

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



February 11, 2017

Dear members and friends of the Society of the Sacred Heart,

*In the end, my Immaculate Heart will triumph.* These words of Our Blessed Mother, spoken 100 years ago at Fatima, should be the words that accompany us throughout this year of grace 2017. Among the graces which I have already received this year in my priestly ministry, I must number the grace of having been appointed by my superiors to serve you as chaplain of the Society of the Sacred Heart. I do not hide from you that I accepted this position very eagerly. Our patron St. Francis de Sales counsels us, “Ask nothing, refuse nothing.” Though I hope that I take account of my own shortcomings in any leadership position, more at the forefront of my thoughts at this time is that the superiors of the Institute, in choosing me as your chaplain, have seen that I will benefit greatly from a closer interaction with the members of the Society. While I hope that I will have the chance to teach you much in the coming year, I have no doubt that I have much to learn from your example as well.

St. Francis de Sales warns us not to be a “man of beginnings”, a man who delights in starting projects and never in finishing them, as though springtime were the only season he could tolerate. I believe this is a maxim we must take very much to heart in this year which, for all its promise, is likely to be a year of great suffering. We all know with Divine Faith that the reign of the Sacred Heart of Jesus will come, and that it will come through the Immaculate Heart of Mary. We know as well that the pangs that accompany its advent will be cause for fear and discouragement among the faithful. But Our Lord has told us all these things beforehand, and His Blessed Mother has confirmed them in our own time by her words to the shepherd children: In the end, she said, after all that the Church and humanity must suffer in this true Dark Age, my Immaculate Heart will triumph.

What a profound consolation is our devotion to the Hearts of Jesus and Mary! It was not enough for our good God to love us with the everlasting love of the divinity. As St. Thomas says, “Beholding us in our littleness, He willed to become small.” He took on a human heart so that He could love us as a man loves, and suffer what only a human heart can suffer. And the Immaculate Heart of Mary, which first taught the Sacred Heart to beat in her womb, endured the indescribable sorrow of witnessing that Heart cease to beat on Calvary – endured the pain of beholding that Heart pierced opened to pour forth Its love on all mankind. Devotion to these two Hearts reveals to us the very mystery which we celebrate at this time in the liturgical year and which we will carry on through Lent and Easter: the mystery of Christmas and the Cross.

I ask for your prayers as I begin this new and important mission in our dear Institute family. I invite you to complete the enclosed survey and will be happy to receive your feedback. I look forward to meeting you at the annual retreat at Mundelein from May 26-28. Feel free to contact me at any time at [sacredheart@institute-christ-king.org](mailto:sacredheart@institute-christ-king.org), and to consult our website at [www.society-sacred-heart.org](http://www.society-sacred-heart.org). Be assured of my prayers as well, especially at the Altar of God. May Christ the King and our holy Patrons guide and strengthen you throughout this holy centenary. Our Lady of Fatima, pray for us!

Sincerely Yours in Christ the King,

Canon Aaron B. Huberfeld, Chaplain