

ST MARGARET MARY ALACOQUE

Feast day - October 16

October 2013 monthly saint reflection



St. Margaret Mary & St. Patrick's Church

St Margaret Mary Alacoque

Feast Day, October 16

Born: July 22,1647 – Deceased: October 17,1690

More than 300 years ago, Jesus revealed his great love for all people to Margaret Mary Alacoque. Her parents Claude Alacoque and Philiberte Lamyn, were distinguished less for worldly possessions than for their virtue, which gave them an honorable position. From early childhood Margaret showed intense love for the Blessed Sacrament, and preferred silence and prayer to childish amusements.

Margaret Mary was born into a refined well-known French family, but she had an unhappy childhood. Her father died when she was eight years old. After his death her mother tried to collect money that people owed her husband, but was unsuccessful. Without any income mother and daughter were forced to share their farm with greedy relatives who treated them miserably. Margaret Mary once said that her greatest pain at this time was to see her mother suffer and not be able to help. More than ever Margaret Mary found consolation in the Blessed Sacrament, and Christ made her aware of his presence and protection.

When she was 24, Margaret Mary entered the Visitation convent of Paray-le-Monial. There she was assigned to help take care of the sick nuns, she was criticized for being slow, clumsy, and impractical. But she was also known to be humble, honest, patient, and kind. Two years from then is when Jesus revealed his love to her as the Sacred Heart, referenced in the first paragraph. Jesus used the image of the heart as a symbol of his love. His message was, *“See this Heart which has loved so much and received so little love in return. Tell everyone that I really love them, and I want to be loved in return. If you love me, pray and sacrifice for those who do not believe in my love or do not care about my love.”*

Jesus asked Margaret Mary to tell everyone about the Sacred Heart of Jesus. This was a difficult job because the false teaching of Jansenism was very popular at that time. According to this heresy, Jesus did not die for all human beings, but only for those predestined to be saved. When Margaret Mary tried to explain that Jesus died for everyone out of love, she met with opposition from all sides— theologians of the Church, parents of students whom she taught, even the sisters of her convent, became hostile and made life difficult for her. People did not believe that God would reveal his love so powerfully to someone like Margaret Mary.

Father Claude de la Colombiere was one of the few people who believed Margaret Mary. He gave her encouragement and spiritual guidance. Gradually Margaret Mary, who returned kindness for criticism and patience for rejection, won the confidence of those around her. Devotion to the Sacred Heart was approved by the pope in 1765 (75 years after her death), for liturgical observance.

The discussion of the mission and virtues of Margaret Mary continued for years. All her actions, her revelations, her spiritual maxims, her teachings regarding the devotion to the Sacred Heart, of which she was the chief exponent as well as the apostle, were subjected to the most severe and minute examination, and finally the Sacred Congregation of rites passed a favorable vote on the heroic virtues of this servant of God. In March 1824, Leo XII pronounced her Venerable, and on 18 September 1864, Pius IX declared her Blessed. She was canonized by Benedict XV in 1920.

Jesus Christ in his appearances to Saint Margaret Mary promised these blessings to those who practice devotion to his Sacred Heart.

1. I will give them all the graces necessary for their state of life.
2. I will give peace in their families.
3. I will console them in all their troubles.
4. I will be their refuge in life and especially in death.
5. I will abundantly bless all their undertakings.
6. Sinners shall find in my Heart the source and infinite ocean of mercy.
7. Tepid souls shall become fervent.
8. Fervent souls shall rise speedily to great perfection.
9. I will bless those places wherein the image of My Sacred Heart shall be exposed and venerated.
10. I will give to priests the power to touch the most hardened hearts.
11. Persons who propagate this devotion shall have their names eternally written in my Heart.
12. In this excess of the mercy of my Heart, I promise you that my all powerful love will grant to all those who will receive Communion on the First Fridays, for nine consecutive months, the grace of final repentance: they will not die in my displeasure, nor without receiving the sacraments; and my Heart will be their secure refuge in that last hour.

St Margaret Mary and St Patrick

October 2013

Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque

Week 1 – Learn

1. As a family, find a place to gather in your home.
2. Read the history of Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque included in the packet.
3. Talk about Saint Margaret Mary and what made her special.
4. What actions can you take personally to follow her example.
5. Take one of the hearts in the packet and decorate it for her reflecting the ways you love Jesus. Plan to attend Mass one day this month at St. Margaret Mary's, find her statue in the church and place it on the table under the statue.

Week 2 – Take action

1. As a family, find a place to gather in your home.
2. Jesus revealed his great love for all people to Margaret Mary and he used the image of the heart as a symbol of His love.
3. Cut out the other heart in the packet. Look up in the bible Matthew 11:29 and write that scripture on the heart. Then find your own scripture passages with the word "heart" in them or other scriptures that demonstrates Jesus' love for us.

Week 3 – Take action

1. Bring a dish to the St. Margaret Mary Feast Dinner in the Legacy Room after the 11am Mass.
2. As a family gather in your home.
3. Jesus told Margaret Mary to tell everyone that Jesus loves them and wants to be loved in return. Jesus also said, that if you love me, pray for and sacrifice for those who do not believe in my love. Out of this message to Saint Margaret Mary the Holy Hour of Reparation evolved. People agreed to meet and pray for an hour to make up to Jesus for all the people who didn't care about God's love and ignored it. Spend this week praying for those who do not believe and pray for ways that you can show your love for Jesus to others. If possible spend an hour in the adoration chapel at St, Patrick across from the rectory.

Week 4 – Have your parents or grandparents take action.

1. As a family gather in your home.
2. Ask your parents or grandparents if they can attend Mass on the first Friday for as many months as possible (see the 12th promise above...) and mark it down on the First Friday form included in the packet by the month that they attended. If school is on break and you can also attend try to do that.

