

Consecration of the Society to the Heart of Jesus

31 July 2022

Proposal for Jesuit communities



Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network



Proposal for Jesuit communities.

On the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the Superior General of the Society of Jesus, Fr. Arturo Sosa SJ, announced that on July 31, 2022, with the Closing of the Ignatian Year, he will renew **the Consecration of the Society to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. He invites all communities to renew this consecration.**

**We propose to the Jesuit communities a way to prepare,
in their different contexts,
for the renewal of the consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.**

It is a good opportunity to live this moment with friends and collaborators in the mission.

On 1 January 1872, Father General Pieter Jan Beckx **consecrated the Society to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.** In 1883 the Fathers of the 23rd General Congregation approved Decree 46: *"We declare that the Society of Jesus accepts and receives with a spirit overflowing with joy and gratitude, the gentle burden (munus suavissimum) that our Lord Jesus Christ has entrusted to it, to practice, promote and propagare devotion to His most divine Heart"*.

To embrace the "munus suavissimum" entrusted to the Society by the Lord, to promote devotion to his Sacred Heart, the Society of Jesus confirmed in 1915 (26th GC decree 21) that the Apostleship of Prayer was a good way to carry out this mission. This was also confirmed by John Paul II in 1986.

On June 9th, 1972, **Fr. Pedro Arrupe SJ**, Superior General of the Society of Jesus (1907-1991), one hundred years after Fr. Beckx SJ, consecrated the Society to the Heart of Christ. Fr. Arturo Sosa SJ will renew this consecration on July 31, 2022, feast of St. Ignatius.

Promoting devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus is what we have done throughout history, and in a special way with the re-creation of this pontifical service as the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network (Apostleship of Prayer and the Eucharistic Youth Movement). Responding to the call of **Pedro Arrupe SJ**, and of the last Superiors General, we have renewed this devotion with creative fidelity. The Way of the Heart is today the basis and compass of our mission : www.caminodelcorazon.church - <https://www.popesprayer.va/way-of-the-heart/>

If you wish to understand and deepen the relationship between the Jesuits and the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and the relationship with the Worldwide Prayer Network, you will find at the end of this document some short texts.

In the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network, consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus is lived as a mission of compassion for the world. It is our wish that this celebration may open us to a greater availability to this mission.

P. Frederic Fornos SJ - International Director

Bettina Raed - International Coordinator of The Way of the Heart

With the International Team

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INTRODUCTION

It is not surprising that Fr. Arturo Sosa SJ, Superior General of the Society of Jesus, is renewing the consecration of the Society to the Heart of Jesus. All of the most recent Fathers General, beginning with Fr. Pedro Arrupe, have taken important steps to renew devotion to the Heart of Jesus from an Ignatian perspective.

This consecration, in the thought of Arrupe, is framed within a larger context, which is the mission entrusted to the Society of Jesus of this "loving charge" to practice, develop and spread the Devotion to His Divine Heart. Thus, this Consecration is an institutional reinforcement of his desire that the whole Society and all its members assume, in a personal way and in their missions, this charge, this mission. It is not an isolated act or an exclusive consecration between the Society and Jesus. It represents the institutional force behind making this Devotion known to the world as a mission of love, mercy and compassion for humanity. And, thus, this consecration is situated alongside the various exhortations that Arrupe made to the Jesuits to think of ways to propose the Apostleship of Prayer as the specific and proper means chosen by the Society of Jesus to fulfill this task, since 1915, with Decree 21 of General Congregation 26.

This consecration, which the Lord inspired in Arrupe, is nourished by a context: his thought and experience of vocation, mission and call, not only personal, but of the mission of the Society of Jesus itself, with its burden of history and commitments assumed with the Lord and with the world. **This consecration of Arrupe can be contextualized in his request for the renewal of devotion to the Heart of Jesus that the Society has made through the Apostleship of Prayer.**

The renewal of this consecration also finds its meaning in the creative fidelity of the Society of Jesus, which, docile to the Spirit of the Lord, has welcomed the exhortations of **Pedro Arrupe SJ**, as well as the call to renew the proposal of the Apostleship of Prayer made by **Peter Hans Kolvenbach SJ**, being an instrument for the gestation and birth of the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network. This renewal of the consecration can be contextualized today, therefore, within the framework of the fruits of what Arrupe asked of the Jesuits: **to renew the ways of proposing this devotion, presenting it in a way more in keeping with the times; this is what the recreation and re-foundation of the Apostleship of Prayer in the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network, promoted by Adolfo Nicolás SJ, has accomplished.**

Today, this consecration can be lived as a celebration of the action of the Spirit of the Lord who continues to act in the hearts of his sons, the Jesuits, and of the Society of Jesus, who have taken on this task, who make it fruitful, take care of it and spread it. As in the Gospel, "the treasure" that the Lord - who has departed to distant lands - has left in the care of his servants, has multiplied. Today the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network, based on its spiritual foundation, The Way of the Heart, a specific way of living the Devotion to the Heart of Jesus, continues to be "a very good means to make this devotion grow". And, in a renewed way, it proposes a way to live this devotion more in keeping with the times, making it accessible and profound for all men and women of the world who desire it.

"To see all things new in Christ" is also to recognize the renewing action of the Lord in the heart of the Society, in the life of the Jesuits who, with creative fidelity, continue to spread devotion to his Divine Heart through the recreation of this work and the renewal of this devotion through The Way of the Heart, which opens us to a mission of compassion for the world.

Placing the consecration of the Society to the Heart of Jesus within this history will help Jesuits live it with greater depth and fruitfulness in the mission.

Proposed Celebration

for the Renewal of the Consecration of the Society to the Heart of Jesus

This is a good occasion to live this moment with friends and collaborators in the mission.

[Song Recommendations: "Love Divine, All Loves Excelling" or "En Todo Amar y Servir" - Sign of the cross]

Fr. Arturo Sosa SJ, with the Closing of the Ignatian Year, on 31 July 2022, invites all Jesuit communities to renew the Consecration of the Society to the Heart of Jesus. It is an invitation to continue to see all things new in Christ, always more available to his mission in the world. And so, as St. Ignatius says, in the Contemplation to Attain Love (SE 233), "to love and serve the Divine Majesty in all things".

[Reader] These words of Francis in the apostolic exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium* [n. 3], on the announcement of the Gospel in today's world, can help us to live this celebration.

«I invite all Christians, everywhere, at this very moment, to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ, or at least an openness to letting him encounter them; I ask all of you to do this unfailingly each day. No one should think that this invitation is not meant for him or her, since "no one is excluded from the joy brought by the Lord". The Lord does not disappoint those who take this risk; whenever we take a step towards Jesus, we come to realize that he is already there, waiting for us with open arms. Now is the time to say to Jesus: "Lord, I have let myself be deceived; in a thousand ways I have shunned your love, yet here I am once more, to renew my covenant with you. I need you. Save me once again, Lord, take me once more into your redeeming embrace". How good it feels to come back to him whenever we are lost! Let me say this once more: God never tires of forgiving us; we are the ones who tire of seeking his mercy. Christ, who told us to forgive one another "seventy times seven" (Mt 18:22) has given us his example: he has forgiven us seventy times seven. Time and time again he bears us on his shoulders. No one can strip us of the dignity bestowed upon us by this boundless and unfailing love. With a tenderness which never disappoints, but is always capable of restoring our joy, he makes it possible for us to lift up our heads and to start anew. Let us not flee from the resurrection of Jesus, let us never give up, come what will. May nothing inspire more than his life, which impels us onwards!»

[Invitation to prayer] *The Servant of God Pedro Arrupe, during a day of prayer in La Storta (Rome), wrote these words, which, 50 years later, we take up in prayer:*

«Heavenly Father,

As Ignatius prayed in the small chapel of La Storta, you willed by a singular grace to grant the petition which he had been begging of you for a long time through the intercession of Our Lady: to be placed with your Son. In your words to him you assured him of your support: “I shall be with you.” You asked Jesus carrying his cross to take him as your servant, and this he did in turning to Ignatius with those unforgettable words: “It is my will that you serve us.”

As the followers of the handful of men who were the first “companions of Jesus,” we in our turn address to you the same prayer, asking to be placed with your Son and to serve “under the banner of the Cross” where Jesus is nailed out of obedience, with his side pierced and his heart opened as a sign of his love for you and for all men.

We renew today the consecration of the Society to the Heart of Jesus, we promise you all our fidelity and we ask for your grace to continue to serve you and to serve your Son with the same spirit and the same intensity as Ignatius and his companions.

Through the intercession of the Virgin Mary who received the prayer of Ignatius, and before the Cross where Jesus Christ gives to us the treasures of his open heart, through Him and in Him, we say from the very depths of our being: “Take, O Lord, and receive all my liberty, my memory, my understanding, and my entire will. Whatever I have or hold, you have given me; I restore it all to you and surrender it wholly to be governed by your will. Give me only your love and your grace, and I am rich enough and ask for nothing more.”»

[Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning, now and forever, for ever and ever. Amen. - Blessing]

APPENDIX 1

Letter from the Superior General of the Society of Jesus, Fr. Arturo Sosa SJ

Consecration of the Society of Jesus to the Sacred Heart of Jesus

2022/05
TO THE WHOLE SOCIETY

Dear Brothers in Christ:

On 1 January 1872, Father General Pieter Jan Beckx consecrated the Society to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Amid the difficulties of his age, and at the same time grateful for all the good things he had received, he asked for his help, his mercy and the grace to "live by his very life".

One hundred years later, on 9 June 1972, Father General Pedro Arrupe renewed this consecration. With it, he recalled that Ignatian spirituality is based on the knowledge and deep love of Jesus Christ, represented in his Heart. This love is the unifying point of the whole Gospel. And the open side of Jesus, from which blood and water flow, is the mysterious announcement of the gifts of the Spirit to the Church. "In responding to this love," wrote Fr Arrupe, "Ignatius consecrates himself to the service of the Trinity as a companion of Jesus in poverty, in total self-abnegation and on the cross; and he receives the grace of intimacy with the Son in order to bring the world to Christ." We are still invited to this dedication to Jesus Christ and to the Church, his Body.

On the coming 31 July, on the feast of St Ignatius, we will celebrate the closing of the Year which began by recalling his conversion in 1521 and, a few months ago, his canonization in 1622. *To see all things new in Christ* has been the guiding thread that has guided our approach to Inigo, the pilgrim of Loyola, to learn to follow Jesus. We hope that his constant willingness to be converted and to let himself be led by the Spirit will continue to stimulate our lives as participants in his spirituality. We wish that our view of "all things" may be similar to that of the Lord, and that our behaviour and decisions may be inspired by the same will of the Father that Ignatius tirelessly sought and found. We ask, therefore, in our consecration that the Heart of Christ may enlighten and sustain our journey.

The Servant of God Pedro Arrupe, during a day of prayer in La Storta (Rome), wrote these words, which, 50 years later, we take up in prayer:

Heavenly Father,

As Ignatius prayed in the small chapel of La Storta, you willed by a singular grace to grant the petition which he had been begging of you for a long time through the intercession of Our Lady: to be placed with your Son. In your words to him you assured him of your support: “I shall be with you.” You asked Jesus carrying his cross to take him as your servant, and this he did in turning to Ignatius with those unforgettable words: “It is my will that you serve us.”

As the followers of the handful of men who were the first “companions of Jesus,” we in our turn address to you the same prayer, asking to be placed with your Son and to serve “under the banner of the Cross” where Jesus is nailed out of obedience, with his side pierced and his heart opened as a sign of his love for you and for all men.

We renew today the consecration of the Society to the Heart of Jesus, we promise you all our fidelity and we ask for your grace to continue to serve you and to serve your Son with the same spirit and the same intensity as Ignatius and his companions.

Through the intercession of the Virgin Mary who received the prayer of Ignatius, and before the Cross where Jesus Christ gives to us the treasures of his open heart, through Him and in Him, we say from the very depths of our being: “Take, O Lord, and receive all my liberty, my memory, my understanding, and my entire will. Whatever I have or hold, you have given me; I restore it all to you and surrender it wholly to be governed by your will. Give me only your love and your grace, and I am rich enough and ask for nothing more.”

I invite all communities to renew this consecration on the coming 31 July.

May God bless us to continue to see all things new in Christ!

Yours fraternally,

Arturo Sosa, S.J.
Superior General

Rome, 29 June 2022
Solemnity of Saints Peter and Paul

(original: Spanish)

APPENDIX 2

The Jesuits and the Devotion to the Heart of Jesus

Throughout their history, the Jesuits have deepened and disseminated the devotion to the Heart of Jesus. This will come as no surprise to those who are familiar with the Spiritual Exercises of Saint Ignatius of Loyola, which promote an interior knowledge of Christ culminating in the "Contemplation to Attain Love" and "loving and serving in all things". Few are aware that the Society of Jesus has selected the Apostleship of Prayer - now the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network - as its instrument of choice to promote devotion to the Heart of Christ.

In 1883 the Fathers of the 23rd General Congregation approved Decree 46: *"We declare that the Society of Jesus accepts and receives with a spirit overflowing with joy and gratitude, the gentle burden (munus suavissimum) that our Lord Jesus Christ has entrusted to it, to practice, promote and propagate devotion to His most divine Heart".*

On July 2, 1688, on the Feast of the Visitation, the Lord manifested himself one last time to Margaret Mary: *"the Holy Virgin was on one side and Saint Francis de Sales and the saintly Father de la Colombière on the other. Then turning to the good Father de la Colombière, this Mother of goodness said: "As for you, faithful servant of My divine Son, you have a great share in this precious treasure. For if it is given to the Daughters of the Visitation to know and distribute to others, it is reserved to the Fathers of your Society to show and make known its use and value so that people may profit from it by receiving it with the respect and gratitude due to such a great a benefit".*

As for the Apostleship of Prayer, Fr. Henri Ramière, died in Toulouse on January 3rd, 1884. He could be considered the second founder, after Fr. François-Xavier Gautrelet SJ. At that point in time, the Apostleship of Prayer had released 15 editions of **the Messenger of the Sacred Heart**, and had more than 35,000 centres organized throughout the world. These would be decisive for the future, as according to Fr. Henri Ramière SJ: *"The Apostleship of Prayer is the fusion of our interests with those of the Heart of Jesus"*.

In January 1872 Fr. Beckx, then Superior General of the Jesuits, **consecrated the Society to the Sacred Heart of Jesus**. In 1896 Fr. Luis Martín SJ, Superior General of the Society of Jesus (1892-1906) accepted the position as **Director General of the Apostleship of Prayer**, as requested by the Sacred Congregation of Bishops and Regulars. The 1896 statutes were the first to specifically note this point. His successor, Fr. Franz Xavier Wernz SJ (1904-1914), was also very involved in this role entrusted to the General of the Society by the Holy See.

This might explain why, in 1915, the 26th General Congregation, in Decree 21, linked this specific mission - received by the Society of Jesus in 1883 - with the development of the Apostleship of Prayer:

*"The Fathers of the XXVI General Congregation, recalling the solemn declaration of the XXIII Congregation, where it was professed devoutly that 'the Society of Jesus, with the greatest pleasure and the deepest gratitude, accepts and assumes this most pleasant task entrusted to it by our Lord Jesus Christ, to practice, develop and disseminate devotion to His divine Heart, and knowing from experience that **the Apostleship of Prayer is an excellent means to grow this devotion**, they have ratified once again, on the eve of the centenary of the restoration of the Society, the Society's great willingness in everything that concerns the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and they have expressed the fervent desire that all its members, in particular the Superiors, consider themselves personally and strongly recommended to develop and disseminate this pious Association of the Sacred Heart by all the means available to them"*

On June 9th, 1972, **Fr. Pedro Arrupe SJ**, Superior General of the Society of Jesus (1907-1991), one hundred years after Fr. Beckx SJ, consecrated the Society to the Heart of Christ. In a letter sent to all Jesuits in April of the same year, he says:

"Overcoming the psychological obstacles which the external forms of this devotion may present, the Jesuit should revitalize it with the solid and virile Christocentric spirituality of the Exercises which, integrally Christocentric and culminating in total commitment, prepare us to "feel" the love of the Heart of Christ giving unity to the whole Gospel. The life of the Jesuit is perfectly integrated in his response to the call of the Eternal King and in the "Take, O Lord, and receive" of the Contemplation for obtaining love, which is the crown of the Exercises. To live that response and that offering will be for each one of us and for the whole Society the true realization of the spirit of Ignatian consecration to the Heart of Christ.

From this intense living of the Spirit of the Exercises issues, with a certain inescapable apostolic urgency, the pledge to live and offer one's own prayer and work in union with the Heart of Christ and so attain to a life profoundly centered in Christ and the Church. The Apostleship of Prayer has long animated, and still continues to animate, the priestly perspective of many Christian lives, drawing them onwards to the Eucharistic sacrifice of Christ and the consecration of the world to God (LG34). This instrument of the Apostleship of Prayer, which has so greatly helped the People of God in the past can, with appropriate renovation and adaptation, render new and greater service today, when the need is so keenly felt to establish apostolic groups of prayer and earnest spiritual commitment."

In 1986 Pope John Paul II confirmed the Society of Jesus in its mission received from Christ himself, of disseminating devotion to His divine Heart, **and also in the selection of the Apostleship of Prayer, as its instrument of choice to carry out this mission.**

"For these reasons, I sincerely desire that you pursue with persevering action, the dissemination of the true cult of the Heart of Christ, and that you be always ready to provide effective assistance to my brothers in the episcopacy so as to promote this cult everywhere, **by taking care to find the most adequate means to present it and to practice it**, so that the man of today, with his own mentality and sensibility, discovers there the true response to his questions and his expectations.

In the same way as last year, on the occasion of the Congress of the Apostleship of Prayer, when I particularly entrusted this work to you, strictly bound to the devotion of the Sacred Heart, today as well, during my pilgrimage to Paray-le-Monial **I ask you to make every possible effort to accomplish ever better the mission that Christ himself has entrusted to you**, the dissemination of the cult of His divine Heart. "

The Superior Generals of the Society of Jesus responded to this call. The first was Fr. Peter Hans Kolvenbach SJ (1983-2008), as is detailed in a book that collects some of his speeches and homilies on the Heart of Christ: "*A Pleasant Mission*" (1988). He writes of the Society of Jesus' desire, since 1915, to solemnly bind promoting devotion to the Sacred Heart together with the Apostleship of Prayer (p.37).

Fr. Adolfo Nicolás SJ, Superior General from 2008 to 2016, gave impetus to the recreation of the Apostleship of Prayer and thus updated its spiritual foundations, the devotion to the Heart of Christ. He was the last Director General of the Apostleship of Prayer, the first being Fr. Luis Martín in 1896. Since 2016, in line with the process of recreating the Apostleship of Prayer as the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network, constituted as a pontifical work, the Holy Father appoints a Jesuit as International Director, after prior consultation with the Superior General of the Society of Jesus.

In 2018 Francis instituted the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network (Apostleship of Prayer) as a Pontifical Work to highlight the universal character of this mission. In 2020 it was established in canonical and Vatican juridical person. As a **Vatican Foundation**, it has its headquarters in the Vatican City, and is entrusted to the Society of Jesus. **Fr. Arturo Sosa SJ**, the current Superior General, contributed to the writing of the Statutes, and actively participated in the task of legal clarification. He also supports, like his predecessors, this **work which after ten years of recreation, proposes devotion to the Heart of Christ in a renewed way, in accordance with the wishes of Saint John Paul II.**

The Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network, the renewed version of the Apostleship of Prayer, today enters the dynamics of the Heart of Jesus through its spiritual journey called **The Way of the Heart. This itinerary is an updated version of the devotion to the Heart of Christ for today's times.** It is a coherent presentation of the spiritual wealth of the Apostleship of Prayer in the light of the Spiritual Exercises. It leads our hearts as close as possible to the Heart of Christ, making us available to his mission, **a mission of compassion for the world.**

This compassion, as Fr. Peter Hans Kolvenbach SJ says, "will be impossible without 'obtaining love' or 'without reaching love' through the Heart of the Savior" (July 2nd, 1988).

Original in Spanish

APPENDIX 3

Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus throughout history

Devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus has a long history. From the “pierced heart of Jesus” in the Gospel of St. John—interpreted in medieval mysticism as a wound that manifests the deepness of His love—to the revelations experienced by St. Margaret Mary Alacoque in the 17th century as well as from later devotion to the Sacred Heart in the 19th century, with the dynamic inscribed by the Apostleship of Prayer, to the Divine Mercy devotion inspired by Saint Faustina Kowalska at the beginning of the 20th century. Three Encyclicals have been written on the subject of the Sacred Heart, the most recent by Pope Pius XII in 1956: *Hauriete aquas*. **Over the centuries, there have been various inculturations of this devotion**, with various forms and terminology, but always as a means for the Father to reveal the mystery of His Love to us in all its depth, through a privileged symbol: the living heart of His Risen Son. After all, “the Heart of Christ is the center of mercy,” as Pope Francis points out.

In 2020 we celebrate the centenary of Margaret Mary Alacoque, canonized by Pope Benedict XV on 13 May 1920. It was with the help of Fr. Claude La Colombière, a Jesuit, that she made known the message that the Risen Lord had revealed to her regarding the depth of His mercy. In 1688, six years after La Colombière’s death, Sister Margaret had a final vision in which, through Mary, the Lord entrusted to the Sisters of the Visitation and to the priests of the Company of Jesus the task of transmitting to the world the experience and understanding of the Sacred Heart. Two hundred years later, the Company of Jesus officially accepted this “most agreeable task” (*munus suavissimum*) at the 23rd General Congregation (1883, decree 46) and then entrusted the mission to the Apostleship of Prayer at the 26th General Congregation (1915, decree 21).

In 1861, Father Henri Ramière SJ, the Apostleship of Prayer director, began publishing the “Messenger of the Heart of Jesus”, inspiring a network of more than 13 million members. This Apostolate, founded by the Jesuits and now known as the Pope’s Worldwide Prayer Network, is rooted in the Heart of Jesus, in spirit of apostolic availability. In 2009, Fr. Adolfo Nicolás SJ launched the process of recreation of this ecclesial service, which led to a deepening of the spiritual tradition of the Apostleship of Prayer and an updating of devotion to the Heart of Jesus for today. **The Pope’s Worldwide Prayer Network, now a pontifical work, has developed a manner of entering into the dynamic of the Heart of Jesus called “The Way of the Heart”**. As Pope Francis declared, on the occasion of the network’s 175th birthday, the Sacred Heart is the foundation of the PWPN mission, a mission of compassion for the world.

In June 2019, while celebrating the 175 years of the Pope’s Worldwide Prayer Network, the Holy Father stated: “On this day of the solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, it is good to remember the **foundations of our mission**, as did Bettina (Argentina). It is **a mission of compassion for the world. We can explain it as a “way of the heart”, meaning a prayerful**

itinerary that transforms people's lives. The Heart of Christ is so immense that it wishes to involve us all in **a revolution of tenderness.** Being close to the Heart of the Lord urges our own heart to approach our brothers and sisters with love, and helps us join this compassion for the world. We are called to be **witnesses and messengers of God's mercy,** to offer the world light where there is darkness, hope where despair reigns, salvation where sin abounds. **To pray is to enter with my heart into the Heart of Jesus.** In this way, I journey into His heart, to feel what He feels and experience His compassion. I also journey into my own heart to change it within this relationship with the Heart of Jesus”.

“The disciple whom Jesus most loved, the one who best knew the Heart of Jesus, who lay his head on his breast (Jn 13:23), was also the first to recognize the Risen Jesus on the shores of the Sea of Galilea (Jn 21:7). The closer we are to the Heart of Jesus, the more we perceive His joys and how He suffers for the men, women and children of this world; and we recognize that He is present today as He was in the past, working in the world. The closer we are to the Heart of Jesus, the less indifferent we are to those around us, desiring to commit ourselves with Jesus in this world, at the service of His mission of compassion.”

The Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network officially launched their formation platform, The Way of the Heart, on 9 May 2020. This is the treasure of the Apostleship of Prayer presented in such a form that all people can benefit from it. This is the key to interpreting our mission, the compass of the process of recreation begun in 2009.

We will remember the prayer intention of the Pope in June 2020 in the Pope Video:

«Many people suffer due to the great difficulties they endure. We can help them by accompanying them on an itinerary filled with compassion which transforms people's lives. This brings them closer to the Heart of Christ, which welcomes all of us into the revolution of tenderness. We pray that all those who suffer may find their way in life, allowing themselves to be touched by the Heart of Jesus.»

Fr. Pedro Arrupe S.J. saw the essence of the devotion to the Heart of Jesus in the union of love with God and neighbor, and that is what he wanted to live: “Our way of acting is your way of acting.”

Original in Spanish

APPENDIX 4

Personal Covenant with Jesus *Consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus*

Guidelines for its Celebration in the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network

The consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, in the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network, is understood in view of a greater apostolic availability. A personal relationship with Jesus and closeness to His Heart help us to notice and discern his joys and sufferings for the world, and thus hopefully become available at the service of his mission of compassion. In this sense, we understand the Personal Covenant with Jesus, or Consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, as a commitment to His mission. This means that the person who makes this commitment becomes available to support the mission of the Pope's Prayer Network in one's country and respond to its call.

As part of the mission of the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network, regardless of the modality of participation (in communities, in groups of the Apostleship of Prayer, in EYM or in an individual way) the participants could make the Personal Covenant with Jesus, if they wish to and if they feel called.

In this way, the **General Statutes** says that **personal consecration, or "covenant" with Jesus**, is for those who experience a call to live in close union with the Heart of Jesus and in this sense wish to formalize their personal devotion, commitment, and service. Those who consecrate themselves become "apostles of prayer," and through it they commit themselves to be open and ready to serve the communities of the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network (including the Eucharistic Youth Movement), in the mission of the local Church. Consecration, or covenant with Jesus, is made following the guidelines of the National Office and in coordination with the International Office.

This Covenant is the person's response to a personal call that the Lord makes in the context of their participation in the mission of compassion wherein they collaborate in this Prayer Network. It is an invitation on the part of the Lord. He has the initiative; "It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you" (Jn. 15, 16).

The personal Covenant is an offering of greater love and a commitment to be available to the mission of compassion for the world, at the service of the mission that the National Office proposes. Thus, the personal Covenant with Jesus leads us back to apostolic availability as the intuition of the Consecration to the Heart of Jesus, as suggested at the beginning by the Apostleship of Prayer. The Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network has different forms of participation (not limited to the groups of the Apostleship of Prayer); that is why this Covenant has redefined its meaning, in line with this broader form of participation.

History and Recreation

This Covenant is rooted in the act of consecration to the Heart of Jesus in the groups of the Apostleship of Prayer. This consecration was especially made by the “zealous,” as they were called then, who committed themselves to spread the Apostleship and promote the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus “with greater apostolic zeal” in order to motivate more people and/or groups to join the Apostleship of Prayer. This was the intuition of Fr. Henri Ramiere SJ, the second founder of the Apostleship of Prayer, who, in his book “The Apostleship of Prayer,” describes the “zealous” as “people who have goodwill and the eagerness to work.” They registered the members, promoted and distributed the magazine “Messenger of the Sacred Heart,” and worked under the leadership for sake of the association, that is, for the sake of the intentions of the Heart of Jesus, who was the first to pray and intercede for us so the Kingdom of God may come. According to different sensibilities, this consecration has had different forms of realization, even in some places, and it has long been a requisite to belong to or to associate oneself with the groups of the Apostleship of Prayer.

In the Pope’s Worldwide Prayer Network, we want to recover the first foundational intuition wherein the consecration means a greater offering and availability for the mission of the Heart of Christ and his mission of compassion.

The person who makes the Covenant concretizes their commitment in relation to the mission that the National Office leads for the communities of the Prayer Network and its youth branch, the Eucharist Youth Movement. They commit themselves to be available to serve the communities of the Pope’s Worldwide Prayer Network in their own countries as well as the EYM, following the orientations of the National Office.

Given that it is a commitment of greater love and personal offering to Jesus to serve in His mission, it is advisable that the decision would be **the fruit of a formation process and discernment.**

In this sense, the Pope’s Worldwide Prayer Network suggests making previously the formation program **The Way of the Heart**, which helps enter into the mission of compassion for the world. It is a spiritual experience of meeting Christ, of becoming attuned to the feelings and wishes of His Heart and available for his mission, with Him, like Him, with His style. He is the rhythm of our mission. This is the reason why this itinerary is the privileged way to embark on a formation process for the mission, with greater depth each time, and more in tune with the Heart of Christ, in the framework of the mission of the Prayer Network. Hence, it is advisable to have done **The Way of the Heart** at least once to experience how you can live out and actualize the mission of compassion in the spiritual charism of the Pope’s Worldwide Prayer Network.

Original in Spanish

APPENDIX 5

Dates from the APOSTLESHIP OF PRAYER to the POPE'S WORLDWIDE PRAYER NETWORK

1844: The Apostleship of Prayer is founded by Fr. François-Xavier Gautrelet, SJ, with the Jesuit scholastics, in Vals-près-le-Puy, France.

1849: Pius IX approves the first statutes of the **diocesan association** with the letter "Apostolicas Ad augendum".

1861: Fr. Henri Ramière launches the publication "The Messenger of the Heart of Jesus" in Toulouse - France. This publication helps to establish the Apostleship of Prayer in the dynamics of the Heart of Jesus, while distancing it from ideological and political approaches to the devotion to the Sacred Heart. The members of the Apostleship of Prayer pray for the intentions of the Heart of Jesus.

1866: The Prefect of the Congregation for Bishops, Card. Innocenzo Ferrieri, approves the first statutes on July 27, 1866. They detail that the Apostleship of Prayer is an **organization at the service of the Pope**.

1879: In the statutes of May 28, 1879, Leo XIII broadens the mission of the Apostleship of Prayer to include **a monthly intention** for the members of the AP during the morning offering.

1896: The Sacred Congregation changes the statutes, making **the Father General of the Society of Jesus the Director General of the Apostleship of Prayer**, a role to which he should appoint a delegate. The latter will reside in Toulouse. It is not until 1926 that this position moves to Rome. These statutes remain in force until 1951.

1928: Pius XI proposes **a second prayer intention**, a missionary intention, and alternates between general intentions and missionary intentions.

1914: Not to be overlooked, in connection with the Apostleship of Prayer, **the Eucharistic Crusade (today the Eucharistic Youth Movement - EYM)** comes into being in November 1915, following Pope Pius X's request to pray for peace at the Eucharistic Congress in Lourdes, in 1914. Pope Pius X believed in the power of the prayer of children and young people, and at the Eucharistic Congress of Lourdes in 1914, he asked them to receive communion at Mass every day and to pray for peace.

1951: The Statutes are updated.

1961: On February 26, 1961, the Statutes are confirmed: "Its members, among the many exercises of piety and charity to which they are accustomed, pray above all for the universal Church and especially for the Roman Pontiff".

1968 - The Statutes are updated in the light of the Second Vatican Council (March 27, 1968). They remain in force until 2018. The Superior General of the Society of Jesus remains the Director General and can appoint a delegate to this mission, as is the case until 2016.

1972 - On June 9th, **Fr. Pedro Arrupe SJ**, Superior General of the Society of Jesus (1907-1991), one hundred years after Fr. Beckx SJ, consecrated the Society to the Heart of Christ.

2009 - **Fr. Adolfo Nicolás SJ**, Superior General of the Society of Jesus, asks his delegate, Fr. Claudio Barriga SJ, to initiate the recreation of the Apostleship of Prayer. He creates an international team.

2014 - Fr. Adolfo Nicolás SJ, nominates his new delegate, Fr. Frederic Fornos SJ, who was one of the first members of this team.

2014 - **Pope Francis approves the process of recreating the Apostleship of Prayer**, with the letter from the Substitute of the Secretary of State, dated July 11, 2014, as described in the document entitled " A Pathway with Jesus in Apostolic readiness " (officially published in December 2014). **This document states that the Apostleship of Prayer is the Pope's worldwide prayer network.** His prayer intentions are presented as challenges for humanity and the mission of the Church, while prayers of offering are a way to make oneself available for mission.

2015 - January - The **Pope's prayer intentions** (general intentions and missionary intentions) are renamed: universal intentions and intentions for evangelization. This means, as *Evangelii Gaudium* indicates, that everything refers to the mission of the Church. For the first time, the Apostleship of Prayer presents itself as the **Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network**, with a common logo, adapted according to continents and countries (Brand Manual).

2015 - August 4-10 - **Centenary of the Eucharistic Youth Movement.** An international meeting is held in Rome with 1400 young people from 39 countries. An audience with Pope Francis takes place.

2016 - **The Pope Video** (January) and **Click To Pray** (March), the Pope's prayer platform, are launched as projects of the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network to accompany prayer intentions during the Jubilee of Mercy.

2016 - July 7 - **Pope Francis appoints an International Director for the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network**, Fr. Frederic Fornos SJ, as proposed by the Superior General of the Society of Jesus, and calls for new Statutes in accordance with the re-creation process. This comes as a significant change, given that since 1986 the Superior General of the Society of Jesus was in charge of this work, through a delegate. This appointment and the request for new Statutes are intended to clarify the links between this ecclesial service, the Holy See and the Society of Jesus.

2017: January 8 - **Angelus - Francis calls for participation in the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network (Apostleship of Prayer).** With the recreation of this ecclesial service, Pope Francis returns to proposing just one intention per month, to offer a clearer monthly orientation for life and mission. Universal and missionary prayer intentions are alternated throughout the year.

2018 - February - Publication of the **first International Manual of the Eucharistic Youth Movement.**

2018 - March 27 - **Pope Francis approves the new Statutes** (which include the EYM) and **establishes the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network as a pontifical work** " to emphasize the universal character of this mission and to mobilize Catholics through prayer and action, in the face of the challenges confronting humanity and the mission of the Church (the Pope's monthly prayer intentions)."

2018 - November - Creation of the new official website with domain [.VA]
www.popesprayer.va

The Pope Video appears for the first time on Pope Francis' personal profiles Pontifex (Twitter) and Franciscus (Instagram).

2019 - January - **Pope Francis opens his prayer profile on Click To Pray**, which becomes his third social media network, and the **Pope's official prayer platform**. For the first time ever, Click To Pray is the official prayer platform for WYD.

2019 - February - The Vatican Secretariat of State approves the official logo of the PWPN which displays the keys of St. Peter (February 18).

2019 - June 28-29 - **The celebration of the 175th anniversary and 10 years of the re-creation process of the Apostleship of Prayer**. An International Meeting is held in Rome including an audience with Pope Francis, with about 13,000 people (almost 6,000 coming from 32 countries in the Paul VI Hall and 7,500 via Facebook Live), a Mass at St. John Lateran with **Fr. Arturo Sosa SJ**, Superior General of the Society of Jesus, a worldwide meeting of directors and coordinators and an EYM meeting.

2019 - The Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network participates in the launch of Extraordinary Missionary Month, together with the Pontifical Mission Societies.

The **Click To Pray eRosary** is launched, an evangelization project for young people connected to the digital and technological world, with the Dicastery for Communication, the Pontifical Missionary Works and the youth office of the Dicastery for Laity, Family and Life.

2020 - May - **Launch of the training platform "The Way of the Heart"** (86 videos, 86 audios, 350 infographics, 11 digital books). This is the foundation of our mission of compassion for the world; the devotion to the Heart of Christ for today's times.

2020 - November 17 - **With new Statutes, Pope Francis establishes the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network as a Pontifical Foundation, entrusted to the Society of Jesus, as a canonical and Vatican juridical person.**

2021 - January - The website of the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network is inserted into the Vatican's homepage: www.vatican.va

2021 - September - Presentation to the **Discerning Leadership program**, in conjunction with the Gregorian University and the Jesuit General Curia, of the process of institutional re-creation of the Apostleship of Prayer as the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network (2009-2019): "Discerning Leadership - Case of the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network" (ESADE)

2021 - October 19 - Launch, in the Holy See press room, of the **new Pope's prayer platform, Click To Pray 2.0**, at the service of a synodal Church. We launch also the prayer website for the Synod, with the General Secretariat of the Synod of Bishops and International Union of Superiors General (UISG).

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