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| [***Dilexit Nos***](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html#_ftnref5) |
| **教皇フランシスコ回勅　2024年10月24日発行** |

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| [[***Dilexit Nos***](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html#_ftnref5)](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/speeches/2024/september/documents/20240925-economy-of-francesco.html)  ON THE HUMAN AND DIVINE LOVE OF THE HEART OF JESUS CHRIST | **彼は私達を愛された**  **イエス・キリストの御心にある神の愛と人間の愛について**  (参考：[阿部仲麻呂師訳](https://catholic-i.net/kaichoku/%e6%94%b9%e3%83%bb%e6%95%99%e7%9a%87%e3%83%95%e3%83%a9%e3%83%b3%e3%82%b7%e3%82%b9%e3%82%b3%e3%81%ae%e5%9b%9e%e5%8b%85%e3%80%8cdilexit-nos%ef%bc%88-%e5%bd%bc%ef%bc%88%e4%b8%bb%ef%bc%89%e3%81%af/)) |
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| 1. “HE LOVED US”, Saint Paul says of Christ (cf. *Rom*8:37), in order to make us realize that nothing can ever “separate us” from that love (*Rom*8:39). Paul could say this with certainty because Jesus himself had told his disciples, “I have loved you” (*Jn*15:9, 12). Even now, the Lord says to us, “I have called you friends” (*Jn*15:15). His open heart has gone before us and waits for us, unconditionally, asking only to offer us his love and friendship. For “he loved us first” (cf. *1 Jn*4:10). Because of Jesus, “we have come to know and believe in the love that God has for us” (*1 Jn*4:16). | 1．聖パウロはキリストについて「彼は私達を愛した」と語っています (ローマ 8:37 参照)。それは、何もこの愛から私達を「切り離す」ことはできない (ローマ 8:39)と、私達に気付かせるためです。聖パウロが確信をもってこう述べることができたのは、イエスが弟子達に「私は皆さんを愛した」と語っていたからです(ヨハネ15:9, 12)。そして今でも主は私達に「皆さんを友と呼ぶことに私はする」と言っています (ヨハネ15:15)。主の開かれた御心は 私達のはるか前方へと進み、この愛と友情を私達にただ注ぐことをのぞみ、無条件に私達を待っています。なぜなら「彼が先ず私達を愛した」(ヨハネ第一4:10参照)からです。即ち、イエスのおかげで、「私達は、神が私達に対して抱いている愛を知り、またこの神の愛の存在を信じるようになった」（ヨハネ第一4:16）のです。 |
| CHAPTER ONE | **第一章** |
| THE IMPORTANCE OF THE HEART | **心の重要性** |
| 2. The symbol of the heart has often been used to express the love of Jesus Christ. Some have questioned whether this symbol is still meaningful today. Yet living as we do in an age of superficiality, rushing frenetically from one thing to another without really knowing why, and ending up as insatiable consumers and slaves to the mechanisms of a market unconcerned about the deeper meaning of our lives, all of us need to rediscover the importance of the heart. [[1]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html#_ftn1)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[1]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref1) Many of the reflections in this first chapter were inspired by the unpublished writings of the late Father Diego Fares, S.J. May the Lord grant him eternal rest. | 2．the heart[訳註1]のシンボルは、イエス・キリストの愛を表すものとして頻繁に使われてきました。このシンボルが今でも意味を持つのか疑問視する人も確かにいます。しかしながら私達は浅薄皮相の時代に生き、分けも分からず次から次へと熱狂して駆け回り、結局は、生命の深い意味に無関心な市場メカニズムの奴隷、つまり飽くことのない消費者に終始しています。ですから私達全員、この様な心の重要性を再発見する必要があるのです。[1]  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [訳註1]カトリックは、イエス・キリストの心臓を人類に対する愛の象徴、即ちthe Sacred Heartとして信仰対象としている（[片柳弘史師記事](https://www.rokko-catholic.jp/articles/201206/from_parish_priest.html)参照方）。英語heartは、日本語では「心」とも「心臓」とも訳すことができる。当訳文では、heartの和訳を適宜使い分ける。  [1] 本第一章の省察の多くは、[イエズス会の故ディエゴ・ファレス師](https://www.laciviltacattolica.com/in-memory-of-fr-diego-fares-sj-1955-2022/)の未発表著作物に触発されたもの。主が師に、永遠の安息を与えてくださるよう祈ります。 |
| WHAT DO WE MEAN BY “THE HEART”? | **「心」とは何を意味するのでしょうか** |
| 3. In classical Greek, the word *kardía* denotes the inmost part of human beings, animals and plants. For Homer, it indicates not only the centre of the body, but also the human soul and spirit. In the Iliad, thoughts and feelings proceed from the heart and are closely bound one to another. [[2]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn2)  The heart appears as the locus of desire and the place where important decisions take shape. [[3]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn3) In Plato, the heart serves, as it were, to unite the rational and instinctive aspects of the person, since the impulses of both the higher faculties and the passions were thought to pass through the veins that converge in the heart. [[4]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn4)  From ancient times, then, there has been an appreciation of the fact that human beings are not simply a sum of different skills, but a unity of body and soul with a coordinating centre that provides a backdrop of meaning and direction to all that a person experiences.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[2]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref2) Cf. HOMER, *Iliad*, XXI, 441.  [[3]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref3) Cf. *Iliad*, X, 244.  [[4]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref4) Cf. PLATO, *Timaeus*, 65 c-d; 70. | 3．古代ギリシャ語に*kardía* という言葉があり、human beingsならびに動植物の最重要部をdenote（明示表現）していました。ギリシャ詩人ホメロスは、*kardía* が意味するのは身体中心というよりもむしろそのsoul and spiritだと考えていました。彼の著作イリアスでは、humanの思考と感情はその心臓から生じ、互いに密接に結びついています[2]。即ちhumanの心臓は、欲望の居場所であり、重要な意志決定が形成される場とされていました[3]。またプラトン思想では、心臓はthe personの理性と本能を、言うなれば一つに結合する役割を担っている、なぜなら、心臓に集結される血管の中にhumanの高次能力と熱情が循環しているのだから、と考えていました[4]。この様にhuman beingsとは、単に様々な技能の一集積なのではありません。そうではなく、a personにはa coordinating centre（訳註２：一つの共同聖職拝命中心）があり、それが各々の経験全てに意味と方向性を与える。human beings（複数の人間形而上存在）とは、そういった背景を持つ身体と魂のa unity（一つの統一体）なのだと、古代から高く評価されてきました。  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [2] ホメロス著『イリアス』第21章441項参照  [3] 同上『イリアス』第10章244項参照  [4] プラトン著『ティマイオス』第65章c-dおよび70章参照  [訳註２][EoF基調論文](https://llc-research.jp/~archives/Papers/Pope%20Francis/Oeconomicae%20et%20pecuniariae%20quaestiones/rev10/Oeconomicae%20et%20pecuniariae%20quaestiones%20Tai-Yaku%20rev10h.docx)19でco-ordinationを共同聖職拝命と和訳した。 |
| 4. The Bible tells us that, “the Word of God is living and active... it is able to judge the thoughts and intentions of the heart” (*Heb* 4:12). In this way, it speaks to us of the heart as a core that lies hidden beneath all outward appearances, even beneath the superficial thoughts that can lead us astray. The disciples of Emmaus, on their mysterious journey in the company of the risen Christ, experienced a moment of anguish, confusion, despair and disappointment. Yet, beyond and in spite of this, something was happening deep within them: “Were not our hearts burning within us while he was talking to us on the road?” (Lk 24:32). | 4. 聖書にこうあります。「神の言葉は生きていて力を発揮し,,,心の思考や意図を審査できる。」（*Heb* 4:12） 聖書はこの様に、上辺（うわべ）がどうあろうがその底に、即ち、私達を惑わす表面上の思考の奥底に、a core that lies hidden（一つの秘蔵された中核）としての心があることを私達に教えます。エマオに向かう弟子達は、復活したキリストに同伴されて神秘的な旅を始めるにあたり、苦悩、混乱、絶望、失望となる一つの契機を体験しました。しかしこの困難をものともせずに撥ねのけて、彼らの奥底で何かが生じていったのです。「イエスが私達に話しかけている道中、私達の中で心は燃えさかっていたではないのか？」(ルカ24:32) |
| 5. The heart is also the locus of sincerity, where deceit and disguise have no place. It usually indicates our true intentions, what we really think, believe and desire, the “secrets” that we tell no one: in a word, the naked truth about ourselves. It is the part of us that is neither appearance or illusion, but is instead authentic, real, entirely “who we are”. That is why Samson, who kept from Delilah the secret of his strength, was asked by her, “How can you say, ‘I love you’, when your heart is not with me?” (*Judg* 16:15). Only when Samson opened his heart to her, did she realize “that he had told her his whole secret” (*Judg* 16:18). | 5. 心は誠実の居場所でもあります。誠実、そこには偽りや見せかけの余地はありません。だから心が通常示すのは、私達の真の意図、本当に考え信じ望んでいること、誰にも話すことのない「秘密」、つまり、私達自身の素のままの真実なのです。見せかけや幻（まぼろし）、そんなものではない、本物の本当の全部の”who we are”[訳註3]を示す枢要部なのです。だから、サムソンが自分の強さの秘密をデリラに隠していたとき、彼女から「どうして私を愛していると言えるの？あなたの心は私の所には居ないのに。」と訊かれたのです（士師記16:15）。サムソンが心を開いた時はじめてデリラは「サムソンは秘密の全てを話してくれた」と納得したのです（士師記16:18）。  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [訳註3] be動詞：形而上存在する、exist：形而下存在する。従って意訳すると「形而上存在としての私達自身」。 |
| 6. This interior reality of each person is frequently concealed behind a great deal of “foliage”, which makes it difficult for us not only to understand ourselves, but even more to know others: “The heart is devious above all else; it is perverse, who can understand it?” (*Jer* 17:9). We can understand, then, the advice of the Book of Proverbs: “Keep your heart with all vigilance, for from it flow the springs of life; put away from you crooked speech” (4:23-24). Mere appearances, dishonesty and deception harm and pervert the heart. Despite our every attempt to appear as something we are not, our heart is the ultimate judge, not of what we show or hide from others, but of who we truly are. It is the basis for any sound life project; nothing worthwhile can be undertaken apart from the heart. False appearances and untruths ultimately leave us empty-handed. | 6. 各personのこの様な内面realityは、茂った「葉」のかげに頻繁に隠されています。これが、私達が自分を理解するのを難しくすると同時に、他者を知ることを更に困難にします。即ち「心は何よりも狡猾でつむじ曲がり。誰がそれを理解できようか？」（エレミア17:9）。箴言の書の忠告も成る程と思えます。「心を全てのvigilance [訳註4]によって保ちなさい。そこからいのちの泉が流れ出る。だから曲がった言説を棄てなさい」（箴言4:23-24）。単なる見せ掛け、不正直、誤魔化し、そういったものは心を歪めます。something we are notとして上辺を幾ら取り繕ってみても、心が最終的に見抜くのは、私達が他者に見せよう他者から隠そうとする何かではなく、who we truly areなのです[訳註5]。自分の心に離反すると、価値あることを引き受けられなくなる。これが、健全な生涯を送るためのproject[訳註6]全てにとっての基本です。嘘の外見や虚言は結局、何も得ない手ぶらを余儀なくします。  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [訳註4] 日本語には適訳はない。語源は聖書。例えばイエスは、ローマ帝国の兵士が自身を逮捕しに来ると知って、弟子達に”*vigilate et orate*”(警戒し祈っていなさい。マタイ26:41,ルカ22:40)と警告した。これがvigilanceの語源の例。[日本国憲法GHQ草案](https://www.ndl.go.jp/constitution/shiryo/03/076a_e/076a_etx.html)第11条には、“The freedoms, rights and opportunities enunciated by this Constitution are maintained by the eternal **vigilance** of the people and involve an obligation on the part of the people to prevent their abuse and to employ them always for the common good.”と、キリスト教由来の形而上概念満載の英文条文がある。(問：幾つ？ 答：七つ)　当時の日本外務省若手職員によるその[初訳](https://www.ndl.go.jp/constitution/shiryo/03/076/076_008l.html)は「此の憲法に依り宣言せらるる自由、権利および機会は、人民の不断の**監視**に依り確保せらるるものにして、人民は其の濫用を防ぎ常にこれを共同の福祉の為に行使する義務を有す。」この初訳にあるvigilanceの訳は「監視」だが、日本国憲法決定稿では単に「努力」と訳されている。聖書の意も汲んで私が新たに和訳するなら、形而下誘惑警戒心、国家権力監視、形而上権利濫用警戒か。  [訳註5] この文章にある二つのbe動詞（are）も「形而上存在する」の意味。  [訳註6]　[EoF2023教皇メッセージ](https://llc-research.jp/blog/benkyokai/20231118-eof2023-pope-message/)訳註8で示した様に、これは [ontic project](https://www.google.com/search?q=%22ontic+project%22+%2B%22Cassirer%22&sca_esv=579494868&sxsrf=AM9HkKmAxNVH7XSSbeBQN7kMdPjt9ggYGQ%3A1699124606202&ei=fpVGZcKBDMOw2roPwLyrgAg&ved=0ahUKEwjCuNO0hKuCAxVDmFYBHUDeCoAQ4dUDCBA&uact=5&oq=%22ontic+project%22+%2B%22Cassirer%22&gs_lp=Egxnd3Mtd2l6LXNlcnAiGyJvbnRpYyBwcm9qZWN0IiArIkNhc3NpcmVyIkjiugFQ22VY7bABcAN4AJABAJgBaqABpw6qAQQxNy4zuAEDyAEA-AEB4gMEGAEgQYgGAQ&sclient=gws-wiz-serp)、形而上存在（onto、being）の射影。[エルンスト・カッシーラー](https://ja.wikipedia.org/wiki/%E3%82%A8%E3%83%AB%E3%83%B3%E3%82%B9%E3%83%88%E3%83%BB%E3%82%AB%E3%83%83%E3%82%B7%E3%83%BC%E3%83%A9%E3%83%BC)（1874-1945）が著書[『実体概念と関数概念』](https://www.msz.co.jp/book/detail/08604/)[Substanzbegriff und Funktionsbegriff](https://archive.org/details/substanzbegriffu00cassuoft) や[『現代物理学における決定論と非決定論』](https://www.msz.co.jp/book/detail/08736/)等で論じた概念。 |
| 7. As an illustration of this, I would repeat a story I have already told on another occasion. “For the carnival, when we were children, my grandmother would make a pastry using a very thin batter. When she dropped the strips of batter into the oil, they would expand, but then, when we bit into them, they were empty inside. In the dialect we spoke, those cookies were called ‘lies’… My grandmother explained why: ‘Like lies, they look big, but are empty inside; they are false, unreal’”. [[5]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn5)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[5]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref5) [*Homily at Morning Mass in Domus Sanctae Marthae*](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/cotidie/2016/documents/papa-francesco-cotidie_20161014_like-grandma-s-cookies.html), 14 October 2016: *L’Osservatore Romano*, 15 October 2016, p. 8. | 7. もう少し説明するために、以前別の機会でお話した私の経験談を再びしましょう。『私達が子共の頃、カーニバルのために祖母はとても薄くバターを混ぜてパイ生地を作りました。祖母がそのパイ生地を熱い油の鍋の中に落とすと、生地は大きく膨らむのですが、かじってみると中は空っぽでした。私達が話していた方言では、そのクッキーは‘lies’（嘘）と呼ばれていました...。 祖母はその理由をこう説明してくれました。「嘘と同じに大きく見える。でも中は空っぽ、見かけ倒しでunrealなのよ」』[5]  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [5] 教皇フランシスコ「サンタ・マルタの家での朝のミサにおける説教」2016年10月14日付 |
| 8. Instead of running after superficial satisfactions and playing a role for the benefit of others, we would do better to think about the really important questions in life. Who am I, really? What am I looking for? What direction do I want to give to my life, my decisions and my actions? Why and for what purpose am I in this world? How do I want to look back on my life once it ends? What meaning do I want to give to all my experiences? Who do I want to be for others? Who am I for God? All these questions lead us back to the heart. | 8. 浅薄な満足を追い求めるのでも、他者からの称賛を得るための役回りを演じるのでもなく、むしろ人生で本当に重要な問いの数々に関し考察する方が余程良いのではありませんか。 Who am I, really? 何を探し求めているのか？ 私の人生、私の決断、私の行動にどの様な方向性を与えたいのか？ 何故、何の目的で、私はこの形而下界にいるのか？ 人生を終えるとき自分の生涯をどう振り返りたいのか？ 自分のあらゆる経験に一体どのような意味を与えたいのか？ 他者のために何者でありたいのか？ 神にとって私は何者なのか？ これら様々な問いかけが、心へと戻るよう私達を導きます。 |
| RETURNING TO THE HEART | **心に戻る** |
| 9. In this “liquid” world of ours, we need to start speaking once more about the heart and thinking about this place where every person, of every class and condition, creates a synthesis, where they encounter the radical source of their strengths, convictions, passions and decisions. Yet, we find ourselves immersed in societies of serial consumers who live from day to day, dominated by the hectic pace and bombarded by technology, lacking in the patience needed to engage in the processes that an interior life by its very nature requires. In contemporary society, people “risk losing their centre, the centre of their very selves”. [[6]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn6)  “Indeed, the men and women of our time often find themselves confused and torn apart, almost bereft of an inner principle that can create unity and harmony in their lives and actions. Models of behaviour that, sadly, are now widespread exaggerate our rational-technological dimension or, on the contrary, that of our instincts”. [[7]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn7)  No room is left for the heart.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[6]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref6) SAINT JOHN PAUL II, [*Angelus*](https://www.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/angelus/2000/documents/hf_jp-ii_ang_20000702.html), 2 July 2000: *L’Osservatore Romano*, 3-4 July 2000, p. 4.  [[7]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref7) ID., *Catechesis*, 8 June 1994: *L’Osservatore Romano*, 9 June 1994, p. 5. | 9. 私達は、この「グラグラと液状化した」形而下界において、心について今再び語り始め、様々な階級や境遇のpersonが全て居るこの場で、それぞれが持つ強さ、信念、情熱、決断の、素（す）のままの源泉に巡り会い知り合う、その様なa synthesis（一つのまとまり）を創り出す必要があります。しかしながら今の自分達を省（かえり）みると、先を考えないその日暮らしを繰り返す消費社会に浸りきり、テクノロジーに攻め立てられ分刻みの忙しさに支配され、内なる生命が本質的に必要とする心的作業を行うのに不可欠な辛抱強さを、全く欠いている有様です。現代社会では、peopleは「自分の中心、正に自分自身の中心を失うリスクを冒しています。」[6] 「実際、私達の時代の男も女も、 統合失調の様な混乱をしばしば自覚し、生き方と行動とを一つに調和する内なる原則、即ち、心の支えをほとんど失っています。悲しいことに今、普及している行動モデルは、私達の合理的技術的な側面、または逆に、私達の本能の側面を誇張しているものばかりです。」[7] 心のためのroom（余裕、ゆとり、場所、居場所）を欠いています。  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [6] 教皇聖ヨハネ・パウロ2世「アンジェラス」2000年7月2日付『オッセルバトーレ・ロマーノ紙』2000年7月3～4日号4頁  [7] 教皇聖ヨハネ・パウロ2世「カテケーシス」1994年6月8日付『オッセルバトーレ・ロマーノ紙』1994年6月9日号5頁 |
| 10. The issues raised by today’s liquid society are much discussed, but this depreciation of the deep core of our humanity – the heart – has a much longer history. We find it already present in Hellenic and pre-Christian rationalism, in post-Christian idealism and in materialism in its various guises. The heart has been ignored in anthropology, and the great philosophical tradition finds it a foreign notion, preferring other concepts such as reason, will or freedom. The very meaning of the term is imprecise and hard to situate within our human experience. Perhaps this is due to the difficulty of treating it as a “clear and distinct idea”, or because it entails the question of self-understanding, where the deepest part of us is also that which is least known. Even encountering others does not necessarily prove to be a way of encountering ourselves, inasmuch as our thought patterns are dominated by an unhealthy individualism. Many people feel safer constructing their systems of thought in the more readily controllable domain of intelligence and will. The failure to make room for the heart, as distinct from our human powers and passions viewed in isolation from one another, has resulted in a stunting of the idea of a personal centre, in which love, in the end, is the one reality that can unify all the others. | 10. 今日、液状化社会で生じるこうした問題は様々に論じられています。しかし人間性の深奥、つまり心のdepreciation [訳註7]の問題には、もっとずっと長い歴史があります。ギリシャ文化やキリスト教以前の合理主義、キリスト教以後の観念論や様々な形の唯物論において、既に心の depreciationが見受けられます。特に人類学の分野では心は完全に無視されてきましたし、偉大な哲学の諸伝統では心を異質で有害な概念とみなして、例えば理性、意志、freedomなど他の概念ばかり好んで言及してきました。確かに心という用語の意味そのものが不明確で、私達humanの経験の範囲内では納まりきらない。ただこれはおそらく、心という用語の意味を「明確に峻別された概念」として扱うのが難しいためです。つまり、最終的には自己理解問題、即ち、私達の最も深い部分が最も知られていない部分でもあるという自己理解問題に帰結するからです。例えば私達は他者との巡り会いがあっても、自分自身の新たな面の発見には必ずしも至らない。ことほど左様に私達の思考パターンは不健全な個人主義に支配されています。多くの人が、知性や意志といったコントロールしやすい領域で思考システムを構築する方が気安いと感じています。心のために場所を空ける。それは、私達humanが互いに互いを切り離して諸々の力や諸々の情熱を遠くからただ眺めるのとは明確に違います。そんな風に、心のために場所を空けることに失敗した結果、「ペルソナの中心、それは愛、即ち、全ての他者を一つにできるone realityをその究極とする愛」[訳註8]という理念の成長を止めてしまったのです。  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [訳註7] 減価償却、価値低下、軽視、appreciationの反対  [訳註8] 9．にあった『現代社会では、peopleは「自分の中心、正に自分自身の中心を失うリスクを冒しています。」』と呼応する。 |
| 11. If we devalue the heart, we also devalue what it means to speak from the heart, to act with the heart, to cultivate and heal the heart. If we fail to appreciate the specificity of the heart, we miss the messages that the mind alone cannot communicate; we miss out on the richness of our encounters with others; we miss out on poetry. We also lose track of history and our own past, since our real personal history is built with the heart. At the end of our lives, that alone will matter. | 11. 心の軽視、それは即ち、心から語りかけ、心を用いて行動し、心を醸成して癒していくことの軽視です。心が持つこの様な特異性を評価し損なえば、精神単独ではやり取りできない諸々のメッセージを失い、他者との遭遇がもたらす豊かな楽しみ、詩情の楽しみを逃してしまいます。それどころか私達自身の来し方の軌跡を失ってしまいます。なぜなら、私達ペルソナの本当の来し方は、心によって構築されているからです。私達が生涯を閉じるとき、こうした軌跡だけが意味を持つことになります。 |
| 12. It must be said, then, that we have a heart, a heart that coexists with other hearts that help to make it a “Thou”. Since we cannot develop this theme at length, we will take a character from one of Dostoevsky’s novels, Nikolai Stavrogin. [[8]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn8) Romano Guardini argues that Stavrogin is the very embodiment of evil, because his chief trait is his heartlessness: “Stavrogin has no heart, hence his mind is cold and empty and his body sunken in bestial sloth and sensuality. He has no heart, hence he can draw close to no one and no one can ever truly draw close to him. For only the heart creates intimacy, true closeness between two persons. Only the heart is able to welcome and offer hospitality. Intimacy is the proper activity and the domain of the heart. Stavrogin is always infinitely distant, even from himself, because a man can enter into himself only with the heart, not with the mind. It is not in a man’s power to enter into his own interiority with the mind. Hence, if the heart is not alive, man remains a stranger to himself”. [[9]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn9)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[8]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref8) *The Demons*(1873).  [[9]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html#_ftnref9) ROMANO GUARDINI, *Religiöse Gestalten in Dostojewskijs Werk*, Mainz/Paderborn, 1989, pp. 236ff. | 12. そして更にこう言わざるをえません。私達は一つの心を持つ。即ち、この形而下界で他の様々な心と共存出来る一つの心を持つ。だからこそ、a “Thou”[訳註9]を感じ取ることができると。このテーマを手短に論理展開するのは不可能なので、ここでドストエフスキー『悪霊』に登場するニコライ・スタブローギン[8]をとりあげましょう。ロマーノ・グァルディーニは「スタブローギンには心がない。よって彼の精神は冷たく空っぽであり、彼の身体は獣のように怠惰と官能に沈んでいる。彼には心がない。従って誰にも近づくことができず、誰も彼に本当に近づくことはできない。厳に心だけが親密さ、即ち、二つのペルソナ間の真の緊密さを、創り出すことができ、心だけが、歓迎のおもてなしのabilityを持つ。親密さ、それは心の領域にあり心本来の活動なので、スタブローギンは、自分自身とさえ常に無限に疎遠の状態にある。人は、精神によってではなく心によってのみ、自分自身と出会うことができる。だから、心が生きていないならば、人は自分自身に対してヨソ者であり続ける。」「9」と述べ、スタブローギンの最大の特徴は、冷酷さ、悪の具象そのものだと論じました。  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [訳註9] 西洋言語にはSieとdu、thouとyouの様に二人称主格に尊称と俗称があり、二人称尊称は、神聖な者あるいは無冠詞Godを意味することがある。不定冠詞付き大文字始まり引用符囲いa “Thou”は、この形而下界で感じ取れるGodの意味か。  [8] ドストエフスキー『悪霊』 (1873年)。  [9] ロマーノ・グァルディーニ『[ドストエフスキーを読む: 五大小説の人物像における宗教性について](https://www.amazon.co.jp/%E3%83%89%E3%82%B9%E3%83%88%E3%82%A8%E3%83%95%E3%82%B9%E3%82%AD%E3%83%BC%E3%82%92%E8%AA%AD%E3%82%80%E2%80%95%E4%BA%94%E5%A4%A7%E5%B0%8F%E8%AA%AC%E3%81%AE%E4%BA%BA%E7%89%A9%E5%83%8F%E3%81%AB%E3%81%8A%E3%81%91%E3%82%8B%E5%AE%97%E6%95%99%E6%80%A7%E3%81%AB%E3%81%A4%E3%81%84%E3%81%A6-%E3%83%AD%E3%83%9E%E3%83%BC%E3%83%8E-%E3%82%B0%E3%82%A2%E3%83%AB%E3%83%87%E3%82%A3%E3%83%BC%E3%83%8B/dp/4896422430/ref=sr_1_1?__mk_ja_JP=%E3%82%AB%E3%82%BF%E3%82%AB%E3%83%8A&crid=3PHCSWTY8RJP1&dib=eyJ2IjoiMSJ9.Ik4VPkwbro9v6vkvIpjQdg.AX2llUTSwxAOkLPpe4dWrVSWeTP0FdZ8Wo0P4RIMQtI&dib_tag=se&keywords=%E3%82%B0%E3%82%A2%E3%83%AB%E3%83%87%E3%82%A3%E3%83%BC%E3%83%8B+%E3%83%89%E3%82%B9%E3%83%88%E3%82%A8%E3%83%95%E3%82%B9%E3%82%AD%E3%83%BC&qid=1744512295&s=books&sprefix=%E3%82%B0%E3%82%A2%E3%83%AB%E3%83%87%E3%82%A3%E3%83%BC%E3%83%8B+%E3%83%89%E3%82%B9%E3%83%88%E3%82%A8%E3%83%95%E3%82%B9%E3%82%AD%E3%83%BC%2Cstripbooks%2C227&sr=1-1)』和訳本発行2008年 |
| 13. All our actions need to be put under the “political rule” of the heart. In this way, our aggressiveness and obsessive desires will find rest in the greater good that the heart proposes and in the power of the heart to resist evil. The mind and the will are put at the service of the greater good by sensing and savouring truths, rather than seeking to master them as the sciences tend to do. The will desires the greater good that the heart recognizes, while the imagination and emotions are themselves guided by the beating of the heart. | 13. 私達は全ての行為を、心の「政治ルール」の下に行う必要があります。こうすることで私達の強迫的攻撃欲求は、心が悪に抗（あらが）う力の中、心が提案するもっと大きなgoodの中に、鎮（しず）まっていくはずです。その時、精神と意志は諸々の真理を感じ取り味わうことで、より大きなgoodに委（ゆだ）ねられます。諸々の科学が行いがちな、諸々の真理の主人であろうとするのとは違います。心の「政治ルール」の下にあるとき、意志は、心が認識するもっと大きなgoodを望む一方、想像力と感情は、自ら心の脈動に導かれるのです。 |
| 14. It could be said, then, that I am my heart, for my heart is what sets me apart, shapes my spiritual identity and puts me in communion with other people. The algorithms operating in the digital world show that our thoughts and will are much more “uniform” than we had previously thought. They are easily predictable and thus capable of being manipulated. That is not the case with the heart. | 14. だからこう言えるかもしれません。I am my heart [訳註10]だと。なぜなら、私の心は私を他者と区別し、私の霊的アイデンティティを形作り、私を他のpeople（ペルソナ達）との霊的交わりの中に置くものだからです。デジタル形而下界で動作している最近のAI等アルゴリズム[訳註11]は、私達の思考や意志が、以前考えられていたよりも、もっとずっと”uniform” (一様)なのだということを示しました。そのため私達の思考や意志は、予測が容易であり操作されてしまうcapabilityを有しています。しかしこういったことは、心には当てはまりません。  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [訳註10] このam（be動詞）も「形而上存在する」の意味。意訳すれば「私の形而上存在は、私の心」あるいは「私の心が、私の形而上存在」。なお、[英語版の出エジプト記3:13-15](https://bible.usccb.org/bible/exodus/3)には、モーゼに対し神自身が“I am who am.”（私は形而上存在する者）と自己紹介し、「I AM（私は形而上存在する）という者がモーゼをあなた達に遣（つか）わした。」とイスラエルの人々に告げよと命じた、とある。このam（be動詞）の語法が持つ意味合いをI am my heartは踏襲している。  [訳註11] 主語the algorithms operating in the digital worldは二つもtheがつけられている。「隠れた言葉の背景」を深く考察するように読者を強く促している。 |
| 15. The word “heart” proves its value for philosophy and theology in their efforts to reach an integral synthesis. Nor can its meaning be exhausted by biology, psychology, anthropology or any other science.  It is one of those primordial words that “describe realities belonging to man precisely in so far as he is one whole (as a corporeo-spiritual person)”. [[10]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn10)  It follows that biologists are not being more “realistic” when they discuss the heart, since they see only one aspect of it; the whole is not less real, but even more real. Nor can abstract language ever acquire the same concrete and integrative meaning. The word “heart” evokes the inmost core of our person, and thus it enables us to understand ourselves in our integrity and not merely under one isolated aspect.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[10]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref10) KARL RAHNER, *“Some Theses for a Theology of Devotion to the Sacred Heart”*, in *Theological Investigations*, vol. III, Baltimore-London, 1967, p. 332. | 15. 「心」という言葉は、哲学と神学が一つの高次統合体に到達しようと努力するとき、その真価を発揮します。換言すればこういった努力なしには、生物学、心理学、人類学、その他の科学が、心という言葉の意味を語り尽くすことは出来ません。「心」という言葉は、「人間が（肉体と霊を備えた一つのペルソナとして）one wholeでありさえすれば、人間に属するrealitiesを正確に描写する」[10] 原初的言葉の一つなのです。例えば生物学者達が心について議論するとき、肉体に即した一側面しか見ていないので、より“realistic”になっているのではありません。（訳補：肉体と霊を備えた一つのペルソナとしての）the wholeは、少しもrealではないのではなく、いやむしろ、よりrealだからです。換言すれば、肉体と霊の高次統合として具象化された意味を、抽象化された言葉が同様に獲得することはあり得ません[訳註12]。「心」という言葉は、our person [訳註13]の最深部の核心を呼び起こし、私達の自己が在（あ）るのは、単に隔絶された一面の下においてではなくour integrity [訳註14]の下においてなのだ、との理解をこの形而下界において可能にしてくれるのです。  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[10]](http://archive.hsscol.org.hk/Archive/periodical/abstract/A04G1_1.htm) *Karl Rahner, "Some Theses on the Theology of the Devotion," in Heart of the Saviour: A Symposium on Devotion to the Sacred Heart, edited by Josef Stierli (Freiburg: Herder, 1957): pp. 131 - 156. This same essay has been published, in a different translation, in Karl Rahner, "Some Theses for a Theology of Devotion to the Sacred Heart," Theological Investigations, vol. 3* （*A Symposium on Devotion to the Sacred Heart*のテキストは[米古書店でも品切れ](https://www.amazon.com/-/he/Josef-editor-Stierli/dp/B0007IVP4A?language=en_US&ref_=nav_signin)。）  [訳註12]この文章の背景には「意味の獲得（acquirement of meaning）が形而上で起こったのち、シンボルの接地（[symbol grounding](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Symbol_grounding_problem)）が形而下で起こる」という考えがあるように思う。この様な問題提起には[“Incarnation of Meaning”](https://www.google.com/search?q=%22incarnation+of+meaning%22+&sca_esv=92a388f48f73ef37&sxsrf=AHTn8zrU0Hix0H4-T2p9KmeMCNIxmBdEVQ%3A1746954792694&ei=KGogaISbKoyj1e8P4YGtwQ4&ved=0ahUKEwiEz-3eiZuNAxWMUfUHHeFAK-gQ4dUDCBI&uact=5&oq=%22incarnation+of+meaning%22+&gs_lp=Egxnd3Mtd2l6LXNlcnAiGSJpbmNhcm5hdGlvbiBvZiBtZWFuaW5nIiAyBBAAGB4yBhAAGAgYHjIGEAAYCBgeMgYQABgIGB4yBhAAGAgYHjIGEAAYCBgeMgYQABgIGB4yBhAAGAgYHjIGEAAYCBgeMgYQABgIGB5I73tQ9AhY2BRwAngAkAEAmAF7oAHsAaoBAzAuMrgBA8gBAPgBAZgCA6AC_AGYAwCIBgGSBwMxLjKgB5IIsgcDMC4yuAf4AQ&sclient=gws-wiz-serp)（意味の受肉）というタグがついてnet上で活発な議論が始まったようだ。  [訳註13] このpersonが単数形であることに注意。私達は個々にそれぞれペルソナを持っていると同時に、私達全体で一つのペルソナを持っている、ということを表している。  [訳註14]　our personとour integrityと、更に言えば次段落のour heartとは、三つ巴に呼応している。 |
| 16. This unique power of the heart also helps us to understand why, when we grasp a reality with our heart, we know it better and more fully. This inevitably leads us to the love of which the heart is capable, for “the inmost core of reality is love”. [[11]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn11)  For Heidegger, as interpreted by one contemporary thinker, philosophy does not begin with a simple concept or certainty, but with a shock: “Thought must be provoked before it begins to work with concepts or while it works with them. Without deep emotion, thought cannot begin. The first mental image would thus be goose bumps. What first stirs one to think and question is deep emotion. Philosophy always takes place in a basic mood (*Stimmung*)”. [[12]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn12)  That is where the heart comes in, since it “houses the states of mind and functions as a ‘keeper of the state of mind’. The ‘heart’ listens in a non-metaphoric way to ‘the silent voice’ of being, allowing itself to be tempered and determined by it”. [[13]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn13)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[11]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref11) Ibid., p. 333.  [[12]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref12) [BYUNG-CHUL HAN, *Heideggers Herz. Zum Begriff der Stimmung bei Martin Heidegger*,](https://www.amazon.co.jp/Heideggers-Herz-Begriff-Stimmung-Heidegger/dp/377053106X/ref=sr_1_11?dib=eyJ2IjoiMSJ9.1fpPlUHA-gTXell_9z6nu2jmQD70FnKSq7mEYtbCrVTko9upFsZB52TazSL5VZzg0ZmZ3u_djQySAnPb3ThJXORyp-CzhYfJ8KV1kh1o6mEcqIH2VTYtaKnvbKPx7_UCVK0qOBJuShaeA0sWfRN8eaN_yNVj4MnHY6voYVyzg8hYCmp6tdmclg_1iby1inQok_O868uR-EHIh3CQeMV6GpNzKvQGXATr3iXBygX6Xso.KEFn1F2qcRSoCriKJNwTNvVXDJEcglY_jxQYUPTjOas&dib_tag=se&qid=1745222613&refinements=p_27%3AByung-Chul+Han&s=books&sr=1-11) München, 1996, p. 39.  [[13]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref13) Ibid., p. 60; cf. p. 176. | 16. 私達がour heartでa realityを掴（つか）む[訳註15]。そうすれば、掴（つか）んだa realityのことを更に深く十全に知ることになります。また、どうしてそうなるのか、その理由も、心が持つこの独特な力の助勢を得て分かってきます。こうなれば必然的に私達は、心に備わった愛のcapabilityへと導かれていきます。なぜなら「無冠詞realityの最深部の核心は愛」[11]だからです。韓国生まれのドイツ在住現代思想家ビョンチョル・ハンは、ハイデッガーにとって哲学の起点は、単純な概念や確信ではなく何らかの精神的衝撃だったと解釈しています。「思考は、諸概念に取り組む以前に、あるいは諸概念に取り組んでいる最中に、触発され始まっているにちがいありません。深遠からの感情の揺さぶりなしに、思考が始まることはありません。だからその最初の精神イメージは鳥肌を立たせるかもしれません。 one（一つの霊的存在）を刺激して疑問を抱かせ思考させる切っ掛けは、深遠からの感情の揺さぶりなのです。哲学は常に、或る基本的な心象（英mood, 独Stimmung）の中に生ずるものです。」[12]　ここに心が登場してきます。なぜなら心は『「精神の諸状態を運ぶトレーラー」であり「精神の諸状態を保つキーパー」として機能する。更に「心」は、比喩としてではなく、being（形而上存在）が発する「沈黙の声」を聴き、それに沿って「心」自らが穏やかに意志決定できるようにする』[13]からです。  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [訳註15] 私達がour heartでa realityを掴（つか）む。この文章の意味は分かりにくい。例えばgrasp the rope with both handsといえば「両手でロープを掴む」と実感をもって分かるが、「心でa realityを掴む」とは一体どういう意味だろうか。実はこのフランシスコ教皇独特の表現の背景には、最近の量子力学実験、特にベル実験（[解説したNHKスペシャルのsite](https://www.nhk.jp/p/special/ts/2NY2QQLPM3/episode/te/BX6PWY3N59/)）から実証された或る発見がある。それは「私達がその中に居ると感じているa realityは、私達の意匠が反映されにくいa crystalline reality（結晶質現実）ではなく、私達の意匠が反映される余地があるan amorphous reality（非晶質現実）である」という発見。フランシスコ教皇がこの発見に言及した文献としては、2020年9月16日のフランシスコ教皇一般講話（[原英文](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/audiences/2020/documents/papa-francesco_20200916_udienza-generale.html)）、カテケーシス「この形而下界を癒すには」全9講の内の第7講「地球のケアと観想の次元」がある。和訳としては[このパワポ](https://llc-research.jp/blog/benkyokai/20210918-catechesis-healing-the-world-7-8/)を参照されたい。4頁目にan amorphous realityという用語がでてくる。  [11] カール・ラーナーによる[10]と同じ資料、p.333  [12] [BYUNG-CHUL HAN, *Heideggers Herz. Zum Begriff der Stimmung bei Martin Heidegger*,](https://www.amazon.co.jp/Heideggers-Herz-Begriff-Stimmung-Heidegger/dp/377053106X/ref=sr_1_11?dib=eyJ2IjoiMSJ9.1fpPlUHA-gTXell_9z6nu2jmQD70FnKSq7mEYtbCrVTko9upFsZB52TazSL5VZzg0ZmZ3u_djQySAnPb3ThJXORyp-CzhYfJ8KV1kh1o6mEcqIH2VTYtaKnvbKPx7_UCVK0qOBJuShaeA0sWfRN8eaN_yNVj4MnHY6voYVyzg8hYCmp6tdmclg_1iby1inQok_O868uR-EHIh3CQeMV6GpNzKvQGXATr3iXBygX6Xso.KEFn1F2qcRSoCriKJNwTNvVXDJEcglY_jxQYUPTjOas&dib_tag=se&qid=1745222613&refinements=p_27%3AByung-Chul+Han&s=books&sr=1-11) München, 1996, p. 39.  [13] 同上資料、p. 60; cf. p. 176 |
| THE HEART UNITES THE FRAGMENTS | **心は諸々の断片を一つにする** |
| 17. At the same time, the heart makes all authentic bonding possible, since a relationship not shaped by the heart is incapable of overcoming the fragmentation caused by individualism. Two monads may approach one another, but they will never truly connect. A society dominated by narcissism and self-centredness will increasingly become “heartless”. This will lead in turn to the “loss of desire”, since as other persons disappear from the horizon we find ourselves trapped within walls of our own making, no longer capable of healthy relationships. [[14]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn14)  As a result, we also become incapable of openness to God. As Heidegger puts it, to be open to the divine we need to build a “guest house”. [[15]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn15)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[14]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref14) Cf. ID., *Agonie des Eros*, Berlin, 2012.  [[15]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref15) Cf. MARTIN HEIDEGGER, *Erläuterungen zu Hölderlins Dichtung*, Frankfürt a. M., 1981, p. 120. | 17. それと同時に心は、本当の絆（きずな）全てを可能としていきます。なぜなら、心によって形成されていない関係性は、個人主義に起因する断片化を克服できないからです。個人主義では二つのモナド[訳註16]が、互いに近づくことがあるかもしれませんが、決して真につながることはありません。ナルシズムと自己中心性が支配する社会は、日増しに「心ないもの」になっていきます。そうなると次に「願望の喪失」が巡ってきてしまいます。なぜなら、他のpersonsが地平線から消えると、私達は自分自身で作った壁の中に閉じ込められ、もはや健全な人間関係を築くことができなくなるからです[14]。結果、私達は openness to Godのcapabilityをも失ってしまいます。ハイデッガーが言うように、神に対して心を開くためには a “guest house”を築いておく必要があるからです。[15]  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [訳註16] ライプニッツの形而上学の根本要素概念。モナド（単子）は力・作用を実体化したもので、広がりも形も無い実体。それが無数に集まって宇宙を形作っているとライプニッツは考えた。  [14]英訳版は：[Byung-chul Han, *The Agony of Eros (Untimely Meditations)*](https://www.amazon.co.jp/Agony-Eros-Untimely-Meditations/dp/0262533375/?_encoding=UTF8&pd_rd_w=xKHZo&content-id=amzn1.sym.bb272e13-1a68-41b0-a370-44a252d487ac&pf_rd_p=bb272e13-1a68-41b0-a370-44a252d487ac&pf_rd_r=356-9786984-7639667&pd_rd_wg=hSYsh&pd_rd_r=6fe143ee-f004-4e43-8b29-5178e1211831&ref_=aufs_ap_sc_dsk)  [15] 和訳版は：[マルティン・ハイデッガー『ハイデッガー選集 3 ヘルダーリンの詩の解明』、理想社](https://www.amazon.co.jp/%E3%83%8F%E3%82%A4%E3%83%87%E3%83%83%E3%82%AC%E3%83%BC%E9%81%B8%E9%9B%86-3-%E3%83%98%E3%83%AB%E3%83%80%E3%83%BC%E3%83%AA%E3%83%B3%E3%81%AE%E8%A9%A9%E3%81%AE%E8%A7%A3%E6%98%8E-%E7%90%86%E6%83%B3%E7%A4%BE-%E3%83%9E%E3%83%AB%E3%83%86%E3%82%A3%E3%83%B3%E3%83%BB%E3%83%8F%E3%82%A4%E3%83%87%E3%83%83%E3%82%AC%E3%83%BC/dp/B0D6Y1CJQG/ref=sr_1_7?__mk_ja_JP=%E3%82%AB%E3%82%BF%E3%82%AB%E3%83%8A&crid=1GFSX9MVM0GQ8&dib=eyJ2IjoiMSJ9.IpBr_QEUGSIIByHBorhlC8wCPd95Dst5KbEb6USg8Q8mmTyd3AUXIFsO3gbItdzUXfkKVDmwmijkNLoHezHLsTMLPF-aEn2_Cq5NxUswGaUB1BcGF4V3pV1Io95RQX7vFa_FwOusyqmxm5DFHpiBFHU9D1KAX89E8qs5i1fwqs7jNIzndOFu_EkT-TV9y-L_QPuIRw12G9nkKQioN0i0ddjzd3vOfPKyEaB_MP84VkU._Wf7oacqryHfiFPZBTdSScMym5nGFof3IwxyJL8ZEPc&dib_tag=se&keywords=%E3%83%8F%E3%82%A4%E3%83%87%E3%83%83%E3%82%AC%E3%83%BC+%E3%83%98%E3%83%AB%E3%83%80%E3%83%BC%E3%83%AA%E3%83%B3&qid=1745310435&s=english-books&sprefix=%E3%83%8F%E3%82%A4%E3%83%87%E3%83%83%E3%82%AC%E3%83%BC+%E3%83%98%E3%83%AB%E3%83%80%E3%83%BC%E3%83%AA%E3%83%B3%2Cenglish-books%2C163&sr=1-7) |
| 18. We see, then, that in the heart of each person there is a mysterious connection between self-knowledge and openness to others, between the encounter with one’s personal uniqueness and the willingness to give oneself to others. We become ourselves only to the extent that we acquire the ability to acknowledge others, while only those who can acknowledge and accept themselves are then able to encounter others. | 18. ですからお分かりでしょう。each personの心の中には或る神秘的な結合が形而上存在しています。即ち、自己認識と他者へのopenness [訳註17]とを繋ぐ神秘的な結合、換言すると、one（一つの霊的存在）であるペルソナの独自性との邂逅、それと、oneself（一つの霊的存在自身）を他者に捧げる意欲とを繋ぐ神秘的な結合が、each personの心の中に形而上存在しています。そうして、他者を認める形而下能力を獲得した分だけ、私達は自分自身になっていく。逆もまた真なりで、自分自身を認め受け入れていく人だけが、他者と邂逅する形而下能力を獲得していくのです。  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [訳註17] openness：心開。心を開くこと、心が開かれていること。[心開を「みはる」「むねはる」と読んで](https://pon-navi.net/nazuke/name/%E5%BF%83%E9%96%8B)人の名前とすることはある様だが、実はこんな日本語は広辞苑にも大辞林にも無い。しかしopennessの訳語として新に造語しても良いのでは...。 |
| 19. The heart is also capable of unifying and harmonizing our personal history, which may seem hopelessly fragmented, yet is the place where everything can make sense. The Gospel tells us this in speaking of Our Lady, who saw things with the heart. She was able to dialogue with the things she experienced by pondering them in her heart, treasuring their memory and viewing them in a greater perspective. The best expression of how the heart thinks is found in the two passages in Saint Luke’s Gospel that speak to us of how Mary “treasured (*synetérei*) all these things and pondered (*symbállousa*) them in her heart” (cf. *Lk* 2:19 and 51). The Greek verb *symbállein*, “ponder”, evokes the image of putting two things together (“symbols”) in one’s mind and reflecting on them, in a dialogue with oneself. In Luke 2:51, the verb used is *dietérei*, which has the sense of “keep”. What Mary “kept” was not only her memory of what she had seen and heard, but also those aspects of it that she did not yet understand; these nonetheless remained present and alive in her memory, waiting to be “put together” in her heart. | 19. ペルソナとしての私達の歴史は、絶望的なまでに断片化しているように見えるかもしれません。しかし心は、この様なペルソナの歴史を、全てが意味を為すよう調和を与え一体化するcapabilityを持ちます。福音は、心によって物事を見た聖マリアに言及することで、心のこの様なcapabilityについて教えてくれます。マリアは、経験した諸々の物事について心を用いて熟考し、その記憶を大切なものとし、より大きな眺望の中に置くことで、諸々の物事と対話するabilityを持っていました。心がどう考察を巡らすのか、最もよく表現しているのは、ルカ福音書の二つの箇所です。マリアは「これら全ての物事を大切なもの(*synetérei*)とし、心に留めて熟考（*symbállein*）した」（ルカ2:19　訳補：イエス誕生を祝う天の大軍の賛美歌「いと高きところに栄光、神にあれ、／地に平和、御心に適う人にあれ」を伝え聞いたマリア）。ギリシャ語*symbállein* (英語ponder)は、二つのもの(二つの「シンボル」)をone（一つの霊的存在）が持つ精神の中で組み立て、oneself（一つの霊的自身）との対話の中でそれらについて考察する、というイメージを呼び起こします。また、（訳補：神殿での少年イエスと学者達との高度な会話エピソードを記した）ルカ2:51「母はこれらのことを全て心に収めていた」にある動詞 *dietérei*は、”keep”という意味で使われています。マリアが”kept”していたのは、彼女が見聞きした物事の記憶だけでなく、その時はまだよく理解できなかった様々な側面も含まれていました。しかも、そういった様々な側面は、マリアの心の中で「組み立てられる」のを待ちながら、マリアの記憶の中にハッキリと生き続けていました。 |
| 20. In this age of artificial intelligence, we cannot forget that poetry and love are necessary to save our humanity. No algorithm will ever be able to capture, for example, the nostalgia that all of us feel, whatever our age, and wherever we live, when we recall how we first used a fork to seal the edges of the pies that we helped our mothers or grandmothers to make at home. It was a moment of culinary apprenticeship, somewhere between child-play and adulthood, when we first felt responsible for working and helping one another. Along with the fork, I could also mention thousands of other little things that are a precious part of everyone’s life: a smile we elicited by telling a joke, a picture we sketched in the light of a window, the first game of soccer we played with a rag ball, the worms we collected in a shoebox, a flower we pressed in the pages of a book, our concern for a fledgling bird fallen from its nest, a wish we made in plucking a daisy. All these little things, ordinary in themselves yet extraordinary for us, can never be captured by algorithms. The fork, the joke, the window, the ball, the shoebox, the book, the bird, the flower: all of these live on as precious memories “kept” deep in our heart. | 20. 今、AIの時代、人間性を保持するために私達には詩と愛が必要であることを忘れてはなりません。アルゴリズムは、例えばノスタルジア、郷愁をとらえることは決してありません。私達の誰もが、何歳になっても何処に居ても感じる郷愁。例えば、母親や祖母の自家製パイ作りを手伝って、自分がフォークをどう使ってパイの周縁を閉じたか、その初の経験を思い起こす郷愁は、AIにはありません。それは、料理を見習い始めた頃、子どもの遊びと大人の仕事の狭間（はざま）、協働作業を分担する初の応答責任感覚でした。こんなフォーク仕事以外にも、誰にとっても大切な人生の小さな出来事が何千とあります。冗談が通じて湧いた笑顔、窓から差し込む光の中で描いた絵、ぼろ布のボールで遊んだあの初めてのサッカー、靴箱で集めたミミズ、本のページ圧で作った押し花、雛鳥が巣から落ちて感じた心配、デイジーを摘んで祈った願掛け（がんかけ）、などです。何でもない普通のことでありながら特別なこれらの小さな出来事は、アルゴリズムは決してとらえられません。自分にとってはそれぞれに珠玉の、フォーク、冗談、窓、ボール、靴箱、本、雛鳥、願掛け...、この様な全てが、私達の心の奥深くに”kept”された大切な思い出として生き続けています。 |
| 21. This profound core, present in every man and woman, is not that of the soul, but of the entire person in his or her unique psychosomatic identity. Everything finds its unity in the heart, which can be the dwelling-place of love in all its spiritual, psychic and even physical dimensions. In a word, if love reigns in our heart, we become, in a complete and luminous way, the persons we are meant to be, for every human being is created above all else for love. In the deepest fibre of our being, we were made to love and to be loved. | 21. 全ての人に顕れるこの様に深遠なcore（核としての心）は、その人の魂のcoreではなく、それぞれに独特な心身的identityに顕れる、その人の全きペルソナのcoreです。この様な心の内に、全ての物事が一体性を見出します。何故なら心こそが、それぞれの霊的次元、心霊的次元、更に言えば形而下的次元における、愛の住処となり得るからです。簡潔に言えば、愛が私達の心を統べるならば、完備された耀（かがや）く道を経て、それぞれの本来のペルソナに私達はなっていく。何故なら全てのhuman beingは他の何よりも愛のために創造されたからです。私達のbeingの最深部には、愛し愛されるべく創られた資質が織り込まれています。 |
| 22. For this reason, when we witness the outbreak of new wars, with the complicity, tolerance or indifference of other countries, or petty power struggles over partisan interests, we may be tempted to conclude that our world is losing its heart. We need only to see and listen to the elderly women – from both sides – who are at the mercy of these devastating conflicts. It is heart-breaking to see them mourning for their murdered grandchildren, or longing to die themselves after losing the homes where they spent their entire lives. Those women, who were often pillars of strength and resilience amid life’s difficulties and hardships, now, at the end of their days, are experiencing, in place of a well-earned rest, only anguish, fear and outrage. Casting the blame on others does not resolve these shameful and tragic situations. To see these elderly women weep, and not feel that this is something intolerable, is a sign of a world that has grown heartless. | 22. だから例えば、新たな戦争が、他の国々の共謀や無関心や許容、あるいは党派的利益を巡る些細な権力闘争によって勃発するのを目の当たりにすると、私達の形而下界が心を失いつつあると結論づけたくなります。この様に壊滅的な利益相反に翻弄される、紛争両サイドに住むお婆さん達に会ってその話しを聞くだけでもう沢山です。孫を失い嘆き悲しむ、あるいは、生涯を過ごした家を失い自ら死を望むお婆さん達を見るにつけ、胸が張り裂けそうになります。これらご婦人達は、人生の困難や苦難のただ中で、多くの場合、強靭な回復力を示す支柱となってきました。しかし今、人生のおわりに、その働きに値する休息の代わりに、苦悩、恐怖、憤慨だけの日々を過ごしています。他者に責任を転嫁しても、この恥ずべき悲劇的状況は決して解決しません。この様なお婆さん達が涙を流しているのを見て、これが耐えがたい何かだと感じないのであれば、それは私達が掴んだa worldが心ないものになりつつある兆候です。 |
| 23. Whenever a person thinks, questions and reflects on his or her true identity, strives to understand the deeper questions of life and to seek God, or experiences the thrill of catching a glimpse of truth, it leads to the realization that our fulfilment as human beings is found in love. In loving, we sense that we come to know the purpose and goal of our existence in this world. Everything comes together in a state of coherence and harmony. It follows that, in contemplating the meaning of our lives, perhaps the most decisive question we can ask is, “Do I have a heart?” | 23. a person（一つのペルソナ）が、自分の本当のidentityについて思考し発問し沈思し、人生について更に深い問いを分かろうとGodを求めて奮闘する、あるいは、真実を垣間見る興奮を経験する。その時常に、私達human beingsとしてのfulfilment（自己実現）は愛の内に見出される、と気づかされます。即ち、この形而下界での私達の形而下存在の目的と目標が分かってくる ― という感覚は、愛することで得られます。Everything comes together in a state of coherence and harmony. [訳註18]従って、私達の人生の意味を観想し様々な発問が可能となる中で、恐らく最も決定的な発問は、「私には心があるのか？」です。  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [訳註18]フランシスコ教皇文章に多く見られるEverything is interconnected.（訳例：全ては量子もつれの状態にある。）と同様に、この文からも量子力学の見地から深奥な意味を感じ取ることができる。即ち、「コヒーレント状態と同時固有状態とから成る一つの大規模な量子状態の中で、全ては一緒に生起する。」と訳すことができる。コヒーレント状態とは、物理学者[ロイ・グラウバー](https://ja.wikipedia.org/wiki/%E3%83%AD%E3%82%A4%E3%83%BB%E3%82%B0%E3%83%A9%E3%82%A6%E3%83%90%E3%83%BC)（1925－2018）の[1963年の論文](https://journals.aps.org/pr/abstract/10.1103/PhysRev.131.2766)で、その具体例がレーザー光として見いだされた量子状態。それは、非可換な物理量、例えば時間とエネルギーが、擬確率分布（quasi probability distribution）の軌跡（例えば[これ](https://ja.wikipedia.org/wiki/%E3%82%A6%E3%82%A3%E3%82%B0%E3%83%8A%E3%83%BC%E9%96%A2%E6%95%B0#/media/%E3%83%95%E3%82%A1%E3%82%A4%E3%83%AB:SmallDisplacedGaussianWF.gif)）として観測される量子状態を意味する。他方、同時固有状態とは、量子状態と量子状態が共通固有状態を持ち、そこに向けてとが波束の収縮を起こし、それぞれの実数固有値とが、一定に定まる可換な物理量として観測される量子状態を意味する。これらを敷衍すると、全ての物事、即ち、私達が観測する神羅万象の、元となる諸々の量子状態が波束の収縮をする収縮先が、「コヒーレント状態と同時固有状態とから成る一つの大規模な量子状態」であって、それ故に、全ての物事それぞれの物理量観測値が、それぞれに局限された値域にあるように、あるいは、それぞれに一定に定まるように、全ての観測者に共有されるとき、この「コヒーレント状態と同時固有状態とから成る一つの大規模な量子状態」の中に、私達がその中にいると感じているa realityがあると考えることができる。 |
| **FIRE** | **火炎** |
| 24. All that we have said has implications for the spiritual life. For example, the theology underlying the Spiritual Exercises of Saint Ignatius Loyola is based on “affection” (*affectus*). The structure of the Exercises assumes a firm and heartfelt desire to “rearrange” one’s life, a desire that in turn provides the strength and the wherewithal to achieve that goal. The rules and the compositions of place that Ignatius furnishes are in the service of something much more important, namely, the mystery of the human heart. Michel de Certeau shows how the “movements” of which Ignatius speaks are the “inbreaking” of God’s desire and the desire of our own heart amid the orderly progression of the meditations. Something unexpected and hitherto unknown starts to speak in our heart, breaking through our superficial knowledge and calling it into question. This is the start of a new process of “setting our life in order”, beginning with the heart. It is not about intellectual concepts that need to be put into practice in our daily lives, as if affectivity and practice were merely the effects of – and dependent upon – the data of knowledge. [[16]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn16)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[16]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref16) Cf. MICHEL DE CERTEAU, *L’espace du désir ou le «fondement» des Exercises Spirituels:* *Christus* 77 (1973), pp. 118-128. | 24. ここまで述べた全てに、霊的生活に関する暗示が含まれています。例えば聖イグナティウス・ロヨラの霊操の根底にある神学は、「愛情（*affectus*）」に基づいています。霊操の構造は、one（一つの霊的存在）の人生を「再整理」したいという確固とした心からの願望を前提としており、続いてそういった願望がこの目標を達成するための力と手段をもたらします。またイグナティウスの霊操が提供する規則と場は、もっとずっと重要な何か、つまりhumanの心の神秘のために構成されています。ミシェル・ド・セルトーは、イグナティウスが語る「動き」とは、瞑想の秩序だった進行の中で神の願望と私達自身の心の願望とが「互いに入り込む」ことであると示しました。期せずして、まただからこそ未知の何かが私達の心の中で語り始め、私達の浅薄な知識を打破し疑問の中に呼び込みます。これは、心によって開始される「人生を整える」という新しいプロセスのスタートであり、日常生活の実践とされるべき知的概念に属するものではありません。即ちあたかも、the data of knowledge（訳補：[感覚与件](https://ja.wikipedia.org/wiki/%E6%84%9F%E8%A6%9A%E4%B8%8E%E4%BB%B6) [Laudato Si’](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html) 110段落のthe data generated by other fields of knowledge, including philosophy and social ethicsに符合。）に依存した結果に過ぎないかの様な、情動や実践とは全く異なります。[16]  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [16] ミシェル・ド・セルトー「願望の空間あるいは霊操の基礎」（『クリストゥス』第77号、1973年、118－128頁所載）参照。 |
| 25. Where the thinking of the philosopher halts, there the heart of the believer presses on in love and adoration, in pleading for forgiveness and in willingness to serve in whatever place the Lord allows us to choose, in order to follow in his footsteps. At that point, we realize that in God’s eyes we are a “Thou”, and for that very reason we can be an “I”. Indeed, only the Lord offers to treat each one of us as a “Thou”, always and forever. Accepting his friendship is a matter of the heart; it is what constitutes us as persons in the fullest sense of that word. | 25. 哲学者の思考が止まる所で、the believers[訳註19]の心は前進します。心に愛と憧憬、そして赦しの嘆願をもって、主が私達に選択を委ねた場[訳註20]がどの様な場になろうとも喜んで奉仕し、主の歩みに従って前進します。このとき、私達は神の目にはa “Thou”として形而上存在し、だからこそ私達は an “I”として形而上存在できるのだと気づかされます。実際、主だけが私達each oneを常に永遠にa “Thou”として下さるのです。この様な主の友情を受け入れることは、心の問題である一方、persons（ペルソナ）という言葉の最も完全な意味として私達を構成するための要（かなめ）でもあるのです。  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [訳註19] 宗教信仰者だけがbelieversなのではない。科学者も「平行線は交わらない」等の公理のbelieversであり、万有引力の法則やBornの確率規則という公理をbelieve inする者達であると言える。[拙コラム258「人間全てbelievers」](https://llc-research.jp/blog/column/258-everyone-is-believers/)参照方。  [訳註20]この表現は、訳註12で言及したan amorphous reality（一つの非晶質現実）の特質を表し、量子力学の言語で言えば高次ヒルベルト空間に重ね合せ量子状態として用意された選択肢の範囲に限定されたfree will（自由意志）を私達が持つことを表している。背景には「重ね合せ量子状態のreduction of wave packet（波束の収縮）の行き先をコントロールすることは可能」（[拙コラム267](https://llc-research.jp/blog/column/267-objective-reality-is-inconceivable-for-human/)「equality（公平）は人間には実現不可能」参照方）という量子コンピューター作動原理に繫がる発見がある。神はサイコロを振らない（God does not play dice.）はアインシュタインの言葉だが、本回勅はその先を、God does not play dice, but human existences sometimes do. Instead, they should make the choice more prudently.と補足しているとも言える。 |
| 26. Saint Bonaventure tells us that in the end we should not pray for light, but for “raging fire”. [[17]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn17)  He teaches that, “faith is in the intellect, in such a way as to provoke affection. In this sense, for example, the knowledge that Christ died for us does not remain knowledge, but necessarily becomes affection, love”. [[18]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn18)  Along the same lines, Saint John Henry Newman took as his motto the phrase *Cor ad cor loquitur*, since, beyond all our thoughts and ideas, the Lord saves us by speaking to our hearts from his Sacred Heart. This realization led him, the distinguished intellectual, to recognize that his deepest encounter with himself and with the Lord came not from his reading or reflection, but from his prayerful dialogue, heart to heart, with Christ, alive and present. It was in the Eucharist that Newman encountered the living heart of Jesus, capable of setting us free, giving meaning to each moment of our lives, and bestowing true peace: “O most Sacred, most loving Heart of Jesus, Thou art concealed in the Holy Eucharist, and Thou beatest for us still… I worship Thee then with all my best love and awe, with my fervent affection, with my most subdued, most resolved will. O my God, when Thou dost condescend to suffer me to receive Thee, to eat and drink Thee, and Thou for a while takest up Thy abode within me, O make my heart beat with Thy Heart. Purify it of all that is earthly, all that is proud and sensual, all that is hard and cruel, of all perversity, of all disorder, of all deadness. So fill it with Thee, that neither the events of the day nor the circumstances of the time may have power to ruffle it, but that in Thy love and Thy fear it may have peace”. [[19]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn19)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[17]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref17) *Itinerarium Mentis in Deum*, VII, 6.  [[18]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref18) ID., *Proemium in I Sent*., q. 3.  [[19]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref19) SAINT JOHN HENRY NEWMAN, *Meditations and Devotions*, London, 1912, Part III [XVI], par. 3, pp. 573-574. | 26. そして最終的には、私達は光ではなく “raging fire”（燃え上がる火炎）を求めて祈るべきだと聖ボナヴェントゥラは教えています[17]。彼は「faithは知性の内にありながら、燃え上がる火炎のように愛情を引き起こす。従って、例えば『キリストは私達のために死んだ』という知識は、知識のままに留まるのでなく、必ず愛情や愛になる」と教えています[18]。この文脈に沿って聖ジョン・ヘンリー・ニューマンは *Cor ad cor loquitur*（御心は心に語りかける）をモットーにしていました。私達の思考や理念を遙かに越えて、私達の心に、主のSacred Heartは語りかけ、私達を救うからです。こう気づいた著名な知識人であるニューマンは、自分と主との最も深い出会いは、読書や熟考からではなく、イエス・キリストの生ける御心と自分の心が響き合う祈りの対話から生ずる、との認識に至りました。ニューマンがイエスの生ける御心に出会ったのは聖体拝領、即ち、私達をfree（形而上自由）にし、人生のあらゆる契機に意味を与え、真の平和を授けるcapabilityを持つ聖体拝領においてでした。その祈りは：「ああ、いとも神聖で、いとも慈愛に満ちたイエスの御心よ、貴方は聖体の内に隠され、今も私達のために鼓動を打ち続けています。……私は最高の愛と畏敬の念、熱烈な愛情、最も抑制され最も決然とした意志をもって貴方を崇拝します。ああ、我が神よ、貴方は私が貴方を拝領するのを許し、貴方を食し飲むことを許し、貴方が私の内に住むしばらくの間、私の心を貴方の御心で脈動させて下さいます。地上のもの、傲慢で官能的なもの、冷酷で残酷なもの、あらゆる邪悪なもの、あらゆる無秩序、あらゆる死から私の心を浄化して下さい。そして、その時々の事件と状況が、浄化された脈動をかき乱す力を持たないよう、貴方への愛と畏れの内に私の心が平和を保てるようにして下さい。」[19]  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [17] 聖ボナヴェントゥラ 「魂の神への道程」 第7章6項。  [18] 同『命題集註解』第一文、質疑第三問。  [19] 聖ジョン・ヘンリー・ニューマン『瞑想と献身』 第3部 [第16巻]、第1章 3項 ロンドン、1912年、573－574頁。 |
| 27. Before the heart of Jesus, living and present, our mind, enlightened by the Spirit, grows in the understanding of his words and our will is moved to put them into practice. This could easily remain on the level of a kind of self-reliant moralism. Hearing and tasting the Lord, and paying him due honour, however, is a matter of the heart. Only the heart is capable of setting our other powers and passions, and our entire person, in a stance of reverence and loving obedience before the Lord. | 27. 今このとき生けるイエスの御心を前にして、私達の精神は、聖霊によって啓（ひら）かれて御言葉の理解を深める一方で、私達の意志は、その実践に向かって突き動かされます。ただ精神と意志だけでは容易に、一種の自律型道徳主義のレベルに留まってしまうでしょう。やはり、主の呼びかけに耳を傾け、味わい、敬意を払う務めをなすのは心の役目なのです。心だけが、私達の他の様々な力と情熱、そして私達の全きペルソナを、主を前にして従順な尊敬と愛のスタンスにセットするcapabilityを持ちます。 |
| **THE WORLD CAN CHANGE, BEGINNING WITH THE HEART** | **この形而下界を変えることは可能。それには先ず、心を改めることから。** |
| 28. It is only by starting from the heart that our communities will succeed in uniting and reconciling differing minds and wills, so that the Spirit can guide us in unity as brothers and sisters. Reconciliation and peace are also born of the heart. The heart of Christ is “ecstasy”, openness, gift and encounter. In that heart, we learn to relate to one another in wholesome and happy ways, and to build up in this world God’s kingdom of love and justice. Our hearts, united with the heart of Christ, are capable of working this social miracle. | 28. 私達のcommunitiesが、様々な精神と意志を一つに結びつけ和解させ、聖霊が、私達を一つにまとまった兄弟姉妹として導けるようにする。それには、心を改めることから始めるしかありません。和解、そして平和も、やはり心から生ずるのです。イエス・キリストの御心は、 “ecstasy”（脱自）、心開、賜物、そして出会いです。御心の内に、私達はお互いを健全に幸せに関係づけることを学び、この形而下界において愛と正義の神の国を構築するのです。our hearts [訳註21]は、イエス・キリストの御心によって一つになり、この社会的奇跡をもたらすcapabilityを得るのです。  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [訳註21] 第16段落ではour heartと単数形だった。ここではour heartsと複数形であることに注意。 |
| 29. Taking the heart seriously, then, has consequences for society as a whole.  [The Second Vatican Council](https://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/index_it.htm) teaches that, “every one of us needs a change of heart; we must set our gaze on the whole world and look to those tasks we can all perform together in order to bring about the betterment of our race”. [[20]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn20)  For “the imbalances affecting the world today are in fact a symptom of a deeper imbalance rooted in the human heart”. [[21]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn21)  In pondering the tragedies afflicting our world, the Council urges us to return to the heart. It explains that human beings “by their interior life, transcend the entire material universe; they experience this deep interiority when they enter into their own heart, where God, who probes the heart, awaits them, and where they decide their own destiny in the sight of God”. [[22]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn22)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[20]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref20) Pastoral Constitution [*Gaudium et Spes*](https://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-ii_const_19651207_gaudium-et-spes_en.html), 82.  [[21]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref21) [Ibid](https://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-ii_const_19651207_gaudium-et-spes_en.html)., 10.  [[22]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref22) [Ibid](https://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-ii_const_19651207_gaudium-et-spes_en.html)., 14. | 29. 心に関するこの様に真剣な考察は、社会全体に様々な影響を及ぼします。「私達一人ひとりが心を改める必要があります。私達はこの形而下界全体に目を向け、私達人類の向上をもたらすために私達全員が一緒に実行できるtasksに目を向けなければなりません」[20]と第二ヴァチカン公会議は教えます。何故なら「今この形而下界に影響を与えている不均衡は、実際には人間の心に根ざしたより深い不均衡の兆候」[21]だからです。この公会議は、この形而下界を苦しめている様々な悲劇を熟考する中で、私達が心に立ち返ることを強く要請し、human beings（人間の形而上存在）とは「その内なる生命によって物質的宇宙全体を超越する一方で、自らの心の中に立ち入ることでその奧深い内面性を体験する。心の内をのぞき込む神が待ち構え見守るなか、神の視界の内にある神意に沿う道を探り当てる、自らの心の奥深い内面性を体験する」[22]ものだと説明しています。  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [20] 『現代世界憲章』（Gaudium et Spes）82項。  [21] 同上、10項  [22] 同上、14項 |
| 30. This in no way implies an undue reliance on our own abilities. Let us never forget that our hearts are not self-sufficient, but frail and wounded. They possess an ontological dignity, yet at the same time must seek an ever more dignified life. [[23]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn23)  The Second Vatican Council points out that “the ferment of the Gospel has aroused and continues to arouse in human hearts an unquenchable thirst for human dignity”. [[24]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn24)  Yet to live in accordance with this dignity, it is not enough to know the Gospel or to carry out mechanically its demands. We need the help of God’s love. Let us turn, then, to the heart of Christ, that core of his being, which is a blazing furnace of divine and human love and the most sublime fulfilment to which humanity can aspire. There, in that heart, we truly come at last to know ourselves and we learn how to love.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[23]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref23) Cf. DICASTERY FOR THE DOCTRINE OF THE FAITH, Declaration *Dignitas Infinita*(2 April 2024), 8. Cf. *L’Osservatore Romano*, 8 April 2024.  [[24]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref24) Pastoral Constitution *Gaudium et Spes*, 26. | 30. これは決して、私達自らのabilitiesに過度に頼ることを意味しません。忘れてはなりません。our heartsは自足するものではなく、脆（もろ）く傷ついているのです。our heartsは、それぞれ形而上存在論的な尊厳を有していますが、だからこそ、それぞれ更に一層尊厳のある生活を求めなければなりません[23]。「福音の発酵は、人間の尊厳への抑えきれない渇望を人間の心に呼び起こし、いまも呼び起こし続けています」と第二ヴァチカン公会議は指摘しています[24]。ただ、こういった尊厳に従って生きるためには、福音を知ること、あるいは、その要請を機械的に実行することだけでは十分ではなく、神の愛の助力が必要なのです。キリストの御心、その形而上存在の核心、神の愛と人間の愛が燃えさかる溶鉱炉、人間が望みうる最も崇高な自己実現（fulfilment）、こういったことに、尊厳に従って生きようとするなら目を向けましょう。この様な心において、ついに私達は自分自身を真に知り、愛し方を学ぶのです。  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [23] 教理省宣言『無限の尊厳（Dignitas Infinita）』2024年4月2日 8項参照（『オッセルバトーレ・ロマーノ紙』2024年4月8日号所載）  [24]『現代世界憲章』（Gaudium et Spes）26項。 |
| 31. In the end, that Sacred Heart is the unifying principle of all reality, since “Christ is the heart of the world, and the paschal mystery of his death and resurrection is the centre of history, which, because of him, is a history of salvation”. [[25]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn25)  All creatures “are moving forward with us and through us towards a common point of arrival, which is God, in that transcendent fullness where the risen Christ embraces and illumines all things”. [[26]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn26)  In the presence of the heart of Christ, I once more ask the Lord to have mercy on this suffering world in which he chose to dwell as one of us. May he pour out the treasures of his light and love, so that our world, which presses forward despite wars, socio-economic disparities and uses of technology that threaten our humanity, may regain the most important and necessary thing of all: its heart.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[25]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref25) SAINT JOHN PAUL II, [*Angelus*](https://www.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/angelus/1998/documents/hf_jp-ii_ang_28061998.html), 28 June 1998: *L’Osservatore Romano*, 30 June-1 July 1998, p. 7.  [[26]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref26) Encyclical Letter [*Laudato Si’*](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html)(24 May 2015), 83: AAS 107 (2015), 880. | 31. 最終的には、こういったSacred Heartこそ、全てのrealityを一つに結びつける原理です。何故なら「キリストはこの形而下界の心であり、キリストの死と復活という過越の秘義は人類の歴史の中心であり、人類の歴史はキリストのおかげで救いの歴史である」[25]からです。あらゆる被造物は「私達とともに、私達を通して、神という共通の到達点に向かって前進しています。その超越的な満ち足りのなかで、復活したキリストはあらゆるものを抱きしめ照らします 」[26]。祈りましょう。今ここに顕現するキリストの御心の内にIは、主が私達の一人（one、一つの霊的存在）として住むことを選んだこの苦しみに満ちた形而下界に、もう一度、ミゼリコルディアを与えてくださるよう願います。様々な戦争、社会経済システムが不適切なために生ずる様々な不均衡、私達本来の人間性を脅威に陥れるよう様々に悪用されるテクノロジー、これら困難にも関わらず粘り強く前進する私達の形而下界に、主が光と愛の御宝を降り注ぎ、全ての中で最も重要で最も必要なもの、即ち、its heartがregainしますように。[訳註22]  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [25] 教皇聖ヨハネ・パウロ二世「アンジェラス」1998年6月28日付 『オッセルバトーレ・ロマーノ紙』1998年6月30日～7月1日号、7頁。  [26] 教皇フランシスコ回勅『ラウダート・シ（Laudato Si’）』2015年5月24日付、83項（『オッセルバトーレ・ロマーノ紙』所載［AAS 107 (2015)p. 880］．  [訳註22] 第一章「心の重要性」最後の祈りは、背景に「本来goodであるhuman beingsがイエスの御心との対話が不十分に要素還元（reduction）されたためにevilなhuman existencesになっている」という考えがある。イエスの御心と対話する心を取り戻し、私達のworld（形而下界）がa heartless world（22段落）でなく、a heartful worldになるよう祈っている。 |
| **CHAPTER TWO** | **第2章** |
| **ACTIONS AND WORDS OF LOVE** | **言葉と行いで示された愛** |
| 32. The heart of Christ, as the symbol of the deepest and most personal source of his love for us, is the very core of the initial preaching of the Gospel. It stands at the origin of our faith, as the wellspring that refreshes and enlivens our Christian beliefs. | 32. キリストの御心は、彼のペルソナ最深部にある私達への愛の源の象徴であり、福音に関し彼が行った初期説教のまさに核心です。それは私達のfaithの原点であり、キリスト者のbeliefsを新たに活気づける源泉です。 |
| **ACTIONS THAT REFLECT THE HEART** | **御心を映す行い** |
| 33. Christ showed the depth of his love for us not by lengthy explanations but by concrete actions. By examining his interactions with others, we can come to realize how he treats each one of us, even though at times this may be difficult to see. Let us now turn to the place where our faith can encounter this truth: the word of God. | 33. 私達への愛の深さを、キリストは長々とした説明ではなく、様々な具体的行いによって示しました。ですから彼の他者との関わり方を見ていくことで、私達each oneをどれほど大切に扱ってくれているのか、気づくことになるでしょう。時には分かりにくいかもしれませんが、この章では、私達のfaithがこの真実に巡り会う場、即ち、福音（the word of God）に向き合うことにしましょう。 |
| 34. The Gospel tells us that Jesus “came to his own” (cf. *Jn* 1:11). Those words refer to us, for the Lord does not treat us as strangers but as a possession that he watches over and cherishes. He treats us truly as “his own”. This does not mean that we are his slaves, something that he himself denies: “I do not call you servants” (*Jn* 15:15). Rather, it refers to the sense of mutual belonging typical of friends. Jesus came to meet us, bridging all distances; he became as close to us as the simplest, everyday realities of our lives. Indeed, he has another name, “Emmanuel”, which means “God with us”, God as part of our lives, God as living in our midst. The Son of God became incarnate and “emptied himself, taking the form of a slave” (*Phil* 2:7). | 34. イエスが「his ownに来た」（ヨハネ1:11）、と福音は語っています。his own、これは私達を指しています。主は私達を見知らぬ他人としてではなく、絶えず見守り大切にするa possessionとして扱っています。彼は私達を本当に”his own”として扱っています。彼の奴隷ということではありません。それは彼自身が否定しています。「皆さんをservants（僕者）とは呼ばない。」（ヨハネ15:15）僕者ではなく、友人関係に特有な相互帰属の感覚だと言い表しています。大きな隔たりを橋渡しするためにイエスは私達に会いに来ました。彼はごく普通の日常生活realities、身近なものとなりました。実際、イエスには「インマヌエル」という別の名前があります。これは「神、我らと共にいる」、私達の生活の一部としての神、私達のただ中に生きている神という意味です。神の子は受肉し「自分を無にしてa slave（奴隷）の姿をとりました」（フィリピ2:7）。 |
| 35. This becomes clear when we see Jesus at work. He seeks people out, approaches them, ever open to an encounter with them. We see it when he stops to converse with the Samaritan woman at the well where she went to draw water (cf. *Jn* 4:5-7). We see it when, in the darkness of night, he meets Nicodemus, who feared to be seen in his presence (cf. *Jn* 3:1-2). We marvel when he allows his feet to be washed by a prostitute (cf. *Lk* 7:36-50), when he says to the woman caught in adultery, “Neither do I condemn you” (*Jn* 8:11), or again when he chides the disciples for their indifference and quietly asks the blind man on the roadside, “What do you want me to do for you?” (*Mk* 10:51). Christ shows that God is closeness, compassion and tender love. | 35. これは公生活のイエスを見れば明らかです。彼はpeopleを探しだし、近づき、出会い一つ一つに常にopenです。水を汲みに来たサマリアの婦人と会話するため井戸端で立ち止まるイエスを見ればそう分かります。（ヨハネ4:5-7参照） イエスの顕現にとらえられることを恐れていたニコデモに暗闇の中で会うイエスを見ればそう分かります。（ヨハネ3:1-2参照） イエスが足を遊女に洗わせたとき（ルカ7：36-50参照）、姦淫の現場で捕まった女性に「私もあなたを罪ある者としない」（ヨハネ8:11）と言ったとき、また、イエスが弟子達の無関心を叱責し、道端の盲人に「何をして欲しいのか」（マルコ10:51）と静かに尋ねるとき、私達は素晴らしさに驚嘆します。神は、近しさ、共感、優しい愛だと、キリストは示します。 |
| 36. Whenever Jesus healed someone, he preferred to do it, not from a distance but in close proximity: “He stretched out his hand and touched him” (*Mt* 8:3). “He touched her hand” (*Mt* 8:15). “He touched their eyes” (*Mt* 9:29). Once he even stopped to cure a deaf man with his own saliva (cf. *Mk* 7:33), as a mother would do, so that people would not think of him as removed from their lives. “The Lord knows the fine science of the caress. In his compassion, God does not love us with words; he comes forth to meet us and, by his closeness, he shows us the depth of his tender love”. [[27]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn27)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[27]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref27) [*Homily at Morning Mass in Domus Sanctae Marthae*](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/cotidie/2013/documents/papa-francesco-cotidie_20130607_science-love.html), 7 June 2013: *L’Osservatore Romano*, 8 June 2013, p. 8. | 36. イエスが誰かを癒すときは常に、遠くからではなく極近くから行うことを好みました。「イエスは手を伸ばし彼に触れた」（マタイ8:3） 「彼女の手に触れた」（マタイ8:15） 「彼の目に触った」（マタイ9:29）。ある時イエスはまるで母親がするように唾で聴覚障害者を癒すためにわざわざ立ち止まりました（マルコ7:33参照）。結果、peopleはイエスを自分達の生活と切り離して考えようとはしませんでした。「主は優しく触れる繊細な科学を知っています。神はその慈しみによって、言葉で私達を愛するのではなく、私達に会いに来て、その親密さによって、その優しい愛の深さを示してくれます。」[27]  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [27] 教皇フランシスコ「サンタ・マルタの家での朝のミサにおける説教」2013年6月7日付 『オッセルバトーレ・ロマーノ紙』2013年6月8日号、8頁。 |
| 37. If we find it hard to trust others because we have been hurt by lies, injuries and disappointments, the Lord whispers in our ear: “Take heart, son!” (*Mt* 9:2), “Take heart, daughter!” (*Mt* 9:22). He encourages us to overcome our fear and to realize that, with him at our side, we have nothing to lose. To Peter, in his fright, “Jesus immediately reached out his hand and caught him”, saying, “You of little faith, why did you doubt?” (*Mt* 14:31). Nor should you be afraid.  Let him draw near and sit at your side. There may be many people we distrust, but not him. Do not hesitate because of your sins. Keep in mind that many sinners “came and sat with him” (*Mt* 9:10), yet Jesus was scandalized by none of them. It was the religious élite that complained and treated him as “a glutton and a drunkard, a friend of tax collectors and sinners” (Mt 11:19). When the Pharisees criticized him for his closeness to people deemed base or sinful, Jesus replied, “I desire mercy, not sacrifice” (Mt 9:13). | 37.もしも、嘘や傷害や失望によって傷つけられ他者を信用できないと私達が辛く感じているなら、主は耳元で、「息子よ、心を強く持って！」（マタイ9:2）、「娘よ、心を強く持って！」（マタイ9:22）とささやいてくれます。恐れを乗りこえるよう励まし、そばにいるのだから何も失うものは無いと気づかせてくれます。恐れをなしたペトロに「faith少なき者よ、何故疑うのか？」（マタイ14:31）と「即座にイエスは手を差し伸べました」。恐れる必要はありません。 Let him draw near and sit at your side. [訳註23] 私達が信を置けない人は沢山いるかもしれません。でも彼は違います。自分のsins（罪）を理由に躊躇しないで下さい。覚えておきましょう、多くの sinnersが「イエスのところに来て座った」（マタイ9:10）にもかかわらず、イエスは誰に対しても憤慨しなかった、と。むしろ当時、イエスに不平を言い「大食い、酒飲み、徴税人、sinnersの仲間」（マタイ11:19）と蔑（さげす）んだのは、宗教エリート達でした。卑劣でsinfulな人々とイエスが親しい関係にあるとファリサイ派が批判したとき、イエスはこう答えました。「わたしが求めるのは憐れみであって、犠牲ではない」（マタイ9:13）。  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [訳註23] イエスに対し使役動詞letを使っている。「イエスを近くに寄せて傍らに座らせよう」。ともすればイエスに対し不遜だととられかねない表現だが、「イエスは私達の友。私達は彼を大切にし、彼は私達を大切にする。主従、上下とは違う関係。」という考えを補強している。 |
| 38. That same Jesus is now waiting for you to give him the chance to bring light to your life, to raise you up and to fill you with his strength. Before his death, he assured his disciples, “I will not leave you orphaned; I am coming to you. In a little while the world will no longer see me, but you will see me” (*Jn* 14:18-19). Jesus always finds a way to be present in your life, so that you can encounter him. | 38. その同じイエスが今、皆さんの人生に光をもたらし、皆さんを引き上げ、イエスの力で満たす機会を与えようと待ち構えています。イエスは死を前にして弟子達に「決して皆さんを孤児にはしない。私は皆さんの所に来る。もう少しでこの形而下界は私を最早見ることはなくなるが、皆さんは私を見ることになる。」（ヨハネ14:18-19）と約束しました。イエスは皆さんの人生に顕れる道を常に見つけます。結果、皆さんはイエスに出会えるのです。 |
| **JESUS’ GAZE** | **イエスの注意深い眼差し** |
| 39. The Gospel tells us that a rich man came up to Jesus, full of idealism yet lacking in the strength needed to change his life. Jesus then “looked at him” (*Mk* 10:21). Can you imagine that moment, that encounter between his eyes and those of Jesus? If Jesus calls you and summons you for a mission, he first looks at you, plumbs the depths of your heart and, knowing everything about you, fixes his gaze upon you. So it was when, “as he walked by the Sea of Galilee, he saw two brothers... and as he went from there, he saw two other brothers” (*Mt* 4:18, 21). | 39. 福音にこうあります。ある金持ちがイエスのもとにやって来た。彼は理想に満ち溢（あふ）れていながら、人生を変える力に欠けていた。イエスは「彼を見つめた」（マルコ10:21）、と。この瞬間、即ち、この金持ちの視線とイエスの視線が交錯する瞬間を想像できますか。もしも、イエスが皆さんを呼びa missionに招喚するときは、イエスは先ず皆さんを見つめます。皆さんに関することを全て知る眼差しが、皆さんをジッと注視します。イエスが四人の漁師を弟子にしたときも同じでした。「ガリラヤ湖畔を歩いていたとき兄弟の二人を見た,,,そこからまた歩いて行き、別の兄弟二人を見た」（マタイ4:18,21）。 |
| 40. Many a page of the Gospel illustrates how attentive Jesus was to individuals and above all to their problems and needs. We are told that, “when he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless” (*Mt* 9:36). Whenever we feel that everyone ignores us, that no one cares what becomes of us, that we are of no importance to anyone, he remains concerned for us. To Nathanael, standing apart and busy about his own affairs, he could say, “I saw you under the fig tree before Philip called you” (*Jn* 1:48). | 40. 福音書の多くの頁が、イエスが各個人にどれほど関心を寄せているか、抱えている問題や逼迫したニーズを何よりも気遣っているか、描写しています。「群衆を見て、助ける者もなく疲れ切っているのを見て、イエスは compassion [訳註24]を感じ苦労を共にしようと思った」（マタイ9:36）。皆が私達を無視し、私達がどうなっても誰も気にしない、私達は誰にとっても何の重要性もない、こう感じるとき、そんなとき何時でも、イエスは私達に関心を持ち続けます。ナタニエルは自分のことに忙しく（訳補：イエスとは）距離を置いていましたが、イエスは彼を十二使徒の一員に加えるとき「フィリポが貴方に声を掛ける前に私は貴方がイチジクの木の下にいるのを見ていた」（ヨハネ1:48）と言えたのです。  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [訳註24] passionには一般的な「熱情」の他に、キリスト教においては「受難」という意味がある。従ってこのcompassionには、一般的な「同情」の他に「苦労をともにする」という意味がある。 |
| 41. Precisely out of concern for us, Jesus knows every one of our good intentions and small acts of charity. The Gospel tells us that once he “saw a poor widow put in two small copper coins” in the Temple treasury (*Lk* 21:2) and immediately brought it to the attention of his disciples. Jesus thus appreciates the good that he sees in us. When the centurion approached him with complete confidence, “Jesus listened to him and was amazed” (*Mt* 8:10). How reassuring it is to know that, even if others are not aware of our good intentions or actions, Jesus sees them and regards them highly. | 41. 精確に私達への関心からイエスは、私達every oneのgood intentions and small acts of charityを御存知です。福音にこうあります。聖堂の献金箱に「ある貧しい寡婦がなけなしのレプトン銅貨二枚を入れたのをイエスが見て」（ルカ21：2）、（訳補：「確かに言っておくが、この貧しい寡婦は、誰よりも沢山入れた。あの金持ち達は皆、有り余る中から献金したが、この人は、乏しい中から持っている生活費を全部入れたのだから」とイエスは言い）、これは直ちに弟子達の気付きとなりました。また、百人隊長が（訳補：自分の僕者の中風がイエスによって治療されると）全くの確信をもってイエスに近づくと、「イエスは彼の話を聞いて感心しました」（マタイ8:10）。何と心強いことでしょう。たとえ他の誰も私達の good intentions or actionsに気づかないとしてもイエスは気付き、とても大切にしてくれます。 |
| 42. In his humanity, Jesus learned this from Mary, his mother.　 Our Lady carefully pondered the things she had experienced; she “treasured them… in her heart” (*Lk* 2:19, 51) and, with Saint Joseph, she taught Jesus from his earliest years to be attentive in this same way. | 42. 人間としてのイエスは、母である聖マリアからこの注意深い眼差しを学びました。聖マリアは自分が経験した諸々のことに注意深く思いを巡らし、「大切にそれらを心に留め置く」（ルカ2:19、51）人でした。そして幼き頃からイエスに、自分と同様に注意深くあるようにと、聖ヨセフと共に教えました。 |
| **JESUS’ WORDS** | **イエスの諸々の言葉** |
| 43. Although the Scriptures preserve Jesus’ words, ever alive and timely, there are moments when he speaks to us inwardly, calls us and leads us to a better place. That better place is his heart. There he invites us to find fresh strength and peace: “Come to me, all who are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest” (*Mt* 11:28). In this sense, he could say to his disciples, “Abide in me” (*Jn* 15:4). | 43. 聖書がその時々の生き生きとしたイエスの言葉を書き留める一方で、今この時もイエスが私達の内面に語りかけ、呼びかけ、より良い場へと導いてくれる瞬間があります。そのより良い場とは、イエスの心です。イエスはそこで、新たな力と平安を見出すよう私達を招いています。「疲れた者、重荷を負う者は、皆、私のもとに来なさい。皆さんを休ませてあげよう」（マタイ11:28）。こうしてイエスは弟子達に“Abide in me” （訳補：「私に繫がっていなさい。私も皆さんに繫がっている。ぶどうの枝が、木に繫がっていなければ、自分では実を結ぶことが出来ない様に、皆さんも、私に繫がっていなければ、実を結ぶことが出来ない。」）（ヨハネ15:4）と言ったのです。 |
| 44. Jesus’ words show that his holiness did not exclude deep emotions. On various occasions, he demonstrated a love that was both passionate and compassionate. He could be deeply moved and grieved, even to the point of shedding tears. It is clear that Jesus was not indifferent to the daily cares and concerns of people, such as their weariness or hunger: “I have compassion for this crowd... they have nothing to eat... they will faint on the way, and some of them have come from a great distance” (*Mk* 8:2-3). | 44. イエスの聖性は激しい感情を決して排除しませんでした。イエスの数々の言葉からそう分かります。イエスは様々な場面で passionate and compassionateな愛を示しました。心底から深く悲しみ、涙を流すことさえありました。イエスがpeopleの日々の悩みや心配事、例えば疲労や飢えに無関心ではなかったことは明らかです。「I have compassion for this crowd. 彼らはもう三日も私と一緒にいるのに食べ物がない。空腹のまま帰らせると、途中で疲れきってしまうだろう。中には遠くから来ている者もいる。」（マルコ8:2-3） |
| 45. The Gospel makes no secret of Jesus’ love for Jerusalem: “As he came near and saw the city, he wept over it” (*Lk* 19:41). He then voiced the deepest desire of his heart: “If you had only recognized on this day the things that make for peace” (*Lk*19:42). The evangelists, while at times showing him in his power and glory, also portray his profound emotions in the face of death and the grief felt by his friends. Before recounting how Jesus, standing before the tomb of Lazarus, “began to weep” (*Jn* 11:35), the Gospel observes that, “Jesus loved Martha and her sister and Lazarus” (*Jn* 11:5) and that, seeing Mary and those who were with her weeping, “he was greatly disturbed in spirit and deeply moved” (*Jn* 11:33). The Gospel account leaves no doubt that his tears were genuine, the sign of inner turmoil. Nor do the Gospels attempt to conceal Jesus’ anguish over his impending violent death at the hands of those whom he had loved so greatly: he “began to be distressed and agitated” (*Mk* 14:33), even to the point of crying out, “I am deeply grieved, even to death” (*Mk* 14:34). This inner turmoil finds its most powerful expression in his cry from the cross: “My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?” (*Mk* 15:34). | 45. イエスはエルサレムを愛していました。これを福音書は隠しません。「イエスは近づいて、その都市を見て、そこで起きることで泣いた」（ルカ19:41）。そして、「今日お前が、平和をもたらす物事を知っていさえいればよかったのに」（ルカ19:42）と、心の奥底にある願いを口にしました。福音記者達は、時々のイエスの力と栄光を記す一方で、死を前にしたイエスの深い感情や、イエスの友人達の悲しみも描写しています。ラザロの墓の前に立ったイエスが「泣き始めた」（ヨハネ11:35）こと、その前に「イエスはマルタとその姉妹とラザロを愛していた」（ヨハネ11:5）ことを福音書は記し、マリアと彼女と一緒にいた人々が泣いているのを見て「イエスは大きく胸の内を乱し、深く動揺した」（ヨハネ11:33）と述べています。イエスの涙は心からのものであり内面の葛藤の表れだったと、福音は疑う余地なく示しています。自分が深く愛した者達の手が、暴力的な死を自分に迫ってくるというイエスの苦悩、これを福音書は隠そうともしません。イエスは「悲しみ、動揺し始めた」（マルコ14:33）、「悲しみに暮れて死んでしまいたい」（マルコ14:34）と叫ぶほどでした。この内面の葛藤は、十字架上での叫びに最も強く表れています。「わが神、わが神、なぜ私を見捨てたのですか」（マルコ15:34）。 |
| 46. At first glance, all this may smack of pious sentimentalism. Yet it is supremely serious and of decisive importance, and finds its most sublime expression in Christ crucified. The cross is Jesus’ most eloquent word of love. A word that is not shallow, sentimental or merely edifying. It is love, sheer love. That is why Saint Paul, struggling to find the right words to describe his relationship with Christ, could speak of “the Son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me” (*Gal* 2:20). This was Paul’s deepest conviction: the knowledge that he was loved. Christ’s self-offering on the cross became the driving force in Paul’s life, yet it only made sense to him because he knew that something even greater lay behind it: the fact that “he loved me”. At a time when many were seeking salvation, prosperity or security elsewhere, Paul, moved by the Spirit, was able to see farther and to marvel at the greatest and most essential thing of all: “Christ loved me”. | 46. こうしたことは一見すると、信心ぶった感傷主義じみていると思われるかもしれません。しかしよく考えれば、磔刑に処されたキリストが発する至高の表現であり、極めて重大で決定的な重要性を帯びていると分かります。即ち十字架はイエスが最も雄弁に愛を語る言葉表現なのです。浅薄でも感傷的でも、ましてや単に徳を促す言葉でもありません。それは愛、純粋な愛です。だからこそ、自分とキリストとの関係を表すthe right wordsを見つけようと苦闘していたパウロは、「私を愛し、私のために自身を与えた神の子」（ガラテヤ2:20）と語ることができたのです。これがパウロの最も深い確信、つまり自分が愛されているという認識です。この十字架上でのキリストの自己犠牲を、パウロは人生の原動力としましたが、彼がそう感じ得たのは、その背後に更に大きな何か、即ち「イエスが私を愛していた」という事実があると知っていたからです。救済、繁栄、安全をどこか別の場所に求めるのが多勢だった時代に、聖霊に動かされたパウロは、深遠を見通すabilityをもって、何にも増して最も肝要なこと、即ち「キリストは私を愛していた」ということに驚嘆できたのです。 |
| 47. Now, after considering Christ and seeing how his actions and words grant us insight into his heart, let us turn to the Church’s reflection on the holy mystery of the Lord’s Sacred Heart. | 47. 以上第一章ではconsidering Christ [訳註25]を行い、第二章では his actions and wordsが、私達にとって、his heartを洞察する上でどの様な助けとなるのかを見てきました。第３章では、the Lord’s Sacred Heartの神聖な神秘に関しthe Churchがどう考察してきたかに目を向けましょう。  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [訳註25] 単純に訳せば「キリストについて考える」だが、[EoF基調論文](https://llc-research.jp/~archives/Papers/Pope%20Francis/Oeconomicae%20et%20pecuniariae%20quaestiones/rev10/Oeconomicae%20et%20pecuniariae%20quaestiones%20Tai-Yaku%20rev10h.docx)サブタイトルのconsideration（約因）の例もある。もしかしたら日本語になりにくい含意が隠されているのかもしれない。聖書記述の[Hebrews 3:1](https://bible.usccb.org/bible/hebrews/3)を強く連想させるが、それはreflect on Jesusであってconsider Christではない。Christは元々は救世主（Savior）の尊称だから、このconsidering Christは「Jesusという救世主が提起した新たな[reality観](https://llc-research.jp/blog/han_yaku/266-the-view-of-reality/)・価値観の考察」を意味しているのかもしれない。 |
| **CHAPTER THREE** | **第3章** |
| **THIS IS THE HEART THAT HAS LOVED SO GREATLY** | **これこそ、とても大きな愛を示した御心** |
| 48. Devotion to the heart of Christ is not the veneration of a single organ apart from the Person of Jesus. What we contemplate and adore is the whole Jesus Christ, the Son of God made man, represented by an image that accentuates his heart. That heart of flesh is seen as the privileged sign of the inmost being of the incarnate Son and his love, both divine and human. More than any other part of his body, the heart of Jesus is “the natural sign and symbol of his boundless love”. [[28]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn28) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[28]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref28) PIUS XII, Encyclical Letter [*Haurietis Aquas*](https://www.vatican.va/content/pius-xii/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_p-xii_enc_15051956_haurietis-aquas.html) (15 May 1956), I: AAS 48 (1956), 316. | 48. キリストのthe heartへのdevotion（専念、傾倒、信仰）は、イエスのPersonから離れた単一の器官を尊敬することではありません。私達が観想し心から愛するのは、神の子が人となった the whole Jesus Christです。his heartの強調は、ひとつのイメージ表現なのです。the heart of flesh（イエスの肉体の心臓）は、受肉したSon（神の子）の最も内面的なbeingと、神の愛と人間の愛とを表す、特別な印（しるし）とされています。イエスの身体の他のどの部分よりもthe heart of Jesusは「彼の境界のない愛のnaturalな印であり象徴」[28]なのです。  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [28] 教皇ピウス12 世回勅『ハウリエーティス・アクアス（*Haurietis Aquas、*On Devotion to the Sacred Heart）』1956年5月15日付、1項　［AAS 48 (1956)、316］ |
| **WORSHIPING CHRIST** | **キリスト礼拝** |
| 49. It is essential to realize that our relationship to the Person of Jesus Christ is one of friendship and adoration, drawn by the love represented under the image of his heart. We venerate that image, yet our worship is directed solely to the living Christ, in his divinity and his plenary humanity, so that we may be embraced by his human and divine love. |  |
| 50. Whatever the image employed, it is clear that the living heart of Christ – not its representation – is the object of our worship, for it is part of his holy risen body, which is inseparable from the Son of God who assumed that body forever. We worship it because it is “the heart of the Person of the Word, to whom it is inseparably united”. [[29]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn29) Nor do we worship it for its own sake, but because with this heart the incarnate Son is alive, loves us and receives our love in return. Any act of love or worship of his heart is thus “really and truly given to Christ himself”, [[30]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn30) since it spontaneously refers back to him and is “a symbol and a tender image of the infinite love of Jesus Christ”. [[31]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn31)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[29]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref29) PIUS VI, Constitution *Auctorem Fidei* (28 August 1794), 63: DH 2663.  [[30]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref30) LEO XIII, Encyclical Letter [*Annum Sacrum*](https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiii/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_l-xiii_enc_25051899_annum-sacrum.html) (25 May 1899): ASS 31 (1898-1899), 649.  [[31]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref31) [Ibid](https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiii/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_l-xiii_enc_25051899_annum-sacrum.html): *“Inest in Sacro Corde symbolum et expressa imago infinitæ Iesu Christi caritatis”*. |  |
| 51. For this reason, it should never be imagined that this devotion may distract or separate us from Jesus and his love. In a natural and direct way, it points us to him and to him alone, who calls us to a precious friendship marked by dialogue, affection, trust and adoration. The Christ we see depicted with a pierced and burning heart is the same Christ who, for love of us, was born in Bethlehem, passed through Galilee healing the sick, embracing sinners and showing mercy. The same Christ who loved us to the very end, opening wide his arms on the cross, who then rose from the dead and now lives among us in glory. |  |
| **VENERATING HIS IMAGE** |  |
| 52. While the image of Christ and his heart is not in itself an object of worship, neither is it simply one among many other possible images. It was not devised at a desk or designed by an artist; it is “no imaginary symbol, but a real symbol which represents the centre, the source from which salvation flowed for all humanity”. [[32]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn32)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[32]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref32) [*Angelus*](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/angelus/2013/documents/papa-francesco_angelus_20130609.html), 9 June 2013: *L’Osservatore Romano*, 10-11 June 2013, p. 8. |  |
| 53. Universal human experience has made the image of the heart something unique. Indeed, throughout history and in different parts of the world, it has become a symbol of personal intimacy, affection, emotional attachment and capacity for love. Transcending all scientific explanations, a hand placed on the heart of a friend expresses special affection: when two persons fall in love and draw close to one another, their hearts beat faster; when we are abandoned or deceived by someone we love, our hearts sink. So too, when we want to say something deeply personal, we often say that we are speaking “from the heart”. The language of poetry reflects the power of these experiences. In the course of history, the heart has taken on unique symbolic value that is more than merely conventional. |  |
| 54. It is understandable, then, that the Church has chosen the image of the heart to represent the human and divine love of Jesus Christ and the inmost core of his Person. Yet, while the depiction of a heart afire may be an eloquent symbol of the burning love of Jesus Christ, it is important that this heart not be represented apart from him. In this way, his summons to a personal relationship of encounter and dialogue will become all the more meaningful. [[33]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn33) The venerable image portraying Christ holding out his loving heart also shows him looking directly at us, inviting us to encounter, dialogue and trust; it shows his strong hands capable of supporting us and his lips that speak personally to each of us.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[33]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref33) We can thus understand why the Church has forbidden placing on the altar representations of the heart of Jesus or Mary alone (cf. Response of the Congregation of Sacred Rites to the Reverend Charles Lecoq, P.S.S., 5 April 1879: *Decreta Authentica Congregationis Sacrorum Rituum ex Actis ejusdem Collecta*, vol. III, 107-108, n. 3492). Outside the liturgy, “for private devotion” (ibid.), the symbolism of a heart can be used as a teaching aid, an aesthetic figure or an emblem that invites one to meditate on the love of Christ, but this risks taking the heart as an object of adoration or spiritual dialogue apart from the Person of Christ. On 31 March 1887, the Congregation gave another, similar response (ibid., 187, n. 3673). |  |
| 55. The heart, too, has the advantage of being immediately recognizable as the profound unifying centre of the body, an expression of the totality of the person, unlike other individual organs. As a part that stands for the whole, we could easily misinterpret it, were we to contemplate it apart from the Lord himself. The image of the heart should lead us to contemplate Christ in all the beauty and richness of his humanity and divinity. |  |
| 56. Whatever particular aesthetic qualities we may ascribe to various portrayals of Christ’s heart when we pray before them, it is not the case that “something is sought from them or that blind trust is put in images as once was done by the Gentiles”. Rather, “through these images that we kiss, and before which we kneel and uncover our heads, we are adoring Christ”. [[34]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn34)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[34]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref34) ECUMENICAL COUNCIL OF TRENT, Session XXV, Decree *Mandat Sancta Synodus* (3 December 1563): DH 1823. |  |
| 57. Certain of these representations may indeed strike us as tasteless and not particularly conducive to affection or prayer. Yet this is of little importance, since they are only invitations to prayer, and, to cite an Eastern proverb, we should not limit our gaze to the finger that points us to the moon. Whereas the Eucharist is a real presence to be worshiped, sacred images, albeit blessed, point beyond themselves, inviting us to lift up our hearts and to unite them to the heart of the living Christ. The image we venerate thus serves as a summons to make room for an encounter with Christ, and to worship him in whatever way we wish to picture him. Standing before the image, we stand before Christ, and in his presence, “love pauses, contemplates mystery, and enjoys it in silence”. [[35]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn35)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[35]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref35) FIFTH GENERAL CONFERENCE OF THE LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN BISHOPS, *Aparecida Document* (29 June 2007), n. 259. |  |
| 58. At the same time, we must never forget that the image of the heart speaks to us of the flesh and of earthly realities. In this way, it points us to the God who wished to become one of us, a part of our history, and a companion on our earthly journey. A more abstract or stylized form of devotion would not necessarily be more faithful to the Gospel, for in this eloquent and tangible sign we see how God willed to reveal himself and to draw close to us. |  |
| **A LOVE THAT IS TANGIBLE** |  |
| 59. On the other hand, love and the human heart do not always go together, since hatred, indifference and selfishness can also reign in our hearts. Yet we cannot attain our fulfilment as human beings unless we open our hearts to others; only through love do we become fully ourselves. The deepest part of us, created for love, will fulfil God’s plan only if we learn to love. And the heart is the symbol of that love. |  |
| 60. The eternal Son of God, in his utter transcendence, chose to love each of us with a human heart. His human emotions became the sacrament of that infinite and endless love. His heart, then, is not merely a symbol for some disembodied spiritual truth. In gazing upon the Lord’s heart, we contemplate a physical reality, his human flesh, which enables him to possess genuine human emotions and feelings, like ourselves, albeit fully transformed by his divine love. Our devotion must ascend to the infinite love of the Person of the Son of God, yet we need to keep in mind that his divine love is inseparable from his human love. The image of his heart of flesh helps us to do precisely this. |  |
| 61. Since the heart continues to be seen in the popular mind as the affective centre of each human being, it remains the best means of signifying the divine love of Christ, united forever and inseparably to his wholly human love. Pius XII observed that the Gospel, in referring to the love of Christ’s heart, speaks “not only of divine charity but also human affection”. Indeed, “the heart of Jesus Christ, hypostatically united to the divine Person of the Word, beyond doubt throbbed with love and every other tender affection”. [[36]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn36)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[36]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref36) Encyclical Letter [*Haurietis Aquas*](https://www.vatican.va/content/pius-xii/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_p-xii_enc_15051956_haurietis-aquas.html) (15 May 1956), I: AAS 48 (1956), 323-324. |  |
| 62. The Fathers of the Church, opposing those who denied or downplayed the true humanity of Christ, insisted on the concrete and tangible reality of the Lord’s human affections. Saint Basil emphasized that the Lord’s incarnation was not something fanciful, and that “the Lord possessed our natural affections”. [[37]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn37) Saint John Chrysostom pointed to an example: “Had he not possessed our nature, he would not have experienced sadness from time to time”. [[38]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn38) Saint Ambrose stated that “in taking a soul, he took on the passions of the soul”. [[39]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn39) For Saint Augustine, our human affections, which Christ assumed, are now open to the life of grace: “The Lord Jesus assumed these affections of our human weakness, as he did the flesh of our human weakness, not out of necessity, but consciously and freely... lest any who feel grief and sorrow amid the trials of life should think themselves separated from his grace”. [[40]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn40) Finally, Saint John Damascene viewed the genuine affections shown by Christ in his humanity as proof that he assumed our nature in its entirety in order to redeem and transform it in its entirety: Christ, then, assumed all that is part of human nature, so that all might be sanctified. [[41]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn41)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[37]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref37) *Ep*. 261, 3: PG 32, 972.  [[38]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref38) *In Io. homil.* 63, 2: PG 59, 350.  [[39]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref39) *De fide ad Gratianum*, II, 7, 56: PL 16, 594 (ed. 1880).  [[40]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref40) *Enarr. in Ps*. 87, 3: PL 37, 1111.  [[41]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref41) Cf. *De fide orth*. 3, 6, 20: PG 94, 1006, 1081. |  |
| 63. Here, we can benefit from the thoughts of a theologian who maintains that, “due to the influence of Greek thought, theology long relegated the body and feelings to the world of the pre-human or sub-human or potentially inhuman; yet what theology did not resolve in theory, spirituality resolved in practice. This, together with popular piety, preserved the relationship with the corporal, psychological and historical reality of Jesus. The Stations of the Cross, devotion to Christ’s wounds, his Precious Blood and his Sacred Heart, and a variety of Eucharist devotions... all bridged the gaps in theology by nourishing our hearts and imagination, our tender love for Christ, our hope and memory, our desires and feelings. Reason and logic took other directions”. [[42]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn42)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[42]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref42) OLEGARIO GONZÁLEZ DE CARDEDAL, *La entraña del cristianismo*, Salamanca, 2010, 70-71. |  |
| **A THREEFOLD LOVE** |  |
| 64. Nor do we remain only on the level of the Lord’s human feelings, beautiful and moving as they are. In contemplating Christ’s heart we also see how, in his fine and noble sentiments, his kindness and gentleness and his signs of genuine human affection, the deeper truth of his infinite divine love is revealed. In the words of [Benedict XVI](https://www.vatican.va/content/benedict-xvi/en.html), “from the infinite horizon of his love, God wished to enter into the limits of human history and the human condition. He took on a body and a heart. Thus, we can contemplate and encounter the infinite in the finite, the invisible and ineffable mystery in the human heart of Jesus the Nazarene”. [[43]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn43) \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[43]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref43) [*Angelus*](https://www.vatican.va/content/benedict-xvi/en/angelus/2008/documents/hf_ben-xvi_ang_20080601.html), 1 June 2008: *L’Osservatore Romano*, 2-3 June 2008, p. 1. |  |
| 65. The image of the Lord’s heart speaks to us in fact of a threefold love. First, we contemplate his infinite divine love. Then our thoughts turn to the spiritual dimension of his humanity, in which the heart is “the symbol of that most ardent love which, infused into his soul, enriches his human will”. Finally, “it is a symbol also of his sensible love”. [[44]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn44)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[44]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref44) PIUS XII, Encyclical Letter [*Haurietis Aquas*](https://www.vatican.va/content/pius-xii/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_p-xii_enc_15051956_haurietis-aquas.html) (15 May 1956), II: AAS 48 (1956), 327-328. |  |
| 66. These three loves are not separate, parallel or disconnected, but together act and find expression in a constant and vital unity. For “by faith, through which we believe that the human and divine nature were united in the Person of Christ, we can see the closest bonds between the tender love of the physical heart of Jesus and the twofold spiritual love, namely human and divine”. [[45]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn45)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[45]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref45) [Ibid](https://www.vatican.va/content/pius-xii/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_p-xii_enc_15051956_haurietis-aquas.html).: AAS 48 (1956), 343-344. |  |
| 67. Entering into the heart of Christ, we feel loved by a human heart filled with affections and emotions like our own. Jesus’ human will freely choose to love us, and that spiritual love is flooded with grace and charity. When we plunge into the depths of his heart, we find ourselves overwhelmed by the immense glory of his infinite love as the eternal Son, which we can no longer separate from his human love. It is precisely in his human love, and not apart from it, that we encounter his divine love: we discover “the infinite in the finite”. [[46]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn46)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[46]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref46) BENEDICT XVI, [*Angelus*](https://www.vatican.va/content/benedict-xvi/en/angelus/2008/documents/hf_ben-xvi_ang_20080601.html), 1 June 2008: *L’Osservatore Romano*, 2-3 June 2008, p. 1. |  |
| 68. It is the constant and unequivocal teaching of the Church that our worship of Christ’s person is undivided, inseparably embracing both his divine and his human natures. From ancient times, the Church has taught that we are to “adore one and the same Christ, the Son of God and of man, consisting of and in two inseparable and undivided natures”. [[47]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn47) And we do so “with one act of adoration… inasmuch as the Word became flesh”. [[48]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn48) Christ is in no way “worshipped in two natures, whereby two acts of worship are introduced”; instead, we venerate “by one act of worship God the Word made flesh, together with his own flesh”. [[49]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn49)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[47]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref47) VIGILIUS, Constitution *Inter Innumeras Sollicitudines* (14 May 553): DH 420.  [[48]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref48) ECUMENICAL COUNCIL OF EPHESUS, *Anathemas of Cyril of Alexandria*, 8: DH 259.  [[49]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref49) SECOND ECUMENICAL COUNCIL OF CONSTANTINOPLE, Session VIII (2 June 553), Canon 9: DH 431. |  |
| 69. Saint John of the Cross sought to explain that in mystical experience the infinite love of the risen Christ is not perceived as alien to our lives. The infinite in some way “condescends” to enable us, through the open heart of Christ, to experience an encounter of truly reciprocal love, for “it is indeed credible that a bird of lowly flight can capture the royal eagle of the heights, if this eagle descends with the desire of being captured”. [[50]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn50) He also explains that the Bridegroom, “beholding that the bride is wounded with love for him, because of her moan he too is wounded with love for her. Among lovers, the wound of one is the wound of both”. [[51]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn51) John of the Cross regards the image of Christ’s pierced side as an invitation to full union with the Lord. Christ is the wounded stag, wounded when we fail to let ourselves be touched by his love, who descends to the streams of water to quench his thirst and is comforted whenever we turn to him:           “*Return, dove!*  *The wounded stag*  *is in sight on the hill,*  *cooled by the breeze of your flight*”. [[52]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn52)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[50]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref50) SAINT JOHN OF THE CROSS, *Spiritual Canticle*, red. A, Stanza 22, 4.  [[51]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref51) Ibid., Stanza 12, 8.  [[52]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref52) Ibid., Stanza 12, 1. |  |
| **TRINITARIAN PERSPECTIVES** |  |
| 70. Devotion to the heart of Jesus, as a direct contemplation of the Lord that draws us into union with him, is clearly Christological in nature. We see this in the Letter to the Hebrews, which urges us to “run with perseverance the race that is set before us, looking to Jesus” (12:2). At the same time, we need to realize that Jesus speaks of himself as the way to the Father: “I am the way… No one comes to the Father except through me” ( *Jn* 14:6). Jesus wants to bring us to the Father. That is why, from the very beginning, the Church’s preaching does not end with Jesus, but with the Father. As source and fullness, the Father is ultimately the one to be glorified. [[53]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn53)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[53]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref53) “There is one God, the Father, from whom are all things and for whom we exist” ( *1 Cor* 8:6). “To our God and Father be glory forever and ever. Amen” ( *Phil* 4:20). “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and the God of all consolation” ( *2 Cor* 1:3). |  |
| 71. If we turn, for example, to the Letter to the Ephesians, we can see clearly how our worship is directed to the Father: “I bow my knees before the Father” (3:14). There is “one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all” (4:6). “Give thanks to God the Father at all times and for everything” (5:20). It is the Father “for whom we exist” ( *1 Cor* 8:6). In this sense, [Saint John Paul II](https://www.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en.html) could say that, “the whole of the Christian life is like a great pilgrimage to the house of the Father”. [[54]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn54) This too was the experience of Saint Ignatius of Antioch on his path to martyrdom: “In me there is left no spark of desire for mundane things, but only a murmur of living water that whispers within me, ‘Come to the Father’”. [[55]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn55)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[54]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref54) Apostolic Letter [*Tertio Millennio Adveniente*](https://www.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/apost_letters/1994/documents/hf_jp-ii_apl_19941110_tertio-millennio-adveniente.html) (10 November 1994), 49: AAS 87 (1995), 35.  [[55]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref55) *Ad Rom.*, 7: PG 5, 694. |  |
| 72. The Father is, before all else, the Father of Jesus Christ: “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ” *(Eph* 1:3). He is “the God of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of glory” ( *Eph* 1:17). When the Son became man, all the hopes and aspirations of his human heart were directed towards the Father. If we consider the way Christ spoke of the Father, we can grasp the love and affection that his human heart felt for him, this complete and constant orientation towards him. [[56]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn56) Jesus’ life among us was a journey of response to the constant call of his human heart to come to the Father. [[57]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn57)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[56]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref56) “That the world may know that I love the Father” ( *Jn*14:31); “The Father and I are one” ( *Jn*10:30); “I am in the Father and the Father is in me” ( *Jn*14:10).  [[57]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref57) “I am going to the Father” ( *pros ton Patéra*: *Jn* 16:28). “I am coming to you” ( *pros se*: *Jn* 17:11). |  |
| 73. We know that the Aramaic word Jesus used to address the Father was “*Abba”*, an intimate and familiar term that some found disconcerting (cf. *Jn* 5:18). It is how he addressed the Father in expressing his anguish at his impending death: “*Abba,* Father, for you all things are possible; remove this cup from me; yet, not what I want, but what you want” (*Mk* 14:36). Jesus knew well that he had always been loved by the Father: “You loved me before the foundation of the world” (*Jn* 17:24). In his human heart, he had rejoiced at hearing the Father say to him: “You are my Son, the Beloved; with you I am well pleased” (*Mk* 1:11). |  |
| 74. The Fourth Gospel tells us that the eternal Son was always “close to the Father’s heart” ( *Jn*1:18). [[58]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn58) Saint Irenaeus thus declares that “the Son of God was with the Father from the beginning”. [[59]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn59) Origen, for his part, maintains that the Son perseveres “in uninterrupted contemplation of the depths of the Father”. [[60]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn60) When the Son took flesh, he spent entire nights conversing with his beloved Father on the mountaintop (cf. *Lk* 6:12). He told us, “I must be in my Father’s house” ( *Lk* 2:49). We see too how he expressed his praise: “Jesus rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said, ‘I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth’ ( *Lk* 10:21). His last words, full of trust, were, “Father, into your hands I commend my spirit” ( *Lk* 23:46).  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[58]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref58) “ *eis ton kolpon tou Patrós*”.  [[59]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref59) *Adv. Haer.*, III, 18, 1: PG 7, 932.  [[60]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref60) *In Joh.* II, 2: PG 14, 110. |  |
| 75. Let us now turn to the Holy Spirit, whose fire fills the heart of Christ. As [Saint John Paul II](https://www.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en.html) once said, Christ’s heart is “the Holy Spirit’s masterpiece”. [[61]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn61) This is more than simply a past event, for even now “the heart of Christ is alive with the action of the Holy Spirit, to whom Jesus attributed the inspiration of his mission (cf. *Lk* 4:18; *Is* 61:1) and whose sending he had promised at the Last Supper. It is the Spirit who enables us to grasp the richness of the sign of Christ’s pierced side, from which the Church has sprung (cf. [*Sacrosanctum Concilium*](https://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-ii_const_19631204_sacrosanctum-concilium_en.html), 5)”. [[62]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn62) In a word, “only the Holy Spirit can open up before us the fullness of the ‘inner man’, which is found in the heart of Christ. He alone can cause our human hearts to draw strength from that fullness, step by step”. [[63]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn63)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[61]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref61) [*Angelus*](https://www.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/angelus/2002/documents/hf_jp-ii_ang_20020623.html), 23 June 2002: *L’Osservatore Romano*, 24-25 June 2002, p. 1.  [[62]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref62) SAINT JOHN PAUL II, [*Message on the Hundredth Anniversary of the Consecration of the Human Race to the Divine Heart of Jesus*](https://www.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/letters/1999/documents/hf_jp-ii_let_19990611_consagrazione-sacro-cuore.html), Warsaw, 11 June 1999, Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, 3: *L’Osservatore Romano*, 12 June 1999, p. 5.  [[63]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref63) ID., *Angelus*, 8 June 1986: *L’Osservatore Romano*, 9-10 June 1986, p. 5 |  |
| 76. If we seek to delve more deeply into the mysterious working of the Spirit, we learn that he groans within us, saying “Abba!” Indeed, “the proof that you are children is that God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, ‘Abba! Father!’” (*Gal* 4:6). For “the Spirit bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God” (*Rom* 8:16). The Holy Spirit at work in Christ’s human heart draws him unceasingly to the Father. When the Spirit unites us to the sentiments of Christ through grace, he makes us sharers in the Son’s relationship to the Father, whereby we receive “a spirit of adoption through which we cry out, ‘Abba! Father!’” (*Rom* 8:15). |  |
| 77. Our relationship with the heart of Christ is thus changed, thanks to the prompting of the Spirit who guides us to the Father, the source of life and the ultimate wellspring of grace. Christ does not expect us simply to remain in him. His love is “the revelation of the Father’s mercy”, [[64]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn64) and his desire is that, impelled by the Spirit welling up from his heart, we should ascend to the Father “with him and in him”. We give glory to the Father “through” Christ, [[65]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn65) “with” Christ, [[66]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn66) and “in” Christ. [[67]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn67) [Saint John Paul II](https://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-ii_const_19631204_sacrosanctum-concilium_en.html) taught that, “the Saviour’s heart invites us to return to the Father’s love, which is the source of every authentic love”. [[68]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn68) This is precisely what the Holy Spirit, who comes to us through the heart of Christ, seeks to nurture in our hearts. For this reason, the liturgy, through the enlivening work of the Spirit, always addresses the Father from the risen heart of Christ.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[64]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref64) *Homily*, Visit to the Gemelli Hospital and to the Faculty of Medicine of the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart, 27 June 2014: *L’Osservatore Romano*, 29 June 2014, p. 7.  [[65]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref65) *Eph* 1:5, 7; 2:18; 3:12.  [[66]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref66) *Eph* 2:5, 6; 4:15.  [[67]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref67) *Eph* 1:3, 4, 6, 7, 11, 13, 15; 2:10, 13, 21, 22; 3:6, 11, 21.  [[68]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref68) [*Message on the Hundredth Anniversary of the Consecration of the Human Race to the Divine Heart of Jesus*](https://www.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/letters/1999/documents/hf_jp-ii_let_19990611_consagrazione-sacro-cuore.html), Warsaw, 11 June 1999, Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, 2: *L’Osservatore Romano*, 12 June 1999, p. 5. |  |
| **RECENT TEACHINGS OF THE MAGISTERIUM** |  |
| 78. In numerous ways, Christ’s heart has always been present in the history of Christian spirituality. In the Scriptures and in the early centuries of the Church’s life, it appeared under the image of the Lord’s wounded side, as a fountain of grace and a summons to a deep and loving encounter. In this same guise, it has reappeared in the writings of numerous saints, past and present. In recent centuries, this spirituality has gradually taken on the specific form of devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. |  |
| 79. A number of my Predecessors have spoken in various ways about the heart of Christ and exhorted us to unite ourselves to it. At the end of the nineteenth century, [Leo XIII](https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiii/en.html) encouraged us to consecrate ourselves to the Sacred Heart, thus uniting our call to union with Christ and our wonder before the magnificence of his infinite love. [[69]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn69) Some thirty years later, [Pius XI](https://www.vatican.va/content/pius-xi/en.html) presented this devotion as a “summa” of the experience of Christian faith. [[70]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn70) [Pius XII](https://www.vatican.va/content/pius-xii/en.html) went on to declare that adoration of the Sacred Heart expresses in an outstanding way, as a sublime synthesis, the worship we owe to Jesus Christ. [[71]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn71)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[69]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref69) “Since there is in the Sacred Heart a symbol and the express image of the infinite love of Jesus Christ that moves us to love one another, it is fit and proper that we should consecrate ourselves to his most Sacred Heart – an act that is nothing else than an offering and a binding of oneself to Jesus Christ, for whatever honour, veneration and love is given to this divine Heart is really and truly given to Christ himself…And now, today, behold another blessed and heavenly token is offered to our sight – the most Sacred Heart of Jesus, with a cross rising from it and shining forth with dazzling splendour amidst flames of love. In that Sacred Heart all our hopes should be placed, and from it the salvation of men is to be confidently besought” (Encyclical Letter [*Annum Sacrum*](https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiii/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_l-xiii_enc_25051899_annum-sacrum.html) [25 May 1899]: ASS 31 [1898-1899], 649, 651).  [[70]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref70) “For is not the sum of all religion and therefore the pattern of more perfect life, contained in that most auspicious sign and in the form of piety that follows from it inasmuch as it more readily leads the minds of men to an intimate knowledge of Christ our Lord, and more efficaciously moves their hearts to love him more vehemently and to imitate him more closely?” (Encyclical Letter [*Miserentissimus Redemptor*](https://www.vatican.va/content/pius-xi/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_p-xi_enc_19280508_miserentissimus-redemptor.html) [8 May 1928]: AAS 20 [1928], 167).  [[71]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref71) “For it is perfectly clear that this devotion, if we examine its proper nature, is a most excellent act of religion, inasmuch as it demands the full and absolute determination of surrendering and consecrating oneself to the love of the divine Redeemer whose wounded heart is the living sign and symbol of that love… In it, we can contemplate not only the symbol, but also, as it were, the synthesis of the whole mystery of our redemption… Christ expressly and repeatedly pointed to his heart as the symbol by which men are drawn to recognize and acknowledge his love, and at the same time constituted it as the sign and pledge of his mercy and his grace for the needs of the Church in our time” (Encyclical Letter [*Haurietis Aquas*](https://www.vatican.va/content/pius-xii/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_p-xii_enc_15051956_haurietis-aquas.html) [15 May 1956], Proemium, III, IV: AAS 48 [1956], 311, 336, 340). |  |
| 80. More recently, [Saint John Paul II](https://www.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en.html) presented the growth of this devotion in recent centuries as a response to the rise of rigorist and disembodied forms of spirituality that neglected the richness of the Lord’s mercy. At the same time, he saw it as a timely summons to resist attempts to create a world that leaves no room for God. “Devotion to the Sacred Heart, as it developed in Europe two centuries ago, under the impulse of the mystical experiences of Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque, was a response to Jansenist rigor, which ended up disregarding God’s infinite mercy... The men and women of the third millennium need the heart of Christ in order to know God and to know themselves; they need it to build the civilization of love”. [[72]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn72)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[72]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref72) *Catechesis*, 8 June 1994, 2: *L’Osservatore Romano*, 9 June 1994, p. 5. |  |
| 81. [Benedict XVI](https://www.vatican.va/content/benedict-xvi/en.html) asked us to recognize in the heart of Christ an intimate and daily presence in our lives: “Every person needs a ‘centre’ for his or her own life, a source of truth and goodness to draw upon in the events, situations and struggles of daily existence. All of us, when we pause in silence, need to feel not only the beating of our own heart, but deeper still, the beating of a trustworthy presence, perceptible with faith’s senses and yet much more real: the presence of Christ, the heart of the world”. [[73]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn73)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[73]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref73) [*Angelus*](https://www.vatican.va/content/benedict-xvi/en/angelus/2008/documents/hf_ben-xvi_ang_20080601.html), 1 June 2008: *L’Osservatore Romano*, 2-3 June 2008, p. 1. |  |
| **FURTHER REFLECTIONS AND RELEVANCE FOR OUR TIMES** |  |
| 82. The expressive and symbolic image of Christ’s heart is not the only means granted us by the Holy Spirit for encountering the love of Christ, yet it is, as we have seen, an especially privileged one. Even so, it constantly needs to be enriched, deepened and renewed through meditation, the reading of the Gospel and growth in spiritual maturity. [Pius XII](https://www.vatican.va/content/pius-xii/en.html) made it clear that the Church does not claim that, “we must contemplate and adore in the heart of Jesus a ‘formal’ image, that is, a perfect and absolute sign of his divine love, for the essence of this love can in no way be adequately expressed by any created image whatsoever”. [[74]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn74)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[74]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref74) Encyclical Letter [*Haurietis Aquas*](https://www.vatican.va/content/pius-xii/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_p-xii_enc_15051956_haurietis-aquas.html) (15 May 1956), IV: AAS 48 (1956), 344. |  |
| 83. Devotion to Christ’s heart is essential for our Christian life to the extent that it expresses our openness in faith and adoration to the mystery of the Lord’s divine and human love. In this sense, we can once more affirm that the Sacred Heart is a synthesis of the Gospel. [[75]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn75) We need to remember that the visions or mystical showings related by certain saints who passionately encouraged devotion to Christ’s heart are not something that the faithful are obliged to believe as if they were the word of God. [[76]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn76) Nonetheless, they are rich sources of encouragement and can prove greatly beneficial, even if no one need feel forced to follow them should they not prove helpful on his or her own spiritual journey. At the same time, however, we should be mindful that, as [Pius XII](https://www.vatican.va/content/pius-xii/en.html) pointed out, this devotion cannot be said “to owe its origin to private revelations”. [[77]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn77)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[75]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref75) Cf. [ibid](https://www.vatican.va/content/pius-xii/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_p-xii_enc_15051956_haurietis-aquas.html).: AAS 48 (1956), 336.  [[76]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref76) “The value of private revelations is essentially different from that of the one public revelation: the latter demands faith… A private revelation… is a help which is proffered, but its use is not obligatory” (BENEDICT XVI, Apostolic Exhortation [*Verbum Domini*](https://www.vatican.va/content/benedict-xvi/en/apost_exhortations/documents/hf_ben-xvi_exh_20100930_verbum-domini.html) [30 September 2010], 14: AAS 102 [2010]), 696).  [[77]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref77) Encyclical Letter [*Haurietis Aquas*](https://www.vatican.va/content/pius-xii/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_p-xii_enc_15051956_haurietis-aquas.html) (15 May 1956), IV: AAS 48 (1956), 340. |  |
| 84. The promotion of Eucharistic communion on the first Friday of each month, for example, sent a powerful message at a time when many people had stopped receiving communion because they were no longer confident of God’s mercy and forgiveness and regarded communion as a kind of reward for the perfect. In the context of Jansenism, the spread of this practice proved immensely beneficial, since it led to a clearer realization that in the Eucharist the merciful and ever-present love of the heart of Christ invites us to union with him. It can also be said that this practice can prove similarly beneficial in our own time, for a different reason. Amid the frenetic pace of today’s world and our obsession with free time, consumption and diversion, cell phones and social media, we forget to nourish our lives with the strength of the Eucharist. |  |
| 85. While no one should feel obliged to spend an hour in adoration each Thursday, the practice ought surely to be recommended. When we carry it out with devotion, in union with many of our brothers and sisters and discover in the Eucharist the immense love of the heart of Christ, we “adore, together with the Church, the sign and manifestation of the divine love that went so far as to love, through the heart of the incarnate Word, the human race”. [[78]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn78)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[78]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref78) [Ibid](https://www.vatican.va/content/pius-xii/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_p-xii_enc_15051956_haurietis-aquas.html).: AAS 48 (1956), 344. |  |
| 86. Many Jansenists found this difficult to comprehend, for they looked askance on all that was human, affective and corporeal, and so viewed this devotion as distancing us from pure worship of the Most High God. Pius XII described as “false mysticism” [[79]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn79) the elitist attitude of those groups that saw God as so sublime, separate and distant that they regarded affective expressions of popular piety as dangerous and in need of ecclesiastical oversight.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[79]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref79) [Ibid](https://www.vatican.va/content/pius-xii/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_p-xii_enc_15051956_haurietis-aquas.html). |  |
| 87. It could be argued that today, in place of Jansenism, we find ourselves before a powerful wave of secularization that seeks to build a world free of God. In our societies, we are also seeing a proliferation of varied forms of religiosity that have nothing to do with a personal relationship with the God of love, but are new manifestations of a disembodied spirituality. I must warn that within the Church too, a baneful Jansenist dualism has re-emerged in new forms. This has gained renewed strength in recent decades, but it is a recrudescence of that Gnosticism which proved so great a spiritual threat in the early centuries of Christianity because it refused to acknowledge the reality of “the salvation of the flesh”. For this reason, I turn my gaze to the heart of Christ and I invite all of us to renew our devotion to it. I hope this will also appeal to today’s sensitivities and thus help us to confront the dualisms, old and new, to which this devotion offers an effective response. |  |
| 88. I would add that the heart of Christ also frees us from another kind of dualism found in communities and pastors excessively caught up in external activities, structural reforms that have little to do with the Gospel, obsessive reorganization plans, worldly projects, secular ways of thinking and mandatory programmes. The result is often a Christianity stripped of the tender consolations of faith, the joy of serving others, the fervour of personal commitment to mission, the beauty of knowing Christ and the profound gratitude born of the friendship he offers and the ultimate meaning he gives to our lives. This too is the expression of an illusory and disembodied otherworldliness. |  |
| 89. Once we succumb to these attitudes, so widespread in our day, we tend to lose all desire to be cured of them. This leads me to propose to the whole Church renewed reflection on the love of Christ represented in his Sacred Heart. For there we find the whole Gospel, a synthesis of the truths of our faith, all that we adore and seek in faith, all that responds to our deepest needs. |  |
| 90. As we contemplate the heart of Christ, the incarnate synthesis of the Gospel, we can, following the example of Saint Therese of the Child Jesus, “place heartfelt trust not in ourselves but in the infinite mercy of a God who loves us unconditionally and has already given us everything in the cross of Jesus Christ”. [[80]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn80) Therese was able to do this because she had discovered in the heart of Christ that God is love: “To me he has granted his infinite mercy, and through it I contemplate and adore the other divine perfections”. [[81]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn81) That is why a popular prayer, directed like an arrow towards the heart of Christ, says simply: “Jesus, I trust in you”. [[82]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn82) No other words are needed.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[80]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref80) Apostolic Exhortation [*C’est la Confiance*](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/apost_exhortations/documents/20231015-santateresa-delbambinogesu.html) (15 October 2023), 20: *L’Osservatore Romano*, 16 October 2023.  [[81]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref81) SAINT THERESE OF THE CHILD JESUS, *Autobiography*, Ms A, 83v°.  [[82]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref82) SAINT MARIA FAUSTINA KOWALSKA, *Diary*, 47 (22 February 1931) *,*Marian Press, Stockbridge, 2011, p. 46. |  |
| 91. In the following chapters, we will emphasize two essential aspects that contemporary devotion to the Sacred Heart needs to combine, so that it can continue to nourish us and bring us closer to the Gospel: personal spiritual experience and communal missionary commitment. |  |
| **CHAPTER FOUR** |  |
| **A LOVE THAT GIVES ITSELF AS DRINK** |  |
| 92. Let us now return to the Scriptures, the inspired texts where, above all, we encounter God’s revelation. There, and in the Church’s living Tradition, we hear what the Lord has wished to tell us in the course of history. By reading several texts from the Old and the New Testaments, we will gain insight into the word of God that has guided the great spiritual pilgrimage of his people down the ages. |  |
| **A GOD WHO THIRSTS FOR LOVE** |  |
| 93. The Bible shows that the people that journeyed through the desert and yearned for freedom received the promise of an abundance of life-giving water: “With joy you will draw water from the wells of salvation” (*Is*12:3). The messianic prophecies gradually coalesced around the imagery of purifying water: “I will sprinkle clean water upon you, and you shall be clean… a new spirit I will put within you” (*Ezek*36:25-26). This water would bestow on God’s people the fullness of life, like a fountain flowing from the Temple and bringing a wealth of life and salvation in its wake. “I saw on the bank of the river a great many trees on the one side and on the other… and wherever that river goes, every living creature will live… and when that river enters the sea, its waters will become fresh; everything will live where the river goes” (*Ezek*47:7-9). |  |
| 94. The Jewish festival of Booths ( *Sukkot*), which recalls the forty-year sojourn of Israel in the desert, gradually adopted the symbolism of water as a central element. It included a rite of offering water each morning, which became most solemn on the final day of the festival, when a great procession took place towards the Temple, the altar was circled seven times and the water was offered to God amid loud cries of joy. [[83]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn83)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[83]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref83) Mishnah Sukkah, IV, 5, 9. |  |
| 95. The dawn of the messianic era was described as a fountain springing up for the people: “I will pour out a spirit of compassion and supplication on the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and they shall look on him whom they have pierced… On that day, a fountain shall be opened for the house of David and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, to cleanse them from sin and impurity” (*Zech*12:10; 13:1). |  |
| 96. One who is pierced, a flowing fountain, the outpouring of a spirit of compassion and supplication: the first Christians inevitably considered these promises fulfilled in the pierced side of Christ, the wellspring of new life. In the Gospel of John, we contemplate that fulfilment. From Jesus’ wounded side, the water of the Spirit poured forth: “One of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once blood and water flowed out” (*Jn*19:34). The evangelist then recalls the prophecy that had spoken of a fountain opened in Jerusalem and the pierced one (*Jn*19:37; cf. *Zech*12:10). The open fountain is the wounded side of Christ. |  |
| 97. Earlier, John’s Gospel had spoken of this event, when on “the last day of the festival” (*Jn*7:37), Jesus cried out to the people celebrating the great procession: “Let anyone who is thirsty come to me and drink… out of his heart shall flow rivers of living water” (*Jn* 7:37-38). For this to be accomplished, however, it was necessary for Jesus’ “hour” to come, for he “was not yet glorified” (*Jn*7:39). That fulfilment was to come on the cross, in the blood and water that flowed from the Lord’s side. |  |
| 98. The Book of Revelation takes up the prophecies of the pierced one and the fountain: “every eye will see him, even those who pierced him” (*Rev*1:7); “Let everyone who is thirsty come; let anyone who wishes take the water of life as a gift” (*Rev*22:17). |  |
| 99. The pierced side of Jesus is the source of the love that God had shown for his people in countless ways. Let us now recall some of his words:  “Because you are precious in my sight and honoured, I love you” (*Is*43:4).   “Can a woman forget her nursing child, or show no compassion for the child of her womb? Even if these may forget, yet I will not forget you. See, I have inscribed you on the palms of my hands” (*Is*49:15-16).   “For the mountains may depart, and the hills be removed, but my steadfast love shall not depart from you, and my covenant of peace shall not be removed” (*Is*54:10).   “I have loved you with an everlasting love; therefore I have continued my faithfulness to you” (*Jer*31:3).   “The Lord, your God, is in your midst, a warrior who gives you victory; he will rejoice over you with gladness, he will renew you in his love; he will exult over you with loud singing” (*Zeph*3:17). |  |
| 100. The prophet Hosea goes so far as to speak of the heart of God, who “led them with cords of human kindness, with bands of love” (*Hos*11:4). When that love was spurned, the Lord could say, “My heart is stirred within me; my compassion grows warm and tender (*Hos*11:8). God’s merciful love always triumphs (cf. *Hos*11:9), and it was to find its most sublime expression in Christ, his definitive Word of love. |  |
| 101. The pierced heart of Christ embodies all God’s declarations of love present in the Scriptures. That love is no mere matter of words; rather, the open side of his Son is a source of life for those whom he loves, the fount that quenches the thirst of his people. As [Saint John Paul II](https://www.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en.html) pointed out, “the essential elements of devotion [to the Sacred Heart] belong in a permanent fashion to the spirituality of the Church throughout her history; for since the beginning, the Church has looked to the heart of Christ pierced on the Cross”. [[84]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn84)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[84]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref84) *Letter to the Superior General of the Society of Jesus*, Paray-le-Monial (France), 5 October 1986: *L’Osservatore Romano*, 7 October 1986, p. IX. |  |
| **ECHOES OF THE WORD IN HISTORY** |  |
| 102. Let us consider some of the ways that, in the history of the Christian faith, these prophecies were understood to have been fulfilled. Various Fathers of the Church, especially those in Asia Minor, spoke of the wounded side of Jesus as the source of the water of the Holy Spirit: the word, its grace and the sacraments that communicate it. The courage of the martyrs is born of “the heavenly fount of living waters flowing from the side of Christ” [[85]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn85) or, in the version of Rufinus, “the heavenly and eternal streams that flow from the heart of Christ”. [[86]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn86) We believers, reborn in the Spirit, emerge from the cleft in the rock; “we have come forth from the heart of Christ”. [[87]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn87) His wounded side, understood as his heart, filled with the Holy Spirit, comes to us as a flood of living water. “The fount of the Spirit is entirely in Christ”. [[88]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn88) Yet the Spirit whom we have received does not distance us from the risen Lord, but fills us with his presence, for by drinking of the Spirit we drink of the same Christ. In the words of Saint Ambrose: “Drink of Christ, for he is the rock that pours forth a flood of water. Drink of Christ, for he is the source of life. Drink of Christ, for he is the river whose streams gladden the city of God. Drink of Christ, for he is our peace. Drink of Christ, for from his side flows living water”. [[89]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn89)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[85]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref85) *Acta Martyrum Lugdunensium*, in EUSEBIUS OF CAESARIA, *Historia Ecclesiastica*, V, 1: PG 20, 418.  [[86]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref86) RUFINUS, V, 1, 22, in GCS, *Eusebius*II, 1, p. 411, 13ff.  [[87]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref87) SAINT JUSTIN, *Dial.*135,3: PG 6, 787  [[88]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref88) NOVATIAN, *De Trinitate*, 29: PL 3, 994; cf. SAINT GREGORY OF ELVIRA, *Tractatus Origenis de libris Sanctarum Scripturarum*, XX, 12: CSSL 69, 144.  [[89]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref89) *Expl. Ps.*1:33: PL 14, 983-984. |  |
| 103. Saint Augustine opened the way to devotion to the Sacred Heart as the locus of our personal encounter with the Lord. For Augustine, Christ’s wounded side is not only the source of grace and the sacraments, but also the symbol of our intimate union with Christ, the setting of an encounter of love. There we find the source of the most precious wisdom of all, which is knowledge of him. In effect, Augustine writes that John, the beloved disciple, reclining on Jesus’ bosom at the Last Supper, drew near to the secret place of wisdom. [[90]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn90) Here we have no merely intellectual contemplation of an abstract theological truth. As Saint Jerome explains, a person capable of contemplation “does not delight in the beauty of that stream of water, but drinks of the living water flowing from the side of the Lord”. [[91]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn91)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[90]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref90) Cf. *Tract. in Ioannem* 61, 6: PL 35, 1801.  [[91]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref91) *Ep. ad Rufinum*, 3, 4.3: PL 22, 334. |  |
| 104. Saint Bernard takes up the symbolism of the pierced side of the Lord and understands it explicitly as a revelation and outpouring of all of the love of his heart. Through that wound, Christ opens his heart to us and enables us to appropriate the boundless mystery of his love and mercy: “I take from the bowels of the Lord what is lacking to me, for his bowels overflow with mercy through the holes through which they stream. Those who crucified him pierced his hands and feet, they pierced his side with a lance. And through those holes I can taste wild honey and oil from the rocks of flint, that is, I can taste and see that the Lord is good… A lance passed through his soul even to the region of his heart. No longer is he unable to take pity on my weakness. The wounds inflicted on his body have disclosed to us the secrets of his heart; they enable us to contemplate the great mystery of his compassion”. [[92]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn92)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[92]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref92) *Sermones in Cant.*61, 4: PL 183, 1072. |  |
| 105. This theme reappears especially in William of Saint-Thierry, who invites us to enter into the heart of Jesus, who feeds us from his own breast. [[93]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn93) This is not surprising if we recall that for William, “the art of arts is the art of love… Love is awakened by the Creator of nature, and is a power of the soul that leads it, as if by its natural gravity, to its proper place and end”. [[94]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn94) That proper place, where love reigns in fullness, is the heart of Christ: “Lord, where do you lead those whom you embrace and clasp to your heart? Your heart, Jesus, is the sweet manna of your divinity that you hold within the golden jar of your soul (cf. *Heb*9:4), and that surpasses all knowledge. Happy those who, having plunged into those depths, have been hidden by you in the recess of your heart”. [[95]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn95)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[93]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref93) *Expositio altera super Cantica Canticorum*, c. 1: PL 180, 487.  [[94]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref94) WILLIAM OF SAINT-THIERRY, *De natura et dignitate amoris*, 1: PL 184, 379.  [[95]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref95) ID., *Meditivae Orationes*, 8, 6: PL 180, 230. |  |
| 106. Saint Bonaventure unites these two spiritual currents. He presents the heart of Christ as the source of the sacraments and of grace, and urges that our contemplation of that heart become a relationship between friends, a personal encounter of love. |  |
| 107. Bonaventure makes us appreciate first the beauty of the grace and the sacraments flowing from the fountain of life that is the wounded side of the Lord. “In order that from the side of Christ sleeping on the cross, the Church might be formed and the Scripture fulfilled that says: ‘They shall look upon him whom they pierced’, one of the soldiers struck him with a lance and opened his side. This was permitted by divine Providence so that, in the blood and water flowing from that wound, the price of our salvation might flow from the hidden wellspring of his heart, enabling the Church’s sacraments to confer the life of grace and thus to be, for those who live in Christ, like a cup filled from the living fount springing up to life eternal”. [[96]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn96)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[96]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref96) SAINT BONAVENTURE, *Lignum Vitae. De mysterio passionis*, 30. |  |
| 108. Bonaventure then asks us to take another step, in order that our access to grace not be seen as a kind of magic or neo-platonic emanation, but rather as a direct relationship with Christ, a dwelling in his heart, so that whoever drinks from that source becomes a friend of Christ, a loving heart. “Rise up, then, O soul who are a friend of Christ, and be the dove that nests in the cleft in the rock; be the sparrow that finds a home and constantly watches over it; be the turtledove that hides the offspring of its chaste love in that most holy cleft”. [[97]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn97)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[97]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref97) Ibid., 47. |  |
| **THE SPREAD OF DEVOTION TO THE HEART OF CHRIST** |  |
| 109. Gradually, the wounded side of Christ, as the abode of his love and the wellspring of the life of grace, began to be associated with his heart, especially in monastic life. We know that in the course of history, devotion to the heart of Christ was not always expressed in the same way, and that its modern developments, related to a variety of spiritual experiences, cannot be directly derived from the mediaeval forms, much less the biblical forms in which we glimpse the seeds of that devotion. This notwithstanding, the Church today rejects nothing of the good that the Holy Spirit has bestowed on us down the centuries, for she knows that it will always be possible to discern a clearer and deeper meaning in certain aspects of that devotion, and to gain new insights over the course of time. |  |
| 110. A number of holy women, in recounting their experiences of encounter with Christ, have spoken of resting in the heart of the Lord as the source of life and interior peace. This was the case with Saints Lutgarde and Mechtilde of Hackeborn, Saint Angela of Foligno and Dame Julian of Norwich, to mention only a few. Saint Gertrude of Helfta, a Cistercian nun, tells of a time in prayer when she reclined her head on the heart of Christ and heard its beating. In a dialogue with Saint John the Evangelist, she asked him why he had not described in his Gospel what he experienced when he did the same. Gertrude concludes that “the sweet sound of those heartbeats has been reserved for modern times, so that, hearing them, our aging and lukewarm world may be renewed in the love of God”. [[98]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn98) Might we think that this is indeed a message for our own times, a summons to realize how our world has indeed “grown old”, and needs to perceive anew the message of Christ’s love? Saint Gertrude and Saint Mechtilde have been considered among “the most intimate confidants of the Sacred Heart”. [[99]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn99)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[98]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref98) *Legatus divinae pietatis*, IV, 4, 4: SCh 255, 66.  [[99]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref99) LÉON DEHON, *Directoire spirituel des prêtres su Sacré Cœur de Jésus*, Turnhout, 1936, II, ch. VII, n. 141. |  |
| 111. The Carthusians, encouraged above all by Ludolph of Saxony, found in devotion to the Sacred Heart a means of growth in affection and closeness to Christ. All who enter through the wound of his heart are inflamed with love. Saint Catherine of Siena wrote that the Lord’s sufferings are impossible for us to comprehend, but the open heart of Christ enables us to have a lively personal encounter with his boundless love. “I wished to reveal to you the secret of my heart, allowing you to see it open, so that you can understand that I have loved you so much more than I could have proved to you by the suffering that I once endured”. [[100]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn100)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[100]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref100) *Dialogue on Divine Providence*, LXXV: FIORILLI M.-CARAMELLA S., eds., Bari, 1928, 144. |  |
| 112. Devotion to the heart of Christ slowly passed beyond the walls of the monasteries to enrich the spirituality of saintly teachers, preachers and founders of religious congregations, who then spread it to the farthest reaches of the earth. [[101]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn101)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[101]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref101) Cf., for example, ANGELUS WALZ, *De veneratione divini cordis Iesu in Ordine Praedicatorum*, Pontificium Institutum Angelicum, Rome, 1937. |  |
| 113. Particularly significant was the initiative taken by Saint John Eudes, who, “after preaching with his confrères a fervent mission in Rennes, convinced the bishop of that diocese to approve the celebration of the feast of the Adorable Heart of our Lord Jesus Christ. This was the first time that such a feast was officially authorized in the Church. Following this, between the years 1670 and 1671, the bishops of Coutances, Evreux, Bayeux, Lisieux and Rouen authorized the celebration of the feast for their respective dioceses”. [[102]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn102)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[102]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref102) RAFAEL GARCÍA HERREROS *, Vida de San Juan Eudes*, Bogotá, 1943, 42. |  |
| **SAINT FRANCIS DE SALES** |  |
| 114. In modern times, mention should be made of the important contribution of Saint Francis de Sales. Francis frequently contemplated Christ’s open heart, which invites us to dwell therein, in a personal relationship of love that sheds light on the mysteries of his life. In his writings, the saintly Doctor of the Church opposes a rigorous morality and a legalistic piety by presenting the heart of Jesus as a summons to complete trust in the mysterious working of his grace. We see this expressed in his letter to Saint Jane Francis de Chantal: “I am certain that we will remain no longer in ourselves… but dwell forever in the Lord’s wounded side, for apart from him not only can we do nothing, but even if we were able, we would lack the desire to do anything”. [[103]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn103)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[103]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref103) SAINT FRANCIS DE SALES, *Letter to Jane Frances de Chantal*, 24 April 1610. |  |
| 115. For Francis de Sales, true devotion had nothing to do with superstition or perfunctory piety, since it entails a personal relationship in which each of us feels uniquely and individually known and loved by Christ. “This most adorable and lovable heart of our Master, burning with the love which he professes to us, [is] a heart on which all our names are written… Surely it is a source of profound consolation to know that we are loved so deeply by our Lord, who constantly carries us in his heart”. [[104]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn104) With the image of our names written on the heart of Christ, Saint Francis sought to express the extent to which Christ’s love for each of us is not something abstract and generic, but utterly personal, enabling each believer to feel known and respected for who he or she is. “How lovely is this heaven, in which the Lord is its sun and his breast a fountain of love from which the blessed drink to their heart’s content! Each of us can look therein and see our name carved in letters of love, which true love alone can read and true love has written. Dear God! And what too, beloved daughter, of our loved ones? Surely they will be there too; for even if our hearts have no love, they nonetheless possess a desire for love and the beginnings of love”. [[105]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn105)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[104]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref104) *Sermon for* *the Second Sunday of Lent*, 20 February 1622.  [[105]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref105) *Letter to Jane Frances de Chantal*, Solemnity of the Ascension, 1612. |  |
| 116. Francis saw this experience of Christ’s love as essential to the spiritual life, indeed one of the great truths of faith: “Yes, my beloved daughter, he thinks of you and not only, but even the smallest hair of your head: this is an article of faith and in no way must it be doubted”. [[106]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn106) It follows that the believer becomes capable of complete abandonment in the heart of Christ, in which he or she finds repose, comfort and strength: “Oh God! What happiness to be thus embraced and to recline in the bosom of the Saviour. Remain thus, beloved daughter, and like another little one, Saint John, while others are tasting different kinds of food at the table of the Lord, lay your head, your soul and your spirit, in a gesture of utter trust, on the loving bosom of this dear Lord”. [[107]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn107) “I hope that you are resting in the cleft of the turtledove and in the pierced side of our beloved Saviour… How good is this Lord, my beloved daughter! How loving is his Heart! Let us remain here, in this holy abode”. [[108]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn108)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[106]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref106) *Letter to Marie Aimée de Blonay*, 18 February 1618.  [[107]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref107) *Letter to Jane Frances de Chantal*, late November 1609.  [[108]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref108) *Letter to Jane Frances de Chantal*, ca. 25 February 1610. |  |
| 117. At the same time, faithful to his teaching on the sanctification of ordinary life, Francis proposes that this experience take place in the midst of the activities, tasks and obligations of our daily existence. “You asked me how souls that are attracted in prayer to this holy simplicity, to this perfect abandonment in God, should conduct themselves in all their actions? I would reply that, not only in prayer, but also in the conduct of everyday life they should advance always in the spirit of simplicity, abandoning and completely surrendering their soul, their actions and their accomplishments to God’s will. And to do so with a love marked by perfect and absolute trust, abandoning themselves to grace and to the care of the eternal love that divine Providence feels for them”. [[109]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn109)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[109]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref109) *Entretien XIV*, on religious simplicity and prudence. |  |
| 118. For this reason, when looking for a symbol to convey his vision of spiritual life, Francis de Sales concluded: “I have thought, dear Mother, if you agree, that we should take as our emblem a single heart pierced by two arrows, the whole enclosed in a crown of thorns”. [[110]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn110)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[110]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref110) *Letter to Jane Frances de Chantal,*10 June 1611. |  |
| **A NEW DECLARATION OF LOVE** |  |
| 119. Under the salutary influence of this Salesian spirituality, the events of Paray-le-Monial took place at the end of the seventeenth century. Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque reported a remarkable series of apparitions of Christ between the end of December 1673 and June of 1675. Fundamental to these was a declaration of love that stood out in the first apparition. Jesus said: “My divine Heart is so inflamed with love for men, and for you in particular, that, no longer able to contain in itself the flames of its ardent charity, it must pour them out through you and be manifested to them, in order to enrich them with its precious treasures which I now reveal to you”. [[111]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn111)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[111]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref111) SAINT MARGARET MARY ALACOQUE, *Autobiography*, n. 53. |  |
| 120. Saint Margaret Mary’s account is powerful and deeply moving: “He revealed to me the wonders of his love and the inexplicable secrets of his Sacred Heart which he had hitherto kept hidden from me, until he opened it to me for the first time, in such a striking and sensible manner that he left me no room for doubt”. [[112]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn112) In subsequent appearances, that consoling message was reiterated: “He revealed to me the ineffable wonders of his pure love and to what extremes it had led him to love mankind”. [[113]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn113)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[112]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref112) Ibid.  [[113]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref113) Ibid., n. 55. |  |
| 121. This powerful realization of the love of Jesus Christ bequeathed to us by Saint Margaret Mary can spur us to greater union with him. We need not feel obliged to accept or appropriate every detail of her spiritual experience, in which, as often happens, God’s intervention combines with human elements related to the individual’s own desires, concerns and interior images. [[114]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn114) Such experiences must always be interpreted in the light of the Gospel and the rich spiritual tradition of the Church, even as we acknowledge the good they accomplish in many of our brothers and sisters. In this way, we can recognize the gifts of the Holy Spirit present in those experiences of faith and love. More important than any individual detail is the core of the message handed on to us, which can be summed up in the words heard by Saint Margaret Mary: “This is the heart that so loved human beings that it has spared nothing, even to emptying and consuming itself in order to show them its love”. [[115]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn115)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[114]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref114) Cf. DICASTERY FOR THE DOCTRINE OF THE FAITH, *Norms for Proceeding in the Discernment of Alleged Supernatural Phenomena*, 17 May 2024, I, A, 12.  [[115]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref115) SAINT MARGARET MARY ALACOQUE, *Autobiography*, n. 92. |  |
| 122. This apparition, then, invites us to grow in our encounter with Christ, putting our trust completely in his love, until we attain full and definitive union with him. “It is necessary that the divine heart of Jesus in some way replace our own; that he alone live and work in us and for us; that his will… work absolutely and without any resistance on our part; and finally that its affections, thoughts and desires take the place of our own, especially his love, so that he is loved in himself and for our sakes. And so, this lovable heart being our all in all, we can say with Saint Paul that we no longer live our own lives, but it is he who lives within us”. [[116]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn116)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[116]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref116) *Letter to Sœur de la Barge*, 22 October 1689. |  |
| 123. In the first message that Saint Margaret Mary received, this invitation was expressed in vivid, fervent and loving terms. “He asked for my heart, which I asked him to take, which he did and then placed myself in his own adorable heart, from which he made me see mine like a little atom consumed in the fiery furnace of his own”. [[117]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn117)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[117]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref117) *Autobiography*, n. 53. |  |
| 124. At another point, we see that the one who gives himself to us is the risen and glorified Christ, full of life and light. If indeed, at different times, he spoke of the suffering that he endured for our sake and of the ingratitude with which it is met, what we see here are not so much his blood and painful wounds, but rather the light and fire of the Lord of life. The wounds of the passion have not disappeared, but are now transfigured. Here we see the paschal mystery in all its splendour: “Once, when the Blessed Sacrament was exposed, Jesus appeared, resplendent in glory, with his five wounds that appeared as so many suns blazing forth from his sacred humanity, but above all from his adorable breast, which seemed a fiery furnace. Opening his robe, he revealed his most loving and lovable heart, which was the living source of those flames. Then it was that I discovered the ineffable wonders of his pure love, with which he loves men to the utmost, yet receives from them only ingratitude and indifference”. [[118]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn118)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[118]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref118) Ibid., n. 55. |  |
| **SAINT CLAUDE DE LA COLOMBIÈRE** |  |
| 125. When Saint Claude de La Colombière learned of the experiences of Saint Margaret Mary, he immediately undertook her defence and began to spread word of the apparitions. Saint Claude played a special role in developing the understanding of devotion to the Sacred Heart and its meaning in the light of the Gospel. |  |
| 126. Some of the language of Saint Margaret Mary, if poorly understood, might suggest undue trust in our personal sacrifices and offerings. Saint Claude insists that contemplation of the heart of Jesus, when authentic, does not provoke self-complacency or a vain confidence in our own experiences or human efforts, but rather an ineffable abandonment in Christ that fills our life with peace, security and decision. He expressed this absolute confidence most eloquently in a celebrated prayer:  “My God, I am so convinced that you keep watch over those who hope in you, and that we can want for nothing when we look for all in you, that I am resolved in the future to live free from every care and to turn all my anxieties over to you... I shall never lose my hope. I shall keep it to the last moment of my life; and at that moment all the demons in hell will strive to tear it from me… Others may look for happiness from their wealth or their talents; others may rest on the innocence of their life, or the severity of their penance, or the amount of their alms, or the fervour of their prayers. As for me, Lord, all my confidence is confidence itself. This confidence has never deceived anyone… I am sure, therefore, that I shall be eternally happy, since I firmly hope to be, and because it is from you, O God, that I hope for it”. [[119]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn119)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[119]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref119) *Sermon on Trust in God*, in *Œuvres du R.P de La Colombière*, t. 5, Perisse, Lyon, 1854, p. 100. |  |
| 127. In a note of January 1677, after mentioning the assurance he felt regarding his mission, Claude continued: “I have come to know that God wanted me to serve him by obtaining the fulfilment of his desires regarding the devotion that he suggested to a person to whom he communicates in confidence, and for whose sake he has desired to make use of my weakness. I have already used it to help several persons”. [[120]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn120)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[120]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref120) *Spiritual Exercises in London*, 1-8 February 1677, in *Œuvres du R.P de La Colombière*, t. 7, Seguin, Avignon, 1832, p. 93. |  |
| 128. It should be recognized that the spirituality of Blessed Claude de La Colombière resulted in a fine synthesis of the profound and moving spiritual experience of Saint Margaret Mary and the vivid and concrete form of contemplation found in the Spiritual Exercises of Saint Ignatius Loyola. At the beginning of the third week of the Exercises, Claude reflected: “Two things have moved me in a striking way. First, the attitude of Christ towards those who sought to arrest him. His heart is full of bitter sorrow; every violent passion is unleashed against him and all nature is in turmoil, yet amid all this confusion, all these temptations, his heart remains firmly directed to God. He does not hesitate to take the part that virtue and the highest virtue suggested to him. Second, the attitude of that same heart towards Judas who betrayed him, the apostles who cravenly abandoned him, the priests and the others responsible for the persecution he suffered; none of these things was able to arouse in him the slightest sentiment of hatred or indignation. I present myself anew to this heart free of anger, free of bitterness, filled instead with genuine compassion towards its enemies”. [[121]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn121)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[121]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref121) *Spiritual Exercises in Lyon*, October-November 1674, ibid., p. 45. |  |
| **SAINT CHARLES DE FOUCAULD AND SAINT THERESE OF THE CHILD JESUS** |  |
| 129. Saint Charles de Foucauld and Saint Therese of the Child Jesus, without intending to, reshaped certain aspects of devotion to the heart of Christ and thus helped us understand it in an even more evangelical spirit. Let us now examine how this devotion found expression in their lives. In the following chapter, we will return to them, in order to illustrate the distinctively missionary dimension that each of them brought to the devotion. |  |
| *Iesus Caritas* |  |
| 130. In Louye, Charles de Foucauld was accustomed to visit the Blessed Sacrament with his cousin, Marie de Bondy. One day she showed him an image of the Sacred Heart. [[122]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn122) His cousin played a fundamental role in Charles’s conversion, as he himself acknowledged: “Since God has made you the first instrument of his mercies towards me, from you everything else began. Had you not converted me, brought me to Jesus and taught me little by little, letter by letter, all that is holy and good, where would I be today?” [[123]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn123) What Marie awakened in him was an intense awareness of the love of Jesus. That was the essential thing, and centred on devotion to the heart of Jesus, in which he encountered unbounded mercy: “Let us trust in the infinite mercy of the one whose heart you led me to know”. [[124]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn124)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[122]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref122) SAINT CHARLES DE FOUCAULD, *Letter to Madame de Bondy*, 27 April 1897.  [[123]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref123) *Letter to Madame de Bondy*, 28 April 1901. Cf. *Letter to Madame de Bondy*, 5 April 1909: “Through you I came to know the adoration of the Blessed Sacrament, the benedictions and the Sacred Heart”.  [[124]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref124) *Letter to Madame de Bondy*, 7 April 1890. |  |
| 131.Later, his spiritual director, Father Henri Huvelin, helped Charles to deepen his understanding of the inestimable mystery of “this blessed heart of which you spoke to me so often”. [[125]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn125) On 6 June 1889, Charles consecrated himself to the Sacred Heart, in which he found a love without limits. He told Christ, “You have bestowed on me so many benefits, that it would appear ingratitude towards your heart not to believe that it is disposed to bestow on me every good, however great, and that your love and your generosity are boundless”. [[126]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn126) He was to become a hermit “under the name of the heart of Jesus”. [[127]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn127)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[125]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref125) *Letter to l’Abbé Huvelin*, 27 June 1892.  [[126]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref126) SAINT CHARLES DE FOUCAULD, *Méditations sur l’Ancien Testament (1896-1897)*, XXX, 1-21.  [[127]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref127) ID., *Letter to l’Abbé Huvelin*,16 May 1900. |  |
| 132. On 17 May 1906, the same day in which Brother Charles, alone, could no longer celebrate Mass, he wrote of his promise “to let the heart of Jesus live in me, so that it is no longer I who live, but the heart of Jesus that lives in me, as he lived in Nazareth”. [[128]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn128) His friendship with Jesus, heart to heart, was anything but a privatized piety. It inspired the austere life he led in Nazareth, born of a desire to imitate Christ and to be conformed to him. His loving devotion to the heart of Jesus had a concrete effect on his style of life, and his Nazareth was nourished by his personal relationship with the heart of Christ.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[128]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref128) ID., *Diary*, 17 May 1906. |  |
| *Saint Therese of the Child Jesus* |  |
| 133. Like Saint Charles de Foucauld, Saint Therese of the Child Jesus was influenced by the great renewal of devotion that swept nineteenth-century France. Father Almire Pichon, the spiritual director of her family, was seen as a devoted apostle of the Sacred Heart. One of her sisters took as her name in religion “Sister Marie of the Sacred Heart”, and the monastery that Therese entered was dedicated to the Sacred Heart. Her devotion nonetheless took on certain distinctive traits with regard to the customary piety of that age. |  |
| 134. When Therese was fifteen, she could speak of Jesus as the one “whose heart beats in unison with my own”. [[129]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn129) Two years later, speaking of the image of Christ’s heart crowned with thorns, she wrote in a letter: “You know that I myself do not see the Sacred Heart as everyone else. I think that the Heart of my Spouse is mine alone, just as mine is his alone, and I speak to him then in the solitude of this delightful heart to heart, while waiting to contemplate him one day face to face”. [[130]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn130)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[129]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref129) *Letter 67 to Mme. Guérin*, 18 November 1888.  [[130]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref130) *Letter 122 to Céline*, 14 October 1890. |  |
| 135.In one of her poems, Therese voiced the meaning of her devotion, which had to do more with friendship and assurance than with trust in her sacrifices:           “I need a heart burning with tenderness,           Who will be my support forever,           Who loves everything in me, even my weakness…           And who never leaves me day or night…           I must have a God who takes on my nature,           And becomes my brother and is able to suffer! …           Ah! I know well, all our righteousness           Is worthless in your sight…           So I, for my purgatory,           Choose your burning love, O heart of my God!” [[131]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn131)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[131]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref131) *Poem 23, “To the Sacred Heart of Jesus”*, June or October 1895. |  |
| 136. Perhaps the most important text for understanding the devotion of Therese to the heart of Christ is a letter that she wrote three months before her death to her friend Maurice Bellière. “When I see Mary Magdalene walking up before the many guests, washing with her tears the feet of her adored Master, whom she is touching for the first time, I feel that her heart has understood the abysses of love and mercy of the heart of Jesus, and, sinner though she is, this heart of love was disposed not only to pardon her but to lavish on her the blessings of his divine intimacy, to lift her to the highest summits of contemplation. Ah! dear little Brother, ever since I have been given the grace to understand also the love of the heart of Jesus, I admit that it has expelled all fear from my heart. The remembrance of my faults humbles me, draws me never to depend on my strength which is only weakness, but this remembrance speaks to me of mercy and love even more”. [[132]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn132)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[132]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref132) *Letter 247 to l’Abbé Maurice Bellière*, 21 June 1897. |  |
| 137. Those moralizers who want to keep a tight rein on God’s mercy and grace might claim that Therese could say this because she was a saint, but a simple person could not say the same. In that way, they excise from the spirituality of Saint Therese its wonderful originality, which reflects the heart of the Gospel. Sadly, in certain Christian circles we often encounter this attempt to fit the Holy Spirit into a certain preconceived pattern in a way that enables them to keep everything under their supervision. Yet this astute Doctor of the Church reduces them to silence and directly contradicts their reductive view in these clear words: “If I had committed all possible crimes, I would always have the same confidence; I feel that this whole multitude of offenses would be like a drop of water thrown into a fiery furnace”. [[133]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn133)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[133]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref133) *Last Conversations. Yellow Notebook*, 11 July 1897, 6. |  |
| 138. To Sister Marie, who praised her generous love of God, prepared even to embrace martyrdom, Therese responded at length in a letter that is one of the great milestones in the history of spirituality. This page ought to be read a thousand times over for its depth, clarity and beauty. There, Therese helps her sister, “Marie of the Sacred Heart”, to avoid focusing this devotion on suffering, since some had presented reparation primarily in terms of accumulating sacrifices and good works. Therese, for her part, presents confidence as the greatest and best offering, pleasing to the heart of Christ: “My desires of martyrdom are nothing; they are not what give me the unlimited confidence that I feel in my heart. They are, to tell the truth, the spiritual riches that render one unjust, when one rests in them with complacence and one believes that they are something great… what pleases [Jesus] is that he sees me loving my littleness and my poverty, the blind hope that I have in his mercy… That is my only treasure… If you want to feel joy, to have an attraction for suffering, it is your consolation that you are seeking… Understand that to be his victim of love, the weaker one is, without desires or virtues, the more suited one is for the workings of this consuming and transforming Love… Oh! How I would like to be able to make you understand what I feel!... It is confidence and nothing but confidence that must lead us to Love”. [[134]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn134)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[134]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref134) *Letter 197 to Sister Marie of the Sacred Heart*, 17 September 1896. This does not mean that Therese did not offer sacrifices, sorrows and troubles as a way of associating herself with the suffering of Christ, but that, in the end, she was concerned not to give these offerings an importance they did not have. |  |
| 139. In many of her writings, Therese speaks of her struggle with forms of spirituality overly focused on human effort, on individual merit, on offering sacrifices and carrying out certain acts in order to “win heaven”. For her, “merit does not consist in doing or in giving much, but rather in receiving”. [[135]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn135) Let us read once again some of these deeply meaningful texts where she emphasizes this and presents it as a simple and rapid means of taking hold of the Lord “by his heart”.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[135]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref135) *Letter 142 to Céline*, 6 July 1893. |  |
| 140. To her sister Léonie she writes, “I assure you that God is much better than you believe. He is content with a glance, a sigh of love… As for me, I find perfection very easy to practise because I have understood it is a matter of taking hold of Jesus by his heart… Look at a little child who has just annoyed his mother… If he comes to her, holding out his little arms, smiling and saying: ‘Kiss me, I will not do it again’, will his mother be able not to press him to her heart tenderly and forget his childish mischief? However, she knows her dear little one will do it again on the next occasion, but this does not matter; if he takes her again by her heart, he will not be punished”. [[136]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn136)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[136]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref136) *Letter 191 to Léonie*, 12 July 1896. |  |
| 141. So too, in a letter to Father Adolphe Roulland she writes, “[M]y way is all confidence and love. I do not understand souls who fear a friend so tender. At times, when I am reading certain spiritual treatises in which perfection is shown through a thousand obstacles, surrounded by a crowd of illusions, my poor little mind quickly tires; I close the learned book that is breaking my head and drying up my heart, and I take up Holy Scripture. Then all seems luminous to me; a single word uncovers for my soul infinite horizons, perfection seems simple to me. I see that it is sufficient to recognize one’s nothingness and to abandon oneself like a child into God’s arms”. [[137]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn137)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[137]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref137) *Letter 226 to Father Roulland*, 9 May 1897. |  |
| 142. In yet another letter, she relates this to the love shown by a parent: “I do not believe that the heart of [a] father could resist the filial confidence of his child, whose sincerity and love he knows. He realizes, however, that more than once his son will fall into the same faults, but he is prepared to pardon him always, if his son always takes him by his heart”. [[138]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn138)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[138]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref138) *Letter 258 to l’Abbé Maurice Bellière*, 18 July 1897. |  |
| **RESONANCES WITHIN THE SOCIETY OF JESUS** |  |
| 143. We have seen how Saint Claude de La Colombière combined the spiritual experience of Saint Margaret Mary with the aim of the Spiritual Exercises. I believe that the place of the Sacred Heart in the history of the Society of Jesus merits a few brief words. |  |
| 144. The spirituality of the Society of Jesus has always proposed an “interior knowledge of the Lord in order to love and follow him more fully”. [[139]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn139) Saint Ignatius invites us in his Spiritual Exercises to place ourselves before the Gospel that tells us that, “[Christ’s] side was pierced by the lance and blood and water flowed forth”. [[140]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn140) When retreatants contemplate the wounded side of the crucified Lord, Ignatius suggests that they enter into the heart of Christ. Thus we have a way to enlarge our own hearts, recommended by one who was a “master of affections”, to use the words of Saint Peter Faber in one of his letters to Saint Ignatius. [[141]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn141) Father Juan Alfonso de Polanco echoed that same expression in his biography of Saint Ignatius: “He [Cardinal Gasparo Contarini] realized that in Father Ignatius he had encountered a master of affections”. [[142]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn142) The colloquies that Saint Ignatius proposed are an essential part of this training of the heart, for in them we sense and savour with the heart a Gospel message and converse about it with the Lord. Saint Ignatius tells us that we can share our concerns with the Lord and seek his counsel. Anyone who follows the Exercises can readily see that they involve a dialogue, heart to heart.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[139]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref139) Cf. SAINT IGNATIUS LOYOLA, *Spiritual Exercises*, 104.  [[140]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref140) Ibid., 297.  [[141]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref141) Cf. *Letter to Ignatius Loyola*, 23 January 1541.  [[142]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref142) *De Vita P. Ignatii et Societatis Iesu initiis*, ch. 8. 96. |  |
| 145. Saint Ignatius brings his contemplations to a crescendo at the foot of the cross and invites the retreatant to ask the crucified Lord with great affection, “as one friend to another, as a servant to his master”, what he or she must do for him. [[143]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn143) The progression of the Exercises culminates in the “Contemplation to Attain Love”, which gives rise to thanksgiving and the offering of one’s “memory, understanding and will” to the heart which is the fount and origin of every good thing. [[144]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn144) This interior contemplation is not the fruit of our understanding and effort, but is to be implored as a gift.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[143]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref143) *Spiritual Exercises*, 54.  [[144]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref144) Ibid., 230ff. |  |
| 146. This same experience inspired the great succession of Jesuit priests who spoke explicitly of the heart of Jesus: Saint Francis Borgia, Saint Peter Faber, Saint Alphonsus Rodriguez, Father Álvarez de Paz, Father Vincent Carafa, Father Kasper Drużbicki and countless others. In 1883, the Jesuits declared that, “the Society of Jesus accepts and receives with an overflowing spirit of joy and gratitude the most agreeable duty entrusted to it by our Lord Jesus Christ to practise, promote and propagate devotion to his divine heart”. [[145]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn145) In September 1871, Father Pieter Jan Beckx consecrated the Society to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and, as a sign that it remains an outstanding element in the life of the Society, Father Pedro Arrupe renewed that consecration in 1972, with a conviction that he explained in these words: “I therefore wish to say to the Society something about which I feel I cannot remain silent. From my novitiate on, I have always been convinced that what we call devotion to the Sacred Heart contains a symbolic expression of what is most profound in Ignatian spirituality, and of an extraordinary efficacy – *ultra quam speraverint*– both for its own perfection and for its apostolic fruitfulness. I continue to have this same conviction… In this devotion I encounter one of the deepest sources of my interior life”. [[146]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn146)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[145]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref145) THIRTY-THIRD GENERAL CONGREGATION OF THE SOCIETY OF JESUS, Decree 46, 1: *Institutum Societatis Iesu*, 2, Florence, 1893, 511.  [[146]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref146) *In Him Alone is Our Hope. Texts on the Heart of Christ*, St. Louis, 1984. |  |
| 147. When Saint John Paul II urged “all the members of the Society to be even more zealous in promoting this devotion, which corresponds more than ever to the expectations of our time”, he did so because he recognized the profound connection between devotion to the heart of Christ and Ignatian spirituality. For “the desire to ‘know the Lord intimately’ and to ‘have a conversation’ with him, heart to heart, is characteristic of the Ignatian spiritual and apostolic dynamism, thanks to the Spiritual Exercises, and this dynamism is wholly at the service of the love of the heart of God”. [[147]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn147)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[147]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref147) *Letter to the Superior General of the Society of Jesus*, Paray-le-Monial, 5 October 1986: *L’Osservatore Romano*, 6 October 1986, p. 7. |  |
| **A BROAD CURRENT OF THE INTERIOR LIFE** |  |
| 148. Devotion to the heart of Christ reappears in the spiritual journey of many saints, all quite different from each other; in every one of them, the devotion takes on new hues. Saint Vincent de Paul, for example, used to say that what God desires is the heart: “God asks primarily for our heart – our heart – and that is what counts. How is it that a man who has no wealth will have greater merit than someone who has great possessions that he gives up? Because the one who has nothing does it with greater love; and that is what God especially wants…” [[148]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn148) This means allowing one’s heart to be united to that of Christ. “What blessing should a Sister not hope for from God if she does her utmost to put her heart in the state of being united with the heart of our Lord!” [[149]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn149)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[148]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref148) Conference to Priests, “Poverty”, 13 August 1655.  [[149]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref149) Conference to the Daughters of Charity, “Mortification, Correspondence, Meals and Journeys (Common Rules *,*art. 24-27), 9 December 1657. |  |
| 149. At times, we may be tempted to consider this mystery of love as an admirable relic from the past, a fine spirituality suited to other times. Yet we need to remind ourselves constantly that, as a saintly missionary once said, “this divine heart, which let itself be pierced by an enemy’s lance in order to pour forth through that sacred wound the sacraments by which the Church was formed, has never ceased to love”. [[150]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn150) More recent saints, like Saint Pius of Pietrelcina, Saint Teresa of Calcutta and many others, have spoken with deep devotion of the heart of Christ. Here I would also mention the experiences of Saint Faustina Kowalska, which re-propose devotion to the heart of Christ by greatly emphasizing the glorious life of the risen Lord and his divine mercy. Inspired by her experiences and the spiritual legacy of Saint Józef Sebastian Pelczar (1842-1924), [[151]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn151) [Saint John Paul II](https://www.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en.html) intimately linked his reflections on divine mercy with devotion to the heart of Christ: “The Church seems in a singular way to profess the mercy of God and to venerate it when she directs herself to the heart of Christ. In fact, it is precisely this drawing close to Christ in the mystery of his heart which enables us to dwell on this point of the revelation of the merciful love of the Father, a revelation that constituted the central content of the messianic mission of the Son of Man”. [[152]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn152) Saint John Paul also spoke of the Sacred Heart in very personal terms, acknowledging that, “it has spoken to me ever since my youth”. [[153]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn153)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[150]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref150) SAINT DANIELE COMBONI, *Gli scritti*, Bologna, 1991, 998 (n. 3324).  [[151]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref151) *Homily at the Mass of Canonization*, 18 May 2003: *L’Osservatore Romano*, 19-20 May 2003, p. 6.  [[152]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref152) SAINT JOHN PAUL II, Encyclical Letter [*Dives in Misericordia*](https://www.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_jp-ii_enc_30111980_dives-in-misericordia.html) (30 November 1980), 1: AAS 72 (1980), 1219.  [[153]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref153) ID., [*Catechesis*](https://www.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/audiences/1979/documents/hf_jp-ii_aud_19790620.html), 20 June 1979: *L’Osservatore Romano*, 22 June 1979, 1. |  |
| 150. The enduring relevance of devotion to the heart of Christ is especially evident in the work of evangelization and education carried out by the numerous male and female religious congregations whose origins were marked by this profoundly Christological devotion. Mentioning all of them by name would be an endless undertaking. Let us simply consider two examples taken at random: “The Founder [Saint Daniel Comboni] discovered in the mystery of the heart of Jesus the source of strength for his missionary commitment”. [[154]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn154) “Caught up as we are in the desires of the heart of Jesus, we want people to grow in dignity, as human beings and as children of God. Our starting point is the Gospel, with all that it demands from us of love, forgiveness and justice, and of solidarity with those who are poor and rejected by the world”. [[155]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn155) So too, the many shrines worldwide that are consecrated to the heart of Christ continue to be an impressive source of renewal in prayer and spiritual fervour. To all those who in any way are associated with these spaces of faith and charity I send my paternal blessing.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[154]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref154) COMBONIAN MISSIONARIES OF THE HEART OF JESUS, *Rule of Life*, 3.  [[155]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref155) SOCIETY OF THE SACRED HEART, *Constitutions of 1982*, 7. |  |
| **THE DEVOTION OF CONSOLATION** |  |
| 151. The wound in Christ’s side, the wellspring of living water, remains open in the risen body of the Saviour. The deep wound inflicted by the lance and the wounds of the crown of thorns that customarily appear in representations of the Sacred Heart are an inseparable part of this devotion, in which we contemplate the love of Christ who offered himself in sacrifice to the very end. The heart of the risen Lord preserves the signs of that complete self-surrender, which entailed intense sufferings for our sake. It is natural, then, that the faithful should wish to respond not only to this immense outpouring of love, but also to the suffering that the Lord chose to endure for the sake of that love. |  |
| *With Jesus on the cross* |  |
| 152. It is fitting to recover one particular aspect of the spirituality that has accompanied devotion to the heart of Christ, namely, the interior desire to offer consolation to that heart. Here I will not discuss the practice of “reparation”, which I deem better suited to the social dimension of this devotion to be discussed in the next chapter. I would like instead to concentrate on the desire often felt in the hearts of the faithful who lovingly contemplate the mystery of Christ’s passion and experience it as a mystery which is not only recollected but becomes present to us by grace, or better, allows us to be mystically present at the moment of our redemption. If we truly love the Lord, how could we not desire to console him? |  |
| 153. Pope [Pius XI](https://www.vatican.va/content/pius-xi/en.html) wished to ground this particular devotion in the realization that the mystery of our redemption by Christ’s passion transcends, by God’s grace, all boundaries of time and space. On the cross, Jesus offered himself for all sins, including those yet to be committed, including our own sins. In the same way, the acts we now offer for his consolation, also transcending time, touch his wounded heart. “If, because of our sins too, as yet in the future but already foreseen, the soul of Jesus became sorrowful unto death, it cannot be doubted that at the same time he derived some solace from our reparation, likewise foreseen, at the moment when ‘there appeared to him an angel from heaven’ ( *Lk*22:43), in order that his heart, oppressed with weariness and anguish, might find consolation. And so even now, in a wondrous yet true manner, we can and ought to console that Most Sacred Heart, which is continually wounded by the sins of thankless men”. [[156]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn156)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[156]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref156) Encyclical Letter *Miserentissimus Redemptor* (8 May 1928): AAS 20 (1928), 174. |  |
| *Reasons of the heart* |  |
| 154. It might appear to some that this aspect of devotion to the Sacred Heart lacks a firm theological basis, yet the heart has its reasons. Here the *sensus fidelium*perceives something mysterious, beyond our human logic, and realizes that the passion of Christ is not merely an event of the past, but one in which we can share through faith. Meditation on Christ’s self-offering on the cross involves, for Christian piety, something much more than mere remembrance. This conviction has a solid theological grounding. [[157]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn157) We can also add the recognition of our own sins, which Jesus took upon his bruised shoulders, and our inadequacy in the face of that timeless love, which is always infinitely greater.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[157]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref157) The believer’s act of faith has as its object not simply the doctrine proposed, but also union with Christ himself in the reality of his divine life (cf. SAINT THOMAS AQUINAS, *Summa Theologiae*, II-II, q. 1, a. 2, ad 2; q. 4, a. 1). |  |
| 155. We may also question how we can pray to the Lord of life, risen from the dead and reigning in glory, while at the same time comforting him in the midst of his sufferings. Here we need to realize that his risen heart preserves its wound as a constant memory, and that the working of grace makes possible an experience that is not restricted to a single moment of the past. In pondering this, we find ourselves invited to take a mystical path that transcends our mental limitations yet remains firmly grounded in the word of God. [Pope Pius XI](https://www.vatican.va/content/pius-xi/en.html) makes this clear: “How can these acts of reparation offer solace now, when Christ is already reigning in the beatitude of heaven? To this question, we may answer in the words of Saint Augustine, which are very apposite here – ‘Give me the one who loves, and he will understand what I say’. Anyone possessed of great love for God, and who looks back to the past, can dwell in meditation on Christ, and see him labouring for man, sorrowing, suffering the greatest hardships, ‘for us men and for our salvation’, well-nigh worn out with sadness, with anguish, nay ‘bruised for our sins’ ( *Is*53:5), and bringing us healing by those very bruises. The more the faithful ponder all these things the more clearly they see that the sins of mankind, whenever they were committed, were the reason why Christ was delivered up to death”. [[158]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn158)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[158]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref158) PIUS XI, Encyclical Letter [*Miserentissimus Redemptor*](https://www.vatican.va/content/pius-xi/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_p-xi_enc_19280508_miserentissimus-redemptor.html) (8 May 1928): AAS 20 (1928), 174. |  |
| 156. Those words of [Pius XI](https://www.vatican.va/content/pius-xi/en.html) merit serious consideration. When Scripture states that believers who fail to live in accordance with their faith “are crucifying again the Son of God” (*Heb* 6:6), or when Paul, offering his sufferings for the sake of others, says that, “in my flesh I am completing what is lacking in Christ’s afflictions” (*Col*1:24), or again, when Christ in his passion prays not only for his disciples at that time, but also for “those who will believe in me through their word” (*Jn*17:20), all these statements challenge our usual way of thinking. They show us that it is not possible to sever the past completely from the present, however difficult our minds find this to grasp. The Gospel, in all its richness, was written not only for our prayerful meditation, but also to enable us to experience its reality in our works of love and in our interior life. This is certainly the case with regard to the mystery of Christ’s death and resurrection. The temporal distinctions that our minds employ appear incapable of embracing the fullness of this experience of faith, which is the basis both of our union with Christ in his suffering and of the strength, consolation and friendship that we enjoy with him in his risen life. |  |
| 157. We see, then, the unity of the paschal mystery in these two inseparable and mutually enriching aspects. The one mystery, present by grace in both these dimensions, ensures that whenever we offer some suffering of our own to Christ for his consolation, that suffering is illuminated and transfigured in the paschal light of his love. We share in this mystery in our own life because Christ himself first chose to share in that life. He wished to experience first, as Head, what he would then experience in his Body, the Church: both our wounds and our consolations. When we live in God’s grace, this mutual sharing becomes for us a spiritual experience. In a word, the risen Lord, by the working of his grace, mysteriously unites us to his passion. The hearts of the faithful, who experience the joy of the resurrection, yet at the same time desire to share in the Lord’s passion, understand this. They desire to share in his sufferings by offering him the sufferings, the struggles, the disappointments and the fears that are part of their own lives. Nor do they experience this as isolated individuals, since their sufferings are also a participation in the suffering of the mystical Body of Christ, the holy pilgrim People of God, which shares in the passion of Christ in every time and place. The devotion of consolation, then, is in no way ahistorical or abstract; it becomes flesh and blood in the Church’s pilgrimage through history. |  |
| *Compunction* |  |
| 158. The natural desire to console Christ, which begins with our sorrow in contemplating what he endured for us, grows with the honest acknowledgment of our bad habits, compulsions, attachments, weak faith, vain goals and, together with our actual sins, the failure of our hearts to respond to the Lord’s love and his plan for our lives. This experience proves purifying, for love needs the purification of tears that, in the end, leave us more desirous of God and less obsessed with ourselves. |  |
| 159. In this way, we see that the deeper our desire to console the Lord, the deeper will be our sincere sense of “compunction”. Compunction is “not a feeling of guilt that makes us discouraged or obsessed with our unworthiness, but a beneficial ‘piercing’ that purifies and heals the heart. Once we acknowledge our sin, our hearts can be opened to the working of the Holy Spirit, the source of living water that wells up within us and brings tears to our eyes… This does not mean weeping in self-pity, as we are so often tempted to do… To shed tears of compunction means seriously to repent of grieving God by our sins; recognizing that we always remain in God’s debt… Just as drops of water can wear down a stone, so tears can slowly soften hardened hearts. Here we see the miracle of sorrow, that ‘salutary sorrow’ which brings great peace... Compunction, then, is not our work but a grace and, as such, it must be sought in prayer.” [[159]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn159) It means, “asking for sorrow in company with Christ in his sorrow, for anguish with Christ in his anguish, for tears and a deep sense of pain at the great pains that Christ endured for my sake”. [[160]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn160)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[159]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref159) [*Homily at the Chrism Mass*](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/homilies/2024/documents/20240328-omelia-crisma.html), 28 March 2024: *L’Osservatore Romano*, 28 March 2024, p. 2.  [[160]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref160) SAINT IGNATIUS LOYOLA, *Spiritual Exercises*, 203. |  |
| 160. I ask, then, that no one make light of the fervent devotion of the holy faithful people of God, which in its popular piety seeks to console Christ. I also encourage everyone to consider whether there might be greater reasonableness, truth and wisdom in certain demonstrations of love that seek to console the Lord than in the cold, distant, calculated and nominal acts of love that are at times practised by those who claim to possess a more reflective, sophisticated and mature faith. |  |
| *Consoled ourselves in order to console others* |  |
| 161. In contemplating the heart of Christ and his self-surrender even to death, we ourselves find great consolation. The grief that we feel in our hearts gives way to complete trust and, in the end, what endures is gratitude, tenderness, peace; what endures is Christ’s love reigning in our lives. Compunction, then, “is not a source of anxiety but of healing for the soul, since it acts as a balm on the wounds of sin, preparing us to receive the caress of the Lord”. [[161]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn161) Our sufferings are joined to the suffering of Christ on the cross. If we believe that grace can bridge every distance, this means that Christ by his sufferings united himself to the sufferings of his disciples in every time and place. In this way, whenever we endure suffering, we can also experience the interior consolation of knowing that Christ suffers with us. In seeking to console him, we will find ourselves consoled.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[161]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref161) [*Homily at the Chrism Mass*](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/homilies/2024/documents/20240328-omelia-crisma.html), 28 March 2024: *L’Osservatore Romano*, 28 March 2024, p. 2. |  |
| 162. At some point, however, in our contemplation, we should likewise hear the urgent plea of the Lord: “Comfort, comfort my people!” (*Is*40:1). As Saint Paul tells us, God offers us consolation “so that we may be able to console those who are in any affliction, with the consolation by which we ourselves are consoled by God” (*2 Cor*1:4). |  |
| 163. This then challenges us to seek a deeper understanding of the communitarian, social and missionary dimension of all authentic devotion to the heart of Christ. For even as Christ’s heart leads us to the Father, it sends us forth to our brothers and sisters. In the fruits of service, fraternity and mission that the heart of Christ inspires in our lives, the will of the Father is fulfilled. In this way, we come full circle: “My Father is glorified by this, that you bear much fruit” (*Jn*15:8). |  |
| **CHAPTER FIVE** |  |
| **LOVE FOR LOVE** |  |
| 164. In the spiritual experiences of Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque, we encounter, along with an ardent declaration of love for Jesus Christ, a profoundly personal and challenging invitation to entrust our lives to the Lord. The knowledge that we are loved, and our complete confidence in that love, in no way lessens our desire to respond generously, despite our frailty and our many shortcomings. |  |
| **A LAMENT AND A REQUEST** |  |
| 165. Beginning with his second great apparition to Saint Margaret Mary, Jesus spoke of the sadness he feels because his great love for humanity receives in exchange “nothing but ingratitude and indifference”, “coldness and contempt”. And this, he added, “is more grievous to me than all that I endured in my Passion”. [[162]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn162)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[162]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref162) SAINT MARGARET MARY ALACOQUE, *Autobiography*, n. 55. |  |
| 166. Jesus spoke of his thirst for love and revealed that his heart is not indifferent to the way we respond to that thirst. In his words, “I thirst, but with a thirst so ardent to be loved by men in the Most Blessed Sacrament, that this thirst consumes me; and I have not encountered anyone who makes an effort, according to my desire, to quench my thirst, giving back a return for my love”. [[163]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn163) Jesus asks for love. Once the faithful heart realizes this, its spontaneous response is one of love, not a desire to multiply sacrifices or simply discharge a burdensome duty: “I received from my God excessive graces of his love, and I felt moved by the desire to respond to some of them and to respond with love for love”. [[164]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn164) As my Predecessor [Leo XIII](https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiii/en.html) pointed out, through the image of his Sacred Heart, the love of Christ “moves us to return love for love”. [[165]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn165)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[163]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html#_ftnref163) *Letter 133 to Father Croiset*.  [[164]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref164) *Autobiography*, n. 92.  [[165]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref165) Encyclical Letter [*Annum Sacrum*](https://www.vatican.va/content/leo-xiii/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_l-xiii_enc_25051899_annum-sacrum.html) (25 May 1899): ASS 31 (1898-1899), 649. |  |
| **EXTENDING CHRIST’S LOVE TO OUR BROTHERS AND SISTERS** |  |
| 167. We need once more to take up the word of God and to realize, in doing so, that our best response to the love of Christ’s heart is to love our brothers and sisters. There is no greater way for us to return love for love. The Scriptures make this patently clear:   “Just as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me” (*Mt* 25:40).   “For the whole law is summed up in a single commandment: ‘You shall love your neighbour as yourself’” (*Gal* 5:14).   “We know that we have passed from death to life because we love one another. Whoever does not love abides in death” (*1* *Jn* 3:14).   “Those who do not love a brother or sister whom they have seen, cannot love God whom they have not seen” (*1 Jn* 4:20). |  |
| 168. Love for our brothers and sisters is not simply the fruit of our own efforts; it demands the transformation of our selfish hearts. This realization gave rise to the oft-repeated prayer: “Jesus, make our hearts more like your own”. Saint Paul, for his part, urged his hearers to pray not for the strength to do good works, but “to have the same mind among you that was in Christ Jesus” (*Phil*2:5). |  |
| 169. We need to remember that in the Roman Empire many of the poor, foreigners and others who lived on the fringes of society met with respect, affection and care from Christians. This explains why the apostate emperor Julian, in one of his letters, acknowledged that one reason why Christians were respected and imitated was the assistance they gave the poor and strangers, who were ordinarily ignored and treated with contempt. For Julian, it was intolerable that the Christians whom he despised, “in addition to feeding their own, also feed our poor and needy, who receive no help from us”. [[166]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn166) The emperor thus insisted on the need to create charitable institutions to compete with those of the Christians and thus gain the respect of society: “There should be instituted in each city many accommodations so that the immigrants may enjoy our philanthropy… and make the Greeks accustomed to such works of generosity”. [[167]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn167) Julian did not achieve his objective, no doubt because underlying those works there was nothing comparable to the Christian charity that respected the unique dignity of each person.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[166]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref166) IULIANUS IMP., *Ep. XLIX ad Arsacium Pontificem Galatiae*, Mainz, 1828, 90-91.  [[167]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html#_ftnref167) Ibid. |  |
| 170. By associating with the lowest ranks of society (cf. *Mt*25:31-46), “Jesus brought the great novelty of recognizing the dignity of every person, especially those who were considered ‘unworthy’. This new principle in human history – which emphasizes that individuals are even more ‘worthy’ of our respect and love when they are weak, scorned, or suffering, even to the point of losing the human ‘figure’ – has changed the face of the world. It has given life to institutions that take care of those who find themselves in disadvantaged conditions, such as abandoned infants, orphans, the elderly who are left without assistance, the mentally ill, people with incurable diseases or severe deformities, and those living on the streets”. [[168]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn168)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[168]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref168) DICASTERY FOR THE DOCTRINE OF THE FAITH, Declaration [*Dignitas Infinita*](https://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc_ddf_doc_20240402_dignitas-infinita_en.html) (2 April 2024), 19: *L’Osservatore Romano*, 8 April 2024. |  |
| 171. In contemplating the pierced heart of the Lord, who “took our infirmities and bore our diseases” (*Mt*8:17), we too are inspired to be more attentive to the sufferings and needs of others, and confirmed in our efforts to share in his work of liberation as instruments for the spread of his love. [[169]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn169) As we meditate on Christ’s self-offering for the sake of all, we are naturally led to ask why we too should not be ready to give our lives for others: “We know love by this, that he laid down his life for us – and that we ought to lay down our lives for one another” ( *1 Jn* 3:16).  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[169]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref169) Cf. BENEDICT XVI, [*Letter to the Superior General of the Society of Jesus on the Fiftieth Anniversary of the Encyclical “Haurietis Aquas”*](https://www.vatican.va/content/benedict-xvi/en/letters/2006/documents/hf_ben-xvi_let_20060515_50-haurietis-aquas.html) (15 May 2006): AAS 98 (2006), 461. |  |
| **ECHOES IN THE HISTORY OF SPIRITUALITY** |  |
| 172. This bond between devotion to the heart of Jesus and commitment to our brothers and sisters has been a constant in the history of Christian spirituality. Let us consider a few examples. |  |
| *Being a fountain from which others can drink* |  |
| 173. Starting with Origen, various Fathers of the Church reflected on the words of John 7:38 – “out of his heart shall flow rivers of living water” – which refer to those who, having drunk of Christ, put their faith in him. Our union with Christ is meant not only to satisfy our own thirst, but also to make us springs of living water for others. Origen wrote that Christ fulfils his promise by making fountains of fresh water well up within us: “The human soul, made in the image of God, can itself contain and pour forth wells, fountains and rivers”. [[170]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn170)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[170]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref170) *In Num. homil.* 12, 1: PG 12, 657. |  |
| 174. Saint Ambrose recommended drinking deeply of Christ, “in order that the spring of water welling up to eternal life may overflow in you”. [[171]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn171) Marius Victorinus was convinced that the Holy Spirit has given of himself in such abundance that, “whoever receives him becomes a heart that pours forth rivers of living water”. [[172]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn172) Saint Augustine saw this stream flowing from the believer as benevolence. [[173]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn173) Saint Thomas Aquinas thus maintained that whenever someone “hastens to share various gifts of grace received from God, living water flows from his heart”. [[174]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn174)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[171]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref171) *Epist*. 29, 24: PL 16, 1060.  [[172]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref172) *Adv. Arium* 1, 8: PL 8, 1044.  [[173]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref173) *Tract. in Joannem* 32, 4: PL 35, 1643.  [[174]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref174) *Expos. in Ev. S. Joannis*, cap. VII, lectio 5. |  |
| 175. Although “the sacrifice offered on the cross in loving obedience renders most abundant and infinite satisfaction for the sins of mankind”, [[175]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn175) the Church, born of the heart of Christ, prolongs and bestows, in every time and place, the fruits of that one redemptive passion, which lead men and women to direct union with the Lord.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[175]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref175) PIUS XII, Encyclical Letter [*Haurietis Aquas*](https://www.vatican.va/content/pius-xii/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_p-xii_enc_15051956_haurietis-aquas.html), 15 May 1956: AAS 48 (1956), 321. |  |
| 176. In the heart of the Church, the mediation of Mary, as our intercessor and mother, can only be understood as “a sharing in the one source, which is the mediation of Christ himself”, [[176]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn176) the sole Redeemer. For this reason, “the Church does not hesitate to profess the subordinate role of Mary”. [[177]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn177) Devotion to the heart of Mary in no way detracts from the sole worship due the heart of Christ, but rather increases it: “Mary’s function as mother of humanity in no way obscures or diminishes this unique mediation of Christ, but rather shows its power”. [[178]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn178) Thanks to the abundant graces streaming from the open side of Christ, in different ways the Church, the Virgin Mary and all believers become themselves streams of living water. In this way, Christ displays his glory in and through our littleness.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[176]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref176) SAINT JOHN PAUL II, Encyclical Letter [*Redemptoris Mater*](https://www.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_jp-ii_enc_25031987_redemptoris-mater.html) (25 March 1987), 38: AAS 79 (1987), 411.  [[177]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref177) SECOND VATICAN ECUMENICAL COUNCIL, Dogmatic Constitution [*Lumen Gentium*](https://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-ii_const_19641121_lumen-gentium_en.html), 62.  [[178]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref178) [Ibid.](https://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-ii_const_19641121_lumen-gentium_en.html), 60. |  |
| *Fraternity and mysticism* |  |
| 177. Saint Bernard, in exhorting us to union with the heart of Christ, draws upon the richness of this devotion to call for a conversion grounded in love. Bernard believed that our affections, enslaved by pleasures, may nonetheless be transformed and set free, not by blind obedience to a commandment but rather in response to the delectable love of Christ. Evil is overcome by good, conquered by the flowering of love: “Love the Lord your God with the full and deep affection of all your heart; love him with your mind wholly alert and intent; love him with all your strength, so much so that you would not even fear to die for love of him… Your affection for the Lord Jesus should be both sweet and intimate, to oppose the sweet enticements of the sensual life. Sweetness conquers sweetness, as one nail drives out another”. [[179]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn179)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[179]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref179) *Sermones super Cant.,* XX, 4: PL 183, 869. |  |
| 178. Saint Francis de Sales was particularly taken by Jesus’ words, “Learn from me; for I am gentle and humble in heart” ( *Mt*11:29). Even in the most simple and ordinary things, he said, we can “steal” the Lord’s heart. “Those who would serve him acceptably must give heed not only to lofty and important matters, but to things mean and little, since by both alike we may win his heart and love… I mean the acts of daily forbearance, the headache, the toothache, the heavy cold; the tiresome peculiarities of a husband or wife, the broken glass, the loss of a ring, a handkerchief, a glove; the sneer of a neighbour; the effort of going to bed early in order to rise early for prayer or communion, the little shyness some people feel in openly performing religious duties… Be sure that all these sufferings, small as they are, if accepted lovingly, are most pleasing to God’s goodness”. [[180]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn180) Ultimately, however, our response to the love of the heart of Christ is manifested in love of our neighbour: “a love that is firm, constant, steady, unconcerned with trivial matters or people’s station in life, not subject to changes or animosity… Our Lord loves us unceasingly, puts up with so many of our defects and our flaws. Precisely because of this, we must do the same with our brothers and sisters, never tiring of putting up with them”. [[181]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn181)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[180]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref180) *Introduction to the Devout Life*, Part III, xxxv.  [[181]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref181) *Sermon for the XVII Sunday after Pentecost*. |  |
| 179. Saint Charles de Foucauld sought to imitate Jesus by living and acting as he did, in a constant effort to do what Jesus would have done in his place. Only by being conformed to the sentiments of the heart of Christ could he fully achieve this goal. Here too we find the idea of “love for love”. In his words, “I desire sufferings in order to return love for love, to imitate him… to enter into his work, to offer myself with him, the nothingness that I am, as a sacrifice, as a victim, for the sanctification of men”. [[182]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn182) The desire to bring the love of Jesus to others, his missionary outreach to the poorest and most forgotten of our world, led him to take as his emblem the words, “Iesus-Caritas”, with the symbol of the heart of Christ surmounted by a cross. [[183]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn183) Nor was this a light decision: “With all my strength I try to show and prove to these poor lost brethren that our religion is all charity, all fraternity, and that its emblem is a heart”. [[184]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn184) He wanted to settle with other brothers “in Morocco, in the name of the heart of Jesus”. [[185]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn185) In this way, their evangelizing work could radiate outwards: “Charity has to radiate from our fraternities, as it radiates from the heart of Jesus”. [[186]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn186) This desire gradually made him a “universal brother”. Allowing himself to be shaped by the heart of Christ, he sought to shelter the whole of suffering humanity in his fraternal heart: “Our heart, like that of Jesus, must embrace all men and women”. [[187]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn187) “The love of the heart of Jesus for men and women, the love that he demonstrated in his passion, this is what we need to have for all human beings”. [[188]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn188)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[182]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref182) *Écrits spirituels*, Paris 1947, 67.  [[183]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref183) After 19 March 1902, all his letters begin with the words *Jesus Caritas* separated by a heart surmounted by the cross.  [[184]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref184) *Letter to l’Abbé Huvelin*, 15 July 1904.  [[185]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref185) *Letter to Dom Martin*, 25 January 1903.  [[186]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref186) Cited in RENÉ VOILLAUME *, Les fraternités du Père de Foucauld*, Paris, 1946, 173.  [[187]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref187) *Méditations des saints Évangiles sur les passages relatifs à quinze vertus*, Nazareth, 1897-1898, *Charité*( *Mt*13:3), 60.  [[188]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref188) Ibid., *Charité* ( *Mt*22:1), 90. |  |
| 180. Father Henri Huvelin, the spiritual director of Saint Charles de Foucauld, observed that, “when our Lord dwells in a heart, he gives it such sentiments, and this heart reaches out to the least of our brothers and sisters. Such was the heart of Saint Vincent de Paul… When our Lord lives in the soul of a priest, he makes him reach out to the poor”. [[189]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn189) It is important to realize that the apostolic zeal of Saint Vincent, as Father Huvelin describes it, was also nurtured by devotion to the heart of Christ. Saint Vincent urged his confreres to “find in the heart of our Lord a word of consolation for the poor sick person”. [[190]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn190) If that word is to be convincing, our own heart must first have been changed by the love and tenderness of the heart of Christ. Saint Vincent often reiterated this conviction in his homilies and counsels, and it became a notable feature of the Constitutions of his Congregation: “We should make a great effort to learn the following lesson, also taught by Christ: ‘Learn from me, for I am gentle and humble of heart’. We should remember that he himself said that by gentleness we inherit the earth. If we act on this, we will win people over so that they will turn to the Lord. That will not happen if we treat people harshly or sharply”. [[191]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn191)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[189]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref189) H. HUVELIN, *Quelques directeurs d’âmes au XVII siècle*, Paris, 1911, 97.  [[190]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref190) Conference, “Service of the Sick and Care of One’s own Health”, 11 November 1657.  [[191]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref191) *Common Rules of the Congregation of the Mission*, 17 May 1658, c. 2, 6. |  |
| **REPARATION: BUILDING ON THE RUINS** |  |
| 181. All that has been said thus far enables us to understand in the light of God’s word the proper meaning of the “reparation” to the heart of Christ that the Lord expects us, with the help of his grace, to “offer”. The question has been much discussed, but [Saint John Paul II](https://www.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en.html) has given us a clear response that can guide Christians today towards a spirit of reparation more closely attuned to the Gospels. |  |
| *The social significance of reparation to the heart of Christ* |  |
| 182.  [Saint John Paul](https://www.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en.html) explained that by entrusting ourselves together to the heart of Christ, “over the ruins accumulated by hatred and violence, the greatly desired civilization of love, the Kingdom of the heart of Christ, can be built”. This clearly requires that we “unite filial love for God and love of neighbour”, and indeed this is “the true reparation asked by the heart of the Saviour”. [[192]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn192) In union with Christ, amid the ruins we have left in this world by our sins, we are called to build a new civilization of love. That is what it means to make reparation as the heart of Christ would have us do. Amid the devastation wrought by evil, the heart of Christ desires that we cooperate with him in restoring goodness and beauty to our world.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[192]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref192) *Letter to the Superior General of the Society of Jesus*, Paray-le-Monial, 5 October 1986: *L’Osservatore Romano*, 6 October 1986, p. 7. |  |
| 183. All sin harms the Church and society; as a result, “every sin can undoubtedly be considered as a social sin” and this is especially true for those sins that “by their very matter constitute a direct attack on one’s neighbour”. [[193]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn193) [Saint John Paul II](https://www.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en.html) explained that the repetition of these sins against others often consolidates a “structure of sin” that has an effect on the development of peoples. [[194]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn194) Frequently, this is part of a dominant mind-set that considers normal or reasonable what is merely selfishness and indifference. This then gives rise to social alienation: “A society is alienated if its forms of social organization, production and consumption make it more difficult to offer the gift of self and to establish solidarity between people”. [[195]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn195) It is not only a moral norm that leads us to expose and resist these alienated social structures and to support efforts within society to restore and consolidate the common good. Rather, it is our “conversion of heart” that “imposes the obligation” [[196]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn196) to repair these structures. It is our response to the love of the heart of Jesus, which teaches us to love in turn.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[193]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref193) SAINT JOHN PAUL II, Post-Synodal Apostolic Exhortation [*Reconciliatio et Paenitentia*](https://www.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/apost_exhortations/documents/hf_jp-ii_exh_02121984_reconciliatio-et-paenitentia.html) (2 December 1984), 16: AAS 77 (1985), 215.  [[194]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref194) Cf. Encyclical Letter [*Sollicitudo Rei Socialis*](https://www.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_jp-ii_enc_30121987_sollicitudo-rei-socialis.html) (30 December 1987), 36: AAS 80 (1988), 561-562.  [[195]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref195) Encyclical Letter [*Centesimus Annus*](https://www.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_jp-ii_enc_01051991_centesimus-annus.html) (1 May 1991), 41: AAS 83 (1991), 844-845.  [[196]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref196) [Catechism of the Catholic Church](https://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0015/_INDEX.HTM), 1888. |  |
| 184. Precisely because evangelical reparation possesses this vital social dimension, our acts of love, service and reconciliation, in order to be truly reparative, need to be inspired, motivated and empowered by Christ. [Saint John Paul II](https://www.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en.html) also observed that “to build the civilization of love”, [[197]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn197) our world today needs the heart of Christ. Christian reparation cannot be understood simply as a congeries of external works, however indispensable and at times admirable they may be. These need a “mystique”, a soul, a meaning that grants them strength, drive and tireless creativity. They need the life, the fire and the light that radiate from the heart of Christ.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[197]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref197) *Catechesis*, 8 June 1994, 2: *L’Osservatore Romano*, 4 May 1994, p. 5. |  |
| *Mending wounded hearts* |  |
| 185. Nor is a merely outward reparation sufficient, either for our world or for the heart of Christ. If each of us considers his or her own sins and their effect on others, we will realize that repairing the harm done to this world also calls for a desire to mend wounded hearts where the deepest harm was done, and the hurt is most painful. |  |
| 186. A spirit of reparation thus “leads us to hope that every wound can be healed, however deep it may be. Complete reparation may at times seem impossible, such as when goods or loved ones are definitively lost, or when certain situations have become irremediable. Yet the intention to make amends, and to do so in a concrete way, is essential for the process of reconciliation and a return to peace of heart”. [[198]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn198)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[198]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref198) [*Address to the Participants in the International Colloquium “Réparer L’Irréparable”*](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/speeches/2024/may/documents/20240504-reparer-irreparable.html), on the 350 th Anniversary of the Apparitions of Jesus in Paray-le-Monial, 4 May 2024: *L’Osservatore Romano*, 4 May 2024, p. 12. |  |
| *The beauty of asking forgiveness* |  |
| 187. Good intentions are not enough. There has to be an inward desire that finds expression in our outward actions. “Reparation, if it is to be Christian, to touch the offended person’s heart and not be a simple act of commutative justice, presupposes two demanding things: acknowledging our guilt and asking forgiveness… It is from the honest acknowledgment of the wrong done to our brother or sister, and from the profound and sincere realization that love has been compromised, that the desire to make amends arises”. [[199]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn199)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[199]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref199) [Ibid](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/speeches/2024/may/documents/20240504-reparer-irreparable.html). |  |
| 188. We should never think that acknowledging our sins before others is somehow demeaning or offensive to our human dignity. On the contrary, it demands that we stop deceiving ourselves and acknowledge our past for what it is, marred by sin, especially in those cases when we caused hurt to our brothers and sisters. “Self-accusation is part of Christian wisdom… It is pleasing to the Lord, because the Lord accepts a contrite heart”. [[200]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn200)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[200]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref200) *Homily at Morning Mass in Domus Sanctae Marthae*, 6 March 2018: *L’Osservatore Romano*, 5-6 March 2018, p. 8. |  |
| 189. Part of this spirit of reparation is the custom of asking forgiveness from our brothers and sisters, which demonstrates great nobility amid our human weakness. Asking forgiveness is a means of healing relationships, for it “re-opens dialogue and manifests the will to re-establish the bond of fraternal charity… It touches the heart of our brother or sister, brings consolation and inspires acceptance of the forgiveness requested. Even if the irreparable cannot be completely repaired, love can always be reborn, making the hurt bearable”. [[201]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn201)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[201]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref201) [*Address to the Participants in the International Colloquium “Réparer L’Irréparable”,*](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/speeches/2024/may/documents/20240504-reparer-irreparable.html) on the 350 th Anniversary of the Apparitions of Jesus in Paray-le-Monial, 4 May 2024: *L’Osservatore Romano*, 4 May 2024, p. 12. |  |
| 190. A heart capable of compunction will grow in fraternity and solidarity. Otherwise, “we regress and grow old within”, whereas when “our prayer becomes simpler and deeper, grounded in adoration and wonder in the presence of God, we grow and mature. We become less attached to ourselves and more attached to Christ. Made poor in spirit, we draw closer to the poor, those who are dearest to God”. [[202]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn202) This leads to a true spirit of reparation, for “those who feel compunction of heart increasingly feel themselves brothers and sisters to all the sinners of the world; renouncing their airs of superiority and harsh judgments, they are filled with a burning desire to show love and make reparation”. [[203]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn203) The sense of solidarity born of compunction also enables reconciliation to take place. The person who is capable of compunction, “rather than feeling anger and scandal at the failings of our brothers and sisters, weeps for their sins. There occurs a sort of reversal, where the natural tendency to be indulgent with ourselves and inflexible with others is overturned and, by God’s grace, we become strict with ourselves and merciful towards others”. [[204]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn204)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[202]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref202) [*Homily at the Chrism Mass*](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/homilies/2024/documents/20240328-omelia-crisma.html), 28 March 2024: *L’Osservatore Romano*, 28 March 2024, p. 2.  [[203]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref203) [Ibid.](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/homilies/2024/documents/20240328-omelia-crisma.html)  [[204]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref204) [Ibid.](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/homilies/2024/documents/20240328-omelia-crisma.html) |  |
| **REPARATION: AN EXTENSION OF THE HEART OF CHRIST** |  |
| 191. There is another, complementary, approach to reparation, which allows us to set it in an even more direct relationship with the heart of Christ, without excluding the aspect of concrete commitment to our brothers and sisters. |  |
| 192. Elsewhere I have suggested that, “God has in some way sought to limit himself in such a way that many of the things we think of as evils, dangers or sources of suffering, are in reality part of the pains of childbirth which he uses to draw us into the act of cooperation with the Creator”. [[205]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn205) This cooperation on our part can allow the power and the love of God to expand in our lives and in the world, whereas our refusal or indifference can prevent it. Several passages of the Bible express this metaphorically, as when the Lord cries out, “If only you would return to me, O Israel!” (cf. *Jer* 4:1). Or when, confronted with rejection by his people, he says, “My heart recoils within me; my compassion grows warm and tender” ( *Hos* 11:8).  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[205]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref205) Encyclical Letter [*Laudato Si’*](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html) (24 May 2015), 80: AAS 107 (2015), 879. |  |
| 193. Even though it is not possible to speak of new suffering on the part of the glorified Lord, “the paschal mystery of Christ… and all that Christ is – all that he did and suffered for all men – participates in the divine eternity, and so transcends all times while being made present in them all”. [[206]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn206) We can say that he has allowed the expansive glory of his resurrection to be limited and the diffusion of his immense and burning love to be contained, in order to leave room for our free cooperation with his heart. Our rejection of his love erects a barrier to that gracious gift, whereas our trusting acceptance of it opens a space, a channel enabling it to pour into our hearts. Our rejection or indifference limits the effects of his power and the fruitfulness of his love in us. If he does not encounter openness and confidence in me, his love is deprived – because he himself has willed it – of its extension, unique and unrepeatable, in my life and in this world, where he calls me to make him present. Again, this does not stem from any weakness on his part but rather from his infinite freedom, his mysterious power and his perfect love for each of us. When God’s power is revealed in the weakness of our human freedom, “only faith can discern it”. [[207]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn207)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[206]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref206) [Catechism of the Catholic Church](https://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0015/__P2W.HTM), No. 1085.  [[207]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref207) [Ibid](https://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0015/__P18.HTM)., No. 268. |  |
| 194. Saint Margaret Mary recounted that, in one of Christ’s appearances, he spoke of his heart’s passionate love for us, telling her that, “unable to contain the flames of his burning charity, he must spread them abroad”. [[208]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn208) Since the Lord, who can do all things, desired in his divine freedom to require our cooperation, reparation can be understood as our removal of the obstacles we place before the expansion of Christ’s love in the world by our lack of trust, gratitude and self-sacrifice.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[208]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref208) *Autobiography*, n. 53. |  |
| *An Oblation to Love* |  |
| 195. To help us reflect more deeply on this mystery, we can turn once more to the luminous spirituality of Saint Therese of the Child Jesus. Therese was aware that in certain quarters an extreme form of reparation had developed, based on a willingness to offer oneself in sacrifice for others, and to become in some sense a “lightning rod” for the chastisements of divine justice. In her words, “I thought about the souls who offer themselves as victims of God’s justice in order to turn away the punishments reserved to sinners, drawing them upon themselves”. [[209]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn209) However, as great and generous as such an offering might appear, she did not find it overly appealing: “I was far from feeling attracted to making it”. [[210]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn210) So great an emphasis on God’s justice might eventually lead to the notion that Christ’s sacrifice was somehow incomplete or only partly efficacious, or that his mercy was not sufficiently powerful.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[209]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref209) Ms A, 84r.  [[210]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref210) Ibid. |  |
| 196. With her great spiritual insight, Saint Therese discovered that we can offer ourselves in another way, without the need to satisfy divine justice but by allowing the Lord’s infinite love to spread freely: “O my God! Is your disdained love going to remain closed up within your heart? It seems to me that if you were to find souls offering themselves as victims of holocaust to your love, you would consume them rapidly; it seems to me, too, that you would be happy not to hold back the waves of infinite tenderness within you”. [[211]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn211)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[211]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref211) Ibid. |  |
| 197. While nothing need be added to the one redemptive sacrifice of Christ, it remains true that our free refusal can prevent the heart of Christ from spreading the “waves of his infinite tenderness” in this world. Again, this is because the Lord wishes to respect our freedom. More than divine justice, it was the fact that Christ’s love might be refused that troubled the heart of Saint Therese, because for her, God’s justice is understood only in the light of his love. As we have seen, she contemplated all God’s perfections through his mercy, and thus saw them transfigured and resplendent with love. In her words, “even his justice (and perhaps this even more so than the others) seems to me clothed in love”. [[212]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn212)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[212]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref212) Ms A, 83v.; cf. *Letter 226 to Father Roulland*, 9 May 1897. |  |
| 198. This was the origin of her Act of Oblation, not to God’s justice but to his merciful love. “I offer myself as a victim of holocaust to your merciful love, asking you to consume me incessantly, allowing the waves of infinite tenderness shut up within you to overflow into my soul, and that thus I may become a martyr of your love”. [[213]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn213) It is important to realize that, for Therese, this was not only about allowing the heart of Christ to fill her heart, through her complete trust, with the beauty of his love, but also about letting that love, through her life, spread to others and thus transform the world. Again, in her words, “In the heart of the Church, my Mother, I shall be love… and thus my dream will be realized”. [[214]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn214) The two aspects were inseparably united.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[213]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref213) *Act of Oblation to Merciful Love*, 9 June 1895, 2r-2v.  [[214]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref214) Ms B, 3v. |  |
| 199. The Lord accepted her oblation. We see that shortly thereafter she stated that she felt an intense love for others and maintained that it came from the heart of Christ, prolonged through her. So she told her sister Léonie: “I love you a thousand times more tenderly than ordinary sisters love each other, for I can love you with the heart of our celestial spouse”. [[215]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn215) Later, to Maurice Bellière she wrote, “How I would like to make you understand the tenderness of the heart of Jesus, what he expects from you!” [[216]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn216)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[215]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref215) *Letter 186 to Léonie,*11 April 1896.  [[216]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref216) *Letter 258 to l’Abbé Bellière*, 18 July 1897. |  |
| *Integrity and Harmony* |  |
| 200. Sisters and brothers, I propose that we develop this means of reparation, which is, in a word, to offer the heart of Christ a new possibility of spreading in this world the flames of his ardent and gracious love. While it remains true that reparation entails the desire to “render compensation for the injuries inflicted on uncreated Love, whether by negligence or grave offense”, [[217]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn217) the most fitting way to do this is for our love to offer the Lord a possibility of spreading, in amends for all those occasions when his love has been rejected or refused. This involves more than simply the “consolation” of Christ of which we spoke in the previous chapter; it finds expression in acts of fraternal love by which we heal the wounds of the Church and of the world. In this way, we offer the healing power of the heart of Christ new ways of expressing itself.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[217]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref217) Cf. PIUS XI, Encyclical Letter [*Miserentissimus Redemptor*](https://www.vatican.va/content/pius-xi/en/encyclicals/documents/hf_p-xi_enc_19280508_miserentissimus-redemptor.html), 8 May 1928: AAS 20 (1928), 169. |  |
| 201. The sacrifices and sufferings required by these acts of love of neighbour unite us to the passion of Christ. In this way, “by that mystic crucifixion of which the Apostle speaks, we shall receive the abundant fruits of its propitiation and expiation, for ourselves and for others”. [[218]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn218) Christ alone saves us by his offering on the cross; he alone redeems us, for “there is one God; there is also one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus, who gave himself as a ransom for all” (1 *Tim* 2:5-6). The reparation that we offer is a freely accepted participation in his redeeming love and his one sacrifice. We thus complete in our flesh “what is lacking in Christ’s afflictions for the sake of his body, that is, the Church” ( *Col* 1:24); and Christ himself prolongs through us the effects of his complete and loving self-oblation.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[218]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref218) Ibid.: AAS 20 (1928), 172. |  |
| 202. Often, our sufferings have to do with our own wounded ego. The humility of the heart of Christ points us towards the path of abasement. God chose to come to us in condescension and littleness. The Old Testament had already shown us, with a variety of metaphors, a God who enters into the heart of history and allows himself to be rejected by his people. Christ’s love was shown amid the daily life of his people, begging, as it were, for a response, as if asking permission to manifest his glory. Yet “perhaps only once did the Lord Jesus refer to his own heart, in his own words. And he stresses this sole feature: ‘gentleness and lowliness’, as if to say that only in this way does he wish to win us to himself”. [[219]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn219) When he said, “Learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart” ( *Mt* 11:29), he showed us that “to make himself known, he needs our littleness, our self-abasement”. [[220]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn220)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[219]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref219) SAINT JOHN PAUL II *,*[*Catechesis, 20 June 1979*](https://www.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/audiences/1979/documents/hf_jp-ii_aud_19790620.html): *L’Osservatore Romano*, 22 June 1979, p. 1.  [[220]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref220) *Homily at Mass in Domus Sanctae Marthae*, 27 June 2014: *L’Osservatore Romano*, 28 June 2014, p. 8. |  |
| 203. In what we have said, it is important to note several inseparable aspects. Acts of love of neighbour, with the renunciation, self-denial, suffering and effort that they entail, can only be such when they are nourished by Christ’s own love. He enables us to love as he loved, and in this way he loves and serves others through us. He humbles himself to show his love through our actions, yet even in our slightest works of mercy, his heart is glorified and displays all its grandeur. Once our hearts welcome the love of Christ in complete trust, and enable its fire to spread in our lives, we become capable of loving others as Christ did, in humility and closeness to all. In this way, Christ satisfies his thirst and gloriously spreads the flames of his ardent and gracious love in us and through us. How can we fail to see the magnificent harmony present in all this? |  |
| 204. Finally, in order to appreciate this devotion in all of its richness, it is necessary to add, in the light of what we have said about its Trinitarian dimension, that the reparation made by Christ in his humanity is offered to the Father through the working of the Holy Spirit in each of us. Consequently, the reparation we offer to the heart of Christ is directed ultimately to the Father, who is pleased to see us united to Christ whenever we offer ourselves through him, with him and in him. |  |
| **BRINGING LOVE TO THE WORLD** |  |
| 205. The Christian message is attractive when experienced and expressed in its totality: not simply as a refuge for pious thoughts or an occasion for impressive ceremonies. What kind of worship would we give to Christ if we were to rest content with an individual relationship with him and show no interest in relieving the sufferings of others or helping them to live a better life? Would it please the heart that so loved us, if we were to bask in a private religious experience while ignoring its implications for the society in which we live? Let us be honest and accept the word of God in its fullness. On the other hand, our work as Christians for the betterment of society should not obscure its religious inspiration, for that, in the end, would be to seek less for our brothers and sisters than what God desires to give them. For this reason, we should conclude this chapter by recalling the missionary dimension of our love for the heart of Christ. |  |
| 206. [Saint John Paul II](https://www.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en.html) spoke of the social dimension of devotion to the heart of Christ, but also about “reparation, which is apostolic cooperation in the salvation of the world”. [[221]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn221) Consecration to the heart of Christ is thus “to be seen in relation to the Church’s missionary activity, since it responds to the desire of Jesus’ heart to spread throughout the world, through the members of his Body, his complete commitment to the Kingdom”. [[222]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn222) As a result, “through the witness of Christians, love will be poured into human hearts, to build up the body of Christ which is the Church, and to build a society of justice, peace and fraternity”. [[223]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn223)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[221]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref221) [*Message for the Centenary of the Consecration of the Human Race to the Divine Heart of Jesus, Warsaw*](https://www.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/letters/1999/documents/hf_jp-ii_let_19990611_consagrazione-sacro-cuore.html), 11 June 1999, Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. *L’Osservatore Romano*, 12 June 1999, p. 5.  [[222]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref222) [Ibid.](https://www.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/letters/1999/documents/hf_jp-ii_let_19990611_consagrazione-sacro-cuore.html)  [[223]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref223) *Letter to the Archbishop of Lyon on the occasion of the Pilgrimage of Paray-le-Monial for the Centenary of the Consecration of the Human Race to the Divine Heart of Jesus*, 4 June 1999: *L’Osservatore Romano*, 12 June 1999, p. 4. |  |
| 207. The flames of love of the Sacred Heart of Jesus also expand through the Church’s missionary outreach, which proclaims the message of God’s love revealed in Christ. Saint Vincent de Paul put this nicely when he invited his disciples to pray to the Lord for “this spirit, this heart that causes us to go everywhere, this heart of the Son of God, the heart of our Lord, that disposes us to go as he went… he sends us, like [the apostles], to bring fire everywhere”. [[224]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn224)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[224]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref224) Conference, “Repetition of Prayer”, 22 August 1655. |  |
| 208. [Saint Paul VI](https://www.vatican.va/content/paul-vi/it.html), addressing religious Congregations dedicated to the spread of devotion to the Sacred Heart, made the following observation. “There can be no doubt that pastoral commitment and missionary zeal will fan into flame, if priests and laity alike, in their desire to spread the glory of God, contemplate the example of eternal love that Christ has shown us, and direct their efforts to make all men and women sharers in the unfathomable riches of Christ”. [[225]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn225) As we contemplate the Sacred Heart, mission becomes a matter of love. For the greatest danger in mission is that, amid all the things we say and do, we fail to bring about a joyful encounter with the love of Christ who embraces us and saves us.  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[225]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref225) Letter *Diserti interpretes*(25 May 1965), 4: *Enchiridion della Vita Consacrata*, Bologna-Milano, 2001, n. 3809. |  |
| 209. Mission, as a radiation of the love of the heart of Christ, requires missionaries who are themselves in love and who, enthralled by Christ, feel bound to share this love that has changed their lives. They are impatient when time is wasted discussing secondary questions or concentrating on truths and rules, because their greatest concern is to share what they have experienced. They want others to perceive the goodness and beauty of the Beloved through their efforts, however inadequate they may be. Is that not the case with any lover? We can take as an example the words with which Dante Alighieri sought to express this logic of love:  *“Io dico che, pensando al suo valore*  *amor si dolce si mi si fa sentire,*  *che s’io allora non perdessi ardire*  *farei parlando innamorar la gente”*. [[226]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn226)  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  [[226]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftnref226) *Vita Nuova* XIX, 5-6: “I declare that, in thinking of its worth, love so sweet makes me feel that, if my courage did not fail me, I would speak out and make everyone else fall in love”. |  |
| 210. To be able to speak of Christ, by witness or by word, in such a way that others seek to love him, is the greatest desire of every missionary of souls. This dynamism of love has nothing to do with proselytism; the words of a lover do not disturb others, they do not make demands or oblige, they only lead others to marvel at such love. With immense respect for their freedom and dignity, the lover simply waits for them to inquire about the love that has filled his or her life with such great joy. |  |
| 211. Christ asks you never to be ashamed to tell others, with all due discretion and respect, about your friendship with him. He asks that you dare to tell others how good and beautiful it is that you found him. “Everyone who acknowledges me before others, I also will acknowledge before my Father in heaven” (*Mt*10:32). For a heart that loves, this is not a duty but an irrepressible need: “Woe to me if I do not proclaim the Gospel!” (*1 Cor*9:16). “Within me there is something like a burning fire shut up in my bones; I am weary with holding it in, and I cannot” (*Jer* 20:9). |  |
| *In communion of service* |  |
| 212. We should not think of this mission of sharing Christ as something only between Jesus and me. Mission is experienced in fellowship with our communities and with the whole Church. If we turn aside from the community, we will be turning aside from Jesus. If we turn our back on the community, our friendship with Jesus will grow cold. This is a fact, and we must never forget it. Love for the brothers and sisters of our communities – religious, parochial, diocesan and others – is a kind of fuel that feeds our friendship with Jesus. Our acts of love for our brothers and sisters in community may well be the best and, at times, the only way that we can witness to others our love for Jesus Christ. He himself said, “By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another” (*Jn* 13:35). |  |
| 213. This love then becomes service within the community. I never tire of repeating that Jesus told us this in the clearest terms possible: “Just as you did it to one of the least of these my brethren, you did it to me” (*Mt* 25:40). He now asks you to meet him there, in every one of our brothers and sisters, and especially in the poor, the despised and the abandoned members of society. What a beautiful encounter that can be! |  |
| 214. If we are concerned with helping others, this in no way means that we are turning away from Jesus. Rather, we are encountering him in another way. Whenever we try to help and care for another person, Jesus is at our side. We should never forget that, when he sent his disciples on mission, “the Lord worked with them” (*Mk* 16:20). He is always there, always at work, sharing our efforts to do good. In a mysterious way, his love becomes present through our service. He speaks to the world in a language that at times has no need of words. |  |
| 215. Jesus is calling you and sending you forth to spread goodness in our world. His call is one of service, a summons to do good, perhaps as a physician, a mother, a teacher or a priest. Wherever you may be, you can hear his call and realize that he is sending you forth to carry out that mission. He himself told us, “I am sending you out” (*Lk* 10:3). It is part of our being friends with him. For this friendship to mature, however, it is up to you to let him send you forth on a mission in this world, and to carry it out confidently, generously, freely and fearlessly. If you stay trapped in your own comfort zone, you will never really find security; doubts and fears, sorrow and anxiety will always loom on the horizon. Those who do not carry out their mission on this earth will find not happiness, but disappointment. Never forget that Jesus is at your side at every step of the way. He will not cast you into the abyss, or leave you to your own devices. He will always be there to encourage and accompany you. He has promised, and he will do it: “For I am with you always, to the end of the age” (*Mt*28:20). |  |
| 216. In your own way, you too must be a missionary, like the apostles and the first disciples of Jesus, who went forth to proclaim the love of God, to tell others that Christ is alive and worth knowing. Saint Therese experienced this as an essential part of her oblation to merciful Love: “I wanted to give my Beloved to drink and I felt myself consumed with a thirst for souls”. [[227]](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/20241024-enciclica-dilexit-nos.html" \l "_ftn227) That is your mission as well. Each of us must carry it out in his or her own way; you will come to see how you can be a missionary. Jesus deserves no less. If you accept the challenge, he will enlighten you, accompany you and strengthen you, and you will have an enriching experience that will bring you much happiness. It is not important whether you see immediate results; leave that to the Lord who works in the secret of our hearts. Keep experiencing the joy born of our efforts to share the love of Christ with others. |  |
| **CONCLUSION** |  |
| 217. The present document can help us see that the teaching of the social Encyclicals [*Laudato Si’*](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20150524_enciclica-laudato-si.html)and [*Fratelli Tutti*](https://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/encyclicals/documents/papa-francesco_20201003_enciclica-fratelli-tutti.html) is not unrelated to our encounter with the love of Jesus Christ. For it is by drinking of that same love that we become capable of forging bonds of fraternity, of recognizing the dignity of each human being, and of working together to care for our common home. |  |
| 218. In a world where everything is bought and sold, people’s sense of their worth appears increasingly to depend on what they can accumulate with the power of money. We are constantly being pushed to keep buying, consuming and distracting ourselves, held captive to a demeaning system that prevents us from looking beyond our immediate and petty needs. The love of Christ has no place in this perverse mechanism, yet only that love can set us free from a mad pursuit that no longer has room for a gratuitous love. Christ’s love can give a heart to our world and revive love wherever we think that the ability to love has been definitively lost. |  |
| 219. The Church also needs that love, lest the love of Christ be replaced with outdated structures and concerns, excessive attachment to our own ideas and opinions, and fanaticism in any number of forms, which end up taking the place of the gratuitous love of God that liberates, enlivens, brings joy to the heart and builds communities. The wounded side of Christ continues to pour forth that stream which is never exhausted, never passes away, but offers itself time and time again to all those who wish to love as he did. For his love alone can bring about a new humanity. |  |
| 220. I ask our Lord Jesus Christ to grant that his Sacred Heart may continue to pour forth the streams of living water that can heal the hurt we have caused, strengthen our ability to love and serve others, and inspire us to journey together towards a just, solidary and fraternal world. Until that day when we will rejoice in celebrating together the banquet of the heavenly kingdom in the presence of the risen Lord, who harmonizes all our differences in the light that radiates perpetually from his open heart. May he be blessed forever. |  |
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| Given in Rome, at Saint Peter’s, on 24 October of the year 2024, the twelfth of my Pontificate. |  |
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