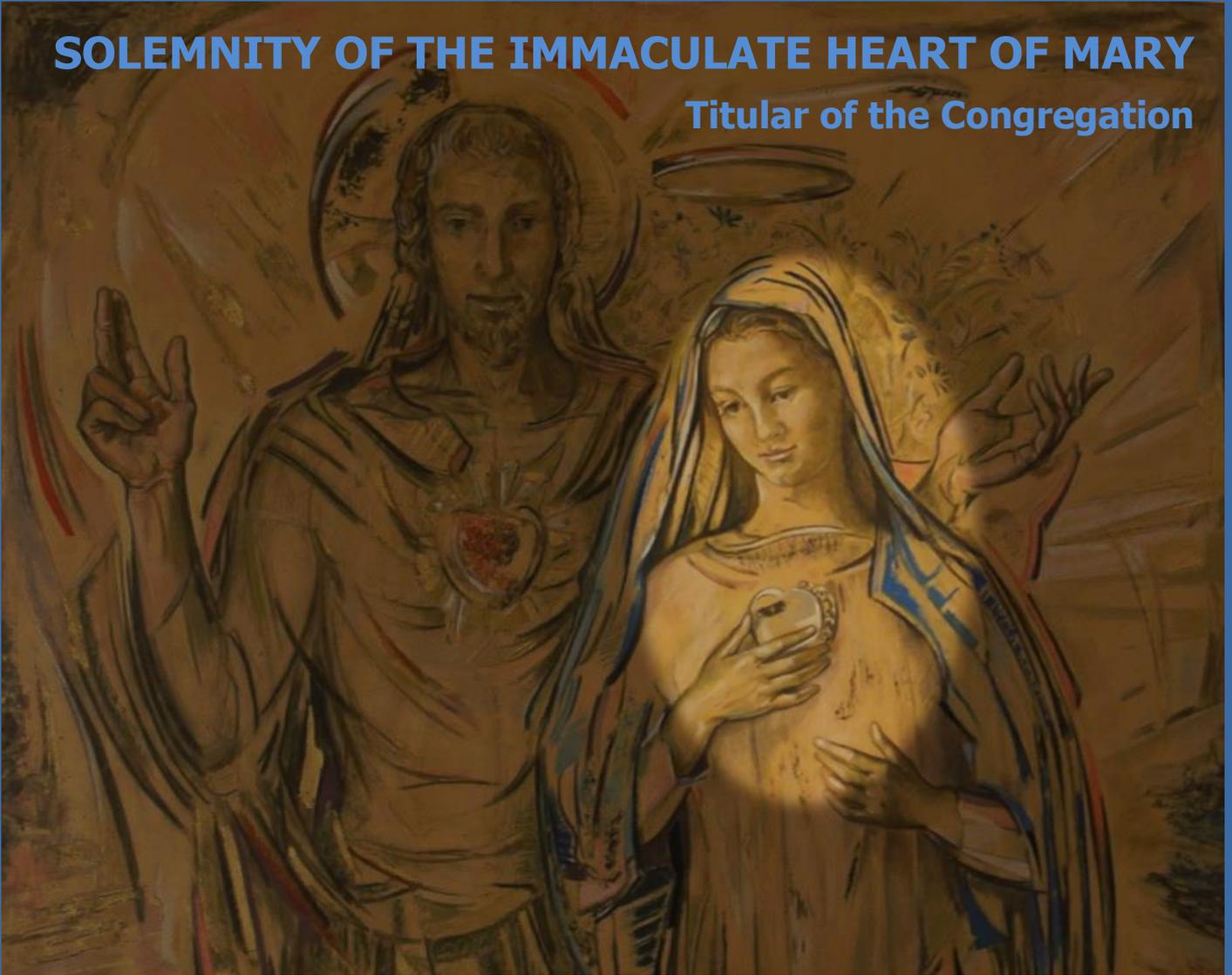


SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

Titular of the Congregation



History of the Feast of the Immaculate Heart:

In the midst of the second world war Pope Pius XII put the whole world under the special protection of our Savior's Mother by consecrating it to her Immaculate Heart, and in 1944 he decreed that in the future the whole Church should celebrate the feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

This is not a new devotion. In the seventeenth century, **St. John Eudes** preached it together with that of the Sacred Heart; In the nineteenth century, **Pius VII** and **Pius IX** allowed several churches to celebrate a feast of the Pure Heart of Mary. Having devoted Fridays to the remembrance of the Passion of Jesus Christ and to honoring His Sacred Heart, it became very natural to devote Saturdays to His Most Holy Mother.

In her apparition in Fátima, Portugal, in 1925 our Blessed Mother spoke to **Lucia**, one of the three young visionaries of Fátima, at her convent in Pontevedra, Spain. *"I promise to assist at the hour of death, with the graces necessary for salvation, all those who, on the first Saturday of five consecutive months shall confess, receive Holy Communion, recite five decades of the Rosary, and keep me company for fifteen minutes while meditating on the mysteries of the Rosary, with the intention of making reparation to me."*

This message was a sort of "follow-up" to the words Our Lady had spoken to Lucia in the second apparition of Fátima in June, 1917, when she told Lucia that she was to remain in the world because *"Jesus wishes to use you to make me known and loved. He wishes to establish in the world devotion to my Immaculate Heart."*

Pius XII instituted today's feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary for the whole Church, so as to obtain by her intercession *"peace among nations, freedom for the Church, the conversion of sinners, the love of purity and the practice of virtue"* (Decree of May 4, 1944).

SSCC Congregation

The Congregation also has the Heart of Mary in its name and in its life.

The members are *"...called to enter with Jesus, as Mary did, into the plan of the Father to save the world through love."* (Bros. Const. #13)

"If we think of the maternal tenderness of the Heart of Mary for men who became her children in the person of St. John, could we not feel our heart burning with zeal to honor the Virgin of virgins?" (**Good Father**, 1816; Cahier de Spiritualité 10, #390)

"Mary will always be our protectress, our support. We shall have a share in the affections of her heart." "Farewell! I am in a hurry. There is never a time when I do not wish to be filled with love for the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary." (**Good Mother**)