

SACRED HEART NEWSLETTER



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A Quarterly Newsletter on Devotion to the Sacred Heart

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St. John Eudes, Champion of Devotion to the Hearts of Jesus and Mary



heroically for victims of the plague and soon became famous as a missionary. With the approval of Cardinal de Richelieu and others, he left the Oratory and established the Congregation of Jesus and Mary (Eudists) in 1643 for the education of priests and for missionary work.

Among the several religious congregations Fr. Eudes founded were the Society of the Heart of the Mother Most Admirable, a type of third order, and the Sisters of Our Lady of Charity, a refuge for prostitutes who desired to do penance. He was able to obtain permission to celebrate the feast of the Holy Heart of Mary in 1648 and that of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in 1672. (It was not until 1856 that the feast of the Sacred Heart was extended worldwide.) He composed the Masses and the Divine Offices for these feasts. Because of these early initiatives, Pope Leo XIII called him “Author of the Liturgical Worship of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Holy Heart of Mary.”

This papal recognition was well placed. John Eudes, canonized in 1925, wrote: “You must never separate what God has so perfectly united. So closely are Jesus and Mary bound up with each other that whoever beholds Jesus sees Mary; whoever loves Jesus, loves Mary; whoever has devotion to Jesus, has devotion to Mary.” The feast day of St. John Eudes is 19 August.

Even before St. Margaret Mary, Fr. John Eudes (1601-1680), a zealous French missionary in Normandy, worked strenuously to spread devotion to the Holy Heart of Mary and the Sacred Heart of Jesus. He founded several religious congregations marked by these devotions and wrote *Le Coeur Admirable de la Très Sainte Mere de Dieu*, which is considered the first book ever written that links these two devotions.

Young John studied with the Jesuits in Caen, then joined the Oratorians, where he came under the influence of Pierre de Bérulle and Charles de Condren. Ordained a priest in 1625, he worked

Father Josef Stierli wrote about St. John Eudes:

“He set his heart on obtaining liturgical expression for the mystery of the Sacred Heart... He devoted himself to establishing a solid theological basis for devotion to the Hearts of Jesus and Mary, which he saw in intimate union. ...In 1672 ... he celebrated in the communities of his own order his first mass of the Sacred Heart, for which he had received ecclesiastical approval. St. John Eudes alone composed no fewer than fifteen drafts for

Masses in honour of the Heart of Jesus and the Heart of Mary. (*Heart of the Savior*, 1957).

Note: Pope Pius IX's Act of Reparation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, customarily recited on the Feast of the Sacred Heart, was printed in this Newsletter #8 (June 2012). The Idea and Practice of Reparation were explained in Newsletter #7 (March 2012).

Fr. Albert Hurtado Drew Priestly Guidance from the Sacred Heart

The following is a letter from Father Albert Hurtado, S.J. to a friend on 8 October 1933, after his ordination to the priesthood. Father Hurtado (1901-1952) was canonized on 23 October 2005. His feast day is 18 August. He wrote:

Here you have me, a priest of the Lord! You will understand my great happiness, and with all sincerity I can tell you that I am completely happy. God has given me the great grace to be able to live contentedly in all the houses that I have passed through and with all the companions I have had. But now, on receiving priestly ordination for always, my joy has reached its limit. Now I desire nothing more than to exercise my priestly ministry with the deepest possible interior life and all the exterior activity compatible with it.

The secret of this adaptation and of its success is in the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, that is to say, to the overflowing love of Our Lord, the love that Jesus as God and as man has for us, a love that shone clearly throughout his life. If we could only realize this ideal in our lives: What does the Heart of Jesus think of this or that...? and endeavor to think and feel as he does, how this would enlarge our hearts and transform our lives!

Trifles and faults that we commit and see committed around us would disappear, and in our communities a natural and supernatural happiness would reign; there would be more understanding, greater respect for each of our brothers, for even the least deserves that we go out of our way for him and not overlook him. This is an idea that comes to me frequently, and I've done some thinking about it because more and more I would like to see it happen.

I believe that we should live the devotion to the Sacred Heart based on a limitless charity that helps to make our brothers feel at ease with each other and [so] that lay people feel moved not by our words, which in great part leave them cold, but by our life of charity for them, both human and divine. But this charity must be human if it wishes to be divine. In this pervasive ambient of

skepticism in which we live, I do not think there is any other means, humanly speaking, to preach Jesus Christ among those who will only believe the example of a charity like that of Christ. . . .

Alberto Hurtado C., S.J.



Albert Hurtado was born in January, 1901 and died in August, 1952. He entered the Society of Jesus in 1923 and was ordained a priest in 1933.

Despite his strenuous activity, he was deeply committed to personal prayer. "In all my difficulties, I escape to God. I hand over to him all my being and all my desires, everything to his fatherly Providence, even if I lack the strength to speak to him. What understanding God has shown to me

even in those moments. In God I feel a hope that is almost boundless.”

This newsletter is produced at Loyola High School, P.O. Box 1140, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania by Fr. Ted Walters, S.J. It is intended to remind us of the treasure Christ has committed to us in devotion to the Sacred Heart. Editorial contributions to this newsletter are warmly welcomed. Please send us the names and email addresses of additional persons who would like to receive issues of the newsletter. (To send such names or for items to contribute, you may email: <twalters2002@yahoo.co.uk> Thank you.