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FROM THE DESK OF FATHER JOSÉ FÉLIX ORTEGA

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The Heart of a Priest

The Heart has always been the symbol of love and our purest and secret sentiments. When we know a person that has good character, and is compassionate, we often say that the person has a “good heart.”

Next Thursday, April 4th, from 6 pm to 9 pm, as parishioners we are invited to make a pilgrimage to our seminary in Yonkers to venerate the heart of a holy priest: St. John Marie Vianney, the Cure of Ars. His incorrupt heart, hosted by the Knights of Columbus, is visiting some of the dioceses of the United States and will be in New York only a few days. What a privilege to venerate such an important relic, but what an opportunity to pray for all our priests.

A priest should have the heart of a father, someone that is always present, that generates spiritual life, that has his arms wide open to welcome and forgive all the children. But also, the heart of a mother, full of compassion, patience, and tenderness, that can walk with you and accompany all at any moment.

A priest should have the heart of a son, recognizing that he is a son of God and that everything comes from Him. As a son should be thankful and grow in humility as there are many things that he doesn't know and needs to learn. But also, the heart of a brother, that accepts all as they are because they are brothers and you don't choose your brothers or sisters but accept and love them.

A priest should have the heart of a friend, someone that will be there for you always in good and in bad, in the joyful moments of life as when your son or daughter is baptized, or when you are getting married, but also in the difficult times like when you are very sick or the funeral of your parents.

A priest should have the heart of man, to understand all and be closer to all. But also, the heart of God to share His love at all moments, like the image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Jesus offers his own heart, his love to all of us.

Let's pray for all the priests, so that their hearts, like the one from St. John Marie Vianney, will always be holy.

If you want to join the pilgrimage of our parish to venerate the heart of St. John Marie Vianney, please call the office for more information.

God bless,
Father José Félix