

Pilgrim Icon Program

News Release

(_____)
Date

Local Knights of Columbus to Sponsor Holy Hour in Honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

Contact: _____
Name, Phone Number and Email of Local Knights of Columbus

City, State/Province _____ - An icon of the Sacred Heart of Jesus will be the centerpiece of a special

Sacred Heart Holy Hour at (_____) in (_____) on (_____) at (_____)
Name of Parish _____ Town/City _____ Date _____ Time _____

The holy hour, flowing from the jubilee for the 350th anniversary of the apparitions of the Sacred Heart of Jesus to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque (Dec. 27, 2023 – Jun. 27, 2025) and inspired by Pope Francis' encyclical letter *Dilexit Nos* (He Loved Us), is sponsored by Knights of Columbus (_____).
Council Name and Number

During the holy hour, an icon depicting the most famous image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, painted in 1767 by Pompeo Batoni and now venerated in the Church of the Gesù in Rome, will be displayed. This reproduction of the original image bears the blessing of Pope Francis and is one of more than 300 icons traveling across the world as part of the Knights of Columbus Pilgrim Icon Program.

Supreme Knight Patrick Kelly has said that as Knights bring these icons across the world to their parishes, he hopes "they will invite their families — and all families — to consecrate their homes and themselves to the Sacred Heart." He further said that "In the heart of Christ, we see the heart of the Father. And we ask Our Lord to help us make his heart our own, so that we may see and love in others what he sees and loves in us."

The Sacred Heart Holy Hour will include readings from Sacred Scripture and reflections from Pope Francis on the Sacred Heart of Jesus, as well as the Divine Mercy Chaplet, prayers to the Sacred Heart, and time for silent prayer and adoration of the Blessed Sacrament. The prayer service will lead all present to grow in their love of God and devotion to his Most Sacred Heart.



Following the event, families are encouraged to enthrone the Sacred Heart in their homes by placing an image of the Sacred Heart in a place of honor. This devotion was inspired by Jesus' promise to St. Mary Margaret Alacoque to "bless every place in which an image of [his] Heart is exposed and honored."

The Pilgrim Icon Program has enabled more than 23 million people to honor Our Lord, Our Lady, and the saints, through 191,000 prayer services featuring different icons, such as Our Lady of Guadalupe, the Holy Family, and St. Joseph. The Sacred Heart of Jesus icon is the 20th icon venerated through the program since 1979.

Resources for the Sacred Heart Holy Hour and enthronement can be found at kofc.org/sacredheart or by contacting Knights of Columbus Council (_____) at (_____).
Council Name and Number _____ Name of Parish _____

Please Spread the Word!

Council (_____) in (_____) is one of nearly 17,000 Knights of Columbus
Number _____ Town/City _____

councils that make up the world's largest Catholic fraternal service organization. Founded in 1882 to assist working-class and immigrant Catholics in the United States, today the approximately two million members of the Knights put their faith into action through a broad range of charitable causes locally, nationally and internationally with financial contributions and hands-on service. To learn more or to join the Knights of Columbus, please visit kofc.org/join.