

Volume 22, Issue 3
Christmas/Winter2021
A newsletter of the Sister
Servants of the Most
Sacred Heart of Jesus

The Vine

*I am the Vine, you are the
branches. Whoever remains
in Me and I in him will bear
much fruit, because without Me
you can do nothing. Jn 15:5*

Glory be to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus



*O Child,
who willed to have for your crib
a manger;
O Creator of the Universe,
who stripped yourself of divine glory!
May the radiance of your birth
light up the night of the world.
May the power
of your message of love
thwart the proud snares
of the evil one.
May the gift of your life
make us understand
ever more clearly
the worth of the life
of each human being.*

(St. John Paul II)

*O Holy Night, so long awaited, that has united God and man for ever!
You rekindle our hope. You fill us with ecstatic wonder.
You assure us of the triumph of love over hatred, of life over death.
For this reason, we remain absorbed in prayer.
In the luminous silence of your Nativity, you, Emmanuel, continue to speak to us.
And we are ready to listen to you.*

(St. John Paul II)

Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus



Letter from Mother Klara, SSCJ Provincial Superior



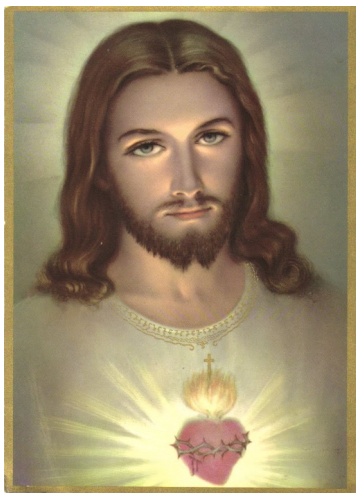
*Glory be to the Most
Sacred Heart of Jesus*

When I was a little girl, my Dad took me to a beautiful shrine of Our Lady in Calvaria Zebrzydowska, south of Krakow, Poland.

There, amazed by so many wonders, I received from him my first holy card with the Heart of Jesus. It wasn't the greatest image, but Jesus' eyes were looking straight into my eyes, and they were asking. For what? I didn't know, but whenever I took this card into my hands, I felt love and a strange hunger. With time I started to "discover" images of the Heart of Jesus everywhere I went—in my grandparents' homes, in my prayer book, in every church I visited. With time I learned about St. Margaret Mary Alacoque and the 12 promises given to her by Jesus, and I dutifully practiced the First Friday devotion. I read so many stories of people, whose lives were touched and changed after they enthroned the Sacred Heart picture in their families. Now, as we celebrate Christmas, a time of joy, peace and thanksgiving, I wish that every one of you, dear Friends, could find hope and courage in Jesus' never failing Love.

Sr. Klara Slonina, SSCJ

**Sr. Klara Slonina, SSCJ
Provincial Superior**



*On the left—My first holy
card with the image of
the Heart of Jesus.*

From a Biographical Sketch of Our Sisters' Co-Foundress

Blessed Klara Szczesna:

**"All for the
Heart of Jesus"**

(M. Karolina Kasperkiewicz)

Mother Klara Szczesna's spirituality became the spiritual foundation for her entire religious family. This spirituality is presented in the Congregation's Constitutions in the following manner: *Contemplation of the mystery of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus shapes the spiritual life and activities of the Sisters. Contemplation should be joined with total giving of self to God and to the Church in an attitude of service according to the words of Christ: "Learn from me because I am gentle and humble of heart (Mt. 11:29)."*

Love of the Divine Heart obliges the Sisters to accept their daily hardships and sufferings in the spirit of reparation for their own sins and those of the whole world, to "offer acceptable sacrifices to God through Jesus Christ (1 Pet. 2:5)."

Formed in this spirit, the Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus continue to fulfill their apostolic mission, serving the Church with various works.

Having learned from the Sacred Heart to embrace everyone with their own hearts, the Sisters went beyond the borders of their native land to carry out their work. In 1905, Mother Klara sent Sisters to France to tend Polish girls who worked in factories there. The Congregation further expanded its territory after World War II. Currently, the Sisters live their community charism in the United States, Italy, France, Bolivia, the Ukraine, Jamaica West Indies, and in their native Poland. The Congregation is also involved in missionary work in Bolivia and Argentina.

The Sisters do all of this, even as Mother Klara did, according to the Congregation's motto:

*Glory be to the Most
Sacred Heart of Jesus!
Glory forever!*



Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus



**From the Writings of our Founder
ST. JOSEPH SEBASTIAN PELCZAR
(1842-1924)**

MEDITATION ON DEVOTION TO THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS Part 1

The cause and purpose of devotion to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Consider that to have devotion to the Heart of Jesus means to honor and love this Heart, to contemplate and assimilate the desires and virtues of this Heart, to invoke the help of this Heart, and to promote honor and love for this Heart according to our ability.

Why should this Heart be worshiped and loved? Because It is a part of Jesus' humanity, inseparably united with the Godhead, hence this Heart deserves Divine honor; because It is the seat of mercy, the throne of grace, the treasury of gifts and the source of supernatural life -- God's life on earth; finally, because It is the center of the holiest of sentiments, the school of the most perfect virtues and the model of all holiness.

What is the purpose of this devotion? To make a return to the Lord Jesus for the infinite love that He has shown us in His earthly life and continues to show in His glorious and Eucharistic life; secondly, to make reparation for the innumerable human sins and ineffable offenses that He suffers in the Most Holy Mystery of the Altar; finally, to obtain the abundant treasures that this Heart distributes. Do you appreciate this devotion properly?

Consider that this devotion is required by the Savior himself, as seen in the revelations given in 1674 and 1675 to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque and approved by the Church. In these revelations, the Lord Jesus requested that the First Friday after the octave of Corpus Christi should be dedicated in honor of His Heart; that loving souls, through prayer and Holy Communion, would atone for the many unfortunate insults He suffers from people in the Most Blessed Sacrament; that the image of this Heart may be displayed in special honor; and that this devotion may be considered as a new proof of His love for these "last

days." The Lord Jesus also promised to give abundant gifts to all who will nurture a sincere and ardent devotion to His Divine Heart. These promises can be summarized in twelve points:

1. I will grant them all the graces necessary to fulfill the duties of their state in life.
2. I will establish peace in their family.
3. I will console them in all their difficulties.
4. I will be their refuge in this life, and especially at the hour of death.
5. I will shower abundant blessings on all their undertakings.
6. Sinners will find in My Heart a fountain and boundless ocean of mercy.
7. Tepid souls will become fervent.
8. Devout souls will rise speedily to great perfection.
9. I will bless the homes in which the image of My Heart shall be displayed and honored.
10. I will grant priests the gift of touching the hearts of hardened sinners.
11. Those who propagate this devotion shall have their names written in My Heart, never to be blotted out.
12. To all those who will receive Holy Communion on the first nine Fridays of the month, I will give the grace of final penitence so that they will not die in a state of sin.



Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus



ENTHRONEMENT OF THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS

The Meaning of the Enthronement

The Enthronement of the Sacred Heart means the official and social recognition of the loving kingship of the Heart of Jesus in the Christian family. The family acknowledges this recognition by solemnly installing an

image of the Sacred Heart in a place of honor in the home and dedicating itself to Him by an Act of Consecration. The Enthronement of the Sacred Heart is the recognition of the living presence of our Lord in the home, where His Divine Heart, as King of Love, is the center of the family, attracting all its members.

Jesus is invited to participate in all activities of the family. He then sanctifies all the details of home life. By the Enthronement and under the influence of the Sacred Heart, each member learns intimacy with Jesus. Either as a family or individually, each will grow in confidence and love with the One who longs for our love. Thus, the gift of the Enthronement is an awareness of His Living Presence in the family and a source of grace and blessings for the family.

The Enthronement of the Sacred Heart is more than a mere veneration of an image or a transient consecration. It becomes a “way of life”, a sharing of hearts, a permanent state of devotion and love. The home becomes a “Domestic Church” – a place where Jesus is loved and where a family will render reparation to the King of Love.

A Powerful Aid to Pastors

As the Enthronement creates an intimate relationship between the Church and the home, and results in greater love for the Eucharist, so it also creates a close relationship between priests and families. The Enthronement is therefore a powerful aid to the pastor, for by its means the zeal of the flock entrusted to him will be rekindled and sustained. Families in which the Sacred Heart reigns and which nourish the spirit of the Enthronement will be for the pastor a staunch support upon which he can confidently rely.

Because of its great importance, the presence of a priest at the Enthronement has always been urged by the founder of the work, Father Mateo Crowley-Boevey, a priest of the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, and by the Church itself. Whenever possible, it should be presided over by one of the parish priests, who thus has a splendid opportunity of meeting entire families. Many priests have experienced the beneficial results of these contacts.

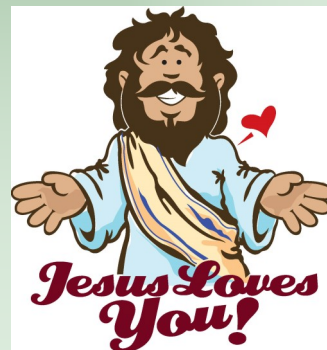
A man once called a pastor and said: “Father, I would like to join your parish, but I don’t want to attend Sunday Masses every week, nor be a lector, nor visit the sick, nor help with religious education.

The pastor replied: “I admire your willingness to become a member of our parish; however, the best church for you is in a different part of the town. Here is the address.”

The man hung up and, curious, started to drive. When he arrived at the address, he was faced with the logical consequence of his approach: there was an abandoned church and several other buildings soon to be demolished.



One couple, struggling with infertility, made the consecration and put an image of the Sacred Heart on the wall, remembering the promise of the Sacred Heart to St. Margaret Mary that He would bless every place where the image was honored. They would have seven children!



Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

Coming Home to the Heart of Jesus

Sr. Mary Joseph Calore, SSCJ

The Irish are a race of poets and philosophers, and my late mother was no exception. Her catechism lessons during our childhood were filled with wit and wisdom, such that I have never forgotten them.

One story has always stayed with me, the tale of a wandering sheep among my ancestors. In the days when the Irish first came to America, they were considered good fodder for the backbreaking work of the anthracite coal mines of Northeastern Pennsylvania. To keep them from rising above that lowly station, coal barons kept the Irish in drink and debt. My people were no exception. Where there was drunkenness, there was sure to be violence, and one night a quarrel erupted that came to blows. One man fell to the ground; the perpetrator, with horror, said, "I've killed a man!" and fled. Ridden with guilt and shame, for years the man became a hopeless wanderer and never returned home. On birthdays or great feasts like Christmas, he could be seen by neighbors peering into a window to check on his family, only to scurry away again. The poor man longed for a home where there was love, peace and safety. In a turn of irony, so loved by the Irish, the story went on to say that had he only come home, the poor man would have learned that he had actually never killed a man - his victim had only been knocked unconscious. My dear mother would bring the point of her catechism lesson home to us emphatically, "You can always come home!"

Let's face it, we want our homes also to be places of love, peace and safety, but we are broken and our families live in the dysfunction of our woundedness. We need a professional who can come into our families to make them such places of love and peace. We need a specialist who can give our homes the happiness they all too often lack - and that Person would be the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. He alone can enter and dispel our desperation with His hope. He only can reach the wounds of our lives and bestow on them the balm of being unconditionally loved and accepted. When the Irish invited the Heart of Jesus into their homes, their addiction to drink subsided, and stability ensued. Inviting Jesus to be the King of our homes and lives, means to invite his love, healing, and even miracles!



Jesus promised St. Margaret Mary Alacoque that He will bless the home in which the image of His Sacred Heart shall be displayed and honored.



For those interested in making this Act of Enthronement in their home, prayers may be found on our Sisters' website:
<https://www.sacredheartsisters.org/enthronement-of-the-sacred-heart.html>

One of the most beautiful love letters of recent times written by an American girl is called
"What You Didn't Do."

Do you remember the day I borrowed your new car and crashed it?

I thought you were going to kill me, but you didn't.

Do you remember when once I dragged you to the beach even though you said it was going to rain, and it did rain?

I thought you would say, "Didn't I tell you?" But you didn't.

And remember how I flirted everyone to make you jealous, and you were jealous?

I thought you would leave me, but you didn't.

Do you remember when I dropped the strawberry cake on the carpet of your car?

I thought you were going to hit me, but you didn't.

Do you remember when I forgot to tell you that there is a formal party and you came in jeans?

I thought then you would slap me, but you didn't.

You always had patience with me, loved me and defended me.

I have so many faults in my conscience.

I wanted to ask for your forgiveness when you returned from Vietnam. But you didn't.



Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

The Invitational Thirteen Annual Golf Tournament

September 10, 2021

Benefits the mission & works of the Sister Servants
of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus



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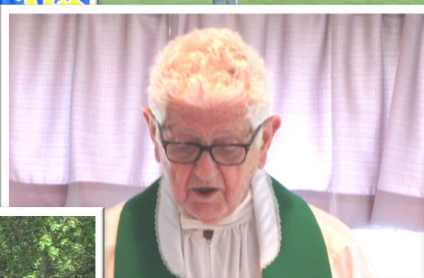
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**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE WINNERS
OF OUR THIRTEEN
ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT 2021:
JERRY MOSCHGAT & TEAM!**



**TO ALL OUR TOURNAMENT
COMMITTEE MEMBERS
PLAYERS, SPONSORS & STAFF -**
*Thank you for making The Invitational
a successful and enjoyable event.
We offer our prayers and gratitude to God
for all of you.
God bless All of You!*



Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

CAN WE PRAY FOR YOUR INTENTIONS?

Please call our Sisters with your prayer intentions — 814.886.4223
or send us word via our website
www.sacredheartsisters.org.



Is God calling you?

Do you want to leave everything behind, and offer yourself totally to Him? Are you brave enough to love and suffer, to fall and get up, to smile and cry, and pray? Do you want to join us, the Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, and proclaim the Kingdom of Jesus' Love everywhere? If your answer is yes! come visit us, experience the spirit of silence, prayer and sisterly life in community.

Our Congregation is:

- Pontifical
- Franciscan
- Contemplative-Active
- Devoted to the Sacred Heart
- Founded by St. Joseph Sebastian Pelczar and Bl. Klara Szczesna in 1894 in Krakow, Poland



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Instagram: [sscjusaprovince](https://sscjusablog.wordpress.com)
Blog: <https://sscjusablog.wordpress.com>

Our Federal ID Number is: 20-812762

The Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, founded in Krakow, Poland in 1894 by St. Joseph Sebastian Pelczar and Blessed Klara Szczesna are devoted to extending the Kingdom of Love of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus by prayer, community life and apostolic work in the areas of

teaching * catechesis * nursing * personal care
parish music ministry * retreats * youth ministry
and missionary work

Internationally, the Sister Servants of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus serve in the following countries

- ♦ Poland
- ♦ Ukraine
- ♦ Italy
- ♦ France
- ♦ Bolivia
- ♦ Argentina
- ♦ Jamaica
- ♦ United States.

The United States Province of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus is represented in the Dioceses of:

Altoona-Johnstown, Buffalo, Columbus and Grand Rapids and in Mandeville, Jamaica, West Indies.

Are you seeking residential, personal care for your loved one? Please consider our

John Paul II Manor in Cresson, PA

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For information, please contact:

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Or see their website for more information on our Manor residence and employment opportunities.

www.johnpaul2manor.org

