

*true friendship.* Though He has bridged the infinite distance between Himself and us, He has not thrust Himself upon us. He stands at our heart's door and knocks, a *mendicant for love*. He promises to come to us with his Father, the sweetest guest of the soul, not to *sojourn* but to *abide*, and sup with us in the intimacy of friendship. (Apoc. iii. 20.)

In short, Love is the guiding principle of all our Saviour's conduct towards us. He asks only love in return for His countless benefactions. "My son, give Me thy heart." (Prov. xxiii. 21.) He is ready to obliterate the greatest crimes, if there is but love.

We are now able, in conclusion, to realise the object of the Devotion of the Sacred Heart. First a *material or physical* object, second a *spiritual or moral* object. The physical object is our Lord's natural human heart, that sacred organ wherein was formed the saving blood of our Redemption, spilt on Calvary, and still mystically flowing upon our altars. That Heart whose every pulsation, in prayer, in work, in agony, was for us and our salvation.

The *spiritual or moral* object is the *Love of Jesus for us*. First, His Divine love, uncreated, with which He has loved us from everlasting as God. "I have loved thee with an everlasting love." Second, His created love. His human love *as a man* together with the other affections that filled His Heart during the 33 years and caused it to throb so often for us, and finally to shed its last drop in keenest agony for our redemption.

And, by uniting these two objects, we have Jesus, the only Son of God and of the Virgin Mary, who loved us even unto death, considered in that part of His divine nature, which was the special victim of love.

This is what the Heart of Jesus is, O pious souls! Say, is it not deserving of your love?

This is that Heart to which we earnestly, beloved brethren, invite all the Church of Australasia, clergy and people, to be consecrated again most solemnly. And it behoves us, one and all, to make that consecration with suitable disposition, and especially with heartfelt *gratitude* and intense *love*. With gratitude for all the favors and blessings which that Sacred Heart has bestowed upon us—all the gifts of nature and grace—our creation—our preservation—our Redemption—the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass—the Seven Sacraments—the Blessed Virgin, Mother of God, as our advocate and Mother—and finally, the Holy Catholic Church. With *love*, as a return of love for love. For each of us can truly say to the Sacred and Loving Heart of Jesus: "O Jesus, for me Thou wast born in a stable; for me Thou wast circumcised in suffering; for me Thou didst flee into Egypt to escape the tyrant's cruel wrath; for me Thou wast persecuted, ill-treated, calumniated, slain in excruciating torments on the Cross of Calvary; for me Thou didst rise triumphant from the dead, and for me Thou didst ascend into Heaven to prepare for me a place in reward for my unworthy service." To Him therefore we consecrate our lives, our homes, our country, and all that we hold most dear for time and eternity.

Accordingly we enjoin that this year, on June 29, the Sunday within the Octave of the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the solemn consecration of Australasia shall be made in all the principal churches of Australia and New Zealand, and that the formula of consecration shall be the one adjoined to this Pastoral.

May the Grace of God abide with all of you, clergy and people, for ever!

Given at Sydney, New South Wales, on the Feast of Our Lady Help of Christians, Patroness of Australasia, 24th day of May, A.D. 1919.

\*MICHAEL KELLY, D.D., Archbishop of Sydney.

\*JOHN GALLAGHER, D.D., Bishop of Goulburn.

\*P. V. DWYER, D.D., Bishop of Maitland.

\*JOHN DUNNE, D.D., Bishop of Bathurst.

\*P. J. O'CONNOR, D.D., Bishop of Armidale.

\*JOHN CARROLL, D.D., Bishop of Lismore.

\*WILLIAM HAYDEN, D.D., Bishop of Wilcannia-Forbes.

\*JOSEPH W. DWYER, D.D., Bishop of Wagga Wagga.

\*DANIEL MANNIX, D.D., LL.D., Archbishop of Melbourne.

\*PATRICK PHELAN, D.D., Bishop of Sale.

\*DANIEL FOLEY, D.D., Bishop of Ballarat.

\*JOHN MCCARTHY, D.D., Bishop of Sandhurst.

\*PATRICK DELANY, D.D., Archbishop of Hobart.

\*ROBERT W. SPENCE, O.P., D.D., Archbishop of Adelaide.

\*JOHN H. NORTON, D.D., Bishop of Port Augusta.

\*PATRICK JOSEPH CLUNE, D.D., Archbishop of Perth.

\*WILLIAM BERNARD KELLY, D.D., Bishop of Geraldton.

\*ANSELM CATALAN, O.S.B., Abbot Nullius, New Norcia.

\*JAMES DUHIG, D.D., Archbishop of Brisbane.

\*J. SHEIL, D.D., Bishop of Rockhampton.

\*JOHN AUGUSTINE HEAVEY, D.D., O.S.A., Vicar Apostolic of Cooktown.

\*FRANCIS REDWOOD, D.D., S.M., Archbishop of Wellington.

\*HENRY WILLIAM CLEARY, D.D., Bishop of Auckland.

\*MATTHEW BRODIE, D.D., Bishop of Christchurch.

#### ACT OF CONSECRATION

Of the (Parish or Congregation) to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Sacred Heart of Jesus, Who didst manifest to Blessed Margaret Mary the desire of reigning in Christian families, we to-day wish to proclaim Thy most complete regal dominion over this parish and its people. We would live in future with Thy life, we would cause to flourish in our midst those virtues to which Thou hast promised peace here below, we would banish far from us the spirit of the world which Thou hast cursed; and Thou shalt reign, over our minds in the simplicity of our faith, and over our hearts by the whole-hearted love with which they shall burn for Thee, the flame of which we shall keep alive by the frequent reception of Thy Divine Eucharist.

Deign, O Divine Heart, to preside over our assemblings, to bless our enterprises, both spiritual and temporal, to dispel our cares, to sanctify our joys, to alleviate our sufferings. If ever one or other of us should have the misfortune to afflict Thee, remind him, O Heart of Jesus, that Thou art good and merciful to the penitent sinner. And when the hour of separation strikes, when death shall come to cast mourning into our midst, we will all, both those who go and those who stay, be submissive to Thy eternal decrees. We will console ourselves with the thought that a day will come when the entire congregation reunited in Heaven can sing for ever Thy glories and Thy mercies.

May the Immaculate Heart of Mary and the glorious Patriarch, St. Joseph, present this consecration to Thee, and keep it in our minds all the days of our life. All glory to the Heart of Jesus, our King and our Father.

On the 29th day of June, 1919, the undersigned, by a solemn Act of Consecration, has dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus the congregation of..... Church at.....

Signed (the priest).....

N.B.—A copy of this Act of Consecration, signed by the parish priest and framed, should be set up in the sacristy.

Let no one depise the day of small things. Hold out a hand to a friend in distress, though this tiny act of sympathy may be the limit of your ability to help him.

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