

This Friday and Saturday we have the feasts of...

Sacred Heart of Jesus

On Dec. 27, 1673, at a monastery, in eastern France, a nun, named Sister Margaret Mary Alacoque began experiencing visions of the Sacred Heart. Those visions continued for 18 months. During her visions, Sister Margaret Mary learned ways to venerate the Sacred Heart of Christ. These devotions included the concept of a Holy Hour on Thursdays, the creation of the feast of the Sacred Heart after Corpus Christi, and the reception of the Eucharist on the first Friday of every month. The Feast spread first in France and then in 1856, Pope Pius IX instituted the feast of the Sacred Heart for the entire Latin Rite Church.

During the eighteen months, while she had the revelation, Jesus revealed to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque these promises for all those who will venerate His Sacred Heart:

1. I will give them all the graces necessary for their state of life.
2. I will give peace in their families.
3. I will console them in all their troubles.
4. I will be their refuge in life and especially in death.
5. I will abundantly bless all their undertakings.
6. Sinners shall find in my Heart the source and infinite ocean of mercy.
7. Tepid souls shall become fervent.
8. Fervent souls shall rise speedily to great perfection.
9. I will bless those places wherein the image of My Sacred Heart shall be exposed and venerated.
10. I will give to priests the power to touch the most hardened hearts.
11. Persons who propagate this devotion shall have their names eternally written in my Heart.
12. 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.

From the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, another, very widespread throughout the world and especially in Ireland, arose: The enthronement of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Through this the whole family is consecrated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. What does it mean to consecrate yourself to the Sacred Heart of Jesus? Means to set you apart for God. To ask God to keep you away from sin and to get in a strong and deep relation with God. To recognise in this Most Sacred Heart, the complete love and omnipotence of God. To entrust yourself and your family as well as all your worries to the divine providence. A family consecrated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus enjoys many graces, among which the most important are the 12 above. There is a special rite for the enthronement of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. If you would like to do it, please contact de Parish Office.

Immaculate Heart of Mary

In the 1600s, St. John Eudes brought both the Immaculate Heart of Mary and the Sacred Heart of Jesus to the public. He created a feast for Mary's heart and founded religious societies that promoted devotion to her heart.

On the apparition of Fátima the Blessed Virgin Mary called for prayers and acts of reparation, and, on July 13, 1917, she promised that she would return to request a special kind of reparation. She did this in 1929, appearing to Lucia:

“Look, my daughter, at my Heart, surrounded with thorns with which ungrateful men pierce me every moment by their blasphemies and ingratitude. You at least try to console me and say that I promise to assist at the hour of death, with the graces necessary for salvation, all those who, on the first Saturday of five consecutive months, shall confess, receive Holy Communion, recite five decades of the Rosary, and keep me company for fifteen minutes while meditating on the fifteen mysteries of the Rosary, with the intention of making reparation to me.”

In 1942, 25 years after Our Lady of Fátima, Pope Pius XII consecrated the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. That same year he created the Feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary and extended it to the Universal Church 2 years later.

Through these devotions, our spiritual life improves significantly, making the evidence of God's presence spread more and more to the whole world.