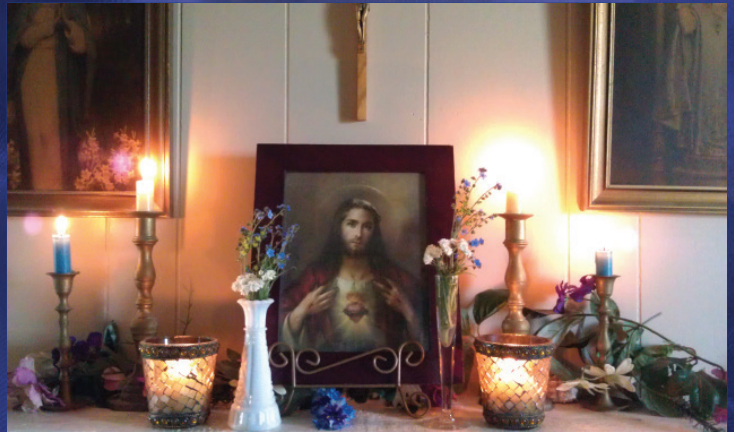


ENTHRONEMENT OF THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS AND OF CHRIST AS KING IN THE FAMILY HOME

WHAT IS AN ENTHRONEMENT?

The Enthronement of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in the family home is an act of adoration that publicly declares Jesus as 'Lord of the House' and where He is given authority over the family household. In return, Christ has promised to bless families and individuals who honour Him with the installation and enthronement of a blessed image of His Sacred Heart. The enthronement is also an act of reparation to make up for all who have 'dethroned' Jesus in our secular world.



ENTHRONEMENT CEREMONY IN 12 STEPS

- 1 Prepare our hearts by attendance at Mass.** It is recommended to have Mass celebrated for the intentions of the family on the day of the Enthronement, or at least to attend Mass as a Family and to receive Holy Communion on the Sunday prior to the enthronement.
- 2 Invite a priest of the parish.** The presence of a priest will make this enthronement a more solemn occasion, and the ceremony involves prayers and a blessing to be said by him. If a priest is unavailable, the father/ or parents can lead the enthronement ceremony.
- 3 Prepare the family altar.** Put in order your house for the enthronement and have holy water ready. Set out a white cloth, beautifully decorated with flowers and candles. A picture or statue of the Sacred Heart of Jesus should be placed on a small table near this "throne" before the ceremony.
- 4 Blessing of the home.** At the set hour, parents and children gather in the main room for the ceremony. Relatives and friends can be invited.
- 5 The blessing of the image or statue of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.** It is preferable to have a priest preside at the ceremony, but where this it is impossible to have him present, the image can be blessed beforehand.

ENTHRONEMENT CEREMONY IN 12 STEPS

6 **The enthronement of the image or statue.** The head of the family or delegated family member sets up the image/s of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in a place of honour, in order to render homage to the reign of the love of Jesus Christ in the home.

7 **Recitation of the Creed.** After the blessing, in order to give explicit expression to the faith of the family, all recite the Apostles' Creed out loud and standing.

8 **Words or message which explain the devotion and reality of Jesus' love for us** as expressed in the Sacred Heart devotion. Everyone is seated while the priest/ father/ parents address a few words to those present.

9 **The following formula of enthronement is read by all present.**

O Sacred Heart of Jesus, who did make known to St. Margaret Mary Your ardent desire to reign over Christian families, behold us assembled here today to proclaim Your absolute dominion over our home.

Henceforth we purpose to lead a life like Yours so that among us may flourish the virtues for which You did promise peace on earth, and for this end we will banish from our midst the spirit of the world which You abhorred so much.

You will reign over our understanding by the simplicity of our faith. You will reign over our hearts by an ardent love for You; and may the flame of this love be ever kept burning in our hearts by the frequent reception of the Holy Eucharist.

Deign, O Divine Heart, to preside over our meetings, to bless our undertakings, both spiritual and temporal, to banish all worry and care, to sanctify our joys and soothe our sorrows.

If any of us should ever have the misfortune to grieve Your Sacred Heart, remind him of Your goodness and mercy toward the repentant sinner.

Lastly, when the hour of separation will sound and death will plunge our home into



ENTHRONEMENT CEREMONY IN 12 STEPS

mourning, then shall we all and every one of us be resigned to Your eternal decrees, and seek consolation in the thought that we shall all one day be reunited in heaven, where we shall sing the praises and blessings of Your Sacred Heart for all eternity.

*May the Immaculate Heart of Mary and the glorious Patriarch St. Joseph offer You this our Consecration and remind us of the same all the days of our life.
Glory to the Divine Heart of Jesus, our King and our Father!*

10 **Prayer for the missing and deceased.** Passed away family members should be called to mind. Thus say one Our Father and one Hail Mary for these, and for those who are absent and missing.

11 **Consecration of children.** While not an official part of the enthronement, the children may recite a poem or sing a hymn in honour of the Sacred Heart. This is a short one:

Most sweet Jesus, Divine Friend of children, receive our hearts, make them pure, holy and happy; receive also our bodies, our souls, and all our strength. We consecrate ourselves to You now and forever. You alone are our King. All our thoughts, and our words, our actions, and our prayers, we consecrate to You, our Friend and our King.

12 **Final blessing.** The priest blesses those present and a certificate of enthronement can be signed by the priest and the family.



Painting: Christ the King
by C.B. Chambers, circa 1950.

