

**Spiritually Speaking**

**The sacred heart  
Jesus invites us to love  
like Him**

By Fr. Thankachan Joseph



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The Feast of the Sacred Heart this Sunday is the feast of God's love for mankind as manifested through Jesus Christ. This celebration is an invitation to immerse ourselves in that immense love that brought about our salvation - lifted high on the cross, Christ gave His life for us, so much did He love us. The Church calls us to discover God's love as reflected in the Heart of Jesus. As we prepare to celebrate the Eucharistic sacrifice, let us be sorry for all our sins of ingratitude and coldness towards Him and His sacrament of love.

The great theologian and writer of the ancient Church, St. Augustine, says, "Our hearts are restless until they rest in His divine Love." Pope Francis says, "Sacred Heart of Jesus is the ultimate symbol of God's mercy; but it is not an imaginary symbol, it is a real symbol, which represents the center, the source from which salvation for all humanity gushed forth." Saint John Paul II says, "In the Sacred Heart, every treasure of wisdom and knowledge is hidden. In that Divine Heart beats God's infinite love for everyone, for each one of us individually."

The heart is a universally acknowledged symbol of one's love, and a common sight are two hearts pierced with an arrow, expressing the deep bond of love between two people. Jesus said, "Behold the Heart that has so loved all." The love of Jesus is so perfect that it gives us the example of total and complete love: "No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends" (Jn 15:13). The Sacred Heart is not only love but also a rich source of Holiness, Mercy, Joy, Healing and other virtues.

The classical pictures of the Sacred Heart of Jesus as St. Margaret Mary saw Him in her visions shows Christ with His open heart, with the cross planted on it, its crown of thorns - that represents each one of us and our personal lives - surrounding it, and flames issuing from the Heart. The burning flames of light from His Heart, the eternal fires of love, show us the way out of our darkness. He continues to ignore our shortcomings and failures; He ignores them daily in His pierced heart. The feeding of the five thousand people in the desert, which we read and reflect on the Feast of Corpus Christi, very nicely describes the compassionate and kind heart of Jesus and is well portrayed in the Gospel of John, 6:1-14. They were like sheep without a shepherd, and our Lord's Heart is also filled with pity for each of us.

Jesus, who gave Himself up to death on the cross, pours out His immense love towards each of us. His Sacred Heart daily invites each one of us to return to His infinite Love. He is ready to accept and forgive all our shortcomings and make us children of Christ. He gives us a living Heart full of grace and riches. The sacred Heart, which manifests in the tangible way the immense love of God, invites an equally reciprocal love.

Holiness is the perfection and fullness of love. I am reminded of a quote from the Gospel of Luke: "I have come to call not the righteous but sinners to repentance" (Lk. 5:32). He looks upon their problems and accepts them with a forgiving, tender, merciful heart. The episode of Mary Magdalene in the house of Simon the Pharisee is clear evidence of Jesus's compassionate and forgiving love. Christ was the incarnation of God's love, which He manifests to us, not by words but by plain deeds. We have many examples from the life of Christ to imitate for our daily lives. When His apostle selected as His specially-chosen betrayed Him, He had the capacity to forgive him. Similarly, Peter, whom He selected as the head of the apostles, rejected Him three times, Christ was benevolent enough to accept him again. The Feast of the Sacred Heart is a reminder for every one of us that the world should recognize you and me through our love and empathy towards the persons around us, "If you have love for one another, then everyone will know that you are my disciples" (Jn. 13:35). We cannot effectively enter into the redeeming stream of His love without being conformed to His sacrificial love, without being ready to suffer for love's sake.

**Farmers Market to  
begin Thursday**



Lita Townsend and granddaughter Lita Nelson sell produce at the 2020 Willow Creek Farmers Market. The market will begin its 2022 season this Thursday, June 23. -Contributed photo

Willow Creek Farmers Market will begin its 2022 season this Thursday, June 23, at Heppner City Park. The market time will again be 4-7 p.m. Thursday evenings into September.

Vendor cost will be \$30 for the season, \$10 for youth under 18, or \$10 per week for drop-in vendors.

Spaces are first-come, first served.

For more information or to register as a vendor, email willowcreekfm@gmail.com, call Andrea Di Salvo at 757-285-5792 or Andrea Nelson at 541-720-4399, or find us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/WCFMHeppner.

**Inland Development  
awards 2022  
scholarships**

Inland Development Corporation has announced the 2022 winners of their annual scholarships. The 27 award winners represent students from Heppner, Ione, Irrigon, Boardman, Hermiston and Monument High Schools. Of those winners, 23 award winners will be attending two- and four-year colleges throughout the western US. The additional four award win-

ners will be entering trade apprenticeships and attending tech schools.

This is the 12<sup>th</sup> year Inland Development has awarded scholarships to 253 area students, totaling more than \$650,000 awarded. Inland Development is a local nonprofit formed to provide broadband services to schools throughout eastern Oregon.

**Cruz-In scheduled  
for July 4**



Classic cars that were on display at the 2021 Cruz-In held each July 4 in Ione. -File Photo.

The annual Cruz-In held at the Ione City Park will take place again this year on Monday, July 4. Registration will be from 9 to 11 a.m. with the cost of \$20 per vehicle. Judging will take place at 11 a.m. and the trophy ceremony at 3 p.m.

Proceeds from the Cruz-In will be donated to

community organizations and projects. In previous years \$500 of the proceeds were donated for park maintenance and a portable sound system.

For additional information, contact Loyal Burns at 541-422-7512, email burnsione@hotmail.com or Sharon Harrison at 541-989-8496.

**Museum to host  
storyteller**

The Morrow County Heritage Museum will host storyteller Karen Haas at the Heppner City Park on Saturday, June 25 at 7 p.m. The presentation will be "Tales and Tunes from the Trail." Haas incorporates music and sing-alongs into her presentations along with folk instruments such as an autoharp, mountain dulcimer, wire-strung lap harp and penny whistle. Eventgoers are asked to bring lawn chairs.



Karen Haas

Karen is a former teacher and museum curator of education and is one of the founders and organizers of the Tacoma Living History Cemetery Tour. She feels especially rewarded telling the tales of those whose

voices are usually silent in history - women.

The performance is sponsored by the Family & Agricultural Resource Museum (FARM) Foundation along with funding from the Morrow County Unified Recreation District.

**Justice  
Court  
Report**

Morrow County Justice of the Peace, Glen Diehl, has released the following Justice Court report:

-Tamara L. Griffis, 64, Heppner, was convicted of violation of basic rule, fine \$265.

-Justin R. Yocum, 30, Heppner, was convicted of violation of basic rule, fine \$165.

**WEEKLY SHOPPER**

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