

May 11, 2025

Since 2025 is the 350th Anniversary of the Apparitions of the Sacred Heart of Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque and since the designated month of June for FSSH was to focus the House Chapter on the Sacred Heart, Sister Kathleen Moseley began historical research regarding the Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart connection and devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The tale below highlight some of the past history.

- 1856 Pope Pius IX officially established the Feast of the Sacred Heart to be celebrated universally on the Friday after the Corpus Christi octave.
- 1866 July Rev. Wilhelm Berger began the established a pious group of women in Baden, Germany. Sometime between 1866 to 1876 Rev. Berger wrote his Rule for the Tretenhof Sisters. Within Father Berger's Rule to the Tretenhof Sisters the title of Sacred Heart appeared 51 times in the document.
- 1876, May Twenty-seven members of the Tretenhof community immigrated to America to continue their ministry of service to their neighbor.
- 1885 August The Sisters became incorporated in Illinois. In 1885 their title became officially recognized as Franciscan Sisters of the Sacred Heart. (Note: from 1866 to 1885 the sisters were recognized by various titles in the Catholic Registers. As they began their ministries in various locations they were identified as Sisters of Mercy, Sisters of St. Francis of the Sacred Heart, Sisters of St. Francis.
- 1899 Consecration Issued with the Encyclical Letter *Annum Sacrum* of Pope Leo XIII included the Consecration of the Sacred Heart. The consecration prayer in the Encyclical reads: Most sweet Jesus, redeemer of the human race, look down upon us, humbly prostrate before your altar. We are yours and yours we wish to be; but to be more surely united with you, behold each one of us freely consecrates himself today to your Most Sacred Heart. Many, indeed, have never known you, many too, despising your precepts, have rejected you. Have mercy on them all, most merciful Jesus, and draw them to your Sacred Heart. Be you king, O Lord, not only of the faithful who have never forsaken you, but also of the prodigal children who have abandoned you; grant that they may quickly return to their father's house, lest they die of wretchedness and hunger. Be you king of those who are deceived by erroneous opinions, or whom discord keeps aloof, and call them back to the harbor of truth and unity of faith, so that soon there may be but one flock and one shepherd. Be you king also of all those who sit in the ancient superstition of the Gentiles, and refuse not you to deliver them out of darkness into the light and kingdom of God. Grant, O Lord, to your Church, assurance of freedom and immunity from harm; give peace and order to all nations, and make the earth resound from pole to pole with one cry: Praise to the divine heart that wrought our salvation; to it be glory and honor forever. Amen.
- 1899
Apostleship
of Prayer In 1899, Pope Leo XIII consecrated all of humanity to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, a significant event in the history of the Apostleship of Prayer, according to The Catholic Sun. This act was formalized in his encyclical "Annum Sacrum". The Apostleship of Prayer, now known as the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network, is a global movement focused on praying for the Pope's monthly intentions, promoting a spirituality of offering one's day to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and fostering a deeper relationship with God.

The Apostleship of Prayer, with its roots in France in 1844, is a movement that encourages individuals to unite their daily lives with the intentions of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. It originated from the vision of Father François Xavier Gautrelet, who proposed a

way of living in permanent apostolic availability. The organization's mission is to help people grow in their relationship with God and participate in His mission through prayer and service, particularly by focusing on the Pope's monthly intentions.

(Note: There was a large black bound register in the Archives with the names of our Sisters who were participated in the Apostleship of Prayer. It is uncertain if this register still exists or was discarded when items were being sent to Boston College or were disposed to a landfill.)

1899 Pope Leo XIII played a significant role in the history of the Sacred Heart devotion. In 1899, he consecrated the entire world to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, fulfilling a request from Sister Mary of the Divine Heart and emphasizing the importance of love and mercy. He also encouraged the First Friday Devotion and established June as the Month of the Sacred Heart

1925 The additions made by the Sacred Congregation of Rites in October 1925:
Most sweet Jesus, redeemer of the human race, look down upon us, humbly prostrate before Your altar. We are Yours and Yours we wish to be; but to be more surely united with You, behold each one of us freely consecrates himself today to Your most Sacred Heart. Many, indeed, have never known You while many others, despising Your precepts, have rejected You. Have mercy on them all, most merciful Jesus and draw them to Your Sacred Heart. Be King, O Lord, not only of the faithful who have never forsaken You, but also of the prodigal children who have abandoned You; grant that they may quickly return to their Father's house, lest they die of wretchedness and hunger. Be King of those who are deceived by erroneous opinions, or whom discord keeps aloof, and call them back to the harbor of truth and unity of faith, so that soon there may be but one flock and one Shepherd. Be King of all those who are still involved in the darkness of idolatry or of Islamism, and refuse not to draw them all into the light and kingdom of God. Turn Your eyes of mercy toward the children of that race, once Your chosen people. Of old, they called down upon themselves the blood of the Savior; may it now descend upon them, a layer of redemption and of life. Grant, O Lord, to Your Church, assurance of freedom and immunity from harm; give peace and order to all nations, and make the earth resound from pole to pole with one cry: Praise to the Divine Heart that wrought our salvation; to it be glory and honor for ever. Amen.

1936 & 1963 The first two Manual Prayer books of FSSH that could be found in the Archives are dated
earliest 1936 and 1963 that include the prayer "O most amiable . . ."
Manual
Prayers

From the internet Steubenville	Act of Consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus: Based on the provided information, the phrase "O most amiable Savior wishing to testify to you" appears in a context of devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, specifically within a prayer or act of consecration. The language used suggests a desire to express thanks and make amends for past shortcomings (infidelities) through dedication to Jesus' Divine Heart. This phrase may be part of a larger prayer that was published or used in the year 1899, as indicated in some of the search results. For example, the Franciscan University (Stuebenville) mentions a prayer of consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus that includes this phrase, used to commemorate their 70th anniversary in 2016, and this prayer was introduced in 1946 when the university was founded. The phrase "O most amiable" highlights the lovable and compassionate nature of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. This language expresses a deep personal devotion to Jesus and a desire to be transformed by His love. Although this particular prayer is not exclusively Franciscan, devotion to the Sacred Heart is a significant element of Franciscan spirituality. Franciscans, following St. Francis of Assisi, have a tradition of meditating on Christ's wounds, including His pierced heart. This devotion focuses on the love of God shown through Jesus' sacrifice and encourages Franciscans to live lives of love and service. 70th Anniversary Novena Prayer Therefore, a <u>Franciscan</u> might use this or a similar consecration prayer to show their dedication to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and to align their lives with His love and mercy. • Daily Consecration to Jesus, Mary and Joseph Consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. O Adorable Heart of Jesus, the tenderest, the most amiable, the most generous of all hearts!
2024 - 2025	350 th Anniversary of the apparitions of the Sacred Heart to Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque

In essence, "O most amiable Savior wishing to testify to you" expresses a heartfelt desire to:

- Make reparation for past wrongs.
- Offer thanks to Jesus.
- Dedicate oneself entirely to His Sacred Heart.
- Promise to avoid future sin.

The phrase reflects the devotional practice of offering oneself to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, which is a significant part of Catholic tradition.