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## Catholic Diocese of Columbus

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Office of the Bishop  
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Brothers in Christ,

As we continue to plan for the future of our Church, we want to have a strong Church. This requires having strong families. Sometimes, although we desire renewal of our Dioceses, we can feel a bit worn down and even begin to lose our zeal. When we feel this way, Pope Francis invites us to contemplate the Heart of Christ and to develop a sense of remembrance. To remember means to return *to* the heart or to return *with* the heart.

Pope Francis invites us to return: “To what He did for us: the Heart of Christ shows us Jesus who offers Himself; it is the compendium of His mercy... It comes naturally to us to remember his goodness, which is freely given, which can neither be bought nor sold; and, unconditional, it does not depend on our actions.” (Homily on the Occasion of the 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Inauguration of the Faculty of Medicine and Surgery at the Catholic University of the Sacred Heart, November 5, 2021)

Without this constant remembrance of His Presence, amid the “haste of a thousand errands and continuous worries”, we will run dry, or as the Holy Father puts it, “Without memory, one loses one’s roots, and without roots, one does not grow.” We need to “cultivate among ourselves *the art of remembering*, of treasuring the faces we meet. The compassionate style of God, according to the Holy Father, suggests that: “If we really want to love God, we must be passionate about humanity, about all humanity, especially those who live in the condition in which the Heart of Jesus was manifested, that is, pain, abandonment and rejection, especially in this throwaway culture that we live in today.”

To that end, as a means of renewal, I invite you to discern promoting the act of consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, encouraging the faithful to enthrone the image of the Sacred Heart in their homes. This devotion helps parents and children to remember God’s passionate and merciful love for family members, while beckoning us to be passionate in ministering to the least of our brothers and sisters. The Sacred Heart of Jesus invites us to be reconciled to one another and is a source of healing of family relationships. If we want a strong Church, we need to have strong families, rooted in the Heart of Jesus, capable of offering credible, evangelical witness.

With this in mind, I warmly commend to you this new guide, *Welcome His Heart*, a guide for home enthronement that is faithful to the tradition of the Church and that can be carried out by families. A home enthronement through *Welcome His Heart* can help families expand their faith lives and be a catalyst for evangelization within parishes. Rather than burden families with one more activity, *Welcome His Heart* helps families re-order their priorities to serve Christ more intentionally, offering peace and tranquility amid the chaos of the modern world.

I conclude by inviting you to contemplate the love of the Heart of Christ for you, a love which surpasses human understanding. The Heart of Christ offers us a model as to how to live our vocations – with the style of God – with closeness, tenderness, generosity, and true passion. The Heart of Christ is a burning furnace of charity; may ours be as well. With the help of this wonderful guide, *Welcome His Heart*, I invite you to share this devotion with your parishioners and to encourage them to consider a home enthronement to the Sacred Heart.

Sincerely yours in the Heart of Christ,

Most Reverend Earl K. Fernandes  
Bishop of Columbus