

**Life**

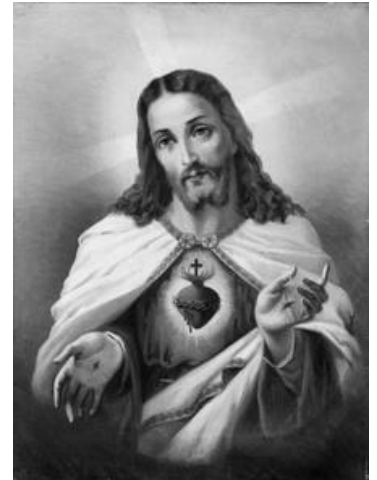
St. Margaret was born in France in 1647 and was devout since childhood. Her father died when she was eight years old; her mother and she were oppressed by relatives, which sometimes prevented her from going to the church for Eucharistic adoration. Margaret could only kneel in a corner of the garden to pray. When she was eleven years old, she was paralyzed and was confined to bed for four years. After she made a vow to the Blessed Virgin Mary to consecrate herself to religious life, she was cured. When she grew up, her family persuaded her to get married. Margaret felt a vocation to consecrated life and entered the Order of the Visitation in 1671, where she was humble, obedient, and kind to others. On December 27, 1673, Margaret experienced Christ's revelation that his love for humankind is to be made evident through her. Subsequently Christ appeared to her at intervals to explain and instruct her how to revere the Sacred Heart. Initially, when she preached the devotion to the Sacred Heart, she encountered a lot of resistance. Some nuns in the convent as well as the theologians invited by the Superior there had doubts about her visions. After that period, the devotion to the Sacred Heart spread rapidly throughout France. St. Margaret died of an illness in 1690. On her deathbed, she said, "I need nothing but God, and to lose myself in the heart of Jesus."

**Reflection**

Jesus appeared to St. Margaret, indicating that through her, he would reveal the Sacred Heart which is burning with love and ignite the hearts of people, in order to impart grace to them. People must revere the Sacred Heart in order to make up for the coldness and ingratitude. The most important requirements of Sacred Heart devotion include:

- On the first Friday of each month, be properly prepared to receive Holy Communion to make amends for the insults suffered by the Sacred Heart
- Attend mass for the Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus in June

Jesus gave "12 promises of the Sacred Heart" to those who revere the Sacred Heart, including a promise that for those who receive Holy Communion on the first Friday of each month for nine consecutive months, Jesus will reward them with the great gift of final repentance and a good death, and they will not die in sin.



When Jesus appeared to St. Margaret for the last time, he revealed his Sacred Heart to her. The Sacred Heart was tightly bound with a crown of thorns and stained with blood. There was a cross on it with a blazing fire. Jesus said to her: "Behold this heart which has loved men so much, and in return I receive from the greater number nothing but ingratitude by reason of their irreverence and sacrileges, and by the coldness and contempt they show me in this Sacrament of Love."

After hundreds of years, Jesus' love for the world has never changed. His appearance to Sister Faustina reiterated His love for mankind, and his Sacred Heart is the source of mercy; however, the attitude of the world towards Jesus today, when compared to the time of St. Margaret, is probably even worse! Looking at the wounded and crushed Jesus, are we willing to reciprocate his love, and for Jesus' pierced heart, are we willing to receive the Holy Communion to make reparation to the Sacred Heart and pray for penance?

**Prayer**

In addition to receiving the Holy Communion to make reparation to the Sacred Heart for all the sinfulness and ingratitude of mankind, we can also observe the Holy Hour, which is an hour of adoration of the Eucharist, to revere the Sacred Heart, because Jesus specifically instructed St. Margaret to observe the Holy Hour and meditate on his agony in the Garden of Gethsemane.

May we learn from St. Margaret Alacoque to revere the Sacred Heart,  
and pray as atonement for the humiliation suffered by Jesus. St. Margaret, pray for us.