

October 16th: St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, virgin

Gospel text (Mt 11,25-30): On that occasion Jesus said, «Father, Lord of heaven and earth, I praise you, because you have hidden these things from the wise and learned and revealed them to simple people. Yes, Father, this is what pleased you. Everything has been entrusted to me by my Father. No one knows the Son except the Father, and no one knows the Father except the Son and those to whom the Son chooses to reveal him. Come to me, all you who work hard and who carry heavy burdens and I will refresh you. Take my yoke upon you and learn from me for I am gentle and humble of heart; and you will find rest. For my yoke is good and my burden is light».

«You have hidden these things from the wise and learned and revealed them to simple people»

Fr. Antoni CAROL i Hostench
(Sant Cugat del Vallès, Barcelona, Spain)

Today we see in Margaret Mary Alacoque (1647-1690), the words of Jesus fulfilled: «You have hidden these things from the wise and learned and revealed them to simple people» (Mt 11:25). What are "these things" mentioned by the Lord? The riches of God, the depth and tenderness of Divine Love. Saint Margaret has been one of those "instruments" that God has chosen to reveal to us the wonders of his merciful Love.

Only three centuries have passed since those times, and the stream of devotion to the Merciful Heart of Jesus has grown to become a wide river. Other "tributaries" have joined that river (Saint Gemma Galgani, Saint Faustina Kowalska, Saint Pio de Pietrelcina...), and God willing that all that flow becomes a sea, or — better — an ocean that floods the entire world. In fact, the Church of Christ lives already immersed in a "new stage": the time of Mercy, a stage that will no longer end. The

feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus finally arrived with Saint Margaret and, thanks to the revelations to Saint Faustina, the Sunday of Divine Mercy was established.

The "wise and intelligent" contemporary people of Jesus Christ did not appreciate his Beauty, nor that of his Heart thirsty for love. Herod, Pilate, Caiaphas ..., blinded by his arrogance, despised the Lord and made fun of Him. Meanwhile, Simon of Cyrene - humiliated to help a condemned man - heard the kind heartbeat of the Heart of Jesus and Dimas heard the merciful prayer that came out of the lips of Christ in supplication for his detractors ... Both, near the heart and lips of Jesus Christ, discovered his Love. That original revelation would be completed with the testimony of St. John - accompanying the Virgin Mary - at the foot of the Cross (cf. Jn 19:31-37). Those treasures can only be seen next to the Cross: " My God, I do or suffer such things in the Heart of Your Son and according to His Holy designs, and I offer them in reparation for all the bad or imperfect there is in my own works. " (Saint Margaret).