

THE THIRD ORDER

Of the Society of St. Pius X



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The Month of the Sacred Heart

Dear Postulants and Professed members,

As the rule of the 3rd order states, the purpose of the 3rd order is the sanctification of individual members and those for whom members are responsible. Practically speaking this means the practice of the faith in the home. And nothing can replace a good home life where the faith is lived by all the members, especially the parents.

It is especially the responsibility of the father of the family to ensure the practice of religion under his roof because he is the head of his little society, and as the head he represents the members of his family before God. So as the head of the family, he ought to lead the members in family prayer. The family ought to gather together, if not daily, then often and offer some prayers. Normally this takes the form of the Holy Rosary.

As with any prayer, it should be offered up for the intention of adoration and acknowledgment that the society of the family has come from the hand of God and as such owes its existence and dependence on God. Family prayer is also offered in thanksgiving for the many blessings received by this particular family at this point in time, both spiritual and temporal. It is important that prayer be offered in satisfaction and reparation for the sins committed by the family members and the father offer some prayers to pay the price for the sin of his children as well as for his own sins. Finally, he ought to beg God for the graces that he and his family need.

For these reasons, I recommend the enthronement of the Sacred Heart in the home. Many of you have already had this done and you are sure to receive many blessings for it. It is the living of the enthronement or the honoring of the Sacred heart that suffers at times. In the ceremony, the father of the family is instructed to place the image on the prepared throne to signify that the head of this family is subjecting it to the reign of Christ. Then the priest and the father both recite the formula of consecration. This is a beautiful prayer and deserves much reflection and meditation. I have included it in this letter for that purpose. It certainly fulfills the 4 ends of prayer spoken of above.

O Sacred Heart of Jesus, * who didst make known to St. Margaret Mary Thine ardent desire to reign over Christian families, * behold us assembled here today * to proclaim Thine absolute dominion over our home.

Henceforth we purpose to lead a life like unto Thine, * so that amongst us may flourish the virtues * for which Thou didst promise peace on earth, * and for this end * we will banish from our midst * the spirit of the world which Thou dost abhor so much.

Thou wilt reign over our understanding * by the simplicity of our faith. Thou wilt reign over our hearts * by an ardent love for Thee; * and may the flame of this love * be kept burning in our hearts * by the frequent reception of the Holy Eucharist.

Deign, O Divine Heart, * to preside over our meetings, * to bless our undertakings, both spiritual and temporal, * to banish all worry and care, * to sanctify our joys * and soothe our sorrows. * If any of us * should ever have the misfortune to grieve Thy Sacred Heart, * remind him of Thy goodness and mercy * toward the repentant sinner.

Lastly * when the hour of separation will sound * and death will plunge our home into mourning, * then shall we all and everyone of us * be resigned to Thy eternal decrees, * and seek consolation in the thought * that we shall one day be reunited in Heaven, * where we shall sing the praises and blessings of Thy Sacred Heart * for all eternity.

May the Immaculate Heart of Mary * and the glorious Patriarch St. Joseph * offer Thee this our Consecration, * and remind us of the same * all the days of our life.

Glory to the Divine Heart of Jesus, * our King and our Father!

Those who have not had the enthronement done and would like to know more can contact me or their local priest for more details. May the Most Sacred Heart grant to your families every blessing and grace you need to sanctify your home.

In the Sacred Heart through the Immaculate heart of Mary,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Chris Curtis". The script is cursive and fluid.

Fr. Christopher Curtis
Spiritual Director of the Third Order of SSPX
For Australia

