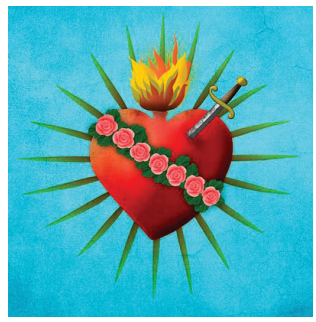


A Short History of the Devotion of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

Devotion to the Heart of Mary is but the consequence of the devotion due to the Heart of Jesus. It is a consequence of that boundless love of Jesus for His most Holy Mother, which leads him to share with Her all the riches and honours, so far as they can be communicated to a person.



- **St. Luke wrote:**

"But Mary kept all these words, pondering them in Her heart."

"And His mother kept all these words in Her heart."

(Luke 2, 19, 51)

- Towards the end of XI^o century, indications of a regular devotion to the Heart of Mary are perceived in a sermon by St. Bernard (*De duodecim stellis*).

- Tauler (d. 1361) beholds in the Heart of Mary the model of a mystical.

- St. Bernardine of Siena (d. 1444) was more absorbed in the contemplation of the Virginal Heart of Mary.

- St. Francis de Sales spoke of the perfections of this Heart, the model of love for God, and dedicated to it his "Theotimus".

- St. John Eudes (d. 1681) propagated the devotion of the Immaculatae Heart of Mary and to have a feast celebrated in honor of the Heart of Mary.

- In June 13, 1917 Our Lady had told Lucia: "God wishes to establish in the world the devotion to My Immaculate Heart."

- Pope Pius XII instituted the Feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary in 1944 to be celebrated on 22nd of August, coinciding with the traditional octave day of the Assumption.

Indulged Aspirations to the Immaculate Heart of Mary



Heart of Mary, refuge of sinners, pray for us.

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

Sweet Heart of Mary, be my salvation.

(each prayer: Indulgence 300 days each time)

Immaculate Heart of Mary, pray for us

(Indulgence 100 days each time)

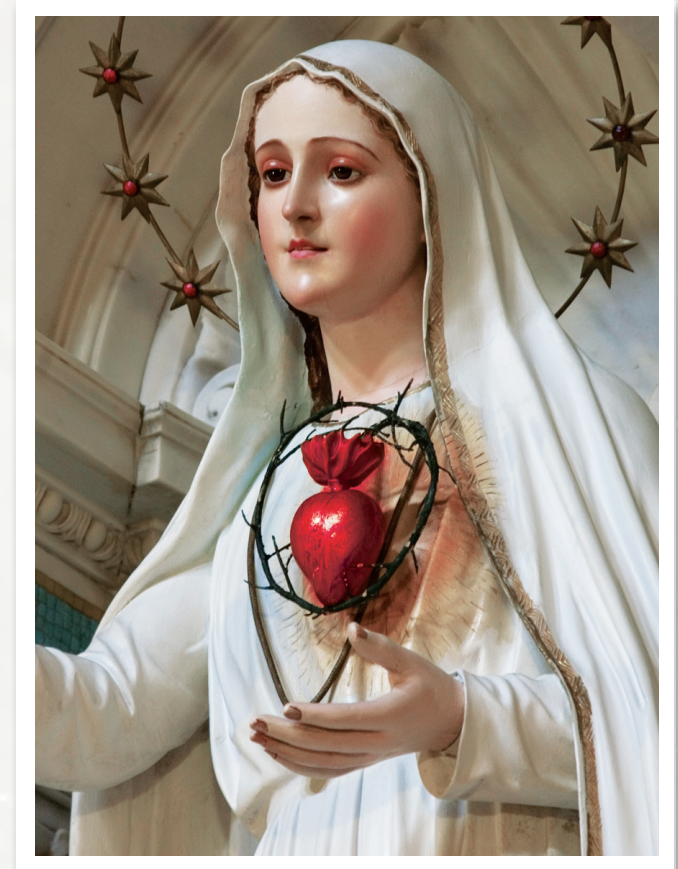


MILITIA IMMACULATAE

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"My Immaculate Heart



will triumph..."

Our Lady in Fatima, July 13, 1917

13 June, 1917 — The revelation of the Immaculate Her Heart

This 13 June 1917 has to be appreciated as that great day in the history of the world, when the Almighty God allowed Our Lady to reveal to the world Her greatest secret, Her deepest intimacy, the infinite treasure received from the Most Holy Trinity, the inmost value of Her personality and the source of her whole being: **HER IMMACULATE HEART!**

On this day, Our Lady for the first time announces the great design of God for the whole world, and She does this with two lapidary sentences, which each Apostle of Fatima should know by heart:



First: **"Jesus wishes to make use of you to make me known and loved. He wants to establish in the world the devotion to My Immaculate Heart. To whoever embraces this devotion I promise salvation; these souls shall be dear to God, as flowers placed by me to adorn his throne."**

Second: **"My Immaculate Heart will be your refuge and the way that will lead you to God."**

On this day, too, Our Lady shows for the first time in the history of the world Her Immaculate Heart:

"In front of the palm of Our Lady's right hand was a HEART encircled by thorns which pierced it. We understood that this was the IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY, outraged by the sins of humanity and seeking reparation."

We can therefore distinguish two major parts: first Our Lady speaks about Her Immaculate Heart, afterwards She shows it to the children and through them to the world. First She explains the effects and power of Her Immaculate Heart, if only the people would approach it and follow its wishes; afterwards She allows us to see Her Heart itself, in other words She opens Her heart to us, that we may enter into this ineffable sanctuary of the Holy Ghost.

Both parts of this revelation changed the lives of the children completely, and this is exactly what Our Lady wants to accomplish in each of us: through the contact of our heart with Her Immaculate Heart we will be purified, we will receive its treasures, we will be submerged in the only great reality, for which it is worthwhile to live: the overwhelming LOVE of God present in this heart and pouring out of this Heart.

Fatima is the revelation of the Immaculate Heart to the world, as well as the full heavenly explication of the meaning, purpose and necessity of the Immaculate Heart for all and everybody; it is finally the exhortation of Mary herself, how She wishes our answer to this revelation to be. Or yet more concise: Fatima shows, who Mary really is for us, and how we have to react to such a will of God! And the keyword is — **Immaculate Heart of Mary!**

The World Devotion

Our Lady says: "Jesus wants to establish in the world the devotion to My Immaculate Heart." Until now She never appeared to require a special devotion for the whole world.

Visibly She wants Her Immaculate Heart to be known and loved everywhere and by all people. Now we know that an overwhelming majority of the people in this world neither know nor love Our Lady.

Therefore we have to understand the requests of Our Lady as a missionary call to set the whole world afire with the presence of the burning fire or her Heart.

It is an echo of the order of Our Lord: "Go into the whole world, teach all nations..." As Jesus Christ wanted his Church to be Catholic, universal, aiming for the conversion and sanctification of all people, Our Lady wants to manifest her Immaculate Heart to all nations, so that they may find in her the "way which leads them to God".



A Symbol of Our Lady's Love



- From time immemorial the heart has symbolized love, the most noble of all sentiments.
- It is a motherly Heart filled with the tenderness that the best of all mothers has for the best of all sons. This tenderness is reflected in the love, full of mercy, that She has for us; which is why we invoke Her as Mater Misericordiae.
- The Immaculate Heart of Mary represents the Savior's redeeming love to the point of delivering Himself for us and the co-redeeming love of Mary Most Holy that is united intimately with Her Divine Son's sacrifice.
- The love of Mary for us merits our gratitude. The efficacy of this love is shown in the blessings She heaps upon us. The graces we are constantly receiving are, it is true, the fruit of the merits of Jesus; but these graces He has deposited in the hands of Mary, constituting Her the treasurer and dispenser thereof. She is the channel by which God's favors are conveyed to us. When we call to mind all that we owe to the loving heart of Mary, it will surely be sufficient to excite in us the liveliest feelings of gratitude towards Her.
- The heart of Mary in Heaven obtains, through Her intercession with the Sacred Heart of Jesus, for us Her children, especially when there is question of our eternal salvation, of snatching our souls from Hell, or opening to us the gates of Heaven.

The greatness, sublimity and importance of HER HEART revealed to us is explained by our Lord Himself, when He said to Sr. Lucy: "With immense longing I desire the propagation of the cult and the devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, because this heart is the magnet, which attracts the souls to Me; it is the burning focus fire, which emanates into the world the rays of My light and My love; it is finally the inexhaustible fountain, from which comes out into the world the living water of My mercy."