

# THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS

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*Translated from the French by*  
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**Letter of our Most Holy Father Pope Pius IX  
to the author regarding this book**

*PIUS IX, POPE*

*DEAR SON, GREETINGS AND APOSTOLIC BLESSING.*

*We congratulate you, dearest son, for your zeal and constant love for religion, which have moved you to publish a new work by means of which you intend, according to your own words, to render honor to the most holy Heart of Jesus, and to propagate its cult amongst the faithful. We do not doubt that this intention, already so praiseworthy in itself, is most pleasing to this divine Heart, which is our refuge and our consolation, and which favors with a very special love its adorers and the propagators of its glory.*

*As for the kind thought you had to offer Us this work for the eightieth anniversary of Our birth, We see in this a new proof of your great attachment to Us; We respond to it with equal affection and tenderness, and We heartily thank you for it.*

*Given in Rome, at St. Peter's, on 18 May 1872, in the twenty-sixth year of Our Pontificate.*

*PIUS IX, Pope*

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The Mother of God deigned to appear to her; she blessed her and consoled her for a long time; and as soon as she had left her, Sister Margaret Mary was able to get up, leave the infirmary, and resume the exercises of her rule. The entire Community witnessed with amazement freely walking the one who, a few hours before, seemed barely to have a breath of life.

The revelation of the mystery of the Sacred Heart thus received from the beginning the divine seal of certitude, the seal of the miracle.

With what profound faith and with what love should we not then honor, invoke, and adore the Divine Heart of Jesus!

### III

#### **Third revelation of the Heart of Jesus**

Sister Margaret Mary however received a new and yet more significant grace regarding the Sacred Heart.

It was during the octave of the feast of Corpus Christi. The Blessed was in adoration in the monastery chapel. She felt herself extraordinarily urged to return her Savior love for love. Enraptured and outside herself, she saw Jesus revealing to her His Divine Heart. *“Behold,”* He said to her, *“behold this Heart which has loved men so much, that it has spared nothing, to the point of exhausting and spending itself, to testify its love to them.*

*“In return, I receive from most of them only ingratitude, through scorn, irreverence, sacrileges, and the coldness they have for me in this sacrament of love.*

*“But what is yet more keenly felt by Me is that it is hearts consecrated to Me who treat Me this way.*

*“This is why I ask you that the first Friday after the octave of Corpus Christi be dedicated to celebrating a special feast to honor My Heart, making reparation to it and going to communion that day to atone for the unworthy treatment it has received during the time it has been exposed on altars. I promise you that My Heart will expand to abundantly spread the influences of its divine love over those who render it this honor and who work to have this honor rendered to it.”*

“But, my sweet Lord,” Sister Margaret very confusedly replied to Him, “to whom are You addressing Yourself? To a creature so puny and a sinner so miserable that her unworthiness would be capable of preventing the fulfillment of Your design?”

The Divine Master replied to her, *“What, do you not know that I make use of the weakest subjects to confound the strong, and that it is ordinarily on the little and the poor in spirit that I show My power with greater brilliance, so that they attribute nothing to themselves?”*

“Then,” the Blessed said, “give me the means to do what You command.”

And Jesus added: *“Address yourself to My servant”* (this was Father de la Colombière, Sister Margaret Mary’s director, a very holy religious of the Society of Jesus), *“and tell him on My behalf to do his utmost to establish this devotion, and to give this joy to My Heart.”*

Instructed with this order by the Savior, the holy religious Father de la Colombière fervently obeyed. The Friday following the octave of Corpus Christi (it was 21 June 1675), he consecrated himself entirely as a victim of



adoration and reparation to the adorable Heart of Jesus. He enlisted a great number of pious persons to do as much, and to faithfully practice the rules laid out by Our Lord to Sister Margaret Mary concerning very frequent communion and especially the communion of reparation on the first Friday of each month, as well as on the Friday following the octave of Corpus Christi. The effects of this holy practice were wondrous.

It is necessary that they also henceforth be so for us and in us. Yes, it is necessary that, to enter the merciful designs of Our Savior, we follow, we also, humbly and lovingly, the counsels He Himself deigned to give His blessed servant Margaret Mary.

First, we will stir up our spirit of faith, our zeal regarding the Divine Eucharist, and we will guard well against that neglect and irreverence of which Our Lord complained. Not only during the entire octave of Corpus Christi, but every time that He is exposed on the altar, every time that we assist at Benediction, that we hear Holy Mass, or even that we enter a church in which He reposes, we will carry ourselves in His presence with a most profound respect; we will adore Him with a humble heart, and we will make at His feet, from the bottom of our hearts, the reparation that He has expressly requested.

Secondly, we will henceforth go to communion more often and more piously than in the past. *“You will receive Me in Holy Communion as many times as obedience permits you.”* These words of Jesus are for us, no less than for Blessed Margaret Mary. The Heart of our Jesus calls us all to the Holy Table. Oh, when will the day come when everyone hears this voice and understands this call? In the design of Jesus, as the Council of Trent says, repeating

the words of St. Thomas, St. Augustine, and St. Ambrose, in Jesus's design, "the Eucharistic Bread is the daily Bread; it is received each day as a remedy for the infirmity of each day. Let us receive it then each day so that each day it benefits us. But let us live in such a way that we can receive it each day."<sup>1</sup> Such is the great practical rule of communion; such is the wish of the Church; such is the appeal of the Heart of Jesus. Let us bring to our spiritual father such a frankly good soul, so sincerely animated by good will and zeal for the service of Jesus Christ, so that he can give us this consoling directive: "Go, my child, go in all confidence, and receive daily, if possible, the God of your heart." How much the face of the world would change if many souls were to resolutely embark upon this path of benediction, love, fervor, and salvation!

Finally, according to the command of our sweet Master, we will consecrate the first Friday of each month in a very special way to reparative adoration; and we will do on this day, in a spirit of penitence and humility, the communion requested by Jesus of all the "disciples of His Sacred Heart."

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<sup>1</sup> Panis iste quotidianus sumitur in remedium quotidianæ infirmitatis. Quotidie ergo sume, ut quotidie tibi prosit. Sic vive, ut quotidie merearis accipere (*Cat. Rom. ad parochos*).