

NOVENA TO THE SACRED HEART

*“You will know that I am in my Father
and you in me and I in you.”*

(Jn 14:20)



Dear Friends,

Our Superior General, Fr Gustavo Agín, has just launched the “Year of Fr Etchecopar”, our third superior general, whose cause of canonization is underway. Fr Auguste Etchecopar was born on 30 May 1830 and this year we celebrate the 190th anniversary of his birth.



190

Anniversaire de la naissance du P. Auguste Etchécopar
Anniversario della nascita di P. Augusto Etchecopar
Aniversario del nacimiento del P. Augusto Etchecopar
Anniversary of the birth of Fr Auguste Etchecopar

Fr Jean-Dominique

Delgue, Vicar General

and Deputy Postulator of the cause, makes an appeal to all of us, religious and laity, for this cause to be a success. On the first page of our website you can find his message.

This is the link http://www.betharram.net/en/27th-chapter?set_language=en

In the month of June we are invited to say the prayer to the Sacred Heart, composed by Fr Etchecopar, in a special way during this Novena.

1st DAY

Holy Spirit enlighten our mind,

strengthen our will,
permeate our heart with holy joy,
and make everything easy and congenial.

Let our trials be an opportunity
of proving our love.

Let nothing hold us back!

May we lose ourselves everywhere and ever,
in the depths of your divine love.

(Cf DS 131)

The Word of God - Jn 14,1-4

“Do not let your hearts be troubled. You trust in God, trust also in me. In my Father's house there are many places to live in; otherwise I would have told you. I am going now to prepare a place for you, and after I have gone and prepared you a place, I shall return to take you to myself, so that you may be with me where I am. You know the way to the place where I am going.”

Saint Michael - God's total surrender

He humbled Himself below what He is. Being God, He made Himself man; He abased Himself and became obedient even unto death on a cross. It is thus He was abased; He was humble of heart since His humility was one of choice, the humility of love (DS 50)
He lowered Himself under the hand of the Father, he subjected

Himself to the powers of darkness, he so to speak collaborated with his executioners... No complaining or murmuring. He accuses neither Jews nor Gentiles, but He submits with a great heart, a willing soul, as deserving all punishment. (DS 300)

Reflection by a Religious of the Sacred Heart

“The world must recognise that I love the Father and that I act just as the Father commanded”. So, we pray together: **Our Father...**

Prayer to the Sacred Heart (Fr Etchecopar)

Heart of Jesus, tender as the heart of a mother,
the most tender of all hearts,
fill me with sweetness, patience, kindness, charity.

Heart of Jesus, humble like a child's heart,
free me from pride, *teach me* the humility of heart and spirit
that makes us worthy of the Kingdom of Heaven.

Finally, sweet and tender Heart, we bow down at your feet;
receive us all from the hands
of our good and revered Founder.

Divine Heart, you *inspired* the idea of this work,
you *entrusted* him with the hard task of starting it,
of continuing it despite all the obstacles.

*Receive us, bless us, fill us with your strength
and your tenderness,
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2nd DAY

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The Word of God - Jn 14, 5-7

Thomas said, 'Lord, we do not know where you are going, so how can we know the way?' Jesus said: I am the Way; I am Truth and Life. No one can come to the Father except through me. If you know me, you will know my Father too. From this moment you know him and have seen him.

Saint Michael - My surrendering

This man, although He was God, looked upon Himself as nothing before God and before men... This man accepted and confessed His nothingness wholeheartedly, and with conviction. Let us never lose sight of the Humility of Jesus. At least let our difference from the Sacred Heart make us become, and show ourselves, gentle and humble of heart. In the meantime whilst we are waiting to become gentle and humble, and in the hopes of so becoming, let us pray and behave accordingly. (DS 49)

What do we so often see in Christian families, amongst the clergy and in religious families? Concern for oneself. Myself the end of all things, of the best of things ... Man is put in the place of God, we become materialistic, humanist instead of divine; instead of being for one another the image of Jesus Christ, referring everything to His Father so that looking at one another we will see God and give Him glory. (DS 60)

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(Cf DS 131)

The Word of God - John 14: 8-11

Philip said, 'Lord, show us the Father and then we shall be satisfied.' Jesus said to him,

'Have I been with you all this time, Philip, and you still do not know me? 'Anyone who has seen me has seen the Father, so how can you say, "Show us the Father"?

Do you not believe that I am in the Father and the Father is in me? What I say to you I do not speak of my own accord: it is the Father, living in me, who is doing his works.

You must believe me when I say that I am in the Father and the Father is in me; or at least believe it on the evidence of these works.

Saint Michael - The Father's plan

God loved us so much! He came among us, he humbled himself, and to what an extent! We forget his kindnesses, we use his gifts against him, we take advantage of these gifts to

become more wicked in our actions, more defiant in our behaviour towards him.

God continues to love us: he is patient with us, he cares for us, he searches for us, he runs after us. At the first signs of a sincere conversion, he is ready to give us back his first friendship and his originally given gifts.

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The Word of God - John 14: 12-14

In all truth I tell you, whoever believes in me will perform the same works as I do myself, and will perform even greater works, because I am going to the Father. Whatever you ask in my name I will do, so that the Father may be glorified in the Son. If you ask me anything in my name, I will do it.

Saint Michael - The Ecce Venio

O the wonderful disposition to be always at the disposition of God (DS 15).

Oh if such a disposition reigned as queen, we would be in the arms of our heavenly Father, like true children, doing our duty in the measure and in the way He wishes (DS 77).

The Father would not have given an order to the Son, if the Son

had not anticipated the order of the Father! I lay down my life and take it up again in all liberty. In order that the world may know that I love my Father, here I am let us go forward! (Cf Jn 14:31).

Reflection *by a Religious of the Sacred Heart*

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The Word of God - John 14: 15-18

If you love me you will keep my commandments. I shall ask the Father, and he will give you another Paraclete to be with you for ever, the Spirit of truth whom the world can never accept since it neither sees nor knows him; but you know him, because he is with you, he is in you. I shall not leave you orphans; I shall come to you.

Saint Michael - The Religious of the Sacred Heart

It is God who, in His wisdom and goodness, has called us to this society: may He keep us faithful. What a motive of confidence for us! How all our tasks should seem sacred. In God we find an inexhaustible fund of assurance and strength. In Him we can undertake everything.

But we must present ourselves before Him as of no account, self-effaced like Jesus Christ. Such men, sacrificed and

prostrate before God can undertake any task. The weaker and humbler they are, the stronger they are. (MS 163)

Working for our salvation and perfection, for the salvation and perfection of our neighbours, there we are in our element. To apply ourselves to this wholeheartedly, that is to live. To apply ourselves negligently, that is to languish. Not to apply ourselves, that is death. (MS 164)

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6th DAY

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(Cf DS 131)

The Word of God - John 14: 19-21

In a short time the world will no longer see me; but you will see me, because I live and you will live. On that day you will understand that I am in my Father and you in me and I in you. Anybody who receives my commandments and keeps them will be one who loves me; and anybody who loves me will be loved by my Father, and I shall love him and show myself to him.'

Saint Michael - Jesus' hour

He raised His eyes to heaven , a customary action of Jesus Christ before prayer. He wanted to begin in that way the Canon of His sacrifice. The priest too begins the Canon in the same way. Let us raise our eyes to our homeland, and may our hearts follow ... The hour has come. Here I am. (MS 169)

The sentiments our Lord had are exactly those inculcated by our Rules. Being God and knowing it was for Him no

usurpation, the Saviour purposely chose to be humble, to be a slave, to obey to the point of death on the cross. (MS 170)

The special characteristic of our Institute is to obey without excuse, without delay, without any reservation of will or judgment, rather out of love than for any other motive. Elsewhere there may be a certain limit: with us none, apart from obvious sin (SD 211).

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The Word of God - John 14: 22-24

Judas – this was not Judas Iscariot – said to him, ‘Lord, what is all this about? Do you intend to show yourself to us and not to the world?’ Jesus replied: ‘If anyone loves me he will keep my word, and my Father will love him, and we shall come to him and make our home with him. Those who do not love me do not keep my words. And my word is not my own: it is the word of the one who sent me.

Saint Michael - God dissolved in charity

God has so loved the world (Jn 3, 16)... He is a God dissolved in charity. He pleads with us; He urges us; He immolates Himself for us knowing that we will not surrender to His heart. (DS 100)

The son of God became like us, so that we might become like Him, to make us share His life by filling us with His Spirit which is no other than the Spirit of Love ...

Let us imitate this model: let us adore and embrace the will of God, whatever it may be. Man cannot love God worthily; he needs a mediator loving God as He is lovable, so that by him and through him we may give to God a love worthy of his majesty. God gave Him to us in the womb of Mary. Let us be won over by this loving God; let us love like this loving God; let us love in and through this loving God. (MS 190)

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(Cf DS 131)

The Word of God - John 14: 25-26

I have said these things to you while still with you; but the Advocate, the Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will teach you everything and remind you of all I have said to you.

Saint Michael - Humility

Humility in the eyes of the proud a very small virtue, despised and rejected by worldly wisdom; but chosen by divine wisdom to be the foundation of christian and religious life. To what a degree of glory Christ raised it in his person! Our Lord chose this little seed of humility and sowed it in His heart.

Our Lord did not take this virtue for Himself alone: He wanted to make a present of it to his friends: "Learn from me that I am gentle and humble of heart. I have given you an example, so that you may do what I have done, I your Lord and Master." If

you want to be great, humble yourself, hide, empty yourself.
(MS 175)

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The Word of God - John 14: 27-28.31

Peace I bequeath to you, my own peace I give you, a peace the world cannot give, this is my gift to you. Do not let your hearts be troubled or afraid.

You heard me say: I am going away, and shall return. If you loved me you would have been glad to know that I am going to the Father ... But the world must be brought to know that I love the Father and that I am doing exactly what the Father told me.

Saint Michael - Who loves does everything

He dwelt among us (Jn 1:14). What made Him come down? Love. What kind of heart will He have given His human nature, in which He has come to cloak himself, if not a heart steeped in love, whose every movement He controlled? What will the Divine word have done, on becoming man, if not given Himself a heart marked with the infinite love which brought Him into this world? This Heart of our Saviour King, ever in the hand of God, that launched Him on His career with this cry: Here I am. There

we have the Heart of Jesus: there is the core of Christianity. To believe in the love God has for us is the core of our faith. Such is the profession of St. John: I believe in love (Jn 4:6). That is saying all. He became man: I believe. He loves, and who loves does everything. But if we believe, we must imitate him. The Heart of Jesus embraces all the faithful; in it we are all gathered and consummated in unity. Let us have a heart of Jesus, an extended heart which excludes no one from its love. (MS 65-66)

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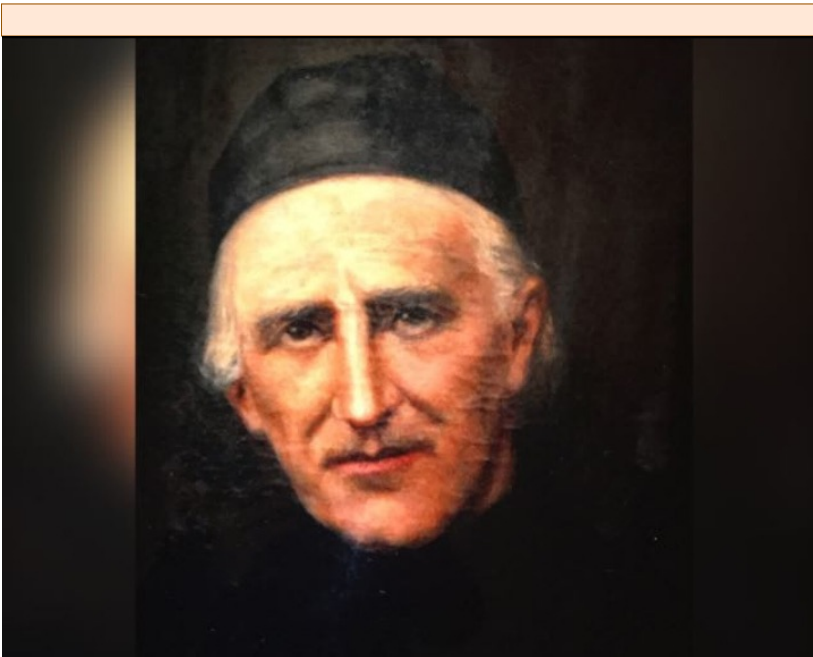
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Saint Michael Garicoits, Apostle of the Sacred Heart!

While Fr Michael Garicoits was at Cambo, (1824-1825) as a curate, some younger people wanted to start a Confraternity of the Sacred Heart. Fr Garicoits listened and acted.

Cambo was fertile ground for this request. He was aware that this devotion, very popular in Spain, was being spread by priests returning from there after the concordat in 1802.

Fr Garicoits asked miss Dagarret [a very devout parishioner] and friends to see how many wished to be enrolled in the Confraternity. They received over a hundred names. He consulted his friend, Fr Jauretche, who

¹ From Fr Dominic Innamorati, scj, *Michael Garicoits, Counsellor of the Heart*, pp 16-19

was equally keen. They decided not to register with Paris, but to start the Confraternity in Cambo and call it the Congregation of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Mary.

It opened with a solemn Triduum on the 3rd Feb. 1825, with the approval of the Bishop.

There were three main objectives in belonging to this Confraternity which Fr Garicoits was to establish:

1. to win all hearts to love Jesus Christ;
2. to help their neighbours in material needs;
3. to help the Church by seeking vocations and worthy ministers.

The Triduum was a great success, ending with the inauguration of the Congregation of the Sacred Heart on the feast of the Sacred Heart, which happened to be a Sunday. It concluded with a solemn Benediction. The sanctuary had been decorated with flowers and candles as for major feast and the whole parish was solemnly dedicated the Sacred Heart.

Cambo enrolled four hundred members. Surrounding parishes began these Confraternities. Within ten years, over forty Basque parishes had them.

After he had left Cambo, a five hundred page handbook entitled *The Sacred Heart's Loving Appeal to Faithful Christians* was published. It traced the origins of the devotion through the Apparitions and promises to St Margaret Mary, and was followed by prayers and rules. It was written in Basque by himself and Fr Jauretche. Some of his letters give us an insight into how he felt, and let us share what he said,

about the Sacred Heart. He rarely used the term ‘Sacred Heart’, but nearly always spoke of ‘God’s love’.

In face of difficulties or conflict, he helped souls to persevere without becoming agitated or aggressive, because he encouraged them to trust in the power of God through the Sacred Heart.

Remain in peace in the situation where He has put you, and be sure that when He wishes you to change He will let you know in a way that will not leave you in any doubt. While waiting, do whatever good He sends your way. Do things calmly, gently and without any fuss. He wants you to know His peace: that peace which He gave the night before He died. It is to strengthen it and ensure your happiness that He comes nearly everyday to establish His throne in your heart ...

Goodbye, my dear Sister, I will not cease to present you through the hands of Mary, to the Heart of her Divine Son. Although the graces you need so much come from His adorable Heart, they flow through the hands of Mary to you. He is the source and Mary is the Guardian of the graces that you need so much. (St Michael Garicoits, letter 3, to a laywoman).



**Congregation of the Sacred Heart
of Jesus
of Betharram**