



IMMACULATE HEART^{OF} MARY CATHOLIC CHURCH

A LETTER FROM THE PASTOR

JUNE 10, 2018

Dear friends in the Lord,

Twice a year a parish's local liturgical calendar departs from the calendar of the universal church: on the Anniversary of the Dedication of the Church, which we at IHM observe each year in mid-January, and on the parish's patronal feast. So, although on the universal calendar the moveable feast of the Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary falls on the Saturday following the feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, we observe it on the Sunday following, and we celebrate it as a solemnity, one of the principal feasts of the church year.

Devotion to the Heart of Mary grew up in parallel with devotion to the Heart of Jesus, becoming more prominent during the time of St. John Eudes (1601-1680), who spoke tirelessly about the hearts of Jesus and Mary, intimate images of the love God shows for us and the communion to which we are called.

But it was not until after the Apparitions at Rue du Bac to Catherine Labouré in 1830 that this particular devotion became well known. And devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary has gradually grown more widespread, especially since the apparitions at Fatima.

The aim of the devotion has always been to unite the human family to God through Mary's heart by means of consecration, popularized by St. Louis de Montfort, and reparation. As our world seems to be fracturing along every imaginable fault-line—national, racial, economic and religious—this is a devotion for our time.

Mother of fair Love,

*Inflame us with the same divine fire which has inflamed your own sorrowful and immaculate heart.
Make our hearts and homes your shrine, and through us, make the heart of Jesus, together with your rule, triumph in every heart and home. Amen.*

Happy feast day!