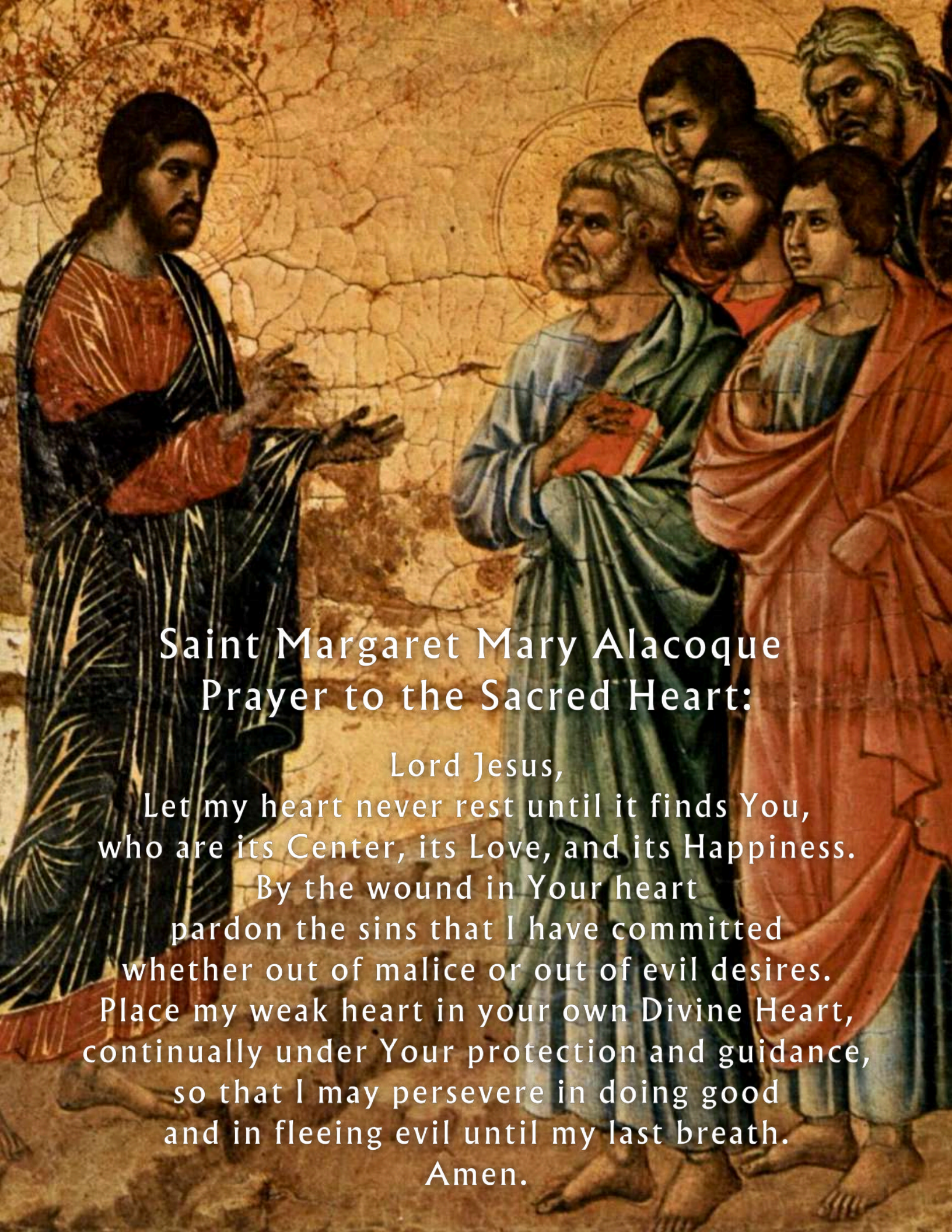


COR 5

HEART OF THE
FATHER



**Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque
Prayer to the Sacred Heart:**

Lord Jesus,

Let my heart never rest until it finds You,
who are its Center, its Love, and its Happiness.

By the wound in Your heart
pardon the sins that I have committed
whether out of malice or out of evil desires.
Place my weak heart in your own Divine Heart,
continually under Your protection and guidance,
so that I may persevere in doing good
and in fleeing evil until my last breath.

Amen.

Like Jacob's ladder, Lectio Divina offers a celestial stairway, a spiritual ascent that invites us to glimpse into the divine realm through the sacred text. As we ascend this stairway, rung by rung, we delve deeper into the Word of God, allowing its wisdom to illuminate our hearts and minds.

- **Lectio (Reading):** We embark on this spiritual journey together, beginning our ascent up Jacob's ladder. As we read the Scripture, we open our hearts and minds to the Word of God, allowing it to enter and nourish us.
- **Meditatio (Meditation):** We climb higher on the ladder, delving deeper into the meaning of the words. We connect the Scripture to our own experiences and understandings, sharing our insights and reflections as individuals.
- **Contemplatio (Contemplation):** Reaching the summit of this spiritual journey, we sink into the silence, allowing the words of the gospel to resonate within us. As we experience the deep sense of peace and understanding that comes from communion with the divine, we also hear God's call to action.

Reflection on the Gospel:

In this passage, Jesus teaches his disciples about acceptance and the importance of welcoming all who are doing God's work. The disciples' attempt to prevent a man from casting out demons in Jesus' name reveals a narrow-minded approach to faith. Jesus' response emphasizes the importance of unity and the power of God's work, regardless of who performs it.

The parable of the millstone serves as a stark warning about the consequences of harming the innocent. It underscores the importance of protecting and caring for those who are vulnerable, especially children.

Jesus' call to cut off limbs or pluck out eyes if they cause sin is a metaphor for the radical steps we may need to take to eliminate harmful influences in our lives. It emphasizes the importance of prioritizing our spiritual well-being over worldly possessions or desires.

Meditation (Individual):

- We reflect individually on the times when we have been tempted to exclude others or judge them based on their beliefs or actions.
- We consider how we can be more inclusive and welcoming in our relationships with others.
- We think about the ways in which we might be harming others, either intentionally or unintentionally. We seek to make amends and strive to do better.

Contemplation (Group):

- We sit in silence together, allowing the words of the gospel to sink deep into our hearts.
- We trust that God is working in our lives, even when we may not understand how.
- We embrace the power of shared reflection and support, knowing that together, we can ascend the spiritual ladder and experience the transformative grace of God.

Call to Action:

- As we descend from the summit of this spiritual journey, let us carry with us God's call to embrace inclusivity and compassion.
- Let us strive to create a more just and equitable world, where all are welcomed and valued.
- Let us be agents of change, using our gifts and talents to serve others and promote the kingdom of God.

By engaging in Lectio Divina together and embracing the metaphor of Jacob's Ladder, we can deepen our understanding of the gospel and its application to our lives. This practice can help us to grow in faith, love, and compassion as individuals and as a community.



Bearing Fruit for the Kingdom

A Lectio Divina on the Great Commission

(Matthew 28:16-20)

Three volunteers will lend their voices to the text, offering us three distinct encounters with the Word. After each reading, we will pause for quiet reflection, allowing the words to settle within us.

- Following the first reading, we will share the word or phrase that spoke to our hearts. This simple act of sharing creates a tapestry of perspectives, enriching our individual understanding.
- After the second reading, we will delve deeper, reflecting on what the chosen word or phrase means to us. This deeper contemplation allows us to connect the message to our lives and experiences.
- Finally, after the third reading, we will consider how God might be calling us to respond. This call to action may be a whisper of guidance, a nudge towards change, or a spark of inspiration. Let us share these insights with open hearts, fostering a sense of shared purpose and community.

† Lectio Divina †
The Rewards of Compassion, the
Consequences of Sin

The Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ according to
Saint Mark 9,38-43.45.47-48

John said to Jesus, "Teacher, we saw someone driving out demons in your name, and we tried to prevent him because he does not follow us."

Jesus replied, "Do not prevent him. There is no one who performs a mighty deed in my name who can at the same time speak ill of me.

For whoever is not against us is for us.

Anyone who gives you a cup of water to drink because you belong to Christ, amen, I say to you, will surely not lose his reward.

Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in me to sin, it would be better for him if a great millstone were put around his neck and he were thrown into the sea.

If your hand causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life maimed than with two hands to go into Gehenna, into the unquenchable fire.

And if your foot causes you to sin, cut it off. It is better for you to enter into life crippled than with two feet to be thrown into Gehenna.

And if your eye causes you to sin, pluck it out. Better for you to enter into the Kingdom of God with one eye than with two eyes to be thrown into Gehenna, where their worm does not die, and the fire is not quenched.

As We Depart

Heavenly Father, as we descend from the summit of this spiritual journey, we thank you for the grace and wisdom you have bestowed upon us. May the insights gained from our Lectio Divina guide our steps and inspire us to live more fully in accordance with your will.

Help us to embrace the call to openness and compassion, to be agents of change in our world. May we use our gifts and talents to serve others and promote the kingdom of God.

We ask for your continued guidance and support as we continue our ascent up Jacob's ladder. May we always strive to draw closer to you and experience the transformative power of your love.

In Jesus' name, we pray. Amen.



Last Saturdays of the Month
sacredheartknights.ca/COR
COR@sacredheartknights.ca



Heavenly Father, grant us the strength and courage of St. Michael the Archangel, as we strive to follow the example of Jesus. Defend us from the temptations that would lead us astray, and help us to prioritize the kingdom of God over all else. May we be inclusive, compassionate, and protectors of the innocent, as Jesus taught us. As we ascend the spiritual ladder of Lectio Divina, may St. Michael guide us and inspire us to live a life of love and service.

JACOBS VISION OF THE LADDER OR THE WAY TO HEAVEN.

יְהוָה



He dreamed and beheld a ladder reached to heaven
and the Angels ascending and descending on it.

Gen. 28. 12.

