

*Hope for a Nation*

## The Sacred Heart of Jesus

In June 2026, the Catholic bishops of the United States will take part in a profound spiritual act: the consecration of our nation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Timed to coincide with the Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart and the 250th anniversary of our country's founding, this moment invites Catholics across the nation to reflect on who we are—and to whom we belong.

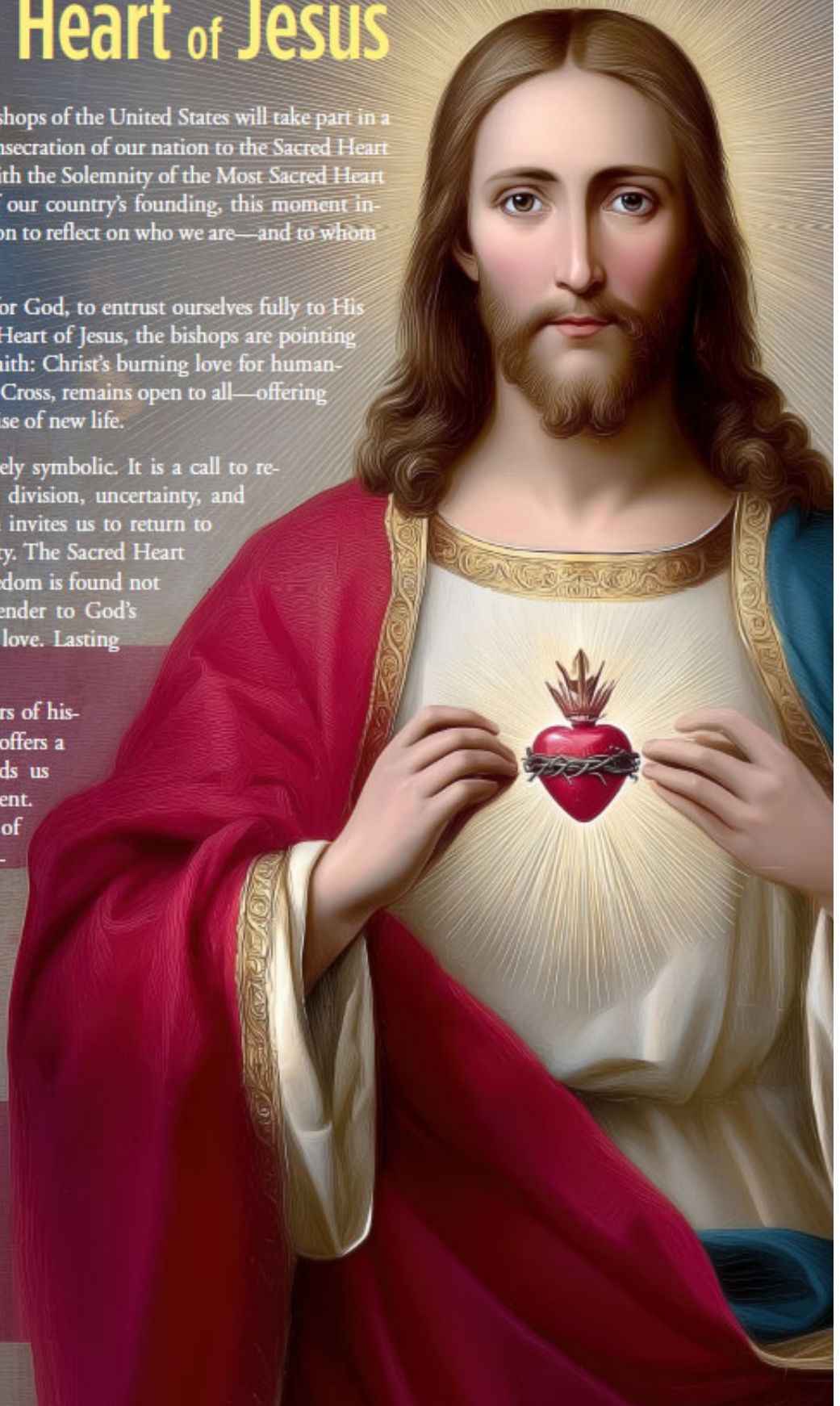
To consecrate is to set apart for God, to entrust ourselves fully to His care. In choosing the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the bishops are pointing us to the very center of our faith: Christ's burning love for humanity. His Heart, pierced on the Cross, remains open to all—offering mercy, healing, and the promise of new life.

This consecration is not merely symbolic. It is a call to renewal. In a time marked by division, uncertainty, and moral confusion, the Church invites us to return to the source of truth and charity. The Sacred Heart reminds us that authentic freedom is found not in self-assertion, but in surrender to God's will. True justice flows from love. Lasting peace begins in conversion.

As our nation marks 250 years of history, this act of consecration offers a deeper perspective. It reminds us that no nation is self-sufficient. We stand always in need of grace. By entrusting our country to Christ, we acknowledge Him as Lord of history and ask Him to guide our future.

Each of us has a role to play. The bishops are encouraging parishes and families to participate through prayer, acts of charity, and renewed devotion. This is an opportunity not only to pray for our nation, but to be transformed within it.

The Heart of Jesus is still open. The question is whether we will enter in.



## WHAT DOES IT MEAN TO CONSECRATE A NATION?

Consecration is a sacred act by which a person, family, or community is entrusted to God in a special way. When the bishops consecrate the United States to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, they are not making a political statement or changing civil structures. Rather, they are offering a prayer—placing our nation under the loving care and lordship of Christ.

This act reflects a long tradition in the Church. Individuals consecrate themselves to the Sacred Heart as a sign of trust in Jesus' mercy and a desire to live more fully for Him. Families enthrone the Sacred Heart in their homes. At times, even entire nations have been consecrated, asking for God's protection and guidance.

A national consecration is both a prayer and an invitation. It asks God to bless the country, but it also calls the faithful to deeper conversion. It is not a one-time event, but a beginning—a renewal of commitment to live according to the Gospel.

In this sense, the consecration of 2026 is not something done only by bishops. It is something the whole Church is invited to enter into with faith, humility, and trust.

### O Most Sacred Heart of Jesus:

You know the longings of our hearts and call us into friendship with you. From your pierced side flows the wellspring of life for which we thirst, and your Heart burns with love for all people.

We thank you for the many gifts given to this nation, and we ask forgiveness for the offenses against you and against human dignity.

Unite our hearts to yours. Bring peace to our families and communities, reconcile what is broken, repair injustice, and heal the wounds of our land.

May your holy Catholic Church lead all people to your infinite love.

O Desire of Nations and Center of History, bless these United States of America.

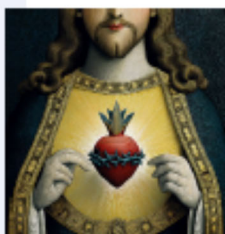
Who live and reign with God the Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. *Amen.*

—US Conference of Catholic Bishops

## WHY THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS?

The Sacred Heart of Jesus is one of the most beloved devotions in the Church. It points to the mystery at the center of our faith: that God loves us with a human heart. Jesus' Heart, pierced on the Cross, reveals both the depth of His suffering and the boundless mercy He offers.

This devotion was given particular prominence through the visions of St. Margaret Mary Alacoque in the 17th century. In them, Christ revealed His desire that humanity turn to His Heart in trust, offering love in return for love.



The image of the Sacred Heart speaks powerfully to our time. It reminds us that God is not distant or indifferent. He is close, compassionate, and personally invested in our lives. His Heart burns with love for every person and every nation.



By consecrating the United States to the Sacred Heart, the bishops are inviting us to rediscover this devotion—not as something of the past, but as a living source of grace. It is an invitation to place our wounds, our hopes, and our future into the hands of Christ.



## HOW CAN WE TAKE PART?

The consecration of the United States in June 2026 is meant to be a nationwide moment of prayer, but it begins in local parishes and individual hearts. The bishops are encouraging

Catholics everywhere to participate actively in this important event.

One way to prepare is through prayer. Many dioceses and parishes will offer a novena leading up to the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart. Attending Mass, spending time in Eucharistic adoration, and praying to the Sacred Heart are all meaningful ways to enter into the consecration.

Families can take part by enthroneing an image of the Sacred Heart in their home, making Christ the center of family life. Acts of charity—especially toward the poor and those in need—also reflect the love of Christ's Heart.

Most importantly, the consecration is an invitation to personal conversion. Each of us is called to turn more fully to Christ, to trust in His mercy, and to live out His love in our daily lives.

In this way, the consecration becomes more than a single event. It becomes a lasting renewal of faith for our nation.