

Reflection Saturday Week 12 Immaculate Heart of Mary 2022

Devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary began in the 12th century. During the 17th century in France, St John Eudes popularised this devotion along with that to the Sacred Heart. St Luke's Gospel twice mentions that Mary *'kept all these things in her heart'*, pondering the word of God. Mary shows us how to listen to the words the Holy Spirit speaks to us in the depths of our hearts, and how to respond in faith.

It could be said that wherever the sacred heart of Jesus is, the immaculate heart of Mary is sure to follow.

My lady, Mother of my heart

I offer you my nights and days,
my thoughts and deeds, my doubts and art,
the dreams I've sought, each joy and plight
I lay before your feet as flowers
wilted, simple as they are
to be transformed by your meek power
into armaments of war.
Echo heaven with my promise!
Tremble hell! For one more soul
has sworn to overthrow the darkness
By entering the bles'sed fold
of she who will crush Satan's head.
For I renounce his pomp and lies
entrusting to the one who bled
for me my heart as His sole prize.
What happened when angelic fire
awoke the pure simplicity,
placed in your womb by God's desire
from heaven into history?
In your surrender became wife
of God and Mother of the Lord –
so be it done unto my life
according to thy tender word.
A sword has pierced thy purest heart
so it may learn to tender be.
When we are burned and torn apart
we become tender just like thee–
The portal of the Eucharist,
our sacrifice borne from your womb;
immortal let me bear the kiss
that conceived God, then kissed his wounds.
For pain when blessed is holiness
and hurts harm not when full of grace. Rev. Dr. Basil D. Burns (*abridged*)