

DEVOTIONS TO THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS

This devotion arose only in the seventeenth century. It is directed to that human heart taken by God the Son when he became Man. The heart is the seat of love and the human Heart of Jesus reveals the fundamental fact of religion that God loves us. Devotion to the Sacred Heart bestows a deeper insight into the Divine love and a surer confidence in it. As we see something of God's love, we shall want to make a return in terms of love and this devotion enables us to express the love of our own hearts.

Prayers to the Sacred Heart

O SACRED Heart of Jesus! living and life-giving fountain of eternal life, infinite treasure of the Divinity, glowing furnace of love! Thou art my refuge and my sanctuary. O my adorable and loving Saviour! consume my heart with that fire wherewith thine is ever inflamed; pour down on my soul those graces which flow from thy love, and let my heart be so united with thine that my will may be conformed to thine in all things. Amen.

O MOST loving Lord Jesus, who dost invite me to give thee my heart, and hast commanded me to love thee with my whole soul; I most earnestly desire to do

thy will. For whom have I in heaven but thee? and there is none upon earth that I desire in comparison of thee. For thee my heart and flesh faileth, thou art the God of my strength and my portion for ever. Thou art the fount of all love; and thy banner over me is love. Thou hast thought of me from all eternity; thou hast created me, and redeemed me, and dost guard and keep me day by day. O most loving Lord, can it be that such wonderful love should not move me to such poor return as I can make thee? Yes, Lord, I will love thee, because thou didst first love me. I will try to love thee as thou hast commanded, with all my heart, with all my mind, with all my soul, and with all my strength. I would that henceforth neither tribulation, nor distress, nor persecution, nor life, nor death, nor any created thing should separate me from thee. Quench then by thy Holy Spirit all love of the world and myself, enable me to bear thy sweet yoke, that I may learn of thee to be meek and lowly of heart. Make me to realize my own nothingness, that I may learn to esteem others better than myself. O meek and humble Heart of my Jesus! O Heart of love, teach me to love thee now and through all eternity. Amen.

Ejaculatory Prayers

O Sacred Heart of Jesus, I love thee,
and want to love thee more and more.

O Jesus, meek and humble of Heart,
make my heart like unto thy Most Sacred
Heart.

O Sacred Heart of Jesus, mayest thou be
known, loved, and worshipped throughout
the whole world.

Heart of Jesus, burning with love of us,
in flame our hearts with love of thee.

Sacred Heart of Jesus, thy kingdom
come!

Hymn to the Sacred Heart

O SACRED Heart! Our home lies deep
in thee.

On earth thou art an exile's rest,
In heav'n the glory of the blest;

O Sacred Heart!

O Sacred Heart! Thou fount of contrite
tears,

Where'er those living waters flow,
New life to sinners they bestow:

O Sacred Heart!

O Sacred Heart! Bless our dear native
land.

Her noble sons to truth e'er stand
With faith's bright banner still in hand:

O Sacred Heart!

O Sacred Heart! Our trust is all in thee;
For though earth's night be dark and drear,
Thou breathest rest when thou art near;
O Sacred Heart!

O Sacred Heart! When shades of death
shall fall,
Receive us 'neath thy gentle care,
And save us from the tempter's snare:
O Sacred Heart!

O Sacred Heart! Lead exiled children
home,
Where we may ever rest near thee,
In peace and joy eternally:
O Sacred Heart!

*See Act of Consecration to the Sacred
Heart, p. 336.*



LITANY OF THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS

Lord, have mercy upon us.

Christ, have mercy upon us.

Lord, have mercy upon us.

God the Father, of heaven,
God the Son, Redeemer of the world,
God the Holy Ghost,
Holy Trinity, One God,
Heart of Jesus, dwelling in solitude,
Heart of Jesus, enclosed in the womb of
Mary,
Heart of Jesus, reposing in the bosom of
the Father,
Heart of Jesus, lover of retirement,
Heart of Jesus, heaven of repose,
Heart of Jesus, ever watching over thy
elect,
Heart of Jesus, detached from the world,
Heart of Jesus, passing whole nights in
prayer,
Heart of Jesus, absorbed in contemplation,
Heart of Jesus, adoring the Father in
spirit and in truth,
Heart of Jesus, raised above temptations,
Heart of Jesus, inflamed with love,
Heart of Jesus, delight of those in solitude,
Heart of Jesus, speaking to the solitary
heart,
Heart of Jesus, revealing thy secrets to
those living apart from the world,
Heart of Jesus, strength of the solitary,
Heart of Jesus, refuge of the solitary,
Heart of Jesus, sweet refreshment of the
solitary,
Heart of Jesus, uniting thyself to the soli-
tary heart,
Heart of Jesus, peacefully reigning in the
solitary heart,

Have mercy upon us.

Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the
world,

Spare us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,

Hear us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, that takest away the sins of the world,

Have mercy upon us.

I will lead the soul into solitude,

And there I will speak to her heart.

Let us pray.

Adorable Saviour, who didst love solitude, we beseech thee to inspire our hearts with the love of retirement; so that, withdrawn from the tumult of the world, we may hear the sweetness of thy voice in the silence of creatures, and faithfully correspond with the whisperings of thy heart and the inspirations of thy Love. Who livest and reignest, world without end. Amen.

