



Prayers to the Loving Heart of Jesus

Intercessory Novena to the Heart of Jesus

Litany of the Heart of Jesus

Family Consecration to the Heart of Jesus

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Priests of the Sacred Heart

Introduction

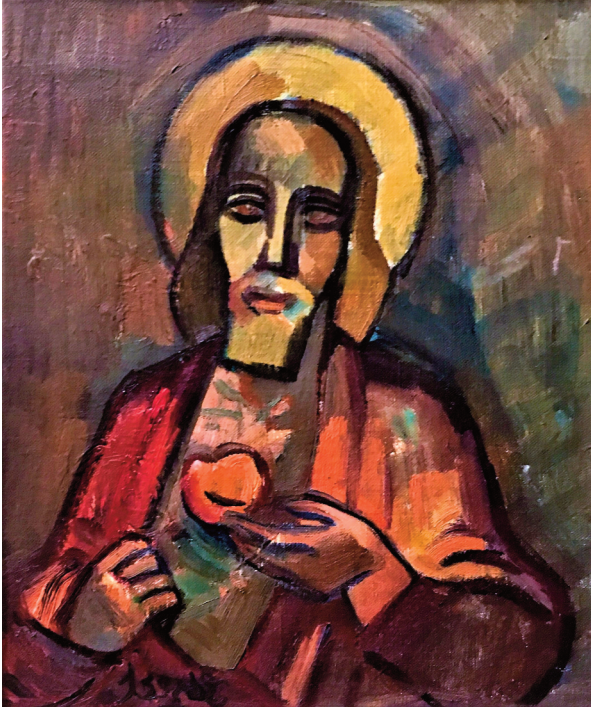
Fr. Leo John Dehon, SCJ, founded the Priests of the Sacred Heart in 1878, in France. The Latin initials, “SCJ” after the name of a priest or Brother, identifies him as a member of this Congregation. More popularly, he is called a “Dehonian” after the founder’s last name. Today, the Priests of the Sacred Heart serve in over 40 countries.

What is essential for this Religious Congregation is not a particular ministry, but rather the spiritual motivation for whatever service it renders. Fr. Dehon points to “the interior life,” by which he meant an intimate relationship with God, who loves humanity beyond measure. As a devoted follower of Jesus, God-in-the-flesh, Fr. Dehon could say as did St. Paul, “I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh, I live by faith in the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me” [Galatians 2:19-20].

From meditation upon Jesus’ total self-gift, culminating with his death on the cross and the piercing of his side, emerged the image of and devotion to Jesus’ Heart, the symbolic source of this amazing love. Devotion to the Heart of Jesus entails not only making a return of love to God and God’s people, but also trusting in and accomplishing God’s loving designs—not my will but God’s be done—even when it points to the cross. This is the self-giving spirit of a Dehonian and anyone who is drawn to devotion to the Heart of Jesus.

May this Novena, Litany, and Consecration sustain and strengthen your devotion to the Heart of Jesus. All of the images of the Heart of Jesus in this booklet either have been created by Dehonians or are prominently displayed in their chapels and residences.

Intercessory Novena to the Heart of Jesus

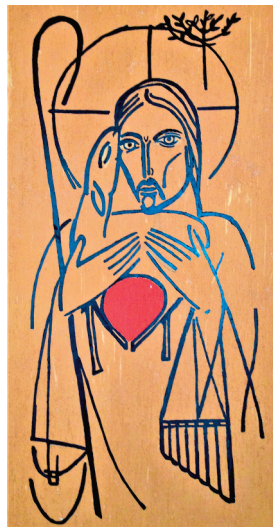


In founding the Congregation of the Priests of the Sacred Heart, Fr. Leo John Dehon, SCJ, passed on a spirituality of oblation—offering oneself daily to do God’s will, not one’s own will. While this novena seeks the divine favor, it does so in the belief that God knows what we truly need and will grant it to benefit not only ourselves, but also our world that struggles to be loving, just, and peace-filled.

Day One

“The Heart of Jesus is overflowing with compassion for all those who suffer; those beset by troubles, difficulties, and hardships; for the hungry, the toilers, the destitute, and the sick and infirm. His is the Heart of a Father, the Heart of a Mother, the Heart of a Shepherd.”

Fr. Leo John Dehon, SCl, *The Priestly Heart of Jesus*,
14th Meditation



Sacred Heart of Jesus,

help me to sense your compassion
for all my struggles
and show me how to be compassionate
with the struggles of those around me.

With my belief in your tender love,
I come to you in confidence
asking for what I believe I need.
[Mention your request.]

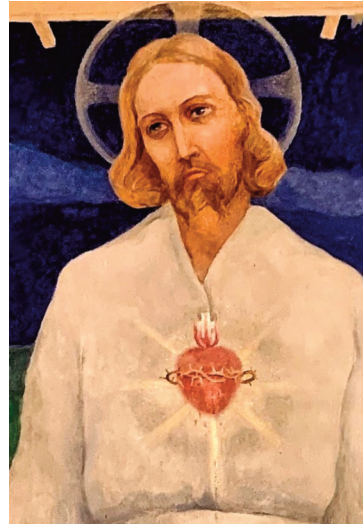
Since you know me through and through,
I will wait patiently
to receive from your perceptive Heart
what I really need for my own benefit
and that of my brothers and sisters.

May the answer to my prayer
allow me to collaborate with you
in building your reign of love, justice, and peace.
Amen.

Day Two

“The Sacred Heart of Jesus is all good and filled with love for us. He must, then, sympathize with our miseries—all our infirmities, spiritual and corporal—with infinite tenderness. He has done all this because he is in reality our heart, as we are his Mystical Body. Jesus lives in us, he suffers, he prays, he rejoices in us; his Heart is truly our heart.”

Fr. Leo John Dehon, SCJ, *Crowns of Love for the Sacred Heart I*, 5th Mystery, 1st Meditation

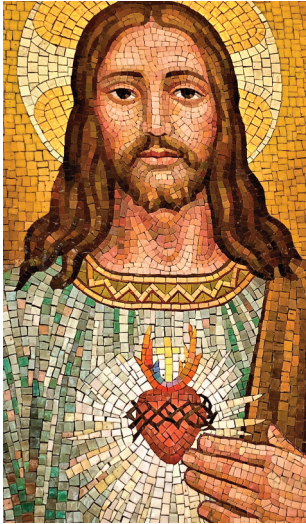


Sacred Heart of Jesus,

I am greatly comforted
knowing that you live in me;
that your Heart is truly my heart.
May all my thoughts, words, and actions
reflect the sentiments of your Heart.

With my belief in your tender love,
I come to you in confidence
asking for what I believe I need.
[Mention your request.]

Since you know me through and through,
I will wait patiently
to receive from your perceptive Heart
what I really need for my own benefit
and that of my brothers and sisters.
May the answer to my prayer
allow me to collaborate with you
in building your reign of love, justice, and peace.
Amen.



Day Three

“Union with the Heart of Jesus will be our house of refuge and our tower of strength. Let us perform all our actions in such a manner that God will accept them. When in difficulties, let us go to the Heart of Jesus. Let us do his will at every moment, even in small things, so that we shall be able to do his will in big things.”

Fr. Leo John Dehon, SCJ,
Notes on the History of My Life 3: 1867

Sacred Heart of Jesus,
as I grow in union with you,
be for me a refuge in my difficulties
and a strength in my service to your people.

With my belief in your tender love,
I come to you in confidence
asking for what I believe I need.
[Mention your request.]

Since you know me through and through,
I will wait patiently
to receive from your perceptive Heart
what I really need for my own benefit
and that of my brothers and sisters.
May the answer to my prayer
allow me to collaborate with you
in building your reign of love, justice, and peace.
Amen.



Day Four

“The Sacred Heart always has us in mind. Let us always remember him and have no other love than love for him. In our prayers let us ask for his reign and his triumph, and through love for him, let us love souls as Jesus loves them, and be ready to work and to suffer for them in the measure that Jesus will find good.”

Fr. Leo John Dehon, SCJ, *Crowns of Love for the Sacred Heart* I, 3rd Mystery, 2nd Meditation

Sacred Heart of Jesus,

I wish to think of you often
and to express my love for you
in the way I care
for family, friends, and strangers.

With my belief in your tender love,
I come to you in confidence
asking for what I believe I need.
[Mention your request.]

Since you know me through and through,
I will wait patiently
to receive from your perceptive Heart
what I really need for my own benefit
and that of my brothers and sisters.
May the answer to my prayer
allow me to collaborate with you
in building your reign of love, justice, and peace.
Amen.

Day Five

“The Heart of Jesus becomes for us not only the Heart of a Father, of a brother, of a friend. He also wants to be at our disposal and fill all our needs, because he has a personal, loving interest in us.”

Fr. Leo John Dehon, SCJ, *Crowns of Love for the Sacred Heart I*, 3rd Mystery, 5th Meditation



Sacred Heart of Jesus,

your love for me is infinite;
your interest in me is personal.

Expand my love for others
and enlarge my heart
to care for the wounded of this world.

With my belief in your tender love,
I come to you in confidence
asking for what I believe I need.

[Mention your request.]

Since you know me through and through,
I will wait patiently
to receive from your perceptive Heart
what I really need for my own benefit
and that of my brothers and sisters.

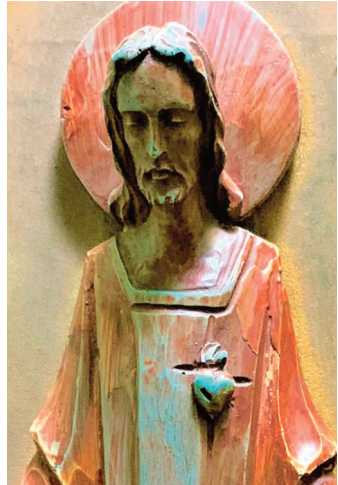
May the answer to my prayer
allow me to collaborate with you
in building your reign of love, justice, and peace.

Amen.

Day Six

“The Heart of Jesus, the love of Jesus, is the whole of the Gospel. Jesus teaches his apostles the prayer of his Heart, the Our Father, which will be our prayer until the end of the world. He recommends abandonment to them, which is the trust of a loving heart: ‘Do not be anxious,’ he tells them, ‘your Father loves you; he will always care for you.’ Pray to him and you will be heard.”

Fr. Leo John Dehon, S.C.J., *Studies on the Sacred Heart of Jesus*



Sacred Heart of Jesus,

as I make my own the prayer of your Heart,
may it calm my anxieties
and enliven my heart.

With my belief in your tender love,
I come to you in confidence
asking for what I believe I need.
[Mention your request.]

Since you know me through and through,
I will wait patiently
to receive from your perceptive Heart
what I really need for my own benefit
and that of my brothers and sisters.
May the answer to my prayer
allow me to collaborate with you
in building your reign of love, justice, and peace.
Amen.

Day Seven

“During this life, the Heart of Jesus will always remain a friendly Heart to us, the Heart of a tender father, of a spouse. He will exercise all his mercy toward those who hasten to him with confidence. Jesus possesses the Heart of a friend, of a physician, and not the Heart of a judge.”

Fr. Leo John Dehon, SCJ, *Crowns of Love for the Sacred Heart I*, 5th Mystery, 2nd Meditation



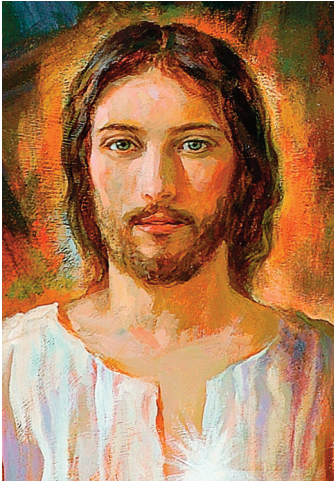
Sacred Heart of Jesus,

I delight in calling you my friend.

May your mercy toward me
overflow through my acts of compassion
to those most in need.

With my belief in your tender love,
I come to you in confidence
asking for what I believe I need.
[Mention your request.]

Since you know me through and through,
I will wait patiently
to receive from your perceptive Heart
what I really need for my own benefit
and that of my brothers and sisters.
May the answer to my prayer
allow me to collaborate with you
in building your reign of love, justice, and peace.
Amen.



Day Eight

“The fruits which our Lord promised through devotion to his Sacred Heart are marvelous. For sinners, it is an ocean of mercy; for indifferent souls, it is a source of fervor; for pious souls, it is rapid progress toward perfection.

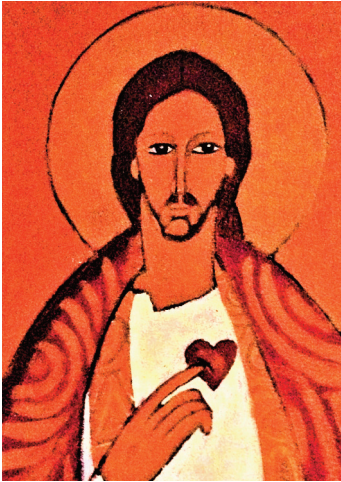
Fr. Leo John Dehon, SCJ, “Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, Gift of Our Time,” June 12, 1885

Sacred Heart of Jesus,

wash away my sin in the ocean of your mercy,
stir into flame my often-wearied spirit,
touch my heart and make it like your own.

With my belief in your tender love,
I come to you in confidence
asking for what I believe I need.
[Mention your request.]

Since you know me through and through,
I will wait patiently
to receive from your perceptive Heart
what I really need for my own benefit
and that of my brothers and sisters.
May the answer to my prayer
allow me to collaborate with you
in building your reign of love, justice, and peace.
Amen.



Day Nine

“Let us keep ourselves peacefully and meekly in the presence of the Sacred Heart, under his rays of love, near this hearth of love; let us contemplate his works of love, and a reciprocal love will be born in our heart.”

Fr. Leo John Dehon, SCJ, *Crowns of Love for the Sacred Heart I*, 2nd Mystery, 3rd Meditation

Sacred Heart of Jesus,

may the light and warmth of your presence
nourish my heart to grow
into the living image of your love.

With my belief in your tender love,
I come to you in confidence
asking for what I believe I need.
[Mention your request.]

Since you know me through and through,
I will wait patiently
to receive from your perceptive Heart
what I really need for my own benefit
and that of my brothers and sisters.

May the answer to my prayer
allow me to collaborate with you
in building your reign of love, justice, and peace.
Amen.

Litany of the Heart of Jesus



Trying to make the love of the Heart of Jesus easy to understand and relatable, Fr. Leo John Dehon, SCJ, suggested comparisons with common images and experiences. The invocations in this litany are based on these evocative word-pictures, compiled from Fr. Dehon's spiritual writings.

Offer your hearts, sons and daughters of God,
offer them that they be always immolated to God
upon the altar of the Heart of Jesus.

Heart of Jesus, Heart of our Father and of our God,
we praise you.

Heart of Jesus, entirely your Father's and ours, **we praise you.**
Heart of Jesus, incarnate love of God for people, **we praise you.**
Heart of Jesus, incarnate love of people for God, **we praise you.**

Heart of Jesus, who takes a personal, loving interest in us,
we thank you.

Heart of Jesus, tender as a mother's heart, **we thank you.**

Heart of Jesus, who loves us more than a mother,
we thank you.

Heart of Jesus, friend whose kindnesses are endless,
we thank you.

Heart of Jesus, who loves us more than a friend, **we thank you.**

Heart of Jesus, loving spouse of our souls,
whose affection is ever fresh, **we thank you.**

Heart of Jesus, who loves us more than a spouse, **we thank you.**

Sacred Heart of Jesus, guide to infinite Wisdom, **we love you.**

Sacred Heart of Jesus, wishing to be at our disposal
and fill all our needs, **we love you.**

Sacred Heart of Jesus, sympathizing with all our spiritual
and bodily infirmities, **we love you.**

Sacred Heart of Jesus, treasure of reparation, love, and grace,
we love you.

Sacred Heart of Jesus, giving yourself entirely to us,
we love you.

Eucharistic Heart of Jesus, fortifying bread that nourishes souls
with generosity, heroism, and charity, **we welcome you.**

Eucharistic Heart of Jesus, shepherd-king and benefactor,
we welcome you.

Eucharistic Heart of Jesus, affectionate and devoted brother,
we welcome you.

Heart of Jesus, overflowing with compassion
for all those who suffer, **we wish to be like you.**

Heart of Jesus, overflowing with compassion for those beset by troubles,
difficulties, and hardships, **we wish to be like you.**

Heart of Jesus, overflowing with compassion for the hungry, the toilers,
and the destitute, **we wish to be like you.**

Heart of Jesus, overflowing with compassion for the sick
and infirm, **we wish to be like you.**

Priestly Heart of Jesus, who suffers when we suffer,
we offer ourselves with your self-offering.

Priestly Heart of Jesus, who claims justice, respect, and benevolence for
the worker,

we offer ourselves with your self-offering.

Priestly Heart of Jesus, vigilant sentinel standing guard
over his Church, **we offer ourselves with your self-offering.**

Priestly Heart of Jesus, who prays for the needs of his people,
we offer ourselves with your self-offering.

Priestly Heart of Jesus, our model, our ideal, our all,
we offer ourselves with your self-offering.

Filled with a sense of God's all-encompassing love, we pray,

**Good Master,
you have given us the grace
to begin loving you;
give us also the grace
to persevere in your love,
cost what it may.
In the spirit of love
we wish to offer to you constantly
our daily actions, works, and sufferings.
Amen.**

Family Consecration to the Heart of Jesus



Much more than a ceremony, the consecration of the family to the Heart of Jesus is a daily commitment to the way of love, acceptance, forgiveness, encouragement, and care. It is the spiritual practice of creating a family—not perfect, but loving—where the Heart of Jesus always feels at home.

If possible, gather the family around a table, on which is placed an image of the Heart of Jesus. Or, gather near an image of the Heart of Jesus that is prominently displayed in the home. If desired, light a candle and decorate the space with flowers.

The following is a simple ritual, which you can adapt to your circumstances. It is ideal to have a copy of the “Family Prayer of Consecration to the Heart of Jesus” for each family member. It is appropriate for the eldest in the household [perhaps a grandparent] to lead this time of prayer. Ask a younger family member to read the Scripture passage after giving him/her an opportunity to practice reading it. Decide beforehand how you want to do the “Prayer with Hands.”

Introduction: *The leader uses these or similar words:*

We’ve gathered together as a family to make a promise to God and to ask God to help us keep our promise. This image of the Heart of Jesus and our Prayer of Consecration will remind us of how much God loves us and how much we should try to love each other. Let’s listen to a reading from the Bible.

Reading *from the First Letter of John 4:9, 11, and 12*

God’s love was revealed among us in this way: God sent his only Son into the world so that we might live through him. Beloved, since God loved us so much, we also ought to love one another. No one has ever seen God; if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

[Pause for a moment of silence.]

Family Prayer of Consecration to the Heart of Jesus

[If possible, pray this prayer together]

**Loving Heart of Jesus,
because we know you love us
we ask for your help.**

**As a family—parents, grandparents, and children—
teach us how we can
love each other as we are,
encourage each other to be our best,
and support whoever among us is in need.**

**In times of strength or weakness,
in moments of grace or sin,
help us to be merciful
as you are merciful,
and to be a family with whom you feel at home.**

**Although we are not a perfect family,
we want to be a loving one.
With your help,
we promise to keep working at it.**

**May your loving Heart watch over us at all times
and keep our family always in your care.
Amen.**





Prayer with Hands

With words, we just asked Jesus to be with us and we promised to do what we can to be a loving family. Now, let's express the same thing with our hands.

[Choose form A or B:]

[A] I'm going to reach out and put my hand on the table. Then, I ask each of you to reach out your hand so that we are all touching each other.

[B] I ask you to stand in a circle and join hands.

[After a moment of silence, use these or similar words:]

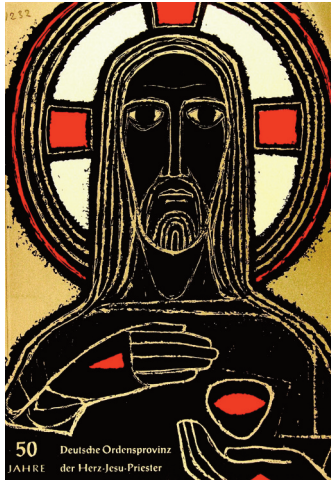
We are all part of this family. Each of us gives and each of us receives. Let us all do our part to create a loving family.

Our Father

With our hands still touching, let us use the words Jesus taught us. Our Father...

Concluding Prayer

Loving Heart of Jesus,
keep our family always in your care
and teach us how to love and support one another.
Amen.



Prayers for the Daily Renewal of the Family Consecration to the Heart of Jesus

Loving Heart of Jesus,
keep our family always in your care
and teach us how to love and support one another.
Amen

Heart of Jesus,
help us create a loving family
where you always feel at home.
Amen.



Artwork

Cover: Stained-glass window in Sacred Heart Seminary and School of Theology chapel, Hales Corners, WI

Novena Title Page: Painting by Gérard Schoonebeek, SCJ

- Day 1:** At the Dehonian Philosophy House in Taubaté, Brazil
- Day 2:** At the Dehonian residence in Trent, Italy
- Day 3:** At the Dehonian residence in Bolognano, Italy
- Day 4:** Detail of stained-glass window in the Dehonian Novitiate chapel, Nambur, India
- Day 5:** Icon written by Charles Brown, SCJ
- Day 6:** At the Dehonian Formation House in Caracas, Venezuela
- Day 7:** Painting in one of the chapels of the Dehonian parish in Mom-bassa, Congo
- Day 8:** Detail of oil painting by Goyo Domínguez, from the Dehonian Province of Spain
- Day 9:** At the Dehonian residence in Montevideo, Uruguay

Litany Title Page: Painting from the Dehonian Province of Poland

Family Consecration Title Page: Shrine at the Dehonian residence in Limpio, Paraguay

- Image of hands:** Dehonian summer camp leaders, Quito, Ecuador
- Image of cross:** Artistic rendering of the Dehonian cross from the Dehonian Province of Argentina
- Heart of Jesus:** From the Dehonian Province of Germany

This Page: Artistic rendering of the Dehonian cross

Back Inside Cover: Sketch of Fr. Dehon from the Dehonian Dutch-Flemish Confederation

Back Outside Cover: Dehonian logo



Fr. Leo John Dehon, SCJ

Founder of the
Priests of the Sacred Heart



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