



ENTHRONEMENT OF THE SACRED HEART IN A DIOCESE/ARCHDIOCESE

What Is It?

A diocesan or archdiocesan Enthronement is a social act of homage to the Sacred Heart, by which the diocese/archdiocese as a social unit, publicly acknowledges the sovereign rights of Christ the King over each and every member. It is a solemn act of adoration and preparation on the part of the diocese/archdiocese for those Catholics who refuse to submit to the gentle yoke of the Sacred Heart, the King of Love. Therefore it should be carried out with great solemnity, on some outstanding feast day, on a Sunday that is special to the diocese/archdiocese, or on any other date that has significance to the diocese/archdiocese. It may be done within a Mass, following a homily that is appropriate for the occasion, or as a separate service. Two very appropriate feasts are the Feast of the Sacred Heart and the Feast of Christ the King.

The bishop or archbishop may wish to have prayerful preparation by all parishes, through Novenas, daily Rosaries, a Triduum of prayer services and Scripture reflection, special Masses, Eucharistic Adoration, Catechesis on the Enthronement or similar in promoting families to evangelize families. Parish missions have been most effective. Parishes should be encouraged to send representatives to the Cathedral to witness this ceremony. Families who have already had the Enthronement of the Sacred Heart should be encouraged to renew their covenant of love in their own homes on this day.

Why Should This Be Done?

A diocese/archdiocese is the essential and all encompassing platform for carrying on the missionary nature of the Church and is a spiritual and a temporal bridge between the Vicar of Christ on Earth and parish level shepherds. The following words were translated from their French language version and represent words written by St. Margaret Mary during one of the apparitions of the Sacred Heart:

"Assuring me that He took a singular pleasure in being honored under the figure of this heart of flesh, the picture of which He wished to be exposed in public, in order, he added, to touch the insensible hearts of men; He promised me that He would pour out abundantly into the hearts of all those who should honor It, all the treasures of grace with which It is filled; and that whatever this picture should be exposed in order to be singularly honored, It would draw down every sort of blessing."

Similarly, in taking such action, the bishop or archbishop sets forth the example for his parish shepherds to do likewise, and in the normal course, for parish families to follow the lead of their pastors and Enthroned the Sacred Heart in their families to build a civilization of love.

Preparation

If there is a statue of the Sacred Heart already in the cathedral, it could be decorated with flowers and lighted candles. Possibly the flowers and candles could be brought in procession. If there is no statue, a large picture of the Sacred Heart could be obtained for permanent placement in the cathedral. The image must be blessed. This may be done in advance of the ceremony or as part of it.

Additional information on the Enthronement of the Sacred Heart for diocesan/archdiocesan programs, parish programs, families, schools, institutions, and businesses is available from the Sacred Heart Apostolate, Inc., 7 Adler Drive, East Syracuse, New York 13057 315-492-6308