



Sovereign Order of Saint John of Jerusalem ©
* Knights of Malta *

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Chancellor's Update

The Sacred Heart of Jesus

June is the month traditionally devoted to the Sacred Heart. In 1956 Pope Pius XII wrote an encyclical on this devotion. To assist us in observing this devotion we have selected some quotes from this encyclical.

It is possible to see increasing everywhere the number of those who glory in being enemies of God.

Unbridled freedom of lust (is) everywhere extolled.

As if goaded on by the infernal enemy, these men, especially now are on fire with an implacable and open hatred for God, the Church, and especially for him who takes the place of the Divine Redeemer on earth who represents His love for men.

Indeed, hatred of God and those who lawfully take His place is so great a sin that man... can commit none greater.

In the face of so many evils which today more than ever deeply disturb individuals, homes, nations and the whole world, where... is a remedy to be sought?

We... address these words to all who have a genuine concern for their own salvation and that of civil society. Behold:... the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

All who glory in the name Christian and who zealously strive to establish the Kingdom of Christ on earth consider devotion to the heart of Jesus as the standard and source of unity, salvation and peace.

Greatly impelled by the desire to set up a firm defense against the wicked machinations of the enemies of God and His Church, and at the same time to lead back domestic and civil society to the love of God and neighbor, we do not hesitate to state emphatically that devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus is a most effective school of divine love. On this love must rest the kingdom of God which is to be established in the souls of individuals, in families and in nations.

A devotion of this sort calls primarily for penance, expiation. The souls of men fully and completely submit to the rule of the Supreme Being.

With a better background of why we should observe this devotion we can study the promises of Our Lord to St. Margaret Mary for souls devoted to His Sacred Heart.

1. I will give them all the graces necessary in their state of life.
2. I will establish peace in their homes.
3. I will comfort them in all their afflictions.
4. I will be their secure refuge during life, and above all in death.

5. I will bestow abundant blessings upon all their undertakings.
6. Sinners shall find in My Heart the source and the infinite ocean of mercy.
7. Tepid souls shall become fervent.
8. Fervent souls shall quickly mount to high 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. Those who shall promote this devotion shall have their names written in my Heart, never to be effaced.
12. I promise thee in the excessive mercy of my Heart that my all-powerful love will grant to all those who communicate on the First Friday in 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.

Now, if only King Louis XIV had listened to Jesus' message to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque and had consecrated France to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, then France and the History of the world may have been quite different. "Thus, exactly 100 years later, the French Revolution exploded and the nephew of the Sun King, Louis XVI, remembered these requests only in 1792 while in prison. There, in desperation, he decided to fulfill them, but it was by then too late. He was guillotined on January 21, 1793. France had taken the opposite road." (Antonio Socci, The Fourth Secret of Fatima, Loreto Publications, 2006, p.148)

Today, we have the same problem. In 1917, the Mother of God appeared to three children in Fatima and announced a message to consecrate Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary so Russia would be converted and her errors would NOT be spread throughout the world. The popes and bishops failed to do this and now on May 13, 2010, in Fatima, Portugal we have Pope Benedict XVI saying: "We would be mistaken to think that Fatima's prophetic mission is complete. May the seven years which separate us from the centenary of the apparitions hasten the fulfillment of the prophecy of the triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, to the glory of the Most Holy Trinity." But like France is it already too late to prevent an apocalyptic destruction of nations, clergy and the faithful? If not, when will the Pope and Bishops consecrate Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary?

What can one do? "“In the centuries it has never been heard,” writes Saint Bernard, “that anyone who has made recourse to Her protection, implored Her help, or sought Her assistance has ever been abandoned by Her.” She never abandons anyone. “It is never too late,” Sister Lucia, one of the children at Fatima, is heard to say, “to entrust oneself to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.”” (Antonio Socci, *ibid*, p 223)

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Jerusalem 1048-1291, Cyprus 1291-1310, Rhodes 1311-1523, Malta 1530-1798, Russia 1798-1907, U.S.A. 1908-

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