

JUNE, THE MONTH OF THE SACRED HEART.

Love is one of those words that we use so easily in our society. For instance, we say that we love the Yankees (or the Mets), we say that we love hamburgers, hotdogs, the beach, a sunny day, and then we say that we love God and each other. It can be kind of confusing at times! The problem is that in English we have only that one word, “love”, to describe a vast range of feelings and emotions. The love that the Lord has for us is a deeper kind of sacrificial love. In the old musical “My Fair Lady” Eliza sang to her beloved, “Don’t talk of stars burning above: if you’re in love-show me, show me!” Well our Lord Jesus did not just “talk about” love. He showed his love for us by dying on the cross. St. John tells us, “Greater love than this no man has that he lay down his life for his friends.” The month of June that we have now entered upon is dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. We always say, “I love you from the bottom of my heart.” We never say, “I love you from the pit of my stomach.” It would just not fit! As human beings, it is very difficult for us to fully comprehend the notion of the love of God. The image of the Sacred Heart makes it very easy for us. When we view the human heart of Christ we can somewhat understand the “height, the depth and the breath” of the love of the Lord. When our Lord appeared to St. Margaret Mary, He showed her His Sacred Heart and said, “Behold this heart which has loved so much and yet in return receives nothing but contempt and ingratitude.” How true those words are! All of us at times are ungrateful, hardly conscious of the debt that we owe God for all His benefits. During the month of June, we should strive to cultivate devotion to the open heart of Christ. In one of the twelve promises that the Lord made to St. Margaret Mary, He told her that He would bestow abundant blessings upon those who were devoted to His Sacred Heart. We all could use those blessings each and every day of our lives! Certainly devotion to the Sacred Heart should be important to any Catholic. It gets to the “heart of the matter” in terms of our faith! Shortly before his death, the late Holy Father Pope Pius XII wrote a beautiful letter on the Sacred Heart. In that letter he wrote this, “We do not hesitate to declare that devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus is the most effective school of the love of God.” Now, we might be highly educated in the many areas of life, but learning about God and His love is something that we might never have thought twice about. Yet when we love God sincerely, everything in life falls into place; we are at peace with ourselves, with our neighbor and with the Lord. Jesus tells us, “Learn from me for I am meek and humble of heart.” During this special month of June, the month of the Sacred Heart, may we all learn about love from the divine lover Jesus Christ! Sincerely in our Lord,

Fr. Jerome