

(1) Act of Consecration

O most holy Heart of Jesus, fountain of every blessing, we adore You, we love You, and with a lively sorrow for our sins, we offer You these poor hearts of ours. Make us humble, patient, pure and completely obedient to Your will. Grant, good Jesus, that we may live in You and for You. Protect us in the midst of danger, comfort us in all afflictions, give us health of mind, body and emotions, assistance in our temporal needs, Your blessing on all that we do, and the grace of a holy death. Amen (*Raccolta #263*).

Apostleship of Prayer

Lord, Jesus, whose Heart was once pierced for love of us, we renew our baptismal promises to reject Satan and all his works and all his empty promises to live only for You. Although we are already united to You through the Sacrament of Baptism, and this union is constantly perfected by the Eucharist, we give ourselves to You again today to fix more deeply in our hearts this resolve to live for You and to serve You more faithfully. Give us the grace to love and serve You always. Amen.

(2) Consecration of Society by Pope John XXIII

O Jesus, come back into our society, our family life, our souls, and reign there as our peaceful sovereign. Enlighten with the splendor of faith and the charity of Your tender Heart the souls of those who work for the good of the people, for your poor. Impart to them Your spirit, a spirit of discipline, order, and gentleness—preserving the flame of enthusiasm ever alight in our hearts. Amen. (*Story of Soul*).

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Act of Reparation

Lord, Jesus Christ, we look at the Cross, and we, Your Pilgrim Church, can see what sin has done to the Son of Mary, to the Son of God. But now You are risen and glorified.

You suffer no more in the flesh. Sin can no longer expose You to the agony in the garden, to the scourging, to the death on a cross.

But it can reach You through Your Mystical Body. This is part of You. Your Church on earth still feels the strength of sin. For this we make our act of reparation.

We, who have sinned in the past, now consecrate ourselves to the healing of Your Mystical Body, to the part in the mystery of its well-being and its growth. Sanctify us for this task.

May Your Sacred Heart be the symbol, not of one love, but of two—Your love for us, and our love for You. Accept our love and help us make it real by serving You in all our brothers and sisters, so that love and concern may lead all people to know the one true God and Jesus Christ whom He has sent. Amen. (*Apostleship of Prayer*).

Concluding Prayers

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus,
Immaculate Heart of Mary,
St. Joseph,
St. Anthony of Padua
All you angels and saints,

*Have mercy on us
Pray for us
Pray for us
Pray for us
Pray for us
Amen*

May the souls of the faithful departed rest in peace.

HISTORY OF FIRST FRIDAY DEVOTIONS

First Friday devotions among Catholics are related to devotion to the Sacred Heart of Christ. First Friday practices date to the last decades of the 17th Century, when Jesus appeared to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque and spoke to her of His Sacred Heart. Among the promises Our Lord revealed to St. Margaret Mary, the 12th specifically referenced practices for Fridays:

In the excess of the mercy of my Heart, I promise you that my all powerful love will grant to all those who will receive Communion on the First Fridays, for nine consecutive months, the grace of final repentance: they will not die in my displeasure, nor without receiving the sacraments; and my Heart will be their secure refuge in that last hour.

Devotion to the Sacred Heart, as given to St. Margaret Mary by Jesus, began to grow in popularity as soon as the saintly woman had died, but was officially recognized 75 years later. Though the devotion dictated to Margaret referred to 9 consecutive first Fridays, it does not need to end there. Many of the Catholic faithful continue to make the First Friday devotion beyond the nine consecutive months.