



Clelian
MISSIONARY
YEAR
To Love In Our Mission!



GFASC – Missionary Year – Reflection 10 ***To love is our mission***

Heart of Jesus, fountain of life and holiness



“Let anyone who thirsts come to me and drink. Whoever believes in me, as scripture says: ‘Rivers of living water will flow from within him.’”

We all wish to draw near to the fountain of living water. We all wish to drink from the Divine Heart, which is the fountain of life and holiness. To approach the fountain is to reach the source. There is no other place in the created world from which springs holiness for humanity outside of this Heart, which has loved so much. “Rivers of living water” gush forth from many hearts and they will continue to flow! Saints from all times give witness to it.

DEVOTION TO THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS

One of the most widely practiced Christian devotions is the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. However, it is not just one devotion among many, because the Church has accorded it a particular dignity and it is found at the center of Christian revelation.

The most significant document on this subject is certainly the Encyclical of Pius XII, *Haurietis aquas* (You shall draw waters) of May 15, 1956, a text that should be read and reflected upon in its entirety. This devotion, rooted in Sacred Scripture, studied by popes, Church Fathers, and the great medieval mystics, spread in a particular way and took on its current form after the apparitions of

Jesus Christ to Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque, in the monastery of Paray-le-Monial, beginning on December 27, 1673.

Jesus himself was the first to describe his Heart as a font of refreshment and peace: ***“Come to me, all you who labor and are burdened, and I will give you rest. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light.”*** (Matthew 11: 28-30).

St. John in his Gospel recounts that the Heart of Christ was pierced and from it flowed blood and water, and he attributes particular symbolic meaning to it (cf. John 19: 33-37). The Book of Revelation also presents Jesus as a Lamb who was slain, that is, “pierced” (cf. Rev. 5: 6; 1: 7).

“So the soldiers came and broke the legs of the first and then of the other one who was crucified with Jesus. But when they came to Jesus and saw that he was already dead, they did not break his legs, but one soldier thrust his lance into his side, and immediately blood and water flowed out.” (John 19: 32-34)



MOTHER CLELIA

“When the tempest rages, take refuge in the recesses of the Heart of Jesus and be consoled by that hope which his promises constantly bring to full bloom in every holy soul. He has said: “Seek and you shall find; knock and it shall be opened to you.” Are you looking for the way to be all His, for strength for your tasks, for peace of heart, for the joys of conscience? Pray and you will find them. But let your primary prayer be integrity, charity, humility, in short, the practice of the virtues in which we must especially imitate the Heart of Jesus.” (*Spiritual Anthology pp. 185-186*)

“You have very great need to distrust yourself and throw yourself with complete trust into the Heart of Jesus, hoping for and

expecting every advantage, support, and victory from Him alone
(*Spiritual Anthology p. 186*).

Pope Francis

“The Heart of Jesus, a God who comes close to us out of love, walks with his people to a place that is unimaginable. Never would anyone think that God himself would make himself one of us and walk with us, stay with us, remain in his Church, in the Eucharist, in his Word, with the poor, with us on our journey. This is closeness: the shepherd close to his flock, close to his sheep, who knows each one. . . . Tenderness! The Lord loves us with tenderness. The Lord understands that beautiful science of an embrace, the tenderness of God. He does not love us with words. He comes close to us and gives us that love with tenderness. Closeness and tenderness! These are two ways in which the Lord loves us; he comes close to us and gives all of his love even in the smallest ways: with tenderness. This is a strong love, because closeness and tenderness show us the strength of God’s love.” (June 8, 2018)

SHARING

- **Which of these texts touches you the most? What word or phrase would you like to choose for your life?**
- **How do you live Sacred Heart spirituality in your daily life?**

PLEDGE

- **Mother Clelia summarized her charism as giving glory, love, and reparation to the Heart of Jesus. She invites us to become apostles of love and reparation and to be apostles like the first Apostles. Let us offer everything to the Heart of Jesus!**

Before the enthroned Sacred Heart in your home, prepare a small altar and pray:

All for you, Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. Clothe me with You, so that I may become a new creature according to your Heart. All for you, my God, my greatest good, all that I may suffer, think, or say. With every breath and with every beat of my heart, I intend, dear Lord, to give you my life and to consecrate to you my heart. Amen.

PRAYER OF MOTHER CLELIA (To My Dear Jesus)

O my Jesus, love me, help me, draw me!

O my beloved Jesus, bless me, console me.

O my dear Jesus, give yourself to me, count my tears, do all that you want with me.

O my Jesus, guide me, govern me, heal me, enlighten me.

O my Jesus, inspire me, free me from all evil, mortify me, nourish me, act in me, purify me, punish me.

O my dear Jesus, renew me, remain in me, save me, sanctify me, keep me close to you, humiliate me.

Come to me, visit me!

“I enclose all of you in the Heart of Jesus with a double lock.” (Clelia Merloni)