

A FEW WORDS ABOUT THE DEVOTION TO THE HEART OF MARY

*The history of the devotion to the Heart of Mary is connected on many points with that to the Heart of Jesus; nevertheless, it has its own history which, although very simple, is not devoid of interest. The attention of Christians was early attracted by the love and virtues of the Heart of Mary. The Gospel itself invited this attention with exquisite discretion and delicacy. What was first excited was compassion for the Virgin Mother. It was, so to speak, at the foot of the Cross that the Christian heart first made the acquaintance of the Heart of Mary. Simeon's prophecy paved the way and furnished the devotion with one of its favorite formulae and most popular representations: the heart pierced with a sword. But Mary was not merely passive at the foot of the Cross; "She cooperated through charity", as St. Augustine says, "in the work of our redemption".

Another Scriptural passage to help in bringing out the devotion was the twice-repeated saying of St. Luke, that Mary kept all the sayings and doings of Jesus in her heart, that there she might ponder over them and live by them. A few of the Virgin's sayings, also recorded in the Gospel, particularly the Magnificat, disclose new features in Marian psychology. Some of the Fathers also throw light upon the psychology of the Virgin, for instance, St. Ambrose, when in his commentary on St. Luke he holds Mary up as the ideal of virginity, and St. Ephrem, when he so poetically sings of the coming of the Magi and the welcome accorded them by the humble Mother. Little by little, in consequence of the application of the Cantic of the loving relations between God and the Blessed Virgin, the Heart of Mary came to be for the Christian Church the Heart of the Spouse of the Canticles as well as the Heart of the Virgin Mother...

*(excerpted from www.newadvent.org)



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Novena to the *Immaculate Heart of Mary*

August 13th – August 21st



***Immaculate Heart of Mary,
comfort of the afflicted, pray for us.***

NOVENA TO THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

AUGUST 13TH — 21ST

THE FOLLOWING IS TO BE SAID EACH DAY OF THE NOVENA

O Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart of Mary, ever virgin!
O Heart most pure, most noble, most perfect image
of the adorable Heart of Jesus!

We humbly entreat you to intercede for us and to obtain for us the
favors we petition for in this novena,
if it be the holy will of God to grant them,
and if not, to ask for us whatever graces we most need.

(pause for private intentions said in silence)

We desire by this novena, which we offer in your honor,
that you will always be, after the Heart of Jesus,
the object of our love and devotion.

Through your Immaculate Heart we offer to your divine Son
all our thoughts, words and actions of this day and all our days.

We pray for Benedict, our pope, for N____ our bishop,
for all priests and for the conversion of all sinners.

We beg your powerful intercession for an increase of vocations
to the priesthood and religious life, especially for our diocese.

Through your maternal Heart, we ask God's blessings upon our families,
upon all who have been good to us for the Lord's sake,
for all the living and the dead who are dear to us
and for all for whom we have been asked to pray.

One Hail Mary...

Immaculate Heart of Mary, pray for us.

Refuge of Sinners, pray for us.

O Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to you.
May Mary's Immaculate Heart, be forever praised.

Proceed with the Litany



Litany of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

Lord, have mercy on us.
Christ, have mercy on us.
Lord, have mercy on us. Christ, hear us.
Christ, 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 Spirit,
Have mercy on us.
Holy Trinity, One God,
Have mercy on us.

Heart of Mary, *pray for us.*
Heart of Mary, like unto the Heart of God, *pray for us.*
Heart of Mary, united to the Heart of Jesus, *etc.*
Heart of Mary, instrument of the Holy Ghost...
Heart of Mary, sanctuary of the Divine Trinity...
Heart of Mary, tabernacle of God Incarnate...
Heart of Mary, immaculate from thy creation...
Heart of Mary, full of grace...
Heart of Mary, blessed among all hearts...
Heart of Mary, throne of glory...
Heart of Mary, most humble...
Heart of Mary, holocaust of Divine Love...
Heart of Mary, fastened to the Cross with Jesus Crucified...
Heart of Mary, comfort of the afflicted...
Heart of Mary, refuge of sinners...
Heart of Mary, hope of the agonizing...
Heart of Mary, seat of mercy...

Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world, *Spare us, O Lord.*
Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world,
Graciously hear us, O Lord.
Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world, *Have mercy on us.*

Christ hear us, *Christ, graciously hear us.*
Immaculate Mary, meek and humble of heart,
Make our hearts like unto the Heart of Jesus.

Let Us Pray

O most merciful God, Who, for the salvation of sinners and the refuge of the miserable,
was pleased that the Most Pure Heart of Mary should be most like in charity and pity to the
Divine Heart of Thy Son, Jesus Christ, grant that we who commemorate this sweet and
loving Heart may by the merits and intercession of the same Blessed Virgin,
merit to be found like to the Heart of Jesus, through the same Christ Our Lord. Amen.

This litany was composed by John Henry (Cardinal) Newman shortly after he converted to
Catholicism in 1845.