

SACRED HEART

Day One

Called to reflect the Hospitable Heart of God



Painting by Br Michael McGrath

Scripture

Hebrews 13:2 (Inclusive Bible)

Continue to love each other as sisters and brothers.
Do not neglect to show hospitality to strangers, for by doing so some people have entertained angels without knowing it.

Genesis 1:27-28 (Inclusive Bible)

Humankind was created as God's reflection: in the divine image God created them; female and male, God made them.

God blessed them and said, "Bear fruit, increase your numbers, and fill the earth – and be responsible for it! Watch over the fish of the sea, the birds of the air, and all the living things on the earth!"

Reflection

Love one another; bear with one another, and let charity guide you in all your life.

Mary MacKillop 1909

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus fill you with all love, that you burn and glow with it more and more.

Julian Tenison Woods 1879

Take time to reflect

Response

How do I experience
the Hospitable Heart of God?

How do I reflect the Hospitable Heart of God?

Prayer

God, creator, the whole world breathes your name.
Your goodness reaches out beyond the stars.

The joyful babble of babies
has the power to move the hardest hearts.
We see your artwork in the gallery of the universe.

To see the stars and planets in their mystery is to
wonder at the littleness of us humans.

You care for us in a special way.

You have called us to stewardship of the earth.

To be co-creators and guardians of the universe
is a life-time responsibility.

Let us honour your life-giving name.

Songs from a Pierced Heart, Psalm 8
by Patricia Stevenson rsj



Mary MacKillop's blessing for us in this month of the Sacred Heart

*May the loving Heart bring to one and all of you
its own true spirit – its spirit of love, true charity
and sweet humility*

Mary MacKillop 1890

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Day Two

Called to reflect the Compassionate Heart of God



Painting by Mother Placid

Scripture

Matthew 19:13-15 (Inclusive Bible)

Then small children were brought to Jesus so he could lay hands on them and pray for them. The disciples began to scold the parents, but Jesus said, "Let the children alone – let them come to me. The kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these." And after laying his hands on them, Jesus left that town.

As you ponder this passage you might substitute "small children" with "marginalised", "refugees", "the homeless", "mentally ill"

Reflection

*I hope that you have more charity and that
you do not judge by appearances.*

Mary MacKillop 1873

Take refuge in the heart of Jesus in all your cares.

Julian Tenison Woods 1872

Take time to reflect

Response

How do I experience
the Compassionate Heart of God?

How do I reflect the Compassionate Heart of God?

Prayer

Praise God! God of everlasting love!

Happy those who keep God's law
and act with justice.

We are sinners but you share salvation with us.
Our ancestors sinned, too.

While in Egypt they ignored your signs.

Though they rebelled at the Red Sea you saved
them.

God heeded their plight,
their cries of distress because of the covenant.
God loved the people with a parent's love.
Their captors witnessed this love.

The people of Israel recorded God's mighty deeds.
They taught us to sing and rejoice in thankfulness.

*Songs from a Pierced Heart, Psalm 106
by Patricia Stevenson rsj*



Mary MacKillop's blessing for us in this month of the Sacred Heart

*May the loving Heart bring to one and all of you
its own true spirit – its spirit of love, true charity
and sweet humility.*

Mary MacKillop 1890

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Day Three

Responding to God's Love



Photo by Cathy O'Keefe pbvm

Scripture

Ezekiel 36:27-28 (Inclusive Bible)

I will give you a new heart and put a new spirit within you. I will remove the heart of stone from your body and give you a heart of flesh. I will put my spirit within you... You will be my people and I will be your God.

Ezekiel 34:14-16

I will feed them on good pasture land, and the mountain heights of Israel will be their grazing ground. I myself will tend my flock and have it lie down. I will seek out the lost, I will return the strayed, I will bind up the injured, and I will strengthen the weak, and I will watch over the fat and the sleek. I will be a true shepherd to them.

Reflection

*God wants us by every means in our power
to lead others to life.*

Mary MacKillop 1899

*Let us rejoice and thank God for giving us
such solid proofs of his love.*

Mary MacKillop 1877

*When you are in any doubt invoke the Holy Spirit
and then do what you think is best.*

Julian Tenison Woods 1887

*It is God's own calm, quiet work and
let us do it in his own calm, quiet way.*

Julian Tenison Woods 1873

Take time to reflect

Response

How do I experience God's transforming love?

How do I make God's transforming love
present in the world?

Prayer

My heart bursts with a new song.
Love makes my tongue as skilled as the finest poet.

Because I have espoused justice
I am anointed with holy oil.
Because I have put on the garments of discipleship
I feel transformed.

I have put aside the pursuit of vain ambition.
I accept with gratefulness the hospitality of God.

*Songs from a Pierced Heart, Psalm 45
by Patricia Stevenson rsj*



Mary MacKillop's blessing for us in this month of the Sacred Heart

*May the loving Heart bring to one and all of you
its own true spirit – its spirit of love, true charity
and sweet humility.*

Mary MacKillop 1890