

Sacred Heart – Week 1

As we get ready to celebrate our nation's 250th anniversary, the US Bishops will be consecrating the nation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus on June 11th at 1PM local time. We will be having Holy Hours at all three parishes from 12:30-1:30 PM, as we join with them in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament, and seek refuge and life in the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Devotion to the Sacred Heart stretches back to the Crucifixion, when Jesus' heart was pierced with a lance, and blood and water flowed forth – the fount of salvation. There have always been reflections upon the heart of Christ. But it was St. Margaret Mary Alacoque who brought about a widespread devotion. Born in France in the middle of the 17th century, she was very pious at a young age and even had visions of Christ. She didn't tell anyone because she thought it was normal and Jesus appeared to everyone. After a long illness which kept her bedridden, she made a vow to become a religious to the Blessed Virgin and was healed. In her late teens, however, as she started to get caught up in a worldly way of life, she convinced herself that it was a childish vow. One night, after a ball, she had a vision of Christ scourged and decided to return to her prior vow.

She joined the Visitation Convent in Paray-le-Monial, though it was not without trials that she was accepted, and that she was believed, as her visions continued. Jesus had a mission for her – he wanted her to spread devotion to his Sacred Heart. In the coming weeks, Fr. Randy and I will share more about the Devotion to the Sacred Heart, and the invitation of Christ to St. Margaret Mary and us all.

“The divine heart was presented to me in a throne of flames, more resplendent than a sun, transparent as crystal, with this adorable wound, and it was surrounded with a crown of thorns, signifying the punctures made in it by our sins, and a cross above signifying that from the first instant of his incarnation he was loaded with the cross and that he had an ardent desire to be loved by men and to withdraw them from the path of perdition, into which Satan hurries them in great numbers. It was this that made him form the design of manifesting his heart to men, with all the treasures of love, of mercy, of grace, of sanctification and salvation which it contains.”

In Christ,

Fr. Matthew Oakland