





### Mother of Perpetual Help

This is a great matter we are about to attempt: we are to penetrate into a hidden world of beauty, and to discover its wondrous charms; to love it, to dwell in it with some of the joy with which God, in effable complacency, there reigns and displays His power and majesty. We seek to know Mary; we, who know ourselves to be the off-scouring of creation, seek to know her whom even the angels do not know; seek to penetrate and discover God's secret, the secret He delights in, Mary.

Mother, we withdraw from the world to *think of thee*; but sweet Mother, would it not be better to *be with thee*? We cannot come to thee. Come thou to us, draw us close to thy maternal heart, and make us feel its love. This will be the first thought in our minds concerning thee: that thou art, though Virgin, a Mother, and our Mother. We will pray to know all thy glories; but our first thought shall be that thou art our Mother, and that thou lovest us more, far more, than our own mothers ever have loved us, or ever will or could love us. It is not selfishness that we think of Mary as our Mother, before we think of her greatest and most glorious prerogative of being the Mother of God. We do this in order that we may love her better, that we may have a closer union with her, and thus be more pleasing to her.

Consider Mary as the sweet Mother, bearing Jesus in her womb, and therefore bearing His elect; for Mary, as Mother of our Head Jesus, must likewise be Mother of all the members of His Mystical Body. Yes, we, who hope to rest forever with Our Lord in heaven, were with Him as He lay, so tranquil, so peaceful, within Mary after the Annunciation; and Mary knew this. The knowledge God had given her would show her that, in being Mother of Jesus, she became Mother of all His elect.

Therefore, hide yourself with Jesus in Mary, asking Him to give you some little of His own knowledge of the perfections of His Mother; draw near to the Heart of the Infant Jesus, and rest with Him in Mary. If you are one of His you were with Him there, loved there, prayed for there. Unite yourself to Jesus, join your heart to His, and offering our Blessed Lady your intention to belong wholly to her, as did Jesus, beg that His Sacred Heart may supply the little love you have hitherto shown Mary. Turn to her now, and call upon her by the name she so loves, the sweet name of Mother.

The Enthronement of the Sacred Heart means the Official and Social recognition of the loving Kingship of the Heart of Jesus in the Christian family, shown by giving the image of the Sacred Heart a place of honor in the home and dedicating itself to Him by an act of consecration. In this way the family is brought under the benign influence of the Divine Heart, which asserts itself in all the events of family life .

The Enthronement is a recognition of the living presence of Our Lord in the home, where His Divine Heart, as King of Love, is the Center, attracting all the members of the family. It is more than a mere veneration of the image of the Sacred Heart or a transient consecration. It is a "way of life," a permanent state of devotedness and love, full of grace and joy.

Enthroned in a family which is wholly imbued with Divine charity, Jesus lives with its members as with His very own, directing and supernaturalizing their intimate home life. The home becomes His sanctuary. He is its King and Friend, reigning over it by love, receiving ardent love and tender reparation from His devoted subjects, bestowing in return untold graces, and filling each heart with peace and happiness.

By this act, the family fulfills a duty of justice toward our Divine Savior. For He is in very deed its King, its Lord and Master by virtue of His Divine nature and His work of Redemption. It renders solemn reparation to the King of Love, by proclaiming the Divine rights of the Sacred Heart - rights so shamefully ignored by a godless, perverted world.

It is Our Lord's desire to reign over mankind as King of Love. Jesus desires to reign by love and to communicate this love, to rule supreme as King of Love and Mercy. By the Enthronement and a subsequent life of devotedness, the family recognizes and proclaims in a special way this Kingship of Jesus Christ, so utterly ignored by the world.

What more royal mark of homage, in truth, could a Catholic family render to the Sacred Heart than to enthrone Him as King of the home? In so doing, the members testify their complete submission to Him and their unchanging devotedness, which they intend to prove by sacrifices and marks of tender affection.

What a consoling thought is this for the members of a family: Our Lord has deigned to enter our home! He is with us, full of love and kindness; in Him we can take refuge in all our needs. He has made our home His dwelling. His powerful blessing rests upon our family and upon each one of us!



*"All who do not wish to perish in that deluge of iniquity which inundates the earth, should seek in the Heart of Jesus an asylum and a shelter."--St. Bernard.*