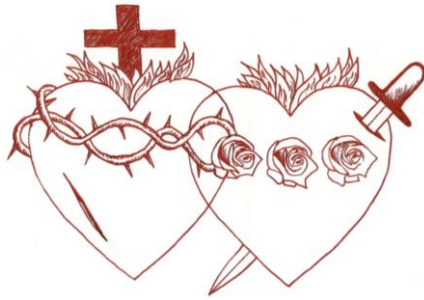


HOME ENTHRONEMENT



**OF THE HEARTS OF
JESUS AND MARY**

HOME ENTHRONEMENT OF THE HEARTS OF JESUS AND MARY

INTRODUCTION

Don't worry. This Home Enthronement is very simple. It's only a four-day commitment, and the prayers each day won't take very long. However, the blessings are sure to be abundant.

The ideal would be to gather as a family for each of the four days. It should take about 10 minutes each day. First you will read out loud the short reflection for each day, and then pray a decade of the Rosary. That's all.

The reflections will help to explain what this Home Enthronement is all about. However, to give you a sneak preview: it's about making Jesus and Mary the King and Queen of your hearts and your home.

Be assured that their Hearts are very loving and merciful. They simply would like your permission to be able to give good things to you and your family. They have such an abundance of spiritual gifts and blessings that so many people don't want to receive. By making this Home Enthronement you are opening your hearts and your home to receive these benefits.

You can choose any days that work well for your family to pray these prayers. The days don't necessarily have to be in succession. However, if you are able to pray the prayers for four days in a row, if you begin on a Thursday, you could end on Sunday. The actual Home Enthronement prayers could then be prayed together as a family after Sunday Mass.

DAY 1: INVITING JESUS AND MARY INTO OUR HOME

As we prepare to solemnly enthrone the Hearts of Jesus and Mary as the King and Queen of our hearts and our home, it is good for us to understand better what will happen when we make this act of love and devotion.

First of all, we can be assured that what will happen will be very good. In their ardent and tender love for this family and for each one of us individually, the Hearts of Jesus and Mary long to pour out blessings upon us. They want what is best for us, and want to help bring this about. However, our Lord and our Blessed Mother will never force anyone to accept the good things they want to give us. Rather, they respectfully wait until they are invited to do so.

With this Enthronement, we are formally inviting Jesus and Mary to take up their spiritual thrones as the true King and Queen of our hearts and our home. By enthroning their *Hearts*, we are especially honoring their MERCY and LOVE, which we are asking to reign in and among us. Our Lord Jesus and Blessed Mother Mary will take our invitation very seriously, and they *will* come into our midst in a new way.

The wedding feast at Cana (as we read about in Chapter 2 of St. John's Gospel) can help us to understand better what will occur with this Enthronement. Jesus and Mary were invited to the wedding at Cana, and they went. If they hadn't been invited, they probably wouldn't have gone. They are not ones to "crash a party"!

Since they had been invited, our Mother Mary was able to see the need of the bride and groom and her Heart was moved with compassion. Since our Lord Jesus was invited, His Mother could bring this need to Him. Jesus' initial response to her may seem surprising. It almost sounds as if He's not interested in her concern. But Mary knows the Heart of her Son, and so she is not put off by what at first may appear to be

a refusal. Instead, she tells the servants to do whatever he tells them. And the fact that Jesus works the miracle proves that Jesus cannot deny His Mother anything!

The same will happen within our family. With this Enthronement, we are inviting Jesus and Mary into our hearts and our home. Just as she did at Cana, she will see our needs and will bring these needs to Jesus. She will then encourage us, as she did at that wedding, to do whatever Jesus tells us.

The servants at the wedding might have wondered what filling up some water jars had to do with the dilemma they faced of not having enough wine for the guests and the great embarrassment that would have been for the newly married couple and their families. However, the servants chose to obey . . . even if they didn't fully understand. And I bet they're glad they did! (Not to mention how glad the guests must have been!)

We also will be well rewarded if we choose to follow our Lady's prompting and do the will of her Son—whatever it is that he is asking us to do—to the best of our ability . . . “to the brim”. Truly, Jesus will fill our hearts, our family life, with the best of an abundance of his mercy and love.

Let us pray now a decade of the Rosary, asking our Lady to prepare us to welcome her and her son Jesus in a new way, as well as for the grace we need to do whatever he is asking of us.
(Prayer: The second Luminous Mystery: The Wedding at Cana)

DAY 2: UNITING WITH THEIR SUFFERING AND LOVE

We considered yesterday that inviting Jesus and Mary into our hearts and our home results in many blessings—just like it did at the wedding feast of Cana. Life is not always joyful, though. There are times we have to suffer and go through difficult times. It's good to know that Jesus and Mary are with us during those times, and that they can relate to our suffering, having been through much suffering themselves. Jesus and Mary can relate as well to the suffering of watching our beloved ones go through painful trials.

Both Jesus and Mary suffered intensely and gave generously throughout their lives. The sufferings of their Hearts culminated on Calvary. This was a time of great suffering, the greatest of which was to see the other suffer, since their love for each other was so ardent and pure. This was also a time of extraordinary generosity. It was from the Cross that Jesus gave us a most beautiful gift: the gift of His own Mother to be our Mother (as we can read about in the Gospel of John, chapter 19).

And how are we to respond to this wondrous gift that Jesus offers to us, as He shares with us His own Mother? Scripture says: “And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.” (John 19:27) This is the best way for us to respond as well: by taking the Mother of Jesus—and Jesus Himself—into *our* home. Which is precisely what we are doing with this Enthronement.

One of the lessons Jesus and Mary teach us in the mystery of the Cross is that love is not always “sweet”. It does not always feel good to do the most loving thing. Jesus certainly didn't “feel good” as he hung upon the Cross, but this was the greatest act of love there ever was! In our family, too, there will be times when it does not feel good to be loving to one another. Jesus gives us the example of *true love*. To truly love someone is to sacrifice yourself for them. Our call to love each

other, as members of this family, means that we will have to

continually die to ourselves and our own self-centered desires. We are invited to put others before ourselves and to give the very best to them. This, of course, is not only difficult . . . it is *impossible* for us to do on our own!

Thankfully, Jesus not only gives us an example. He also gives us the grace we need to do this. We need to choose to cooperate with his grace and to do our part. However, without his grace, we are simply unable to love as he commands us to. Thankfully, as well, since it is a *commandment* that he has given us to love—and since he knows better than we do how impossible it is for us to fulfill this command—he very much desires to help us.

As we heard yesterday, we need to invite our Lord and our Blessed Mother into our hearts and home, since they are so respectful and won't force their way in. In a similar way, they won't force us to love, if we choose not to. If, however, we want to learn how to truly love . . . our Lord Jesus will teach us. In fact, he's given us his own Mother to help us to learn to love as we are meant to. And she will stand by us, through all we suffer, just as she so faithfully and courageously stood by the Cross of Jesus. She offered the suffering of her beloved Son, and her own suffering, in sacrifice for our sins. She will help us to embrace and offer our suffering as well, in union with their Hearts.

Let us pray now a decade of the Rosary, asking our Mother Mary to continue to prepare us for this Family Consecration and Home Enthronement to her Heart and the Heart of her Son, so that they may teach us to truly love. (*Prayer: the fifth Sorrowful Mystery: the Crucifixion and Death of Jesus on the Cross*)

DAY 3: OPENING, WITH JESUS AND MARY, TO THE HOLY SPIRIT

Today we have come to the final day of preparation, and tomorrow we'll make the Act of Enthronement of the Hearts of Jesus and Mary. We've considered the wedding at Cana and the sacrifice of Jesus and Mary on Calvary. Today we'll reflect on how Jesus sent the Holy Spirit upon his disciples, and how this relates to our Home Enthronement.

After Jesus ascended into Heaven, the disciples gathered together in prayer with Mary the Mother of Jesus (as we can read about in the Book of Acts, chapter 2). We have been gathering in prayer with her as well, these past few days of preparation. And just as the disciples received lavish gifts and blessings on the day of Pentecost—so the Lord wants to pour out upon each one of us, and our family as a whole, the choicest gifts and blessings.

In the Creed, we profess our belief about Jesus and pray: “He ascended into heaven and is seated at the right hand of the Father.” He is seated . . . and it's surely not a kitchen stool He's sitting on! Rather, it is a *throne*! In other words, Jesus is enthroned in Heaven. And tomorrow, we will officially enthrone him here: in each of our hearts and in this home. He already is the King of Heaven. We will now declare him as King—and Mary as Queen—of our hearts and home.

After Jesus was enthroned in Heaven, it didn't take long for his gifts to be poured out. In fact, he gave to those gathered with his Mother in the upper room the very Giver of Life: the Holy Spirit. And this made *all* the difference.

The apostles, even after the Resurrection of Jesus, were frightened men, huddled together in the upper room with the doors locked because they were afraid. However, after Jesus was enthroned in Heaven and sent His Holy Spirit upon them . . . they became bold proclaimers of His truth and His love.

They were completely transformed! Just a handful of people were able to light a fire that spread to the furthest corners of the world. They were able to do this, not by their own power, but because they allowed the Holy Spirit to fill their hearts and to set other hearts ablaze through them.

The Easter Vigil provides a beautiful symbol of this. When the people are gathered at church on the evening before Easter Sunday, the fire (symbolic of the Holy Spirit) is lit. The priest lights the Easter candle (symbolic of Christ) from this fire. From this one Easter candle, all the other candles are lit. Soon, what was a darkened church becomes lit up with hundreds of little lights, shining like stars in the sky. The flame has spread.

Just so the hearts of the Apostles, and those gathered with them, were transformed. The darkened wicks of their hearts, so to speak, were set aflame with the fire of God's love. They shared this with others, who were likewise set aflame, and who in turn shared this with still others.

The Lord wants to set us on Fire with his love as well. He wants to generously give to us all we need to be able to become in every respect who he created us to be. He wants us to flourish, and to be fully alive! Our Home Enthronement to the Hearts of Jesus and Mary will help to bring this about.

Let us pray now, uniting our hearts with our Lady's heart, asking that she will help prepare us for all the good things the Lord wants to give us, and all that he wants to do through us. (*Prayer: the third Glorious Mystery: the Descent of the Holy Spirit*)

DAY 4: THE DAY OF ENTHRONEMENT

Today is the day we've been preparing for: Enthronement Day. Some of us may be excited about it. Others, however, may be thinking: how could such a simple thing bring about such a great good? Is this for real?

Yes! It is for real! We could say the same thing about the Sacraments of the Church. It's true, the Sacraments of the Church look *deceptively simple*. Take Baptism, for example: all we see is some water being poured over a baby's head. However, by faith we know that so much more is going on; the little one is becoming a child of God, and original sin is being wiped away. Or think of the Eucharist: all our human eyes see are bread and wine. However, with our supernatural eyes we see that it is truly the Body and Blood of Jesus.

In a similar way, this act of Enthronement we are about to make may look "deceptively simple". However, we can trust that many graces will be poured out upon each one of us. Already we can see how the blessings have begun to flow.

These past few days we have reflected on the Wedding at Cana and how when we invite Jesus and Mary into our home, they will work miracles of mercy in our lives. We considered the self-sacrifice of Jesus and Mary on Calvary, and how we are called to learn from them how to truly love each other. We have also recalled how, after Jesus' Ascension into Heaven, the disciples drew near to the Blessed Mother and so were prepared to receive the transforming gift of the Spirit of Love.

Today, on this day of culmination, we focus on Mary's Coronation as Queen of Heaven and Earth. When Jesus ascended into Heaven, he was crowned by his Father as King of the Universe. After Mary is assumed into Heaven, she is crowned as Queen in the Kingdom of her Son Jesus, who is the King of Kings. All graces come ultimately from God, the giver of all good things. However, the Lord—who delights in

us being co-workers in His Kingdom—has chosen to give His Mother the role of mediating His graces and blessings to us, her children, according to His holy will.

As we make the Home Enthronement of the Hearts of Jesus and Mary, we are acknowledging that they are King and Queen of Heaven and Earth. We are also making this very personal and are welcoming them to likewise be King and Queen of our hearts and our home. By doing so, we are giving them permission to act however they see fit.

We can be hopeful as we make this solemn act, the Hearts of Jesus and Mary will help us to grow in holiness and in unity. They will help us to draw closer to God our loving Father, and to one another. They will help us to have a deeper patience and understanding of one another. They will also grant us new opportunities to share our faith with others, as well as provide new strength for facing difficulties and trials. We can trust that as King and Queen of our home, they will bestow all these and many other blessings as well as giving us their heavenly protection and guidance.

One day we will be able to look back and see that this was truly a turning point in our lives. And together with the Hearts of Jesus and Mary, we will give thanks and praise to God our Father for all his goodness and love. (*Prayer: the fifth Glorious Mystery: the Coronation of Mary as Queen of Heaven and Earth*)

ACT OF HOME ENTHRONEMENT OF THE HEARTS OF JESUS AND MARY

Sacred and Immaculate Hearts of Jesus and Mary,
this day we, the _____ Family,
solemnly enthrone you as the King and Queen
of our hearts and our home,
and we consecrate our family entirely to you.

We invite you to remain with us always,
and to lead us into a deeper intimacy with you.
May we mirror your tender mercy to each other,
and to all who come to our home.

We ask you to dethrone Satan, sin,
and all selfishness from our lives.
May God, and His mercy and love,
ever be at the very center of this family.

Help each of us to experience deeply our identity
as beloved children of God our Father,
and to surrender trustingly
to the fullness of His will for our lives.

Fill us all with your own immense hope
in our Heavenly Father's unwavering goodness,
and in His ultimate victory over all evil!
Amen.

CONCLUSION

Congratulations! You have made the Home Enthronement to the Hearts of Jesus and Mary. This need not be seen as the end, though. It is just the beginning of many blessings still to come.

So, how do you proceed from here? What might the King and Queen of your hearts and home be inviting you to do as the next good step? Each family, each situation, is unique. There's no "cookie cutter" answer as to how best to go forward. Certainly, however, *prayer*—and, in particular, family prayer—is a wonderful way to be open to receive the blessings Jesus and Mary would like to pour out upon you.

One possibility could be to pray a daily Rosary together as a family (or at least one decade of the Rosary). Or perhaps you could gather as a family once a week and read the Mass readings for the upcoming Sunday. Also, although Sunday Mass is the only requirement for Catholics, there is nothing stopping you from attending daily Mass once or twice during the week (according to your schedule). If you'd like some additional reading, along the lines of what you've read here, two suggestions are: *33 Days to Morning Glory* by Fr. Michael Gaitley and *Meet Your Mother* by Dr. Mark Miravalle.

You may want to consider having an image of the Hearts of Jesus and Mary (blessed by a priest) that you can hang up in a prominent place in your home. There is one provided on the back cover of this booklet for you to use, if you would like. In that way, you can be reminded that they are your King and your Queen, and as such will protect and bless you. Perhaps you could even ask a priest to be a part of the Enthronement, and bless your home at the same time. (Although you can go forward with the Enthronement if you're not able to have a priest come over.)

These are just some ideas. Jesus and Mary—the King and Queen of your hearts and your home—could inspire you with other ideas. Be open to them, follow their guidance, and *do whatever they tell you*.

**The Home Enthronement of the
Hearts of Jesus and Mary
by: Fr. Francis Dankoski ©2017**

