



Vox Populi
08 June 2023

This month of June is dedicated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

The Catholic Church reserves June for a deeper devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus which represents His love for humanity.

The devotion inspires us to remember how much Jesus loves us, while growing our desire to love Him.

It is also when we celebrate the solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus on 16 June.

This feast dates back to 1673, when a French nun who belonged to the Order of the Visitation of Holy Mary began to receive visions about the Sacred Heart.

Jesus appeared to Sister Margaret Mary Alacoque and revealed ways to venerate his Sacred Heart, and explained the immense love he has for humanity, appearing with his heart visible outside his chest, on fire, and surrounded by a crown of thorns.

In 1856, Pope Pius IX designated the Friday following the feast of Corpus Christi as the feast of the Sacred Heart for the universal Church. Ever since, the month of June has been devoted to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and his immense love for us all.

Devotion to the Sacred Heart was also an essential component of Saint John Paul II's hopes for the "new evangelization" which he often spoke during his Pontificate.

"For evangelization today," he said in 1984, "the Heart of Christ must be recognized as the heart of the Church: It is He who calls us to conversion, to reconciliation. It is He who leads pure hearts and those hungering for justice along the way of the Beatitudes. It is He who achieves the warm communion of the members of the one Body. It is He who enables us to adhere to the Good News and to accept the promise of eternal life. It is He who sends us out on mission. The heart-to-heart with Jesus broadens the human heart on a global scale."