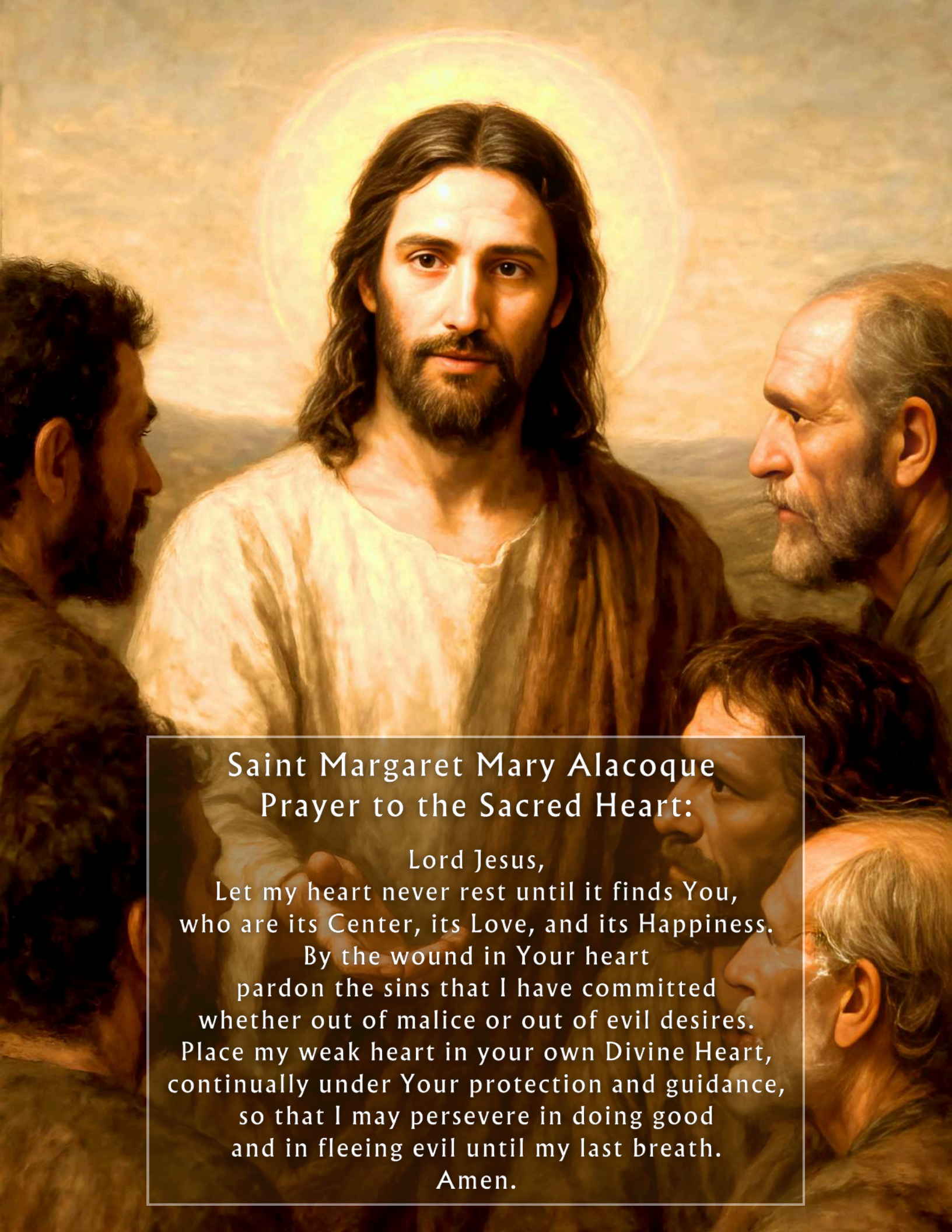




COR¹⁴
HEART OF THE
FATHER



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.

Lectio Divina: The Rock of Faith and the Keys of the Kingdom (Matthew 16:13-19)

Introduction

Brother Knights, let us reflect on Peter's profound confession of faith in Matthew 16. Jesus asks the pivotal question, "Who do you say that I am?", a question revealed not by "flesh and blood" but by the Father. This passage calls us to examine our own answer and our role as Knights in building the Church on the rock of this faith. Let us open our hearts to the Spirit.

Meditation (Reading and Reflection)

The passage (Matthew 16:13-19) will be read. As you reflect, notice what words or phrases the Lord uses to speak to you.

- **Matthew 16:13-19:** Jesus went into the region of Caesarea Philippi and he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" They replied, "Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets." He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?" Simon Peter said in reply, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God." Jesus said to him in reply, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father. And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it. I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."



Silently consider:

- Jesus moves from public opinion ("Who do people say I am?") to the crucial, personal question: "But who do you say that I am?" How do you answer Him, not with a rote phrase, but from your own experience?
- Peter's answer is a divine revelation. Jesus renames him "Rock" (*Petros*) and builds the Church on this faith. As Knights, how are we called to be a "rock" of faith for our families, parish, and Order?
- Jesus promises that the "gates of the netherworld shall not prevail" and gives Peter the "keys to the kingdom." How does our principle of Unity with the Pope, Peter's successor, connect us to this promise and give us courage?
- What single phrase from this Gospel challenges or encourages you most as a Knight?

(Silent reflection)

Contemplation

Choose a phrase that has drawn you in (e.g., "Who do you say that I am?", "upon this rock," "the keys of the kingdom"). Rest silently in God's presence, allowing the Spirit to unite you with Peter's confession.

(Shared silence)

Call to Action (Prayer and Action)

How will your answer to Jesus's question shape your actions this week?

- **Pray:** For the Holy Father and all clergy. For the courage to profess our faith charitably and for a faith as solid as rock in times of trial.
- **Act:** How can you concretely help "build the church" this week? In your parish, council, or family, consider one act that makes you a sign of the Church's unshakable foundation.

A Moment of Grace

Jesus, Messiah, you build your Church on the rock of Peter's faith and promise that evil will not prevail. As Knights, may we be pillars of this Church, finding our strength in you. Help us stand firm in our faith and mission, united with Peter's successor.

Amen.

Vivat Jesus!

Our Shared Lectio Divina Journey

“Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening.” – 1 Samuel 3:9

Our reflection will be guided by three readings of the same sacred text, voiced by three different volunteers. Each reading is an invitation to listen more deeply to the living Word of God.

After each reading, we will pause for a brief period of silent reflection before sharing.

After the First Reading: A Word or Phrase

We will each share one word or a short phrase from the scripture that stood out. There is no need to explain the choice. This first step simply allows us to hear what the Holy Spirit has highlighted for each brother, creating a shared foundation for our prayer.

After the Second Reading: A Personal Connection

We will reflect on how that word or phrase connects to our life right now. How does this scripture speak to your current circumstances? What memory, challenge, or encouragement does it bring to mind for you, individually and as a Knight?

After the Third Reading: A Call to Action

We will listen for a divine invitation. In light of this passage and our reflection, what is the Holy Spirit calling you—or us as a council—to do, to change, or to become? Let us share these movements of the heart with fraternal openness, strengthening our spiritual bond.

May this time of prayerful listening draw us closer to Christ and to one another, renewing us for our shared mission.

✠ Lectio Divina ✠

"Building on the Rock of Faith"

Holy Gospel of Jesus Christ according to Saint Matthew 16,13-19.

Jesus went into the region of Caesarea Philippi and he asked his disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?"

They replied, "Some say John the Baptist, others Elijah, still others Jeremiah or one of the prophets."

He said to them, "But who do you say that I am?"

Simon Peter said in reply, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God."

Jesus said to him in reply, "Blessed are you, Simon son of Jonah. For flesh and blood has not revealed this to you, but my heavenly Father.

And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it.

I will give you the keys to the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you bind on earth shall be bound in heaven; and whatever you loose on earth shall be loosed in heaven."

As We Depart

Lord Jesus,

Lord Jesus, Messiah, we thank you for the divine truth revealed to Peter: that You are the Son of the living God. As Knights, strengthen us to be a rock of faith for your Church. Help us stand firm against all evil, trusting in your promise that the gates of the netherworld will not prevail. Keep us united with Peter's successor as we build your Kingdom.

Amen.



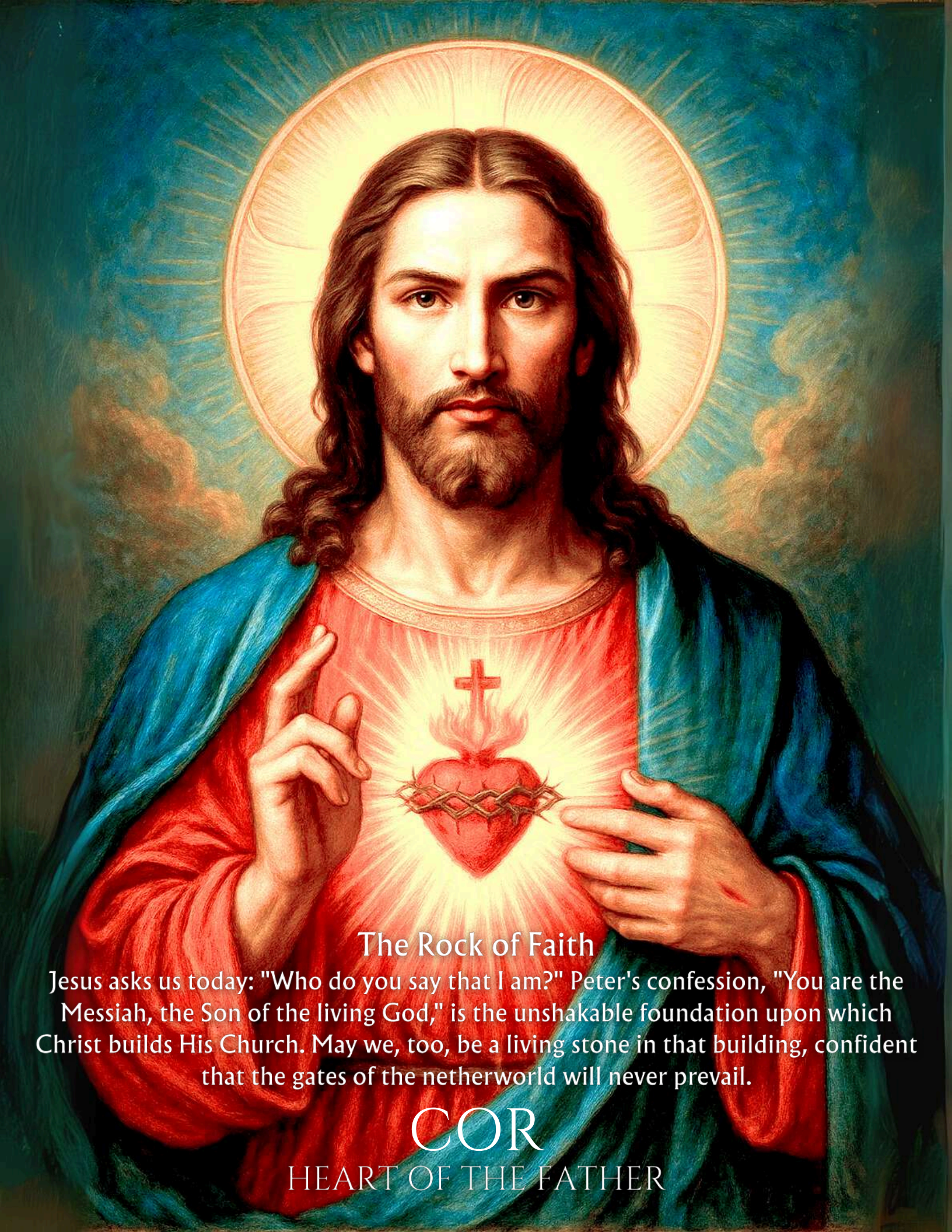
Last Saturdays of the Month
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Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the Devil. As we stand firm on the confession given by the Heavenly Father – that You, Lord Jesus, are the Messiah, the Son of the living God – we trust in Your promise that upon this Rock of Faith, You build Your Church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it.

May God rebuke him, we humbly pray. And do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the power of God, and through the unyielding foundation of Christ's Church, secured by the faith of Peter and his successors, cast into hell Satan, and all evil spirits, who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

Amen.



The Rock of Faith

Jesus asks us today: "Who do you say that I am?" Peter's confession, "You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God," is the unshakable foundation upon which Christ builds His Church. May we, too, be a living stone in that building, confident that the gates of the netherworld will never prevail.

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