

4 May

**DIES NATALIS**

**Fr. Mateo Crawley ss.cc.**

**Anniversary of his death**

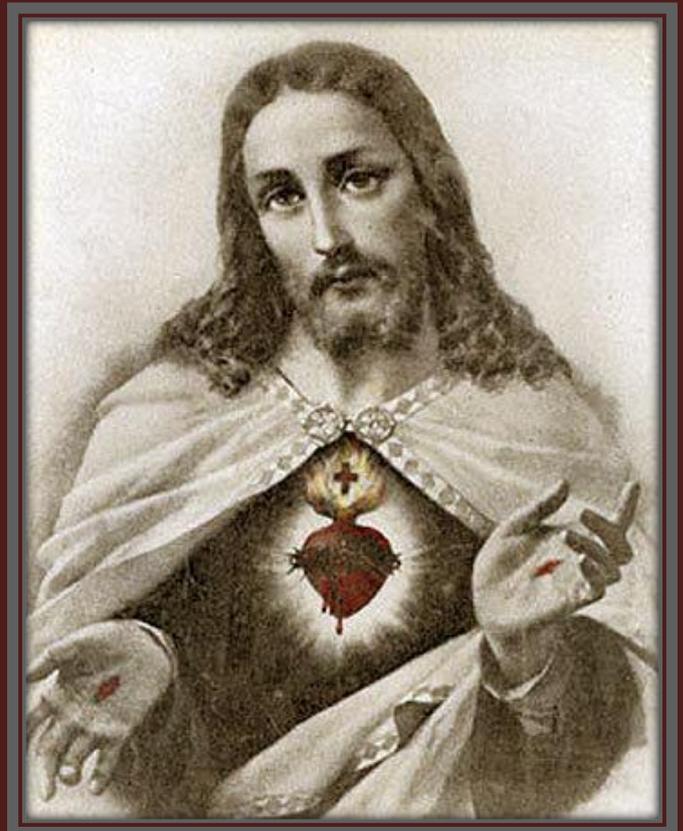
**T**he world apostle of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, as designated by Pius XI, died at 84 years old. Upon learning of his death, Pope John XXIII (canonized in April 2014) sent the following message through the Cardinal Secretary of State to the Superior General of the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts: *"The Holy Father is fully familiar with the mission that this tireless apostle took up throughout his life: the spread of the cult of the Sacred Heart. That is comforting to think that the sad loss suffered by the Congregation of Sacred Hearts is offset by the presence in the sky, as we believe, of a new and powerful protector."*

He was born on November 18, 1875 in Tingo near Arequipa (Peru); son of Charles Octave Crawley-Boevey, converted from Anglicanism, and Maria Murga. He was baptized with the name Edward. In April 1877 the family returned to England; but Eduardo was to take care of his grandfather and remained in Peru.

At the age of 15, he entered the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts in Valparaiso, Chile. On February 2, 1891 he made his religious profession and took the name of Joseph Stanislaw, which was changed to Matthew when he made his perpetual profession on September 11, 1892. Was ordained priest on December 17, 1898, in the Cathedral of Santiago.

He worked in Valparaiso, at the college and in the incipient Catholic University. He was director of the School of Law. In 1906 an earthquake destroyed the buildings of the college and the Law School, and the health of Fr Mateo deteriorated as well.

The superiors decided to send Fr. Mateo to Europe to restore his health. On June 5, 1907 he had an audience with Pope Pius X, and offered a painting of the Heart of Jesus; the pope then "ordered" him to



dedicate his life to "the work for salvation." Encouraged by the desire to better understand the promises of the Sacred Heart to St. Margaret Mary, Fr. Mateo made a pilgrimage to Paray-le-Monial (France), where he regained his health on August 24, 1907. That night he was inspired to begin his quest for the Social Reign of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, to attract families to be closer to Jesus, King of Love, by placing an image of the Sacred Heart at a place of honor in their homes, thus bringing the life of the family to an intimate relationship with Him.

From 1914 to 1946 he preached extensively in Europe, Asia and North America. He founded the Enthronement of the Sacred Heart, of the night Adoration in the Home, and was a tireless apostle of this vocation with his preaching throughout the world and his writings. Along with countless pamphlets published in numerous languages, his books include "Jesus King of Love" and the "Holy Hour".

From 1947 to 1956 he was hospitalized in Canada, and after returning to Chile in 1956 he lived in Valparaiso until his death. ■