

THE LITANY OF THE SACRED HEART

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Illustrated



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Litany of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

LORD, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, hear us.

Christ, graciously hear us.

God, the Father of heaven, *have mercy on us.**

God the Son, Redeemer of the world,

God, the Holy Spirit,

Holy Trinity, one God,

Heart of Jesus, Son of the eternal Father,

Heart of Jesus, formed by the Holy Spirit in the
womb of the Virgin Mother,

Heart of Jesus, substantially united to the Word
of God,

Heart of Jesus, of infinite majesty,

Heart of Jesus, sacred temple of God,

Heart of Jesus, tabernacle of the Most High,

Heart of Jesus, house of God and gate of heav-
en,

Heart of Jesus, burning furnace of charity,

Heart of Jesus, abode of justice and love,

Heart of Jesus, full of goodness and love,

Heart of Jesus, abyss of all virtues,

Heart of Jesus, most worthy of all praise,

Heart of Jesus, King and center of all hearts,

* “*Have mercy on us*” is repeated after each invocation.

People are rightly praised for their achievements. The most outstanding ones are given prestigious awards. Their names are engraved in markers and monuments. Of all the “awardees,” no one is worthier than Jesus. Nay, no one can match Him, for He did everything perfectly.

“He has done everything well!” proclaimed the crowds when they witnessed the wonderful miracles He was performing, as He cleansed the lepers, gave sight to the blind, speech to the dumb, agility to the crippled, and even restored life to the dead. But all the miracles that He performed were still nothing in comparison with the “wonder of wonders” that is the salvation of mankind—a salvation Jesus brought about through His Passion, death, and Resurrection, and which is constantly and universally made present through the Sacraments, but especially through the Eucharist.

It is in the sacrament of Christ’s love that His Heart reveals all its “resourcefulness” and perfection, as it encapsulates His Divinity and humanity in the simplicity of bread and wine, which possess the unique power to nourish souls, transform, energize, and inspire lives. Rightly we acknowledge this “living wonder” as we sing, “O Sacrament most Holy, O Sacrament Divine, all praise and all thanksgiving be every moment thine!”

Generosity is another practical sign of love. And the most generous of all is the Lord God. He has manifested His power to enrich us by giving mankind not only the whole of creation, but also the call to live with Him forever. And when human beings forfeited that unique privilege through their sinfulness, He sent His only Son, “born of a woman, born under the Law, in order to redeem those who were under the Law . . .” (*Gal 4:4*; see also *Jn 3:16*).

And throughout His life, God’s Incarnate Son revealed the depth of the Father’s generosity by changing jars of water into exquisite wine and by feeding hungry crowds, by granting the request for healing addressed to Him by lepers and other sick people. He restored the sight to blind persons, saved His frightened disciples who were about to drown, and promised paradise to the repentant thief who was agonizing on the cross.

But the greatest signs of Christ’s power to enrich us were His offering His life for the salvation of all human beings, His instituting the Eucharist, and His giving the Holy Spirit to His disciples that they might be guided to all truth, consoled in their troubles, and restored to God’s grace through the ministry of the Church.

The generosity of His Heart is a constant invitation for us to do likewise.

All human beings experience sadness. We have many reasons to be sorrowful because of sickness, the destructive violence of nature, the wickedness of people, and even our own moral frailty. In our loneliness, our being rejected or despised, our physical and emotional affliction, it is natural for us to seek comfort and consolation. Many try to find this in creatures. Those who are really wise seek their consolation in the Heart of Jesus, for He is the One in Whom God, the divine Consoler of His people, has found His fullest and enduring manifestation.

Throughout His life, Jesus was, indeed, a source of consolation for all the afflicted: the sick, the crippled, those who had lost a loved one, and those who were rejected by the self-righteous. In all truth, Jesus could say, “Come to Me, all you who are weary and overburdened, and I will give you rest” (*Mt 11:28*).

And Jesus wants that we, too, become a source of consolation for all our brothers and sisters who are afflicted in one way or another. This is a challenging task, which no one would be able to fulfill without the empowerment of God’s grace. That’s why Jesus sent to His disciples the Holy Spirit as the divine “Consoler,” in order that they and we, too, might console all those who suffer in whatever way (see *2 Cor 1:4*).

Prayers to the Sacred Heart*

Prayer of Union with the Sacred Heart

HAIL, Sacred Heart of Jesus,
living and strengthening source of eternal
life,
infinite treasury of the Divinity,
and burning furnace of Divine love!
You are my refuge and sanctuary.

My loving Savior,
consume my heart in that burning love
with which Your own Heart is inflamed.
Pour out upon me the graces
that flow from Your love.
Let my heart be so united with Yours
that our wills may be one,
and my will may in all things be conformed
with Your Will.
May Your Will be the guide and rule
of my desires and of my actions. St. Gertrude

Prayer of Self-Offering to the Sacred Heart

O JESUS,
reveal Your Sacred Heart to me
and show me Its attractions.

* From *New Saint Joseph People's Prayerbook*, Rev. Francis Evans, General Editor, © 2007, 2001, 1993, 1980 by Catholic Book Publishing Corp., NJ.