



INSTITUTE OF CHRIST THE KING
SOVEREIGN PRIEST
SOCIETY OF THE SACRED HEART



June 29, 2017
Feast of Ss. Peter and Paul

Dear Members and Friends of the Society of the Sacred Heart,

As we draw to the close of this month of the Sacred Heart, I wanted to take a moment to greet all of you and assure you of my continued prayers during this momentous centenary year of Fatima.

At the close of the annual retreat last month, our Prior General Msgr. Wach exhorted all the participants to unite themselves in prayer with all the canons of the Institute on the first of every month in reciting the Most Holy Rosary for the Church and for the world. This public Rosary is said in Gricigliano at 6pm and thus ordinarily corresponds to 11am Central Time. Your next opportunity to take part in this worldwide Rosary is this coming Saturday, July 1. This is also, of course, the first Saturday of the month. I urge you all to make the first Saturdays as requested by Our Lady of Fatima. It was there that our Blessed Mother asked that, "on the first Saturday of every month, Communions of reparation be made in atonement for the sins of the world." Eight years later Our Lady spoke to Sr. Lucia and made a clear promise: "See, my daughter, my Heart encircled by thorns with which ungrateful men pierce it at every moment by their blasphemies and ingratitude. Do you, at least, strive to console me. Tell them that I promise to assist at the hour of death with the graces necessary for salvation all those who, in order to make reparation to me, on the First Saturday of five successive months, go to confession, receive Holy Communion, say five decades of the Rosary, and keep me company for a quarter of an hour, meditating on the fifteen mysteries of the Rosary." Confession within about a week's time suffices for this observance. What is more, the practice of meditating on the mysteries of the Rosary does not entail meditating on all the mysteries during this quarter-hour; you may pick one or several for your brief meditation. It can be helpful to hold the Rosary beads and thumb them while making this meditation, often with a silent invocation on each bead.

July 1 also crowns the month of July with the feast of the Most Precious Blood of Our Lord. It is important to understand that this feast does not have the Blessed Sacrament as its principal theme, as is the case with Corpus Christi. All of these solemn feasts after Pentecost reexamine the mysteries of the liturgical year through the Pentecostal "lens", as it were. Corpus Christi is the counterpart to Holy Thursday, and the Precious Blood hearkens back to Good Friday in celebrating the Blood of Christ as the price of our redemption. The Exaltation of the Cross is likewise tied to Good Friday, and the Feast of Christ the King to Palm Sunday. Christ accomplished our redemption in a specific moment of human history, and it is in virtue of that act that He has a claim to social kingship over all humanity here and now, and not only at the end of time. The litany of the Precious Blood is the last of the official public litanies promulgated by the Church. I encourage you to recite it often throughout the month of July.

It was a delight to meet so many of you last month at our annual retreat. Please note on your calendars that the next annual retreat for the Society will take place at Mundelein Seminary in Illinois from June 8-10, 2018. The retreat will thus open on June 8 with the celebration of the Feast of the Sacred Heart. I stress how important it is for those of you who have received the Cross of St. Francis de Sales to continue to attend the annual retreat; this time of prayer and fraternity is truly meant to be the anchor of your spiritual life as members of the Institute. I understand well that a variety of circumstances may, from time to time, make it impossible for you to attend. If you have any questions or concerns in this regard, please do not hesitate to let me know.

Let us pray for all those who are preparing to receive Holy Orders in Gricigliano this coming week. The holy Curate of Ars defined the priesthood simply as the love of the Heart of Jesus. The men who receive this Sacrament will become dispensers of all the riches of that Sacred Heart. By offering henceforth the most august sacrifice of the Mass, they bring about the reign of that Divine Heart over a world darkened by sin. Sweet Heart of Jesus, thy kingdom come!

With my priestly blessing,

In Christo Rege,
Canon Aaron B. Huberfeld
Chaplain, Society of the Sacred Heart