

MISSIONARY SERVANTS OF THE POOR

NEWSLETTER
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Sacred Heart
of Jesus, I
trust in You

*The Love and Mercy of God are
manifested in His Heart*

THE CHARISM OF THE
MSP

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SACRED HEART OF JESUS, I TRUST IN YOU

THE LOVE AND MERCY OF GOD ARE MANIFESTED IN HIS HEART



La devoción al Sagrado CoraDevotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus has existed since the early days of the Church when people meditated on the open Heart of Jesus, from which blood and water flowed. From that Heart the Church was born and through that Heart the doors of Heaven were opened. In this sense, devotion to the Sacred Heart refers in particular to the feelings of Jesus, and especially to His love, as summarized in the Gospel of Saint John: "Before the feast of Passover, Jesus knew that his hour had come to pass from this world to the Father. Having loved his own who were in the world, he loved them to the end." (Jn 13:1). This love that He has for "His own" is one of the most important points of devotion to the Sacred Heart.

On a historical level, devotion to the Sacred Heart is considered to have begun in the 13th century with Saint Gertrude who was a German nun born in 1256 and died in 1301. For many years she received apparitions from the Lord. Her visions are reflected in her writings and the different prayers she composed.

The Heart of Christ is, for Saint Gertrude, one of the most eloquent and ardent expressions of the Misterium pietatis. The revelations of the Heart of Jesus occupy a central place in her work and concentrate many aspects of her doctrine and spirituality. Saint Gertrude finds the source of this devotion in the story of Jesus' crucifixion during His Passion.



Hence, although she did not have the mission that would correspond to Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque of establishing the liturgical cult of the Sacred Heart, she is considered a precursor of this devotion.

Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque was a nun of the Visitation Order who, like Saint Gertrude, received visions of the Lord in the 17th century. In one of her visions the Lord told her: "Behold this Heart which has so loved men that It spared nothing, even going so far as to exhaust and consume Itself, to prove to them Its love. And in return, I receive from the greater part of men nothing but ingratitude." Furthermore, she received the mission to see Louis XIV, the King of France, and ask him to institute the feast of the Sacred Heart and to place the emblem of the Sacred Heart on the flags of France.

However, she was not successful in her endeavor, as she could not even convey the message to the king. In all these trials she was guided by her confessor, Saint Claude de la Colombière. Several centuries later, the Lord would reiterate his request to another French nun, Claire Ferchaud, who, in the same way, received apparitions from Jesus asking her for the same thing as Saint Margaret Mary. At that time, she managed to speak with the president, Raymond Poincaré, and even revealed a secret that only he knew, but he did not respond to her requests.

The 19th century can rightly be called "the century of the Sacred Heart" since it was in this century that various congregations were founded whose spirituality was

founded on the Sacred Heart such as the Congregation of the Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus of St. Madeleine Sophie Barat, or the Picpus Fathers, founded by Father Pierre Coudrin, or the Comboni Fathers. Also in this century there were several lay initiatives, such as the French national vote that culminated in the construction of the Basilica of the Sacred Heart on the hill of Montmartre.

In the 20th century we have two nuns who were great precursors of the cult of the Sacred Heart: Sister Josefa Menéndez and Saint Faustina Kowalska. The first, Sister Josefa Menéndez, preceded Saint Faustina by a few years. The two introduced a new aspect to the devotion to the Sacred Heart, Divine Mercy. The mercy of God flows from the Heart of Jesus.

Sister Josefa Menéndez was a Spanish nun from the Congregation of the Sacred Heart, who lived and died in Poitiers. She recounted the appearances she had in her book "A Call to Love." The following quotes have been taken from the book:

"I want to use you to make the mercy and love of my Heart known even more" (words of Our Lord Jesus Christ to Sister Josefa).

The Heart of Jesus makes a great appeal to love of the world through Sister Josefa. To better attract men, the Sacred Heart manifests its infinite mercy to them through her: "I will make it known, I told her, that the measure of my love and my mercy towards fallen souls has no limits..."





I wish to forgive..., I rest by forgiving... I am always waiting for you with love... Don't be discouraged! Let them come! Let them throw themselves into my arms without fear! I am their Father!"

In the apparitions of Jesus to Saint Faustina, this devotion was further developed with the famous painting in which it is written "Jesus, I trust in you" and the Chaplet of Divine Mercy that we are advised to pray daily. Also, in these appearances, Jesus asked Saint Faustina to institute the Feast of Divine Mercy, which was carried out during the pontificate of Saint John Paul II.

As we can see, devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and devotion to Divine Mercy are not opposed, nor do they even take different paths, but on the contrary, the second is included in the first like a jewel that is stored in a chest. Mercy springs from the heart of the Lord, and it is both divine and human mercy that desires to pour itself out into our lives.

Many times we wound the heart of Christ, but God in his infinite mercy allows grace, forgiveness and redemption to flow from that wound that is for the good of our souls.

Let us not be afraid, then, to approach that Divine Heart that has loved us so much. Above all, during this month of June, a month that the Church dedicates to honoring this Most Sacred Heart in a special way.



The poor need material help, but above all they need servants of God who give their entire lives.

FR. GIOVANNI SALERNO



THE CHARISM OF THE MSP

*Obedience makes us Church
(continued)...*

We are convinced that remaining in the Church, Christ is the Servant of all poverty, of all misery, of everyone. Outside the Church our work is empty; our contribution, sterile. We do not elevate the poor, but we destroy them, because we do not discover them for who they really are, we do not respect them as such in all their integrity and we do not build in them their true dignity and their supernatural vocation.

It often happens that secular groups, entities and institutions very clearly criticize the Church for its hierarchical structure and for the imposition of this obedience on its members. Obedience, in this case, is just a pretext to criticize the Church as a whole, because she makes them uncomfortable from the moment she challenges them and calls their consciences to a serious commitment. In reality, what entity today, in the profane world itself, subsists and develops anarchically? None! Every entity, from the governing bodies that govern nations to the most insignificant companies or organizations, is structured according to a hierarchy. Everything requires an order and a law that must be respected

It is not, then, something singular and extravagant established by the Church. We can see how obedience is practiced in a general way also in the secular world.

Only one thing, then, must matter to the servant: to obey in silence, to shine like stars in the Church. He is not afraid to seek the best for the Kingdom of God! Although, sometimes, this path means suffering, the Cross, and pain for the servant, and he may feel alone and that his strength has left him, but he continues forward and does not stop! Jesus never abandons us. When it seems that all is lost, He comes out to meet us, encouraging us and renewing our strength, causing a song of praise to rise in our hearts.

Obedience, as already said, is fundamental for the servant; it is a pillar of our Movement. Not only obedience to the Holy Father in his capacity as Supreme Pastor of the Church, and to the bishops, pastors of the local Churches, but also to our superiors of the Movement, because they have also been designated by the Lord to fulfill their mission of responsibility. They are responsible for setting us on the path of holiness.

To be continued...

Fr. Giovanni Salerno



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NEWS FROM OUR HOUSES

At the Service of the Faith: Missionary Servants of the Poor in Cuba

During the month of March our community in Cuba received a visit from Father Walter Corsini, Vicar General of the Missionary Servants of the Poor (MSP). During his stay, a new agreement was formalized between the MSP and the Diocese of Cienfuegos renewing their commitment to service in several areas. Retreats and activities were held in preparation for Holy Week with a notable participation of the faithful, although they faced challenges such as the presence of disco music during the nighttime celebrations. Despite this, moments of grace were experienced such as two baptisms in Cumanayagua. In April, the usual activities continued and we ask for your prayers for this beautiful apostolate. Blessings to all.

New children enter our home

The San Tarcisius Home welcomed four new children in 2024, victims of abandonment, abuse and exploitation. Each one has a moving story: one lives with a schizophrenic mother, another lived on the street, another was abandoned with his sister when they were very young, and the last suffered physical attacks from his father and was not attending school. These children, considered our "jewels" by Father Giovanni, founder of the movement, reflect their courage and suffering. Despite their young age, they have faced significant challenges. We seek to restore their joy and love, inspired by the teachings of Jesus about the importance of welcoming children. Prayers are requested for their well-being and ability to forgive, recognizing them as a gift from God to the community that lives at the Saint Tarcisius Home.





S.O.S

TO YOUNG PEOPLE

If you are a young man or woman or married couple, or if you wish to form a support group or be an oblate in your own country, God is calling you. Don't let the flame go out and say Yes to Christ.

contact us!



WE NEED YOUR PRAYERS

THE MOST IMPORTANT HELP FOR THE MISSIONARIES IS YOUR PRAYER

REGISTER NOW



YOU MAY ALSO HELP US MATERIALLY

DONATE



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