

# LITURGY BYTES

## Month of the Sacred Heart



The Sacred Heart of Jesus is honored by the Church during the month of June. The image of God's love is revealed in the pierced heart of His Son which is the popular image we are familiar with. It is the symbol of a love that conquers sin and transcends death, the symbol of the one who loved us to the end.

In my reading about the Sacred Heart, I have come across some points of reflection you may find interesting. The Church was born from the pierced side of Jesus on the cross. In prayer, we contemplate the pierced heart of our Savior and his incredible love. We also think about mercy, compassion, and love that God has bestowed upon us. St. Paul prayed that Christ dwell in the hearts of the community at Ephesus through faith and that these people might know the love of Christ which surpasses knowledge. He went on to say that when Christ dwells in our hearts, when we know his love deeply, we are moved to live the commandments of love of God and neighbor. We should be moved and motivated by the Sacred Heart of Jesus to *open our hearts* to Him, being filled with love for our sisters and brothers.

The Church born from the pierced heart of Jesus has a mission in the world to proclaim the redeeming love of God in Christ. Our mission, our work, is to proclaim love, salvation, redemption, and eternal life. *The Sacred Heart is the image that expresses our mission.* Our goal as Church should be to lead people to encounter this love.

Devotion to the Sacred Heart is also Eucharistic. It finds its summit at Mass where we lift up our hearts to the Lord. At Mass we are nourished at the banquet of our Redeemer's Body and Blood. The Eucharist has been called the outstanding gift of the Heart of Jesus — the heart that gives life to the Church and to all of us. Perhaps, this year we will awaken what the image of the Sacred Heart is and means for each of us.

Have a blessed, peaceful, and healthy week ahead!!! ~~~ *Michèle Hall*