

**LOVE, PEACE AND JOY: A
MONTH OF THE SACRED
HEART ACCORDING TO ST.
GERTRUDE**

Published @ 2017 Trieste Publishing Pty Ltd

ISBN 9780649126514

Love, peace and joy: a month of the Sacred Heart according to St. Gertrude by Various

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VARIOUS

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LOVE, PEACE, AND JOY

A MONTH OF THE SACRED HEART

ACCORDING TO

ST. GERTRUDE

FROM THE FRENCH OF THE VERY REV. ANDRÉ
PRÉVOT, OF THE SOCIETY OF THE PRIESTS
OF THE HEART OF JESUS

BY

A BENEDICTINE OF PRINCETHORPE
PRIORY

NEW YORK, CINCINNATI, CHICAGO

BENZIGER BROTHERS

PUBLISHERS OF BENZIGER'S MAGAZINE

Nihil Obstat.

HENRICUS S. BOWDEN.

CENSOR DEPUTATUS.

Imprimatur.

EDM. CAN. SURMONT.

VICARIUS GENERALIS.

WISCONSINENSIS.

Die 7 Decembris, 1911.

OCT 22 1955

PREFACE

WHAT is our intention in publishing this modest work, dedicated to St. Gertrude and to the Sacred Heart of Jesus ?

1. To help souls—and already a certain number have made use of our manuscript with encouraging results. To help others to see and taste, with greater relish, how good is the Heart of Jesus, in order that willing souls, feeling the solicitations of His infinite tenderness, may resolve to respond fully to the earnest desire He has to love them and be loved in return, so that, without fear or reserve, they may lovingly abandon themselves to Him for ever.

2. We wish to imprint on the hearts of our readers one of those words of Gertrude to which Our Lord has promised to attach an especial grace, and which, filling their souls with a sweet unction, may become a source of spiritual riches for life. We wish to win for our dear Lord also a greater number of followers who, like St. Gertrude, would respond to His friendship by their confidence and fidelity ; who to console Him, as she did, would take His Divine interests to heart, seek only to please Him, to

atone to Him for the world's ingratitude, and by prayer and sacrifice try to pour balm on the wounds He receives.

Finally, we desire, as far as our inability will allow, to procure for the Church of Jesus Christ an increased number of defenders, who by their devotedness to a life of intercession, love, and atonement, will help this Holy Mother to obtain mercy for poor sinners, to repair the unceasing losses of her children, and deaden the terrible concert of blasphemy and impiety by their tributes of praise and of love.

And to whom do we offer this little work? To all the friends of the Heart of Jesus, who in cordial charity ever rejoice in what may contribute to make that adorable Heart better known and better loved.

To the friends of St. Gertrude, whose number is ever on the increase in the Church of God; to those who rejoice in seeing the wish of the learned and pious Father Faber accomplished in her regard:

"Would that she could be in the Church once more as she was in ages past, the doctress and the prophetess of the interior life" ("All for Jesus," chap. viii., p. 324).

To those who believe in the promises of Our Lord to this soul so privileged by His Sacred Heart, and who have already, more than once, sweetly experienced in these writings a light and an unction not found elsewhere.

In fine we offer it most especially to those

souls (whose number is daily increasing) who, docile to the guidance by which the Holy Spirit leads the Church at the present time, lovingly devote themselves to the Work of Reparation. We wish to offer them, in the pious practices and holy dispositions with which the Heart of Jesus inspired St. Gertrude, an easy means of realizing in their lives that work which has become the most necessary and the most urgent of all.*

We have divided this little treatise into thirty lectures, so that it may be used as a devotion for the Month of the Sacred Heart.

We hope that under this form it will everywhere meet with a more ready acceptance, and may with God's grace especially suit all the clients of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and all those souls who in the world, the cloister, or the sanctuary, devote themselves to the work of reparation. Grateful shall we be to God if, by the intercession of St. Gertrude and the mercy of the Heart of Jesus, we are able to obtain for this dear Saint the fulfilment of her desires, and

* We venture to offer it (among others) to the penitent Associates of the Heart of Jesus, in whose ranks we ourselves desire to combat faithfully. We recognize, with them, the great necessity for penance in the work of reparation. But this necessity does not, in the slightest degree, diminish the need of atonement made by *religious acts*, which should accompany penance properly so-called, and all acknowledge that penance ought to be animated by *love*, thanksgiving, and joy. In this work we aim principally at the last two dispositions—viz., thanksgiving and joy—which are the effect and result of love.

assist in consoling our good Master, and contributing to the welfare of our Mother, the Church.

Oh, sweet and loving Saint, who desirest so earnestly that thy writings may more and more serve to glorify the Heart of Jesus, and unceasingly elicit acts of thanksgiving for the favours He has bestowed on thee, deign to pour abundant blessings on these pages (which are thine), in order that they may excite souls to praise the goodness of the Heart of Jesus, and give themselves to Him !

Since He has promised to grant to those who thank Him for the graces lavished on thee, whatever they may ask, obtain that, in return for the sentiments of gratitude and admiration these pages may awaken in our hearts, He may grant us to love Him and devote ourselves to Him like thee in peace and in joy.*

* In this work, to which we ask Our Lord to impart a grace of peace and joy for every soul of good will, we would deeply regret troubling the peace of any. Should a reader feel alarmed at expressions of St. Gertrude, or at the reflections we have added, we beg him to take such expressions, etc., in the sense indicated in our notes, especially pp. 49, 56, 70, 120, 122, 173.

We feel a sweet confidence that, by so doing, all will turn to the greater good of the friends of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

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