

AUGUST

The Immaculate Heart of Mary

The devotion for the month of August is to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Previously celebrated on August 22nd in the old liturgical calendar (1962), the memorial of the Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary is now celebrated on the Saturday after the second Sunday after Pentecost.

Tied historically and immeasurably to devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the Immaculate Heart of Mary became wider known around 1600s when Saint John Eudes spoke tirelessly about the love of Christ and the Virgin Mary. He composed Masses and Offices in honor of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary (the term “Immaculate Heart” would not be used for many centuries). The first Feast of the Holy Heart of Mary was celebrated on February 8, 1648 in Autun, France.

In 1830, the Blessed Mother appeared to Saint Catherine Labouré and asked that the Miraculous Medal be made. On the reverse side, the Sacred Heart of Jesus is depicted along side the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Shortly after, during this 1836, a society—the Archconfraternity of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Refuge of Sinners—was formed at the Church of Our Lady of Victories in Paris.

On June 13, 1917, during the second apparition at Fatima, the Blessed Mother had the following exchange with Lucia:

Lucia: “Will you take us to heaven?”

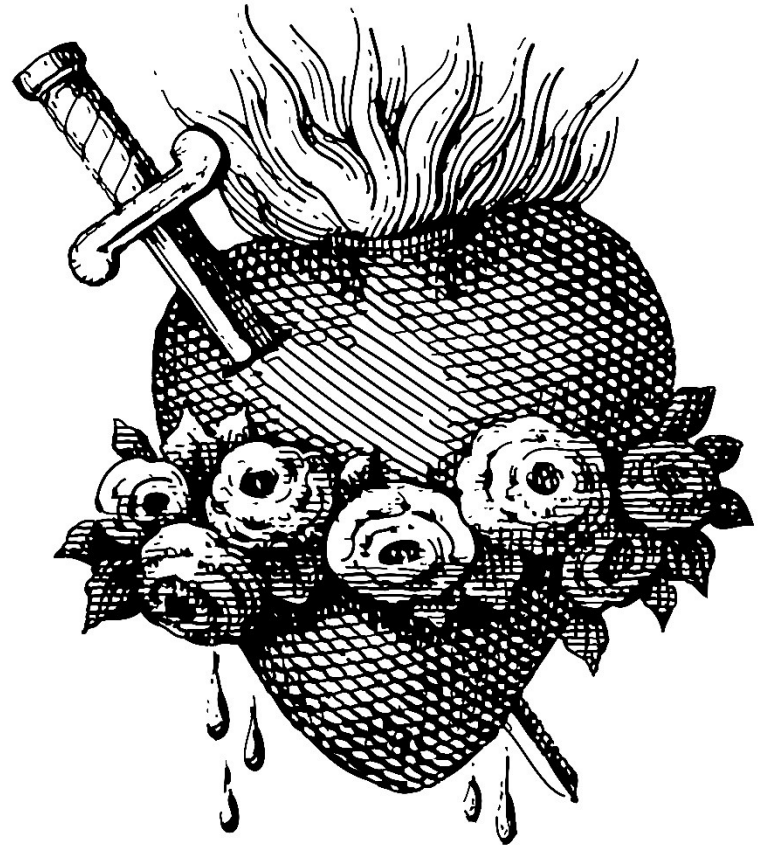
Mary: “Yes, I shall take Jacinta and Francisco soon, but you will remain a little longer, since Jesus wishes you to make me known and loved on earth. He wishes also for you to establish devotion in the world to my Immaculate Heart.”

Lucia: “Must I remain in the world alone?”

Mary: “Not alone, my child, and you must not be sad. I will be with you always, and my Immaculate Heart will be your comfort and the way which will lead you to God.”

Several Popes have consecrated the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. In the middle of WWII, Pope Pius XII gave a radio address on October 31, 1942 and consecrated the world to the Mary’s Immaculate Heart. He later consecrated Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary in an Apostolic Letter titled *Carissimis Russiae Populis* (On the Immaculate Heart and the People of Russia) dated July 7, 1952.

At the close of the third session of the Second Vatican Council, on November 21, 1964, Pope Paul VI renewed the Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary made by Pope Pius XII. Pope Paul VI’s plea to the Blessed Mother ended with: “To your Immaculate Heart, O Mary, we finally recommend the entire human race. Lead it to the knowledge of the sole and true Savior, Jesus Christ; protect it from the scourges provoked by sin, give to the entire world peace in truth, in justice, in liberty and in love.”



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Pope Saint John Paul II consecrated the world to the Immaculate Heart on May 13, 1982 after the concelebrated Mass in Fatima. He renewed this consecration on October 16, 1983 at the end of the Synod of Bishops and again on March 25, 1984 in Saint Peter's Square.

Finally, Pope Francis entrusted the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary at the end of Mass on October 13, 2013 in front of the original statue of Our Lady of Fatima, which had been moved to Saint Peter's Square for the consecration.

O heart most pure of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
obtain for me from Jesus a pure and humble heart.

A SOLEMN ACT OF CONSECRATION TO THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

Written by: Venerable Pope Pius XII



Most Holy Virgin Mary, tender Mother of men, to fulfill the desires of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the request of the Vicar of Your Son on earth, we consecrate ourselves and our families to your Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart, O Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, and we recommend to You, all the people of our country and all the world.

Please accept our consecration, dearest Mother, and use us as You wish to accomplish Your designs in the world.

O Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart of Mary, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, and Queen of the World, rule over us, together with the Sacred Heart of Jesus Christ, Our King. Save us from the spreading flood of modern paganism; kindle in our hearts and homes the love of purity, the practice of a virtuous life, an ardent zeal for souls, and a desire to pray the Rosary more faithfully.

We come with confidence to You, O Throne of Grace and Mother of Fair Love. In flame us with the same Divine Fire which has inflamed Your own Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart. Make our hearts and homes Your shrine, and through us, make the Heart of Jesus, together with your rule, triumph in every heart and home.

Amen.