



Essential Evangelization

The Sacred Heart of Jesus

As Catholic Christians, this past week we celebrated another great and solemn Roman Catholic feast, "The Sacred Heart of Jesus." The feast is normally celebrated 19 days after Pentecost Sunday and usually falls on the Friday following Corpus Christi. The month of June is also dedicated to the Sacred Heart. The devotion stresses the central concept of loving and adoring Jesus and is closely associated with Acts of Reparation to Jesus Christ. The Sacred Heart image is normally depicted as a flaming heart shining with divine light, surrounded by a crown of thorns and surmounted with a cross and fire which represents the transformative power of His love.

The origin of the feast goes back to Saint Marguerite Marie Alacoque of France, a Roman Catholic nun who had visions of the Sacred Heart where Jesus "*promised her that all those who rendered this honor to His heart would be endowed with an abundance of heavenly graces.*" On December 27, 1673, on the feast of the beloved apostle St. John, Margaret Mary was allowed to rest her head upon His Heart. Jesus disclosed to her the wonders of His love and His desire that all would come to know the treasures of His goodness and deep abiding love.

The enthronement of the Sacred Heart is a Roman Catholic tradition in which a priest or head of household consecrates the members of the household and an image is placed in a prominent location to serve as a constant reminder of their consecration to Him. The devotion is also closely associated with, and in unity with, the Immaculate Heart of Mary as proclaimed by Pope John Paul II in his Angelus address in 1985 at Fatima, Portugal. Many miracles are a result of devotion to the Sacred Heart. His heart longs for your love and devotion. Do you love Jesus?

"I have been crucified with Christ; yet I live, no longer I, but Christ lives in me; insofar as I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God who has loved me and given himself up for me"

Our Very Own Saint Paul in Today's Second Reading: Galatians 2: 19-20

*This is one of a series of articles on
Evangelization from the
Evangelization Committee*