

Enthronement of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary



WHERE DOES THE DEVOTION TO THE SACRED HEART COME FROM?

“The origin of the Sacred Heart devotion is revealed to us through the sacred scriptures. Down through the ages, there have been saints who are well known for their burning love for the Sacred Heart. These are the saints we should talk to in prayer, asking them to intercede on our behalf to have hearts like theirs, on fire to spread the love of Jesus. Among others, these saints include St. John the Evangelist, St. Paul the Apostle, St. Francis of Assisi and St. Francis de Sales.

“In more modern times, St. Margaret Mary Alacoque of France was visited by Jesus, who exposed his Sacred Heart to her and said, ‘I feel this more than all I suffered

Last fall, in my pastoral letter “Love Is Our Mission” I encouraged the faithful of our diocese to observe the Holy Year of Mercy in a variety of ways, including the Enthronement of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary in all Catholic homes. Two of the more well-known symbols of Christ’s love – and that of the everlasting love of his mother Mary – are images of their sacred hearts, pictured separately or together. Placed on a prominent wall or mantel, such displays are called enthronements, and have a long history throughout our Church’s existence.

Enthronements are a wonderful way to remind ourselves and our children of the merciful love of Jesus and Mary, and to deepen your family’s devotion during the Year of Mercy. For an expert explanation of enthronements and how they can enhance your family’s home, I turn this column over to Mother Paul Marie of the Daughters of Mary, Mother of Healing Love, in Rochester, who tells us the following:

during my passion. If only they would make me some return for my love. I should think but little of all I have done for them and would wish, were it possible, to suffer still more.’ Jesus asked St. Margaret Mary for help in garnering King Louis XIV’s devotion to the Sacred Heart, for a shrine, and for a Mass to be said for the Sacred Heart. The king did not comply with these requests, and it can be noted that France was then defeated in two wars and suffered deeply from the French Revolution.

“Nearly 200 years later, Father Mateo Crawley Boevey was cured of sickness while on pilgrimage to the Chapel of the Visitation where the Sacred Heart had appeared to St. Margaret Mary. Father Mateo vowed to carry out Jesus’ requests and received papal approval to exalt and establish the reign of the Sacred Heart. The Enthronement of the Sacred Heart in families was born that day – Aug. 24, 1907.”

WHAT IS AN ENTHRONEMENT?

“The image of Jesus’ Sacred Heart reminds us that He took on our human flesh and became like us in all things but sin. His heart is bleeding and on fire, crowned with thorns and adorned with a cross. When Jesus is enthroned in a home, a solemn ceremony giving Jesus authority over the family is celebrated.”

CAN WE PLACE IMAGES OF JESUS AND MARY NEXT TO EACH OTHER WHEN AN ENTHRONEMENT OF THE SACRED HEART IS CELEBRATED IN A FAMILY?

“Yes. The image of the two hearts speaks to us of their infinite love toward people, toward each parish, each family, and each individual. Both hearts were wonderfully united from the very beginning. The heart of Mary was the first to adore the heart of Jesus and to grasp profoundly the depth of His love.

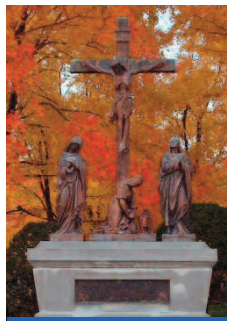
“The presence of Jesus in the home begins to change the hearts of family members. Even children start to notice the needs of others and reach out to help them; this soon affects their neighborhood and school. Family members develop a heart to reach out to the sick, homebound, or kids that no one else talks to. The corporal and spiritual works of mercy become alive in the hearts of family members.”

During this Jubilee Year of Mercy we continue to share in the Holy Father’s work, in our words and in our deeds. I hope that the explanation above will inspire you to add an entronement to your own home, as a reminder of Jesus’ and Mary’s burning love. I pray that this additional way of bringing the sacred hearts into your homes will enhance your experience of the Year of Mercy, and more fully open your hearts to the love of Christ. ■



■ Bishop Peter A. Libasci is the Tenth Bishop of the Diocese of Manchester.

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