

# a message of **hope**

THEME

**"FROM HIS SIDE SHALL FLOW  
STREAMS OF LIVING WATER..."** JOHN 7:38

Dear friends,

Whenever you turn on the radio or listen to music on your iPOD, you will very quickly hear love songs. Our culture abounds with music and words expressing the deep desires of the human heart for love. We want to be loved and we want to love. We look for true friendship, faithfulness and solid relationships built on trust.

I recently heard the story of a man who used to ride 9kms to meet his girlfriend for 20 minutes during her morning break, then would ride back over the hills to his home. There could be no doubt in her mind that he was serious in his love for her. Inevitably the couple married and are now growing old together with three children and eight grandchildren. Our hearts' desire for love is realised only when we give of ourselves in a concrete and committed way.

The Heart of Jesus is the human heart of God! Everything in the depths of God's "heart" was expressed in the life, mission and death of Jesus. He allowed John his beloved friend to rest his head on His own heart in the midst of His anguish at the last supper. He described His Heart as "meek and humble" (Mt 11:28) and He allowed His heart to be emptied of its blood and water by the thrusting through of the Centurion's lance.

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JUNE 08

PILGRIMAGE

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St Catherine of Siena, in her mystical dialogues with God during the 14th century, was told that He allowed the piercing of His heart **after** death because His suffering and death, as awful as they were, were experienced as limited due to the finite time. It was not sufficient for Him to express the infinity of His love in a finite way. Therefore, having accomplished everything that was necessary for salvation, He chose to have His heart opened as a sign of the unlimited ocean of God’s love for each of us.

Pope John Paul II spoke in a similar manner when, at the conclusion of the Great Jubilee Year on January 6, 2001 – the Feast of the Epiphany – he stated “The Holy Door is now closed, but the heart of Christ remains more open than ever.”

While it is true that the human heart yearns for love and communion with others, it is true because God is Love, and we are created in the image of the God, who is a loving communion of Persons. It may be that we are searching for God, but it is more true that our big-hearted God is searching for us.

**BISHOP ANTHONY FISHER OP,  
WYD08 COORDINATOR**

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# faith foundations

## THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS - SCRIPTURAL SOURCES

In the Old Testament, the Lord God is ineffable pure spirit, with no physical body. But God's will and desire to be intimate with men and women is shown using the metaphor of "the heart". God is described as being "grieved to the heart" at the ingratitude and evil of humanity (Gen 6:5-6). Despite the long-running infidelity of Israel the Lord softens His just anger: *"My heart recoils within me; my compassion grows warm and tender ..."* (Hosea 11:8-9).

The law-givers, psalmists and prophets write of God's desire for our "whole heart" (Deut 6:5-6), our "consecrated", "broken" and "contrite" hearts (Ps 50); that our hearts of "stone" be replaced by new, passionately living hearts (Ezek 36:25-27).

.....  
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.....  
We believe that only God Himself, by **becoming Man in Jesus the Christ** (The Messiah/ the Anointed One) can both melt and heal the damaged human heart with the gift of Divine Love.

In St John's Gospel there is a particular emphasis upon the "healing touch" the disciples find in the **breast or side of Jesus** (in Greek: the *koilia*): they come to faith (St Thomas in Jn 20:25) and intimacy (St John in **Jn 13:23-25**; St Peter in **Jn 21:20**) with the Saviour.

On the Cross, Jesus Christ is lifted up and "glorified" (Jn 19:33-37). The absolute depth of His self-giving to the Father and to the world is laid bare not only in His being stripped of his clothes but in the very tearing open of His side and the piercing of His heart with a lance.

The total outpouring of **blood and water** from the Incarnate God's Heart, is the fulfilment of Jesus own words ("*I am the source of living water*" Jn 4:13-14) and the Jewish prophecies. In Jesus' total self-sacrifice of love, God poured the "clean water upon you to cleanse you" (Ezek 36:25). A "fountain" of "living water" now flows "from his breast" to defeat sin, violence and death (Zech 13:1; Zech 12:10; Is 12:3)

This rich theological vision of God's love as the blood and water flowing from the Heart of the Redeemer becomes the event of the **fulfilled Covenant**, the birth of the Church, the origin of Jesus' gift of **Baptism** (water) and the Eucharist of his body and blood. It is also provides the scriptural sources for devotion to the **Sacred Heart of Jesus**.



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# pilgrim prayer

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## MERCY PRAYER OF SAINT CLAUDE DE LA COLUMBIERE

Lord, I am in this world to show Your mercy to others.  
Other people will glorify You  
by making visible the power of Your grace  
by their fidelity and constancy to You.  
For my part I will glorify You  
by making known how good You are to sinners,  
that Your mercy is boundless  
and that no sinner no matter how great his offences  
should have reason to despair of pardon.  
If I have grievously offended You, My Redeemer,  
let me not offend You even more  
by thinking that You are not kind enough to pardon Me.  
Amen.



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# inspired writings

## THE TWELVE PROMISES OF JESUS TO SAINT MARGARET MARY ALACOCQUE FOR SOULS DEVOTED TO HIS SACRED HEART

These Twelve Promises are found in the writings of St Margaret Mary Alacoque who received visions of Jesus six years after she joined the Visitation Convent in 1691. St Margaret Mary wrote in her journal "I could plainly see His heart, pierced and bleeding, yet there were flames, too, coming from it and a crown of thorns around it. He told me to behold His heart which so loved humanity. Then He seemed to take my very heart from me and place it there in His heart. In return He gave me back part of His flaming heart."

St Margaret Mary shared these experiences with St Claude de Columbiere SJ, her spiritual director. The twelve promises are:



*Sacred Heart with Young Man*  
Suzanne Kent,  
seeking permission, email sent 15.01.08

1. I will give them all the graces necessary for their state of life.
2. I will establish peace in their homes.
3. I will comfort them in all their afflictions.
4. I will be their secure refuge during life, and especially at the hour of death.
5. I will bestow abundant blessings on all their undertakings.
6. Sinners shall find in my Heart the source and ocean of infinite mercy.
7. Tepid souls shall become fervent.
8. Fervent souls shall rise rapidly to a high degree of perfection.
9. I will bless every place where a picture of my Sacred Heart shall be exposed and honoured.
10. I will give to priests the power to touch the hardest hearts.
11. Those who shall promote this devotion shall have their names written in my Heart, never to be blotted out.
12. I promise you, in the infinite mercy of my Heart, that its all-powerful love will grant to all those who receive Holy Communion on the First Friday of every month for nine consecutive months, the grace of final repentance, and that they shall not die without receiving the sacraments, and that my Divine Heart shall be their safe refuge in that last moment.

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# testimony of faith

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## MARK, DIOCESE OF WAGGA WAGGA

My WYD experience was unreal. It had its many ups and a few little hard times, but that's a pilgrimage for you. Upon arriving in Cologne there was great excitement at actually arriving at the place we had so long been planning to go to, it seemed sort of surreal. The rest of the week leading up to the actual vigil and Mass with the Pope was spent going to talks, one of them by Cardinal Pell; doing Catechises with thousands of others, which was a real highlight; getting to meet hundreds of other young people from all over the world who have the same faith as us and going to concerts. It was on the Thursday afternoon that we first got to see the Pope. He came down the Rhine on a boat and stopped right near us to give his address. I was lucky enough to be second on the rails, so I got a good view. It was unbelievable to know that we actually got to see this man who was chosen by God to lead our church!!!

On Saturday, the Pope arrived at about 7pm



Mark Mills with friends and fellow pilgrims in Cologne

and drove right past us about ten meters away. The crowd was going crazy and the atmosphere was really awesome. That night the Pope led us in night prayer and then said Benediction for us, which was awesome. Actually being able to see the Pope giving us a blessing with the monstrance and knowing we were getting a blessing from Jesus, was one of the most special moments of the whole WYD, for me anyway.

Just being there in the presence of the Pope and 1.2 million other young Catholics gave me great hope for the future of our Church. Also being able to go to Mass 19 days in a row was a big highlight in itself, something I really enjoyed and which really helped me in my "Pilgrimage of Faith".

I think I was very blessed to be able to go because my health had been a big problem before I went. I had 3 severe chest attacks, which made it nearly impossible for me to breathe and my mum and the doctors weren't going to let me go. I asked all my friends to say a novena for me so that I would be able to go and I'm sure now that that is the only reason why I was well enough to go. Two days after I got back I had another chest attack. So God was just letting me know that without Him I wouldn't have gone to WYD - I was very blessed. Hopefully WYD 2008 in Sydney will bring Australian youth back to the faith.

SEPTEMBER 07

PILGRIMAGE

# saints and witnesses

## ST CLAUDE DE LA COLOMBIÈRE

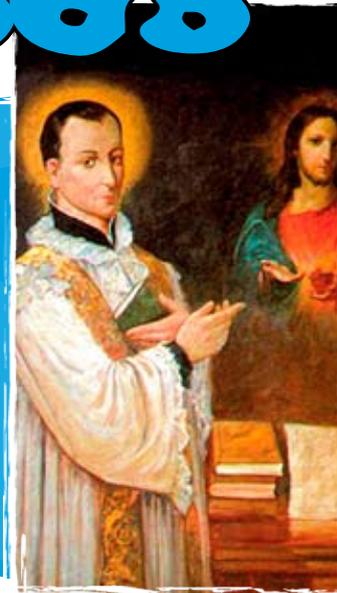
**Born:** at Saint-Symphorien d'Ozon near Lyon, S.E. France on 2nd February, 1641

**Died:** at Paray-le-Monial, Saône-et-Loire, France on 15th February, 1682

**Feast Day:** 15th February

**Patron Saint of:** with St Margaret Mary of devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus

**Representation in Religious Art:** Slightly built, young Jesuit priest in prayer, often with image of Sacred Heart



St. Claude De La Colombière

Although he was fascinated by the lively 17th century European world of culture and the arts, Claude entered the **Society of Jesus (The Jesuits)** at 17 to become a priest and teacher. Claude was intellectually and socially gifted but found the more enclosed Jesuit life of discipline difficult. Despite his personal struggles, Claude proved to be a talented preacher and was sent to Paris for further studies. Here he deepened his dedication to "friendship" with Jesus Christ and concentrated on refuting the overly harsh and false ideas of the **Jansenist** heresy- a movement which promoted fear of God's judgement and a suspicion of all pleasure without a balancing faith in the goodness of creation and God's overwhelming love and mercy.

In the town of **Paray-le-Monial**, Claude became Father Superior of the school and the spiritual director to a convent of nuns of the **Visitation Order**.

At the convent, **Sr Margaret Mary Alacoque** received extraordinary mystical experiences. She reported that Jesus Christ appeared to her in person, instructing her to be a witness to His burning love for sinners through the sign of **His Sacred Heart**. She was considered to be either mad or possessed. But Fr Claude was deeply moved by Margaret Mary's testimony, and formed a lasting bond and friendship with her. As her confessor, he gave her spiritual support and to verify the authenticity of her visions. Claude went to England as the Chaplain to the Catholic Duchess of York, Maria de Modena (who later became Queen when James II became King of England.) Here Claude effectively promoted

the dedication and conversion of human hearts to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The Duchess joined Fr Claude's mission and organised his many sermons and retreats for publication.

In anti-Catholic England, Fr Claude was falsely convicted of conspiracy against the government. He was harshly treated and imprisoned, and his already frail health became dramatically worse. He was exiled back to France and Paray, where he was able to meet with Sr Margaret Mary again, before dying at the age of 42.

In 1992, Pope John Paul II said at his **canonisation** that St Claude's humble service of consecration "*to the Heart of Christ, is a self-giving that allows the charity of Christ to inspire us, pardon us and lead us in his ardent desire to open the ways of truth and life to all our brothers and sisters!*"

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# place of pilgrimage

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## PARAY-LE MONIAL

**Where:** in Department of Saône-Loire, region region of Burgundy, Central France

The small town of Paray-le-Monial first became a Christian centre over 1,000 years ago, when an important community of **Benedictine** monks was established there on an ancient site dedicated to the Mother of God. The town's surviving Romanesque basilica and the surrounding monastic buildings date from this early period.

The fame of Paray as a major pilgrimage site dates from events surrounding the life of the mystic **St Margaret Mary Alacoque**.

Sr Margaret Mary, was a contemplative nun, who in 1673, began to receive extraordinary visions in which Jesus Christ displayed to her, the powerful secrets of his Heart. In her drawings, Margaret Mary shows the **Sacred Heart of Jesus**, alight with the flames of His crucified love for her and the whole of humanity. Thus began her life-long vocation to encourage all Christians to conversion and reparation to God through dedication to Jesus and His Sacred Heart.

She saw that men and women who were so often forgetful or hard-hearted, could re-inflame their lives by experiencing God's love "beating in the human heart" of Jesus the Saviour.

Through Margaret Mary and her spiritual director, **St Claude de la Colombiere**, the movement of consecration to the Heart of Jesus, rapidly spread throughout France and the rest of the Catholic Church. The **devotion**, received much recognition from the Popes in the 19th and 20th centuries.

Pope John Paul II said in his homily on the occasion of St Claude's canonisation (1992), that the town of Paray was known as the "town of saints", because so many people were inspired by devotion to the Sacred Heart to live holy lives and to begin religious communities and movements in and from the town of Paray.



The **Chapel of the Visitation Convent** is the centre of Paray pilgrimage, where St Margaret Mary received her mystical visions and where her body is buried. Also important is the magnificent ancient basilica which is now dedicated to **The Sacred Heart**. In the **Parc des Chapelains** in the eastern wing of the basilica there is a gallery and artwork depicting aspects St Margaret Mary's message to the world.

The town hall and an unusual building called the **Hieron** (which is dedicated to the devotion to the Eucharist) are also places which the many 100,000s of pilgrims visit each year while in Paray.



Paray-le-Monial

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# towards WYD08

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## G'DAY!

June is an important month in your World Youth Day journey.

By now everyone should have registered (our full service guarantee finished on 1 June to enable the immigration authorities time to process visas and WYD08 to organise your accommodation, transport and meals). If you haven't registered, you should do so as soon as you can!

During June we encourage you to get in contact with your group leader (if you haven't already) and create some regular communication or group activities to get you thinking and preparing for the trip to Sydney. Along with your fellow pilgrims, you can start to think about what you are going to bring (if you are knitting your own beanie – start knitting now!) and what other plans you have while you are in Sydney as well as beginning your spiritual preparations.

Towards the end of June, the Pilgrim Services team will start sending out individual pilgrim itineraries giving details of what your week will entail



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including the *what's* the *when's* and the *where's* for your time at World Youth Day 2008. This will also include details on where you will be accommodated and where you have been allocated for major events and meal times. When you have received these, you might like to sit down with your group, double check that you are all on similar itineraries and perhaps

do a little bit of research about the venues and locations listed on your itinerary.

Once June has finished there is only a matter of weeks until WYD08 – even less if you are coming to Australia earlier. In the words of Swedish hard-rock group Europe: “It's the final countdown!”

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