

THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS

FRANCE, 17TH CENTURY

The message received by the nun, Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque of Paray-le-Monial, contains the “Twelve Promises of the Sacred Heart,” in which Jesus reveals the graces linked to this devotion. Love for the Sacred Heart of Jesus is directly tied to that of love for the Eucharist. As the great apostle of this devotion, the Jesuit priest Henri Ramiere wrote, “It is in the Eucharist that we truly find the Heart of Jesus nearest to us; it is in the Eucharist that He unites himself in a most intimate way to us, and we to Him.”



“The Church, true minister of the Blood of Redemption, was born from the pierced Heart of the Redeemer, and from that same Heart comes also the grace of the Sacraments in gushing overabundance, which instills eternal life in the children of the Church.” Pope Pius XII



Saint Claude of Colombiere



A design executed by Saint Margaret



The Child Jesus is pictured in an iconograph in the style of the Spanish Counter Reformation, atop a globe of the earth studded with stars of gold. The Child holds His Heart in His hand. From the collection of the Hieron Museum in Paray-le-Monial



“We desire that all of the people who struggle actively to establish the Kingdom of Jesus in the world, take the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus as their banner. [...] Ardently wishing to offer a secure barrier against the impious plottings of the enemies of God and of the Church, and to have families and nations return to the love of God, we do not hesitate to propose devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus as the most efficacious school of divine charity, on which charity it is necessary to construct the Kingdom of God in the souls of individuals, in the domestic society and in nations.” (Pope Pius XII, *Haurietis aquas*, 82-83)



“Jesus is found in the Sacrament of the Eucharist, in which love keeps Him tied like a victim, always ready to be sacrificed for the glory of His Father, and for our salvation. His life is totally hidden from the eyes of the world, which succeed in seeing only the poor and humble appearances of bread and wine. [...] Jesus is always alone in the Blessed Sacrament. Try to never miss any Communion, lest we give great joy to our enemy the devil!”
ST. MARGARET MARY ALAQUOQUE



“The Church wishes to incite the faithful even more to draw near with confidence to this Holy Mystery and to consume ever more hearts in the flames of that divine love with which the Sacred Heart burned when, in His infinite love, he instituted the Most Holy Eucharist.”
POPE BENEDICT XV



Saint Margaret received many mystical gifts and some revelations from Jesus. We list here below the “Twelve Promises of the Sacred Heart” which the Lord revealed to the saint:

1. To those devoted to My Sacred Heart, I will give all the graces and helps necessary to their state of life (Letter #141).
2. I will establish and safeguard peace in their families (Letter #35).
3. I will console them in all their afflictions (Letter #141).
4. I will be their sure refuge in life, and above all, at the hour of death (Letter #141).
5. I will pour abundant blessings on all of their labors and undertakings (Letter #141).
6. Sinners will find in My Heart an inexhaustible source of mercy (Letter #132).

7. Lukewarm souls will become fervent with the practice of this devotion (Letter #132).
8. Fervent souls will ascend rapidly to a higher perfection (Letter #132).
9. My blessing will remain in those places in which the image of the Sacred Heart will be displayed and venerated (Letter #35).
10. To all those who labor for the salvation of souls, I will give the grace to be able to convert the hardest hearts (Letter #141).
11. Persons who spread this devotion will have their names written forever in My Heart (Letter #141).
12. To all people who receive Communion on the first Fridays of nine consecutive months, I will give the grace of endless perseverance and of eternal salvation (Letter #86).