

**Lay Associates of  
the Sister Servants  
of the**



**Most Sacred Heart  
of Jesus**

**Rays of Merciful Love**

*Lay Associates*  
*of the*  
*Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus*

**Rays of Merciful Love**

Our Lord said to Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque: “Behold this Heart that has so loved men that It has spared nothing, even to exhausting and consuming Itself in order to testify Its love. In return, I receive from the greater part only ingratitude by their irreverence and sacrilege and by the coldness and contempt they have for Me in this Sacrament of Love” (*apparition of June 16, 1675*).

Those who feel drawn to respond to this appeal of Our Lord for love and reparation may want to prayerfully consider if God is calling them to join the Lay Associates of the Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus –known as Rays of Merciful Love.

**Members of the Rays of Merciful Love:**

1. Share in the spirit of prayer and glorification of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus;
2. Offer reparation to this Heart for sins;
3. Reveal God’s mercy and love through a more faithful commitment to the Christian life: in prayer, works of mercy and penance;
4. Meet bi-monthly with other Lay Associates.

**Members Include:**

Catholic men and women who share in the Sisters’ charism and apostolic mission and who are willing to strive for perfection: living according to the law of God and the teachings of the Catholic Church and who are especially distinguished by a great devotion to the Most Holy Eucharist.



### **Auxiliary Members include:**

Men and women who, though unable to receive the Lord Jesus in the Most Holy Eucharist due to extenuating circumstances such as marital status or religion, yet desire to participate in our spirituality and vision, seeking to do God's will.

### **The Participation of the Lay Associates in the Sisters' life of Prayer:**

1. Praying the Litany of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus daily and striving to more closely resemble His Heart, especially by gentleness, humility, patience and compassion, in a spirit of joy and simplicity as modeled by St. Francis of Assisi;
2. Praying daily one part of Holy Rosary to imitate Jesus and Mary and to become more sensitive to the inspiration of the Holy Spirit;
3. Striving to attend the Holy Eucharist each day, or at least once during the week, preferably on Fridays;
4. Striving to make an hour of adoration before the Most Blessed Sacrament weekly and/or meditating for at least ten minutes a day on the Holy Scriptures (especially the Holy Gospels.) Studying the Catechism of the Catholic Church;
5. For those whose schedule permits, striving to pray at least one part of the Divine Office.

### **The Spirituality of the Lay Associates is characterized by:**

1. A deep trust in the Divine Heart of Jesus who is all powerful and full of mercy and goodness; *If God is for us, who can be against us (Rom.8:31).*
2. A devout participation in Holy Mass and reverence toward Our Lord in the Holy Eucharist, such as making conscious and proper genuflections upon entering and leaving a church or when passing the Blessed Sacrament;
3. Frequent and reverent reception of the Most Holy Eucharist in reparation for the sacrilege and indifference the Lord Jesus receives in this Sacrament;
4. An ardent devotion to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus;
5. A generous love for God in making the intention to offer daily prayers, works, joys, and sufferings for those who do not love or serve Him.



## The Mission of the Rays of Merciful Love

1. To live the Lay Associates' life of prayer and Sacred Heart spirituality;
2. To pray for the Holy Father, bishops and priests (especially those of one's own diocese and parish); to pray for religious and for vocations to the priesthood and religious life, (especially for the young women called to the Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus);
3. To enthrone an image of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus as King of one's home and to promote the enthronement and distribute images of this Heart to others;
4. To perform each day an act of charity or to offer some sacrifice such as mortification in food, TV, computer games, etc. in reparation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus especially for sins against life and the sacrileges that wound His Heart deeply;
5. To engage in some charitable work at home, in your neighborhood or parish or to assist in some pro-life activity;
6. To speak of God's love and forgiveness as opportunity allows.

## Mission Statement

*The members of the **Rays of Merciful Love**, as a Lay Association of the Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, fulfill the mission to serve as rays of love and mercy to all whom they encounter in their homes, work-places, social commitments, etc. As rays cannot exist of themselves but radiate from and return to their source—the **Rays of Merciful Love** united to the Heart of Jesus, Fount of Love and Mercy, find their source and object in the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus and seek to direct others to His Kingdom of Love. The Lay Associates particularly endeavor through prayer and sacrifices to promote and strengthen vocations to the priesthood and religious life particularly those called to the Congregation of the Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus.*

Glory be to the Most



Sacred Heart of Jesus

*Please send the following information to:*

### **SISTER SERVANTS OF THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS**

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Name \_\_\_\_\_

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