

Enthronement of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

(see Messy Family Podcast #91 "King of the Home" for more information)

PURPOSE

"The Enthronement is the official and social recognition of the sovereignty of the Sacred Heart of Jesus over the Christian family, a recognition affirmed, outwardly expressed, and made permanent by the solemn installation of the image of that divine Heart in a conspicuous place in the home and by the Act of Consecration." (Enthronement of Sacred Heart, Fr. Francis Larkin SS.CC., p.105)

"I MUST STAY IN YOUR HOUSE TODAY."
— Luke 19:5

PREPARATION

Father and mother schedule the date of the Enthronement and if possible an invitation should be extended to family and friends. The parents should involve the whole family in the spiritual and material preparation as appropriate.

Priest

You should invite the parish priest to preside over the ceremony. If not possible then seek to have the image or statue blessed by a priest before hand and the parents will lead the ceremony.

Image

An image or statue of the Sacred Heart of Jesus should be procured to be honored. If a picture is to be hung, perhaps a shelf could be installed below it for flowers and candles.

Prayer

3 days of prayer and scripture reading prior to the Enthronement day is encouraged. Many options are suitable. One suggestion would be a decade of the rosary each day with accompanying scripture for these mysteries: Birth of Jesus (Heart of our King), the Finding of the Boy Jesus in the Temple (Heart of our Brother), and the Resurrection (Heart of our Savior).

Throne

Select and prepare a "throne" in a conspicuous place in the home (perhaps a mantle or shelf). Decorate the altar space with a white cloth and perhaps flowers and candles. The image or statute should be reserved else where until carried in during the ceremony.

Final Day

The family should try to attend mass together before the Enthronement. The family is to have not only cleaned up but made their home more like a domestic church or "little church".

Beginning

The Enthronement is the beginning not the end. This is the kick-off and inauguration of a new life as Christ as the King of your family and home.

Messy life

If you can't do all of these preparations, don't worry. Our good Lord will bless your efforts. As Chesterton said, "if a thing is worth doing, it is worth doing badly." Family life is messy so don't wait for it to be perfect. God wants you and your messy family to enthrone Him as your King now.

RENEWAL

The Enthronement can occur on any date and ought to be renewed annually. Here are some suggested times:

Feast of Sacred Heart

Feast of Christ the King.

Month of June (month of the Sacred Heart)

Anniversary of parents marriage

Any day of special significance to your family

(text taken from Enthronement of Sacred Heart, Fr. Francis Larkin SS.CC., published by Daughters of St. Paul, 1978)

THE CEREMONY OF THE ENTHRONEMENT

All gather around the image of the Sacred Heart; father, mother and children nearest to the priest.

Priest, in surplice and white stole, will bless the image. (If a priest is present)

V. Our help is in the name of the Lord.

R. Who made heaven and earth.

V. The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

Let us pray.

Almighty and everlasting God, who approve the painting and sculpturing of the images of Your saints, so that as often as we gaze upon them we are reminded to imitate their deeds and sanctity; vouchsafe, we implore You, to bless + and sanctify + this image made in honor and in memory of the Most Sacred Heart of Your only begotten Son, our Lord Jesus Christ; and grant, that whosoever, in its presence humbly strives to serve and honor the Most Sacred Heart of Your only begotten Son, may obtain through His merits and intercession, grace in this life and everlasting glory in the world to come. Through Christ our Lord. Amen

The priest here sprinkles the image with holy water.

Then the father accompanied by his wife and children slowly carries the image in the place of honor, the "throne" prepared for it. This is the symbolic act of Enthronement.

All stand while the APOSTLES' CREED is recited as an act of faith on the part of the family.

Optional: *Everyone is seated while the priest addresses a few words to those present, reminding the members of the family of what the Sacred Heart expects from families which have acknowledged Him as King; recalling the magnificent promises of the Sacred Heart; urging the family to live its Enthronement, and frequently to renew the act of consecration which they are about to make.*

All kneel and in unison recite the official "Act of Consecration."

ACT OF CONSECRATION TO THE SACRED HEART

O Sacred Heart of Jesus, Who made known to St. Margaret Mary Your ardent desire to reign over Christian families, behold us assembled here today to proclaim Your absolute dominion over our home. From now on we promise to lead a Christlike life, we will strive to develop in our home all the virtues which bring with them the peace that You promised. And we will not compromise with the spirit of the world which You have so strongly denounced.

You will rule over our minds through our deep and living faith. You will be King of our hearts by our generous love for You; and may the flame of this love be ever kept burning in our hearts by the frequent reception of the Holy Eucharist.

Deign, O Divine Heart, to preside over our meetings and family gatherings, 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 Your Sacred Heart, remind him of Your goodness and mercy towards the repentant sinner.

Lastly when the hour of separation comes and when death brings its sorrows into our family, whether we go or whether we stay, we will humbly accept your divine will. At the same time we will seek consolation and comfort with the thought that the time will come when our whole family will united lovingly with you in heaven forever.

May the Immaculate Heart of Mary and the glorious Patriarch St. Joseph offer You 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!