

Before the Enthronement

ENTHRONEMENT PREPARATION

A day is chosen for the Enthronement ceremony which has a special signification for the family, (a marriage anniversary, for example) or an appropriate liturgical feast day, or a day on which a priest can be present, when possible.

The better and more serious the preparation for the Enthronement, the greater will be the blessings on the family coming from this event. This preparation can be extended over three days (a triduum), or over nine days (a novena). It could consist of recitation of the litany of the Sacred Heart, along with the following preparatory prayer.

PREPARATORY PRAYERS

O DIVINE HEART OF JESUS, come dwell among us, for we love Thee. Visit our home as once Thou didst come to Thy friends at Cana, Bethany, and the home of Zachaeus, the publican. We wish to place our family under Thy care, and bring it into intimate union with Thee, O Sacred Heart of Jesus, Thou art our most faithful Friend. No one has ever loved us as Thou hast done. And we wish to love Thee for those who do not love Thee, as Thou art our God and Savior. Thou art also our Lord and King. Since so many scorn Thy kingly might, we desire to call it down upon our family. Take Thou possession of this hearth, where we shall reserve a throne as a place of honor for Thee.

GRANT that the day of Enthronement be both for our family, and for Thee, a day of great joy and the beginning of our life truly in submission and intimate union with Thee. All our thoughts and actions must be in harmony with Thy Sacred Law. We wish to cast aside our disordered self-love and to love our neighbor as Thou hast loved us, and dost continue to love us.

LIVING in a world which has for the most part become once again pagan, and no longer knows Thee, O Divine Heart of Jesus, we ask of Thy gracious presence the charity of the first Christians, of the Apostles, and of the Martyrs. Grant that by this household, which seeks to belong to Thee completely, other families may embrace Thy charity and that thus from family to family the entire globe may submit to Thy Royalty.

O IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY, perfect model of fidelity to Our Lord and of union with Him, extend and strengthen, within our hearts and our families the reign of charity, the reign of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Amen.

FINAL PREPARATIONS

It is, again, recommended to have Mass celebrated for the intentions of the family the day of the Enthronement, or at least to attend Mass as a Family and to receive Holy Communion (at the very least the Sunday before).

The place reserved for the image is set up as a small altar. The image of the Sacred Heart is prepared on another table covered in white with candles and flowers. A small bottle of holy water is also prepared.

ENTHRONEMENT OF THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS

Enthronement of the Sacred Heart is a solemn act of a family giving formal recognition of the kingship of Christ over their family and home and the official, ceremonial beginning of a family's commitment to live out the effects of their recognition of Christ's Kingship. During the Enthronement ceremony, a blessed image of the Sacred Heart is hung in the most prominent place in the house and Sacred Scripture is placed before it. Formal prayers are prayed and then each member of the household signs a certificate of the Covenant.

RENEWAL OF THE ENTHRONEMENT

Periodically, the family might want to renew the Consecration, especially on the Feast of the Sacred Heart, at the Feast of Christ the King (the last Sunday in October), at births, deaths, major life events, i.e. First Communions, Confirmations, a child leaving for College, etc.

Prayer of Renewal:

Most sweet Jesus, humbly kneeling at Thy feet, we renew the consecration of our family to Thy Divine Heart. Be Thou our King forever! In Thee we have full and entire confidence. May Thy spirit penetrate our thoughts, our desires, our words and our works. Bless our undertakings, share in our joys, in our trials and in our labours. Grant us to know Thee better, to love Thee more, to serve Thee without faltering.

WHAT MUST I DO TO ENTHRONE THE SACRED HEART IN MY HOME?

1. Learn what it is and how it is important.
2. It is important to have a priest preside over the ceremony, but it is not essential to gain the indulgences. For serious reasons, the father, or someone else may preside and lead the prayers. In any case, please consult your parish priest.
3. If possible, have the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass offered that morning for the reign of the Sacred Heart in your home, and as an act of love and reparation to the Sacred Heart. The entire family should try to receive Communion at this Mass, or at another Mass.
4. Obtain as beautiful a picture or statue of the Sacred Heart as possible. If you already have a picture, use that one.
5. Below the place of honor reserved for the statue or picture, prepare a “throne” or “altar,” that is to say, a table (or perhaps the mantelpiece) covered with a white cloth, beautifully decorated with flowers and candles. The picture or statue and holy water should be placed on a small table near the “throne” before the ceremony.
6. Invite your relatives and friends to be present, thus you will already begin to be an “apostle of the Sacred Heart.” Have a family party after the ceremony, with a special treat for the children, who of course, should be present at the ceremony, even the smallest.
7. Make this day one of the outstanding events of the family life—one long to be remembered. The greater the solemnity, the better. The more “epic,” the better!

NOTE: There is no more appropriate way for a young couple to begin their married life, than to enthrone the Sacred Heart in their new home.