

Sacred Heart Elementary School

1312 - 15 Street SW



Solemnity: Friday after the Solemnity of the Body and Blood of Christ (Corpus Christi)

Short Background Statement:

Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus honours and reveres the inexhaustible mercy and love poured out for us by God through the pierced heart of Jesus. St. Margaret Mary Alacoque popularized the Devotion to the Sacred Heart

Background Information:

A) Doctrinal Explanation:

The heart of Jesus symbolizes the emotional and moral life of Jesus and especially His love for us. Worship of the Heart of Jesus recalls His love and His emotional and moral life. Devotion to the heart of Jesus alone would not be understood and approved by the Church. Therefore, in the devotion there are two elements: a sensible element, the Heart of flesh and a spiritual element, that which this Heart of flesh recalls and represents.

These two elements do not form two distinct objects but constitute one, just as the body and soul are essential to us. The two elements in the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus cannot be separated because Jesus' Heart recalls His love for us.

B) Historical:

It is in the eleventh and twelfth centuries that there are indications of devotion to the Sacred Heart. The devotion increased in popularity during the thirteenth to sixteenth centuries but the devotions were individual. Over time the devotion developed from mystical order to a disciplined order with formulated prayers and special exercises.

Blessed Jean Eudes made the devotion public, to honour it with an Office and to establish a feast for it. Initially, the devotion of the Heart of Jesus was included in Pere Eudes devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Eventually, the devotion to the Sacred Heart became a separate one. The first feast of the Sacred Heart was celebrated on August 31, 1670. Finally, it was to Margaret Mary Alacoque that Christ chose to reveal the desires of His Heart and to confide the task of imparting new life to the devotion. This stimulated a greater popularity to the Devotion of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Potential Current Links:

<http://saints.sqpn.com/sacred-heart-of-jesus/>

<http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/07163a.htm>