matt. 9:36) and Jesus is known as One with a gentle and a humble heart (Matt. 11:29).

Over the centuries many Christians developed harsh images of God – a fearsome judge; so distant from the affairs of our daily lives; is ready to impose punishment for our moral failures.

In the 16th and 17th centuries, there was a tendency to overemphasize the wrath of God and the unworthiness of our human nature; made fear the fundamental response to God. This tendency was prevalent in France during that time.

It was in this culture that Jesus revealed His Sacred Heart to Saint Margaret Mary of Alacoque, a heart burning with love for humanity, making God near and approachable.

Jesus longs for us to offer Him our love and devotion in return. Jesus told Saint Margaret Mary: "My Divine Heart is so passionately fond of the human race and of you, in particular, that it cannot keep back the flames of its burning charity any longer. They must burst out through you and reveal my Heart to the world, so as to enrich mankind with my treasures".

God is love, Saint John reminds us (John 4). God empties Himself out for us, desiring our eternal salvation, seeking out the lost sheep and carrying them back home.

The whole of Christ's life is a mission of mercy. In radical obedience to the Father, Jesus became Flesh preaching the Gospel of God's Kingdom, healing the sick, forgiving the sinner, feeding the hungry and ultimately, offering His life on the cross.

Jesus' every word, action and attitude manifested a perfect, pure and selfless love for every human person. If love means willing the good of the other, completely free of self-interest, we see the perfection of such love in the burning heart of Christ.

The love in the Sacred Heart of Jesus is not naïve, simplistic or easy love. Such love shines forth crowned with thorns, pierced and bleeding. The crucifixion is a terrifying path through the valley of darkness and evil which Jesus Himself walked, embracing everything sinful, broken and dead that ensnares and destroys us.

By remaining silent before His prosecutors, praying for His killers, loving a dying thief, and asking forgiveness for sinners – Jesus showed that the unconditional, infinite and divine love of His heart is the only force that can heal the world of its hatred, sin and its rejection of God.

On the cross, Jesus absorbed all the violence, evil, hatred and sin of the world into Himself, letting it kill Him seemingly destroy His love, healing and peace. But by taking in all of darkness He conquered all the power of darkness. Jesus' life, death and resurrection is the gentle, yet powerful transformation of violence into love, of sin into grace, of hatred into forgiveness and of death into life.

A Prayer to the Sacred Heart of Jesus

Most holy heart of Jesus, fountain of every blessing, I adore you, I love you, and with lively sorrow for my sins I offer you this poor heart of mine. Make me humble, patient, pure and wholly obedient to your will. Grant, Good Jesus, that I may live in you and for you. Protect me in the midst of danger. Comfort me in my afflictions. Give me health of body, assistance in my temporal needs, your blessing on all that I do, and the grace of a holy death. Amen.

The Promises of the Sacred Heart

These are Jesus' promises to anyone who has a devotion to His Most Sacred Heart:

- 1) I will give you necessary grace for your state of life.
- 2) I will establish peace in your home.
- 3) I will comfort you in your afflictions.
- 4) I will be your refuge in your life and in your death.
- 5) I will bless your undertakings.
- 6) I will be your source of infinite mercy.
- 7) I will make you fervent.
- 8) I will mount you to a high perfection.
- 9) I will bless any place where the image of my Sacred Heart is placed.
- 10) I will touch hardened hearts.
- 11) I will write in my heart anyone who promotes devotion to my Sacred Heart.
- 12) I will grant final perseverance to those who receive

Holy Communion nine consecutive first Fridays of the month.

Keep calm and carry on...

Our lives seem to be in constant assault; worry, fear, anxiety, stress. Depression and discouragement are prevalent in our culture. Unfulfilled dreams, loss, divorce, sickness, death, failures, mistakes, criticism seem to rain down on us like bombs.

We need to always remind ourselves that God is not the author or cause of them. They come from the enemy. The enemy comes to steal, kill and destroy.

So, we need God's help. We need to pray, to be calm and to carry on. But we cannot fight the enemy with a slogan.

We need to rely on and gain our strength from God; from Jesus Who came to give us life — abundant life. We need to trust Jesus completely and totally.

We may not realize it; the battles we face daily are spiritual battles.

We cannot win them with our own will power.

When troubles hit you right between the eyes, be determined to replace fear with confidence in God, replace worry with faith in God and replace anxiety with peace.

Keep calm and trust God.

God has promised not to leave you or forsake you. God wants to be a part of your life.

When you need help, all you need to do is ask God. God will uphold you and God will sustain you.

God will give you peace in the midst of the storms of life.

God will provide you the encouragement, strength, and inspiration to overcome whatever challenges you maybe facing in your life. God is on your side; God is for you. God will see you through!

Quip:

Never pick a quarrel — even when it is ripe.

Quest:

Whines are the product of sour grapes.

A joke a priest can tell...



The man's tie was stained, his face was smeared with red lipstick, and a half empty bottle of gin was sticking out of his torn coat pocket. He opened his newspaper and began to read. After a few minutes the man turned to the priest and asked "Say Father, what causes arthritis?" The priest replies, "My son, it's caused by loose living, being with cheap wicked women, too much alcohol and contempt for your fellow man." "Well I'll be darned," the drunk muttered returning to his newspaper.

The priest thinking about what he said, nudged the drunk and apologized. "I'm sorry to come on so strong. How long have you had arthritis?"

"I don't have it, Father. I was just reading here that the Pope does."

Leandro (Lany) Tapay, Director
Gina Sergio, Education Coordinator

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