

## CONSECRATION OF THE DIOCESE OF BRIDGEPORT TO THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS

**Saturday, November 5, 2016**  
**St. Augustine Cathedral, 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM**

*This is the second of four preparatory essays for the Consecration of the Diocese of Bridgeport to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.*

### ***II. Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus***

Christ's divine and human love is symbolized in His physical Heart. He, the Word made flesh, manifests God's divine love through a human body and a Heart formed in the womb of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The Church's general devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus dates back many centuries and numerous saints have contributed to its development. Specific devotions became even more popularized when Jesus appeared to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque (1647-1690), a Visitation nun, as she prayed before the Blessed Sacrament. St. Margaret Mary wrote, "He disclosed to me the marvels of His Love and the inexplicable secrets of His Sacred Heart." Christ emphasized to her His love and His wounds caused by man's indifference to this love.

Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus involves both acknowledging Him as our Creator, Redeemer and King, and also by repenting, turning away from sin and resolving to love and serve Him more faithfully.

Jesus promised to those who practice and encourage devotion to His Sacred Heart: 1) He will give them all the graces necessary in their state of life; 2) He will establish peace in their homes; 3) He will comfort them in all their afflictions; 4) He will be their secure refuge during life, and above all, in death; 5) He will bestow abundant blessings upon all their undertakings; 6) Sinners will find in His Heart the source and infinite ocean of mercy; 7) Lukewarm souls shall become fervent; 8) Fervent souls shall quickly mount to high perfection; 9) He will bless every place in which an image of His Heart is exposed and honored; 10) He will give to priests the gift of touching the most hardened hearts; 11) Those who shall promote this devotion shall have their names written in His Heart; 12) In the excessive mercy of His Heart He promises that His all-powerful love will grant to all those who receive Holy Communion on the First Fridays in nine consecutive months the grace of final perseverance; they shall not die in His disgrace, nor without receiving their sacraments. His divine Heart shall be their safe refuge in this last moment.

All those participating in the pilgrimage and consecration on **Saturday, November 5<sup>th</sup>** at St. Augustine Cathedral will receive a holy card with a special prayer to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, which can be prayed every day for one's personal needs and for the needs of the Diocese of Bridgeport.

Let us pray for the openness to give over our entire lives to our Lord Jesus Christ, including all of our choices, our actions, our sufferings and our joys, so that we may honor, love and glorify His Sacred Heart.