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# Sacred Heart Home Enthronement

Mater Dei Latin Mass Community

# The Enthronement of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

*Compiled for the Preparation of the Home Consecration*

## I. Introduction to the Devotion

*by Archbishop Raymond Burke of St. Louis*

Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus is a most effective means of living always in the company of our Lord Jesus Christ whom we receive in Holy Communion. In other words, our devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus is an extended act of love for Him who shows us the greatest possible love by offering His Body and Blood for us in the Eucharistic Sacrifice. In His fourth apparition to St. Margaret Mary, our Lord revealed His Sacred Heart, declaring:

*Behold this Heart which has so loved men that It spared nothing, even going so far as to exhaust and consume Itself, to prove to them Its love. And in return I receive from the greater part of men nothing but ingratitude, by the contempt, irreverence, sacrileges and coldness with which they treat Me in this Sacrament of Love. But what is still more painful to Me is that even souls consecrated to Me are acting in this way.*

When the devotional life is neglected, then there is a loss of gratitude and reverence, and a coldness before our Lord in the Eucharist. Our Lord asks St. Margaret Mary to make known His desire for a renewed devotion to His Sacred Heart, so that He might give His love ever more abundantly and we might respond with gratitude and return love for His divine love.

### Meaning of the Enthronement

The center of devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus is the Enthronement of the image of the Sacred Heart in the home. By the Enthronement of the Sacred Heart, we link the tabernacle of our parish church to our home, inviting our Lord to be our constant and most intimate companion. The Enthronement is a way of life. It means that Christ is King of our hearts and we desire Him to be present with us always. In other words, by the Enthronement, we signify our desire to make our hearts and our homes holy, to sanctify our lives in every aspect. Father Mateo Crawley-Boevey, SSCC (1875-1961), great apostle of the Enthronement of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, insisted on its official and social characteristics. The Enthronement is the outward expression of an interior commitment to submit one's whole life in obedience to Christ. It is social because it involves every

member of the household in which we live and all our relationships with others, in and outside the home. Those who carry out the Enthronement always comment on the difference it makes in the relationships of family members with each other, and in work, business, recreation and other relationships.

Here it should be noted that the Enthronement can be made in every home. Often, in speaking of the Enthronement, I refer to the family, but it is understood that the home may be of a single person. The person living alone, no less than a family household rightly desires that Christ be his or her constant companion. Also, there is always a relationship with others—with family, friends, and colleagues and coworkers—which is expressed in the Enthronement, even by the person who lives alone.

The Enthronement includes necessarily the Consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The Enthronement without the Consecration would simply amount to the placing of a sacred image in a prominent place in the home. It would be a good and pious practice, but it would not transform lives in the way that the Enthronement does. The Act of Consecration gives expression to the profound meaning of enthroning the image of the Sacred Heart in our home.

By the words of the Consecration, we articulate the meaning of the Enthronement. We place our hearts completely into the Sacred Heart of Jesus and we beg Him to be the source of our healing and strength, the medicine and nourishment by which our poor and wounded hearts are made strong and whole. The enthroned image of the Sacred Heart gives us the occasion to renew frequently, throughout the day, our act of consecration.

### Necessity of Preparation

When we are about to undertake any important action, we always give ourselves ample time to prepare. Certainly, when we desire to consecrate ourselves and our home to Christ, we want to prepare well. It would be a mockery of the worst sort to enthrone the image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in a thoughtless manner, without regard for the profound meaning of our action. It would be a demonstration of the lack of the reverence and of the coldness toward our Lord, to which He referred in His fourth apparition to St. Margaret Mary.

Since the Enthronement is a way of life for us, demanding our daily conversion of heart, we do not undertake it without considering carefully what it means for us. Our preparation should deepen in us our understanding and desire of the Enthronement and Consecration. The preparation has three principle: study, prayer, and practical arrangements. Each part is important to the proper disposition of the family members and the home itself. The goal of the preparation is hearts aflame with love of Christ. Only a careful preparation and a thoughtful act of Enthronement and Consecration will dispose minds and hearts to follow Christ the King, to trust in His never-failing love and to place our hearts in His.

## II. Fruits of the Enthronement

*Excerpted from an old pamphlet concerning the devotion*

### **The Enthronement Sanctifies the Family**

The family is the foundation, the nucleus of human society. Just as a plant is composed of cells, so human society is composed of the cells of families, and the healthier the cells, the better the plant thrives. In the bosom of the family, the human being receives its existence, its life of body and soul. There the first training and education are imparted to the child; there the character is formed, the ideals shaped and molded.

The condition of the family establishes the condition of the parish and the state, of the whole Church. If each family is truly Christian, the entire parish will be so; likewise, the diocese and the whole Catholic population. What then can be of greater importance for the Church than the sanctification of the family?

A Christian family without love for Christ, and without the protection of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, is in danger of being corrupted by the spirit of worldliness, whose fetid breath stifles all devotion and fear of God. The imperative condition, then, for extending the reign of Christ over mankind is the restoration of families in Christ.

The Enthronement, ordained by Divine Providence and highly recommended by the Sovereign Pontiffs, is a powerful means to preserve and sanctify the family. It is a most efficacious means for the Christian education of children. It enkindles love for the Sacred Heart in the members of the family and encourages frequent and devout attendance at Mass and reception of Holy Communion. It is a strong rampart against the seductive influences and teachings of the modern corrupted world. It brings about, as a logical sequence, a marked increase in vocations. For all these reasons, the solemn Enthronement of the Sacred Heart in families ranks as a work of the greatest consequence.

### **The Enthronement and the Christian Education of Children**

One of the most important factors in family life, and for society in general, is the Christian training of children in the home. To give children a Christian training means to instruct them solidly in all the essential truths of our holy Faith. To give them a Christian training means to set them a good example in prayer and the practice of virtue. To give them a Christian training means to school them in self-renunciation and patience in suffering. The influence of Christian family life is absolutely necessary for a Christian education. The seeds of piety must be implanted in the receptive hearts of children in the bosom of the family.

The Catholic school is equally important. Teachers must be animated by a Christian spirit, and the

school must continue and complete the Christian education of children. But Holy Church can do little and the school still less with children who do not receive religious training and influence at home.

Our Catholic children are exposed to numberless dangers. They are surrounded by the tainted spirit of the world, with its poisonous atmosphere, its loose morals, its shameless fashions, sinful amusements and excessive love for comfort and pleasure. Piety and the love of God may easily grow cold; good morals and religious principles too often suffer shipwreck. For this reason, children must be carefully trained at home and brought within the loving, grace-giving influence of the Sacred Heart. He alone can enkindle a personal, loyal love for Himself in their hearts, and thus enable them to remain true to His Commandments.

### **The Enthronement Preserves the Sanctity of Matrimony**

Another effect of the Enthronement of the Sacred Heart in families is the preservation of the sanctity of matrimony. How frightfully the modern world has sinned against this sacred institution, the very root and foundation of society! Marriage is entered into lightly, with little or no thought of its sacramental character, or of its permanence and responsibilities. Divorce is sanctioned everywhere, and that on the flimsiest pretexts. Numberless influences tend to corrupt and desecrate the married state, and the evil fruits of this unhappy condition are manifesting themselves to an alarming degree even among Catholics. The only remedy for these evils is a return to true Christianity, to Jesus Christ, the Creator, Redeemer and Sanctifier of families. Not until the full sacredness of the state of matrimony is recognized will the world change for the better.

For the fulfillment of the duties of married life, the grace of God is necessary. Our Lord has promised this grace to those who venerate His Sacred Heart: I will give them all the graces necessary for their state of life. Jesus Christ must again be proclaimed and venerated as the King, the life, the bond of union in the family. The Enthronement, rightly lived, will nourish and preserve this spirit. Even in his allocutions to newly-married couples, Pope Pius XII frequently urged them to enthrone the image of the Sacred Heart in their homes and to consecrate themselves to Him. "In the revelations, full of love," he said on one occasion, "our Savior promised, among other things, that 'wherever the image of His Heart shall be exposed to be singularly honored, it will bring down all sorts of blessings'. Having confidence in the Divine word, you can and will surely want to assure to yourselves the benefits of so great a promise, keeping and properly honoring in your homes the image of the Sacred Heart . . . It is fitting, then, dear Christian husbands and wives, brethren of Jesus, that the image of His Heart 'which has so loved men,' be exposed and honored in your homes, like that of the nearest and most loved relative who pours out the treasures of His blessings upon you, your children, and your undertakings.

"Exposed and honored. That is to say, this image should not only watch over your hours of rest in a private chamber, but it should be loyally honored by being hung above the entrance, or in the dining room or parlor or in some other frequently used place. 'Everyone therefore that shall confess Me before men, I will also confess him before My Father who is in Heaven' [Matt. 10:32] . . ."

"Honored means that at least now and then an attentive hand will place before the image of the Sacred Heart a few flowers, or a lighted candle, or even keep a lamp burning there; and that the family will gather round it each evening for a united act of homage, an humble expression of contrition, and a request for new blessings. In a word, the Sacred Heart is duly honored in a home when He is acknowledged as the King of Love by each and every one; which is to say that the family is consecrated to Him, inasmuch as the total giving of oneself to a holy cause or a holy person is called consecration. The Sacred Heart of Jesus has pledged Himself to heap special blessings upon those who give themselves to Him in this manner . . .

"But he who consecrates himself should also fulfill the obligations that such an act imposes. When the Sacred Heart reigns in a family, and surely He has the right to reign everywhere, it is necessary that an atmosphere of faith and piety envelop everyone and everything in that blessed household . . . In the consecrated family, parents and children feel themselves under the eye of God and friendly with Him; they are therefore observant of His Commandments and the precepts of His Church. Before the image of the King of Heaven, become their earthly Friend and constant Guest, they fearlessly and meritoriously meet all the labors of their daily duties . . .

"May it be so with you, my dear sons and daughters! Living united with Jesus even in this life, receiving Him frequently in Holy Communion, venerating His image daily, you shall only leave this earth to contemplate eternally the bright and beatific reality of that Divine Heart in Heaven." (June 5, 1940)

### **The Enthronement and the Eucharistic Life**

The intimate and inseparable bond between the Enthronement and Eucharistic life has been stressed from the beginning of this crusade of love and reparation. This has always been the keystone of the work of the Enthronement, the secret of its fruitfulness, the touchstone of its success.

In his first pamphlet on the Enthronement, Father Mateo declared that it was his intention to unite the two tabernacles: that of the Altar and that of the Home. He desired, he said, to make the home, so to speak, a continuation of the Eucharistic life ---- daily Mass and Communion extending their influence over the daily life of the family.

This desire ran as a golden thread through all his preaching: and as the years passed, he urged with ever-increasing intensity that the families of the Sacred Heart be imbued with a Eucharistic spirit; that they assist as frequently as possible at Holy Mass and be the guests of the King at His

Eucharistic Banquet, and that they "live" the Mass throughout the day.

In the circular letter he addressed to the Secretariates of the entire world in 1917, Father Mateo said: "You desire and you are bringing it about that the urgent demand of the Sacred Heart concerning the Eucharist and all the practices connected with this request be carried out by those who have given Him the place of honor in their home, and who know that He longs to be loved in His home, the church, in the Sacrament of His Love. The family which has received Him in His Eucharistic Tabernacle takes Him to its family tabernacle, there to keep Him by faith, by prayer and love. Thus you are forming generations of Eucharistic families."

And again, in 1925, he wrote: "Work to develop the flame of the Eucharistic spirit in families which have enthroned the King. Tell them over and over that behind the picture we must at all costs have the reality; that the King of Love Himself must preside over the family. More and more this thought takes possession of me: we must impregnate families with the Eucharistic spirit! We shall never fully anticipate the marvelous effects which flow from the intimate union between the Tabernacle of the King and that of His true friends, between the Eucharistic Tabernacle and the tabernacle of the home."

A final quotation from an article addressed to members of the Legion of Mary in 1943 will show that Father Mateo never changed the doctrinal basis of this crusade: "Jesus, the King whom we enthrone in the family, must be someone real, someone living . . . The image of the Sacred Heart which we put in the place of honor in the house is, in fact, not more than a beautiful symbol representing a Divine reality. Consequently, the King of Love whom we should preach in season and out of season while making the Enthronement is the Sacred Heart of the Altar and of the Tabernacle. We want to unite the home and the Tabernacle with a bond as strong as death. Gently, but finally, with delicacy and energy, we must achieve the creation of a Eucharistic environment wherever the Heart of Jesus has been enthroned. Yes, our goal is to achieve the transformation of Catholic homes into Tabernacles. It is a living Jesus whom one goes to receive at the Holy Altar, and it is a living Jesus whom one takes home and guards there. The image of the Sacred Heart which one honors in the home is meant merely to recall constantly to the friends of Bethany this doctrine of Eucharistic love."

### **A Powerful Aid to Pastors**

As the Enthronement creates an intimate relationship between the church and the home, and results in greater love for the Eucharist, so also it creates a close relationship between priests and families. The Enthronement is therefore a powerful aid to the pastor, for by its means the zeal of the flock entrusted to him will be rekindled and sustained. Families in which the Sacred Heart reigns and which nourish the spirit of the Enthronement will be for the pastor an unfailing and staunch support upon which he can confidently rely.

Because of its great importance, the presence of a priest at the Enthronement has always been urged by the founder of the work and by the Church itself. Whenever possible, it should be presided over by one of the parish priests, who thus has a splendid opportunity of meeting entire families, some of whom might never be contacted otherwise. Many priests have experienced the beneficial results of these contacts.

### III. Practical Arrangements for the Enthronement

The place of the Enthronement in the home must be fitting. In other words, it should be a central place, a place in which family members spend each day.

The image may be enthroned on a small table upon which flowers, candles, a Bible, pictures of absent family members or of family members and friends in need of prayers and prayer intentions can be placed. If the image is hung on the wall, a small shelf should be placed under it for the placement of the same objects. In any case, the place of Enthronement should reflect the great reverence and love which we have for our Lord. It should be the most beautiful and dignified place in the room.

The Enthronement is preceded by a three-day preparation, which follows on the next few pages. It is laudatory to precede or end each day's preparation prayers with all or part of the family Rosary.

On the day of the Enthronement, it is most fitting that all the family members attend Mass and receive Holy Communion if possible. At the very least, Mass and Holy Communion should be attended to by one member of the family. The image should be placed on a separate table where it will first be blessed and then carried to its place of permanent enthronement. Friends and extended family should be invited to join in for the Enthronement, as the invitation gives a strong witness to the Catholic Faith and practice and has the potential for inspiring others to learn about the Enthronement. Arrangements should be made for a priest to be present to conduct the prescribed prayers.

Upon enthronement, the act of consecration should be renewed at least once a year on the date of enthronement. A wedding anniversary or other significant events in the life of the family may also occasion a renewal. A brief prayer to the Sacred Heart of one's choosing or construction should be said daily by all members of the household that renews the general sentiments of the enthronement.

## IV. Triduum of Prayers for the Enthronement

*To be led by the head of the household*

### *First Day*

*Leader:* In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

From the Holy Gospel according to St. Luke (2:1-14): At that time, there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus, that the whole world should be enrolled. This enrolling was first made by Cyrinus, the governor of Syria. And all went to be enrolled, everyone into his own city. And Joseph also went up from Galilee out of the city of Nazareth, into Judea to the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, because he was of the house and family of David, to be enrolled with Mary his espoused wife, who was with child. And it came to pass, that when they were there, her days were accomplished that she should be delivered. And she brought forth her first-born Son, and wrapped Him up in swaddling clothes, and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. And there were in the same country shepherds watching, and keeping the night watches over their flock. And behold an Angel of the Lord stood by them, and the brightness of God shone round about them, and they feared with a great fear. And the angel said to them: Fear not; for behold I bring you good tidings of great joy, that shall be to all the people; for this day is born to you a Saviour, who is Christ the Lord, in the city of David. And suddenly there was with the Angel a multitude of the heavenly army, praising God, and saying: Glory to God in the highest; and on earth peace to men of good will.

*Leader:* Let us pray. *All:* O God of goodness and mercy, to Thy fatherly protection we commend our family, our household and all that belongs to us. We commit all to Thy love and keeping; do Thou fill this house with Thy blessings even as Thou didst fill the holy house of Nazareth with Thy presence. Keep far from us, above all things, the taint of sin, and do Thou alone reign in our midst by Thy law, by Thy most holy love and by the exercise of every Christian virtue. Let each one of us obey Thee, love Thee and set himself to imitate in his own life Thine example, that of Mary, Thy Mother and our Mother most loving, and that of Thy blameless guardian, Saint Joseph.

Preserve us and our house from all evils and misfortunes, but grant that we may be ever resigned to Thy Divine will even in the sorrows which it shall please Thee to send us. Finally give us all the grace to live in perfect harmony and in the fullness of love toward our neighbor. Grant that every one of us may deserve by a holy life the comfort of Thy holy Sacraments at the hour of death. O Jesus, bless us and protect us.

O Mary, Mother of grace and of mercy, defend us against the wicked spirit, reconcile us with Thy Son, commit us to His keeping, that so we may be made worthy of His promises. St. Joseph, foster father of our Savior, guardian of His holy Mother, head of the Holy Family, intercede for us, bless us and defend our home at all times. Amen.

*Litany of the Sacred Heart of Jesus*

Lord, have mercy. **Christ, have mercy.** Lord, have mercy.

Christ hear us. **Christ, graciously hear us.**

God, the Father of Heaven, **have mercy on us.**

God, the Son, Redeemer of the World, **have mercy on us.**

God, the Holy Ghost, **have mercy on us.**

Holy Trinity, one God, **have mercy on us, ect.**

Heart of Jesus, Son of the Eternal Father,

Heart of Jesus, formed in the womb of the Virgin Mother by the Holy Ghost,

Heart of Jesus, united substantially with the word of God,

Heart of Jesus, of infinite majesty,

Heart of Jesus, holy temple of God,

Heart of Jesus, tabernacle of the Most High,

Heart of Jesus, house of God and gate of heaven,

Heart of Jesus, glowing furnace of charity,

Heart of Jesus, vessel of justice and love,

Heart of Jesus, full of goodness and love,

Heart of Jesus, abyss of all virtues,

Heart of Jesus, most worthy of all praise,

Heart of Jesus, king and center of all hearts,

Heart of Jesus, in whom are all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge,

Heart of Jesus, in whom dwelleth all the fullness of the Divinity,

Heart of Jesus, in whom the Father is well pleased,

Heart of Jesus, of whose fullness we have all received,

Heart of Jesus, desire of the everlasting hills,

Heart of Jesus, patient and rich in mercy,

Heart of Jesus, rich to all who invoke Thee,

Heart of Jesus, fount of life and holiness,

Heart of Jesus, propitiation for our sins,

Heart of Jesus, fount of life and holiness,

Heart of Jesus, propitiation for our sins,

Heart of Jesus, saturated with revilings,

Heart of Jesus, crushed for our iniquities,

Heart of Jesus, made obedient unto death,

Heart of Jesus, pierced with a lance,

Heart of Jesus, source of all consolation,

Heart of Jesus, our life and resurrection,

Heart of Jesus, our peace and reconciliation,

Heart of Jesus, victim for our sins,

Heart of Jesus, salvation of those who hope in Thee,

Heart of Jesus, hope of those who die in Thee,

Heart of Jesus, delight of all saints,

Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world, **spare us, O Lord.**

Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world, **graciously hear us, O Lord,**

Lamb of God who takest away the sins of the world, **have mercy on us.**

V. Jesus, meek and humble of Heart. R. **Make our hearts like unto Thine.**

*Let us pray.* Almighty and everlasting God, look upon the Heart of Thy well-beloved Son and upon the acts of praise and satisfaction which He renders unto Thee in the name of sinners; and do Thou, in Thy great goodness, grant pardon to them who seek Thy mercy, in the name of the same Thy Son, Jesus Christ, who liveth and reigneth with Thee, world without end. Amen.

*Second Day*

*Leader:* In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

From the Holy Gospel according to St. John (15:21, 23-24). At that time, Jesus said to His Apostles: He that has My commandments and keeps them; He it is that loves Me. And he that loves Me shall be loved by My Father: and I will love Him and manifest Myself to Him. If anyone love Me, he will keep My word, and My Father will love him, and we will come to him and make Our abode with him. He that loves Me not, keeps not My words. And the word which you have heard is not Mine, but the Father's who sent Me.

*Leader:* Let us pray. *All:* O God of goodness and mercy, to Thy fatherly protection we commend our family, our household, and all that belongs to us. We commit all to Thy love and keeping; do Thou

Preserve us and our house from all evils and misfortunes, but grant that we may be ever resigned to Thy divine will even in the sorrows which it shall please Thee to send us. Finally give unto all of us the grace to live in perfect harmony and in the fullness of love toward our neighbor. Grant that every one of us may deserve by a holy life the comfort of Thy holy Sacraments at the hour of death. O Jesus, bless and protect us.

Mary, Mother of grace and mercy, defend us against the wicked spirit, reconcile us with Thy Son, commit us to His keeping, that so we may be made worthy of His promises.

St. Joseph, foster-father of our Saviour, guardian of His holy Mother, head of the Holy Family, intercede for us, bless us, and defend our home at all times.

St. Michael, defend us against all the wicked cunning of hell.

St. Gabriel, make us to understand the holy will of God.

St. Raphael, keep us free from all sickness and every danger in our lives.

Our holy guardian angels, keep our feet safely on the path of salvation day and night.

Our holy patrons, pray for us before the throne of God.

Bless this house, O God the Father, who has created us, O God the Son, who has suffered for us upon the Holy Cross, and Thou, O Holy Spirit, who has sanctified us in holy Baptism. May the one God in three divine Persons preserve our bodies, purify our minds, direct our hearts and bring us all to everlasting life. Amen.

*The Litany of the Sacred Heart is now said as on the first day.*

### ***Third Day***

*Leader:* In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

From the Holy Gospel according to St. John (19:31-37): At that time, the Jews (because it was the Pasch), that the bodies might not remain upon the cross on the Sabbath day (for that was the great Sabbath day), besought Pilate that their legs might be broken and that they might be taken away. The soldiers therefore came, and they broke the legs of the first and of the other that was crucified

with Him. But after they were come to Jesus, as He was already dead, they did not break His legs, but one of the soldiers with a spear opened His side and immediately there came out Blood and water. And he that saw it hath given testimony and his testimony is true. And he knows what he says is true, that you may also believe. For these things were done that the Scripture may be fulfilled : You shall not break a bone of Him. And again, another Scripture says : They shall look upon Him whom they have pierced.

*Leader:* Let us pray. *All:* O divine Heart of Jesus, grant, we pray Thee, eternal rest to the souls in purgatory, the final grace for those who are about to die this day, true repentance to sinners, the light of faith to unbelievers, and Thy blessing to us and all who are dear to us. To Thee, therefore, O most loving Heart of Jesus, do we commend all these souls, and on their behalf we offer unto Thee all Thy merits in union with the merits of Thy most blessed Mother and of all the angels and saints, together with all the Masses, Communions, prayers and good works which are this day being offered throughout the world.

Shower Thy blessings in abundance upon Thy holy Church, upon the Supreme Pontiff, our bishop, our pastor, and all the clergy. Make us humble, patient, pure, and wholly obedient to Thy will. Grant that we may live in Thee and for Thee. Protect us in the midst of danger; comfort us in afflictions; give us health of body, assistance in our temporal needs, Thy blessing on all the we do, and the grace of a holy death.

O Sacred Heart, living and life-giving fountain of eternal life, infinite treasure of divinity, fiery furnace of charity, enkindle in our hearts and in our family that burning love wherewith Thy own is aflame. Pour into our hearts the manifold graces of which Thy Heart is the source. Let Thy will be ours, for we desire that Thy holy will be the rule over our family, all our desires, and all our actions. Amen.

O God, Who in Thy Providence does mercifully bestow upon us infinite treasures of love in the Heart of Thy Son, which was wounded for our sins; grant, we pray, that we who pay Him the devout homage of our piety may in like manner show unto Thee our due of worthy satisfaction. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

*The Litany of the Sacred Heart is now said as on the first day.*

# Enthronement of the Sacred Heart as King of the Family

*Blessing of the image of the Sacred Heart*

V/ Adiutorium nostrum in nomine Domini. (Our help is in the name of the Lord.)

R/ Qui fecit caelum et terram. (Who made heaven and earth.)

V/ Dominus vobiscum. (The Lord be with you.)

R/ Et cum spiritu tuo. (And with thy spirit.)

Oremus. Almighty, everlasting God, Who does not forbid us to represent Thy saints in stone or paint, so that as often as we look upon their likenesses with the eyes of the body, we may, with the eyes of the mind, meditate upon their holiness and be led to imitate their deeds; in Thy kindness we beseech Thee to bless and sanctify this picture, meant to honor and call to mind Thine only-Begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ; so that whoever in its presence would humbly strive to serve and honor Thine only-Begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, may by His merits and intercession gain from Thee grace in the present life and eternal glory in the life to come. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

*The Apostle's Creed is recited by all. Upon its conclusion, the father of the family places the picture of the Sacred Heart in the place of honor chosen for it. All then kneel.*

## **Act of Consecration**

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, / Thou hast revealed to St. Margaret Mary Thy desire to reign over Christian families. / Behold us, therefore, assembled here today / to proclaim Thine absolute Kingship over our family. / We desire, henceforth to shape our lives in accordance with Thine / to cultivate at our hearth / those virtues to which Thou hast promised peace below. / And we will not compromise with the spirit of secularism / which Thou hast so strongly condemned.

Thine it will be to reign over our minds / by the simplicity of faith / and over our hearts / by a boundless love for Thee alone, / with which they shall burn, / a love which we intend to keep alive by the frequent reception of the Holy Eucharist.

Vouchsafe, O Divine Heart, / to preside at our meetings, / to bless our spiritual and temporal concerns, / to banish our cares, / to sanctify our joys and to lighten our sorrows. / If one or the other of us shall at any time have the misfortune to offend Thee, / remind him, O Divine Heart, / that for the repentant sinner, / Thou hast nothing but kindness and mercy. / And when the hour of parting comes / and death shall bring bereavement to our home, / then we shall all, / both those that are called away and those that are left, / be resigned to Thine eternal desires. / One thought shall then uphold us, / that a day will come when our family, / reunited in heaven, / shall extol forever Thy

glories and Thy benefits. / May the Immaculate Heart of Mary / and the glorious Patriarch, St. Joseph, / vouchsafe to present Thee this our consecration, / and keep us mindful of it day by day. / Glory to the Divine Heart of Jesus, / our King and Father. / Praise to the Divine Heart of Jesus that brought us salvation. / To It be honor and glory forever. Amen.

*One Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory Be for all absent members of the family, living and dead.*

*Prayer*

Glory be to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, / for the infinite mercy poured out upon the members of this family, / in selecting it among thousands of others as an inheritance of love / and a sanctuary of reparation for the ingratitude of men.

What is not the confusion, O Lord Jesus Christ, / of this part of Thy faithful flock, / in accepting the honor of seeing Thee preside over our family. / We can only adore Thee in silence / and rejoice at having Thee to share under our roof, / in the toils, cares and innocent joys of Thy children. / We are not worthy that Thou shouldst enter our humble home. / But Thou hast spoken words that have made known to us / the beauty of Thy Sacred Heart / and in our souls' thirst for Thee / have found in Thy pierced side / a fount of living waters springing up into eternal life.

In these contrite and confident dispositions then / we have met to give ourselves to Thee, / the source of life unending. / Stay with us, O most Sacred Heart, / for we perceive an irresistible desire to love Thee and make Thee loved; / for Thou art that burning bush / that must set the world on fire in order to purify it. / May this house be to Thee a shelter as acceptable as was that of Bethany, / so that Thou mayest find in it souls that have chosen the better part / in happy intercourse with Thy Sacred Heart. / May it be to Thee, O beloved Savior, / even as was the humble but hospitable refuge of Egypt, / during the exile which the enemies condemn Thee.

Come then, Lord Jesus, / for here as at Nazareth we have a tender love for Mary, / that Blessed Mother whom Thou hast given us. / O Friend, / if Thou hadst been here in the heavy hours of suffering and mourning / our tears would have been less bitter. / For we would have felt poured out upon our wounds / that healing balm that Thou alone knowest. / Come, for even now perhaps, / there is drawing near for us the twilight of tribulation, / the decline of the fleeting day of our youth and illusions. / Stay long with us, for already it is late, / and a perverted world seeks to blot Thee out of sight / by the darkness of its denials / while we wish but to attach ourselves to Thee, / who alone art the way, the truth, and the life. / Let us hear, O Lord Jesus, from Thy sacred lips / those words Thou uttered of old: / This day I must abide in this house.

Yes, Lord, set up here Thine abode, / that we may live in Thy love and in Thy company / who proclaim Thee our King and wish for none other.



May Thy triumphant Heart, O Jesus, / be blessed and glorified forever in this house. / Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Thy kingdom come! Amen.

*The Hail, Holy Queen is recited. Upon its conclusion:*

V/ Pray for us, O most holy Mother of God.

R/ That we may be worthy of the promises of Christ.

O Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us. (thrice)

Immaculate Heart of Mary, pray for us.

St. Joseph, pray for us.

St. Margaret Mary, pray for us.

St. Claude de Colombiere, pray for us.

Glory to the most Sacred Heart of Jesus forever and ever. Amen.

*The priest then imparts his blessing to all present.*

## **Act of Consecration of the Family to the Sacred Heart of Jesus**

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, Thou hast revealed to St. Margaret Mary Thy desire to reign over Christian families. Behold us, therefore, assembled here today to proclaim Thine absolute Kingship over our family. We desire, henceforth to shape our lives in accordance with Thine to cultivate at our hearth those virtues to which Thou hast promised peace below. And we will not compromise with the spirit of secularism which Thou hast so strongly condemned.

Thine it will be to reign over our minds by the simplicity of faith and over our hearts by a boundless love for Thee alone, with which they shall burn, a love which we intend to keep alive by the frequent reception of the Holy Eucharist.

Vouchsafe, O Divine Heart, to preside at our meetings, to bless our spiritual and temporal concerns, to banish our cares, to sanctify our joys and to lighten our sorrows. If one or the other of us shall at any time have the misfortune to offend Thee, remind him, O Divine Heart, that for the repentant sinner, Thou hast nothing but kindness and mercy. And when the hour of parting comes and death shall bring bereavement to our home, then we shall all, both those that are called away and those that are left, be resigned to Thine eternal desires. One thought shall then uphold us, that a day will come when our family, reunited in heaven, shall extol forever Thy glories and Thy benefits. May the Immaculate Heart of Mary and the glorious Patriarch, St. Joseph, vouchsafe to present Thee this our consecration, and keep us mindful of it day by day. Glory to the Divine Heart of Jesus, our King and Father. Praise to the Divine Heart of Jesus that brought us salvation. To It be honor and glory forever. Amen.

## Twelve Promises of the Sacred Heart of Jesus to St. Margaret Mary

1. I will give them all the graces necessary for their state in life.
2. I will establish peace in their families.
3. I will comfort them in their trials.
4. I will be their secure refuge during life, and, above all, in death.
5. I will shed abundant blessings on all their undertakings
6. Sinners will find in My Heart an infinite ocean of mercy.
7. Lukewarm souls will become fervent.
8. Fervent souls will rapidly grow in holiness and perfection.
9. I will bless every place where an image of My Heart shall be exposed and honored.
10. I will give to priests the gift of touching the most hardened hearts.
11. The names of those who promote this devotion will be written in My Heart, never to be blotted out.
12. I promise thee, in the excessive mercy of My Heart, that My all-powerful love will grant to all those who receive Holy Communion on the First Friday of nine consecutive months, the grace of final penitence; they shall not die in My disgrace nor without receiving their Sacraments; My Divine Heart shall be their safe refuge in this last moment.



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