

Bishop Cotta's Reflection of the Month

June- Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

Dear Brothers & Sisters,

As we have come to the close of the month of May, the month of the Blessed Mother, we enter the month of June dedicated to her Son, Jesus, and his Most Sacred Heart. This month "begs" that we focus our attention on Jesus, "mercy incarnate!"

With the present state of world affairs, the timing is perfect to approach, with a renewed sense of devotion, the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The mercy of the Sacred Heart can have a great impact, not only in our personal lives but in the life of this "broken" world.

Let us call out to Our Lord, throughout this month of June, that he will pour out his Divine Mercy upon our persecuted brothers and sisters of the Middle East, the ancient land of Christianity. May Christ have mercy on those being martyred for the Faith.

Why is this happening? Why the violence and death? When sin runs rampant, a spiritual darkness enshrouds the mind and heart. When repentance and conversion is ignored, it is just a matter of time when the world will face the consequences of the sins of humanity. These consequences can be manifested in devastating and unimaginable ways. Presently, in the Middle East and other parts of the world, we are witnessing this tragedy.

As the nations of the world struggle to solve these global concerns of the Middle East, let us do our part to combat the evil that threatens Christianity and our world. Let us utilize the spiritual weapons of prayer and penance and turn to the Sacred Heart of Jesus for his "grace and mercy."

Throughout this month of June, all our parish communities within our Diocese, are invited, especially on June 12, the Feast of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, to offer special prayers for the suffering Church in the Middle East and for peace. With the prayers of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, may the Love and Mercy of the Sacred Heart of her Son, assist us in healing a world which has turned away from God and has turned toward itself.

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us and on the whole world.