



THE HEART OF CHRIST TRIDUUM

Saint John Eudes

DEPARTMENT OF EUDIST
SPIRITUALITY

INTRODUCTION

With this collection of Reading texts of Saint John Eudes we want to emphasize the relevance of the Heart of Jesus in his spirituality.

When we look at Heart of Jesus as a burning furnace of love for us, it is very clear the need to form and make the son of God live and reign in the Heart of all Christians, he that became incarnated, suffered, died and rose again for love of all mankind.

We offer you, in this brochure, some steps to celebrate the three days in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus before the celebration of the feast next 20th October, in the Congregation of Jesus and Mary.

First of all we will prepare ourselves in our heart to have some this time of prayer by telling the Ave Cor Sanctissimum , then we will read the proposed texts for each day; and finally we will tell the Letany of the Heart of Jesus and we will join our commitment of loving Jesus in everything.

FIRST DAY

THE HEART OF CHRIST CELEBRATION

Beginning:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

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Ave Cor

Hail, Heart most holy,
Hail, Heart most meek,
Hail, Heart most humble,
Hail, Heart most pure,
Hail, Heart given without reserve,
Hail, Heart most wise,
Hail, Heart most patient,
Hail, Heart most obedient,
Hail, Heart most vigilant,
Hail, Heart most faithful,
Hail, Heart most blessed,
Hail, Heart most merciful,
Hail, most loving Heart of Jesus and Mary;

We adore you,
We praise you,
We glorify you,
We give you thanks;

We love you,
With all our heart,
With all our soul,
With all our strength;

We offer you our heart,
We give it to you,
We consecrate it to you,
We sacrifice it to you;
Receive and possess it totally,
Purify it,
Enlighten it,
Sanctify it;
That you may live and reign in it now and forever. Amen.

First meditation
THE GIFT OF THIS FEAST IS A GREAT FAVOR
FROM OUR LORD

Excellence of the Feast of the Sacred Heart

Let us adore the incomprehensible goodness of our most loving Redeemer in giving us this holy Feast. It is, indeed, an extraordinary grace. To understand it at all adequately, we must remember that the feasts celebrated by Holy Church during the course of the year are fountains of sanctification and blessings, but this Feast is a veritable sea of grace and holiness.

The Feast of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus constitutes an immense ocean of feasts, because it commemorates the principle of all the other feasts celebrated by Holy Church. It also is the festival of the prime source of everything that is great, holy and venerable in each of the other feasts.

It is our duty, then, to render infinite thanks to our Saviour for His goodness, and to invite the Blessed Virgin, all the angels and saints and all creatures to unite with us to praise, bless and glorify Him for this ineffable favor. We should also dispose our souls to receive the graces He wills to communicate to us during the solemnity of this wonderful Feast. We must make a strong resolution to do everything in our power and to employ all our affections and every means possible to continue to celebrate it appropriately and devoutly during the Octave.

Our duties to The Sacred Heart of Jesus

Why has the King of all hearts given us this Feast of His most lovable Heart? Solely that we may perform our duties to Him.

We have four principal duties to fulfil.

The first duty is **adoration**. Let us adore the Heart of Jesus with all our heart and all our strength. It is

infinitely worthy of adoration because it is the Heart of God, the Heart of the Only begotten Son of the Eternal Father and of God made man. Let us adore this precious Heart, offering It all the adoration ever accorded to It in heaven and on earth.

O my Saviour, may the whole universo unite in adoration of Your divine Heart! I willingly consent to be reduced to nothingness now and forever, by means of Your grace, so that the Sacred Heart of Jesus may be incessantly adored by the whole universe.

Our second duty is **to praise, bless, glorify** and thank His infinitely generous Heart for Its tremendous love for the Eternal Father, His most holy Mother, all the angels, all the saints, and all creatures, especially ourselves. Let us also thank Him for all the gifts, favors and blessings poured out from this immense sea of graces upon all things created, particularly upon us.

O most sublime Heart, I offer You all the praise, glory and thanksgiving rendered You in heaven and on earth, in time and eternity. May all hearts praise and bless You forever!

The third duty is **to ask pardon of His kind Heart** for all the sorrow and suffering endured for our sins, and to offer in reparation all the satisfaction and joys given to Our Lord by His Eternal Father, by His

Blessed Mother and by all ardent and faithful hearts. Let us accept out of love for the Sacred Heart all the trials, sorrow and affliction which may come upon us.

The fourth duty is **to love** this divine Heart with all possible affection and fervor in the name of those who do not love It and to offer It the entire love of all hearts that belong to It.

O Heart all-lovable and all-loving, when shall I begin to love you as I should? I am under countless obligations to love You; yet, alas, I realize that I have not even commenced.

Grant me the grace to begin straightway to love You. Destroy in my heart whatever is displeasing to You and establish instead the reign of Your holy love.

God of my heart, my portion, Jesus forever.

(Saint John Eudes, The Sacred Heart of Jesus, Meditations for the Feast of The Sacred Heart of Jesus, Third Meditation: The Gift of This Feast is a Great Favor from Our Lord, 88)

Second meditation

THE HEART OF JESUS

Oh my God, how excessive is your kindness and your admirable love for us! You are infinitely worth of being

loved, praised and glorified, and we have infinite obligations of doing so. But because our hearts and minds are neither worth nor able to fulfill such obligations, your incomprehensible wisdom and boundless kindness found and gave us a means to do so completely and perfectly. You gave us the Spirit and Heart of your Son, who is your own Spirit and Heart, to be our own, as you had promised through your prophet: *I will give you a new heart. I will place a new Spirit in your midst* (Ez 36, 26). And so that we might be able to identify this new spirit and this new heart you promised, you added: *I will place my Spirit, who is my Heart, in your midst.*

Only God's own Spirit and Heart are worth of loving and praising him, of blessing and loving him as he deserves. That is why, my Lord, you gave us your Heart, which is the Heart of your Son Jesus, as it is the Heart of his Blessed Mother and the hearts of all his Angels and Saints who together form but a single heart.

You who read these lines, take note that this Heart was given to you, that you might serve and honor God and do his will with a willing spirit and with generous love (2 Macc 1, 3), that is, with a heart and love befitting his infinite greatness.

For that to take place, renounce your own heart, that is

to say, your own spirit, your will and self-love. Give yourself to Jesus to enter into the immensity of this great Heart which contains his Mother's and the hearts of all the Saints. Lose yourself in this abyss of love, charity, mercy, humility, purity, patience, submission and holiness.

Do not be satisfied with loving God with your human heart for that is too little, it is really nothing at all. Love him rather with all your heart and willingly: *Corde magno et animo volenti*, with all the love of your great Heart, Jesus. When anybody asks if you love God, you can answer: "Yes, and I want to love him with all my great Heart and give myself to him with that in mind."

If you love your neighbor and want to show him your love, do so in the charity of your great Heart. If you must suffer, let it be in a spirit of humility, patience, submission and love. If you intend to fulfill an obligation, make a gift or sacrifice something to God, whether it be your own person or something external to you, let it be done in a spirit of love and the zeal of your great Heart. When you say these holy words: *I will praise you, Lord, with all my heart* (Ps 111, 1), let it be with the intention of speaking about your great Heart.

Finally, whatever you do, do everything in the spirit and dispositions of your great Heart, putting aside

your own and giving yourself to Jesus to act in the same spirit which animates his own.

(St. John Eudes, The Admirable Heart of Mary, Book 3, Chapter 2;
O.C. 6, 261-265—Lectionary proper 45.

Litany of the Sacred Heart of Jesus (p. 21)

Final prayer

Jesus Christ, my Savior, I wish everything becomes a hymn of immortal praise to your divine Heart, since you have given me your own Heart to be the beginning of my life, please, I beg you, that it be also the only principle of all my feelings and emotions, all functions of the powers of my soul, my spirit, and the heart of my heart! Amen

R./ Amen.

Para la meditación personal y/o comunitaria:

For personal and / or community meditation

Which will be the best preparation to live the feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus?

Which are the means to love Jesus more?

What specific renounces the Lord asks me to join the deep love that springs from the Heart of Jesus?

SECOND DAY
THE LOVE OF THE HEART OF JESUS

Beginnng:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Ave Cor (P. 3)

Meditation

**THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS IS A FURNACE
OF LOVE, PURIFYING, ILLUMINATING,
SANCTIFYING, TRANSFORMING AND
DEIFYING**

The Sacred Heart of Jesus a furnace of love for us.

The most loving Heart of our benign Saviour is a burning furnace of most pure love for us; a furnace of purifying love, of illuminating love, of sanctifying love, of transforming love, and of deifying love.

His love is a purifying love, in which the hearts of holy souls are purified more perfectly than gold in the furnace.

An illuminating love, which scatters the darkness of hell with which the earth is covered and lets us into the wonderful brilliance of heaven: *de tenebris vos vocavit in admirabile lumen suum* (1Pet 2,9)

A sanctifying love, which destroys sin in our souls in order to establish there the kingdom of grace; a transforming love, which transforms serpents into doves, wolves into lambs, beasts into angels, children of the devil into children of God, children of wrath and malediction into children of grace and blessing.

A deifying love, which makes gods of men, *ego dixi dii estis*, letting them share in the holiness of God, His mercy, His patience, His goodness, His love, His charity and His other divine perfections: *Divinae consortes naturae*. (2 Pet 1,4)

O divine love of my Jesus, I give myself wholly to You; purify me, enlighten me, sanctify me, transform me into You, that I may be naught but love for my God.

The furnace of the Sacred Heart of Jesus radiates love to all beings.

The august Heart of Jesus is a furnace of love which spreads its fiery flames in all directions, in heaven, on earth, and throughout the whole universe. Its fiery flames would have consumed the hearts of the

Seraphim and would have enkindled all the hearts of earth, if the terrible chill of sin had not set in. Those divine fires transform all the hearts of heavenly lovers into so many furnaces of love for Him who is all love for them.

All creatures on earth, even those which are senseless, inanimate and irrational, feel the effects of the incredible goodness of that magnificent Heart, since He loves all things that are and hates nothing that He has made, sin being the only thing that He did not make, the only object of His hatred: *Diligis omnia quae sunt, et nihil odisti eorum quae fecisti.* (Wisdom 11, 25)

Jesus has an extraordinary love for men, as well for the good as the wicked, for His friends as for His enemies, for whom He has such intense charity that even the overwhelming torrents and floods of their innumerable sins are not able to extinguish it: *Aquae multae non potuerunt extinguere charitatem.* (Cant 8,7) Not a moment elapses that He does not grant them manifold natural and supernatural favors, corporal and spiritual, even while they are offending Him and dishonoring Him by their misdeeds.

The divine fires of the precious Heart of the Son of God reach even into hell, to the devils and the damned, preserving their being, life, and the natural perfections which He gave them at creation and not

punishing them as much as they have deserved for their sins, for which His divine justice might very justly chastise them much more severely than it does: *Non est qui se abscondat a calore ejus.*(Ps 18,7)

O sacred fires and flames of the Heart of my Saviour, rush in upon my heart and the hearts of all my brethren, and kindle them into as many furnaces of love for my Most Loving Jesus!

Intensity of the Love of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

Imagine all the charity, all the affections, all the tender and intimate feelings of all the hearts that the omnipotent hand of God might fashion as being collected and united in one heart large enough to contain them. Would they not all be capable of forming one unimaginable furnace of love? But realize that all the fires and flames of such a furnace would not make one tiny spark of the immense love with which the infinitely loving Heart of Jesus is inflamed towards you, O Christian soul.

O furnace infinitely to be desired! Who will grant me to be plunged into that burning fire? O Mother of Jesus, O all ye angels, O all you holy saints of Jesus, I give myself to you all and to each in particular, and I give you also all my brothers and sisters in Christ, and all the inhabitants of earth, that you may cast us all into

the abyss of that sacred furnace! Attend and hear, O vast furnace of love! A tiny straw asks most humbly and earnestly to be plunged, buried, lost, devoured and consumed wholly in your sacred flames you're, your holy fires forever and ever!

O fire which ever burns and is never extinguished. O love which is ever fervent and never grows tepid, inflame me wholly that I may love you wholly.

Litany of the Sacred Heart of Jesus (p.21)

Final prayer

Admirable Heart of Jesus !, we offer you our hearts, print on them, if that is your will, any participation of this divine likeness, in order to fulfill in us this order of the Divine Master: "Be perfect, as your heavenly Father"(Mt. 5, 48) . Amen.

R./ Amen.

For personal and / or community meditation:

Which steps I will take to let me inflame by the fire of love of the Heart of Jesus?

How do I experience, in my spiritual life, the loving presence of the furnace of love of the Heart of Jesus?

How do I respond to the action of Jesus, who wants to deify and purify my heart?

THIRD DAY
THE LOVE OF THE HEART OF JESUS

Beginnng:

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Ave Cor(P. 3)

Meditation
THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS LOVES US
WITH AN EVERLASTING AND A BOUNDLESS
LOVE

The Sacred Heart of Jesus loves us with an everlasting love.

The Divine Heart of our Saviour is filled with eternal love for us. To realize this truth one should understand two things about eternity: first, that it has neither beginning nor end; secondly, that it comprises in itself all ages, past, present and future, all the years, months, weeks, days, hours and moments of the past, present and future, and that it comprises them in a fixed and permanent manner, holding all those things united and joined together in one indivisible point. That is how

eternity differs from time.

Time runs on incessantly; as one moment arrives, another elapses and is left behind, and so one never sees two moments of time together. But in eternity everything is permanent; whatever is eternal always remains of the same extension.

That is why the eternal love of the Sacred Heart of Jesus for us comprises two elements. First, this incomparable Heart has loved us from all eternity, before we were and could have known and loved it, even in spite of the vision and knowledge that it had of all our offenses which were present to its vision as they are now.

Secondly, the amiable Heart of Jesus loves us at every moment with all the love wherewith it has ever loved us and shall love us throughout all eternity. Thus we can see the difference between God's love and ours. Our love is a passing act; the love of God is constant. The love that God has exercised towards us for a hundred thousand years remains in His Heart together with that which He will dispense a hundred thousand years from now. Eternity implies that in God there is nothing past nor future, but all is present, so that God loves us now with all the love wherewith He has loved us from all eternity and wherewith He will love us forever.

O eternity of love! O eternal love! If I had existed from all eternity, I should have been bound to love you from all eternity; and yet, my God, I have not begun to love you as I should. But at least, let me begin now, O my Saviour, to love you as you would be loved. O God of my heart, I give myself to you to be united to your ceaseless love for me from all eternity. I surrender myself to you to be united to the love wherewith you love your Father before all centuries, so as to love the Father and the Son with an eternal love.

The Sacred Heart of Jesus loves us with a boundless love.

The loving Heart of Jesus loves us with a boundless love. The divine and uncreated love which possesses that adorable Heart, is nothing else but God Himself. Now, since God is unlimited, His love is also unlimited. Since God is everywhere, His love is everywhere, in all places and in all things. Therefore, the Sacred Heart of Jesus loves us not only in heaven, but He also loves us on earth. He loves us in the sun, in the stars and in all created things. He loves us in the hearts of all the denizens of heaven and in the hearts of all persons that have some measure of charity for us on earth. All love for ourselves existing in the hearts in heaven and on earth is a participation in the love of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Moreover, He loves us even in the hearts of our enemies despite the hatred they bear us. I even make bold to say that He loves us in hell, in

the hearts of the devils and the damned, in spite of all their wrath and hatred, since the divine love is everywhere, filling heaven and earth like the presence of God.

O boundless love, I plunge myself into your fires and flames that fill all created beings, in order to love my God and my Saviour in all places and in all things. O Jesus, I offer You all the boundless love of Your Heart, of the adorable Heart of Your Divine Father, the lovable heart of Your holy Mother, and of all the hearts that love You in heaven and on earth. I ardently desire that all creatures of the universe be transformed into flaming fires of love towards You.

(Saint John Eudes, Eight Others meditations on the Sacred Heart of Jesus, The Sacred Heart of Jesus, Fourth meditation: The Sacred Heart of Jesus loves us with an everlasting and boundless love, 120-122)

Litany of the Sacred Heart of Jesus (p.21)

Final prayer

Most Holy Trinity, infinite praises will be ever given to you for all the miracles of love that you do in the Heart of my Jesus! I offer you my heart, and the hearts of all my brothers, and I beg you very humbly to take complete possession of them and annihilate in them what

displeases you, to establish in them the kingdom of your sovereign love. Amen.

R./ Amen.

For personal and / or community meditation:

Have I been aware that every episode of my own history is a manifestation of the love of Jesus for me?

What I will do specifically to love Jesus more?

How I can become a living Gospel that transmits to others the ardent love that springs from the Heart of Jesus?

LITANY OF THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS

Lord, have mercy on us.

Christ, have mercy on us.

Lord, have mercy on us.

Jesus, hear us.

Jesus, graciously hear us.

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

God the Son, Redeemer of the world, have mercy on us.

God the Holy Ghost, have mercy on us.

Holy Trinity, one God, have mercy on us.

Heart of Jesus most divine, have mercy on us.

Heart of Jesus most loving,

Heart of Jesus most meek,

Heart of Jesus, most humble,

Heart of Jesus most merciful,

Heart of Jesus most faithful,

Heart of Jesus, Heart of the Eternal Father,

Heart of Jesus, Principle of the Holy Ghost,

Heart of Jesus, fullness of the God head,

Heart of Jesus, sanctuary of the Blessed Trinity,

Heart of Jesus, throne of the Divine Will,

Heart of Jesus, Heart of the Virgin Mother,

Heart of Jesus most adorable,

Heart of Jesus most amiable,

Heart of Jesus most admirable,

Heart of Jesus most incomparable,

Heart of Jesus, furnace of love,

Heart of Jesus, miracle of charity,
Heart of Jesus, model of patience,
Heart of Jesus, mirror of obedience,
Heart of Jesus, exemplar of all virtues,
Heart of Jesus, fountain of all graces,
Heart of Jesus, pierced with alance,
Heart of Jesus, wounded with love,
Heart of Jesus, temple of sanctity,
Heart of Jesus, altar of charity,
Heart of Jesus, priest of love,
Heart of Jesus, victim of dilection,
Heart of Jesus, eternal holocaust,
Heart of Jesus, golden censer,
Heart of Jesus, inebriating chalice,
Heart of Jesus, deifying nectar,
Heart of Jesus, consoler of the afflicted,
Heart of Jesus, refuge of sinners,
Heart of Jesus, zealous for souls,
Heart of Jesus, ravisher of hearts,
Heart of Jesus, our dearest portion,
Heart of Jesus, our sweetest hope,
Heart of Jesus, joy of our heart,
Heart of Jesus, most loving Heart of our heart,
Heart of Jesus, treasure of our heart,
Heart of Jesus, paradise of our heart,
Heart of Jesus, life of our heart,
Heart of Jesus, king of our heart,

Be merciful unto us, spare us, O Jesus.

From all sin, deliver us, O Jesus.
From the pride of life, deliver us, O Jesus.
From disordinate love,
From the blindness of heart,
From the neglect of Thy inspirations,
From everlasting death,

Through Thy most loving Heart, hear us, O Jesus.
Through Thy great hatred for sin, hear us, O Jesus.
Through Thy infinite love for Thy Eternal Father,
Through Thy tender love for Thy most holy Mother,
Through thy most ardent charity for all those who are
devoted to Thy Service, hear us, O Jesus.
Through Thy great love for the Cross.
Through Thy bitter sufferings,
Through Thy death out of love and sorrow for us,
Through Thy eternal joys,

Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world,
spare us, O Jesus.

Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world,
graciously hear us, O Jesus.

Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us, O Jesus.

Jesus, hear us.

Jesus, graciously hear us.

Let us pray:

O God, who by the great love of your only-begotten Son have willed to make us your members and your sons and have given us one Heart with your Head and our Father, grant, we beseech you, that burning with the fire of your love and the flame of the charity of the most loving Heart of Jesus we may do your will in all things, and desiring what is right we may merit to obtain what we desire. Through the same Christ Our Lord. Amen.

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HEART OF JESUS, OUR SWEETEST HOPE!



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