

My name is Marcus, I am 11 years old and I am a student at St. Michael's Choir School.

I would love if every Catholic school in the TCDSB would have a deep love for the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and display this image of the Sacred Heart of Jesus around the schools especially during the month of June which is dedicated to the Sacred Heart. The Sacred Heart is one of the most beautiful images. It is Jesus' heart crowned with thorns, a symbol of the love that Christ has for us.

I recently listened to my mother read the letter by Cardinal Collins to the faithful talking about the Sacred Heart of Jesus and how valuable that image is to us.

As Cardinal Collins stated in his pastoral letter: The image of the Sacred Heart is a visual sign that helps us to experience the meaning of the love of Jesus. Even in our secular society, the heart is the common sign for love, as we see every Valentine's day. But for a Christian the love signified by the Sacred Heart is Heart Speaks to Heart, not a passing emotion, but the steady, reliable, faithful, life-giving love which we experience in Jesus as we encounter him in the Gospels, in the Sacraments, and in our life of faith. We are called to imitate that faithful love.

The Sacred Heart image shows the heart as wounded, and this reminds us of the scriptural foundation of this devotion, the reference in John 19:34 to the lance piercing the side of Christ on the cross.

The Sacred Heart was painted with a crown of thorns. As with the wound in the heart, the crown of thorns reminds us that real love, faithful love, totally committed love for others, can lead to rejection and suffering.

It also reminds us that whenever people are bullied or rejected in any way, the disciple of Jesus must be with them to care for them with the compassion of Christ. Christians in fact have been doing that for two thousand years, and do so to this day, around the world and, unrecognized, in our own community.

The Sacred Heart is surmounted by a cross, the primary symbol of Christian faith: it draws us to contemplate the sacrificial love of Jesus, as he lays down his life for us on the cross.

Jesus calls on his disciples to show that same generous and sacrificial love, as we take up our cross and follow him each day.

The Sacred Heart is surrounded by flames. These are flames of glory, for the intensity of love represented by the love of Jesus is truly glorious. They are flames that provide light in a world darkened by sin. They are flames of zeal, a sign of the fire that came down upon the disciples at Pentecost, as they were sent out to set the world on fire for Christ, as are we all.

In light of Cardinal Collins letter, I am passionate about promoting devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus in all schools in the TCDSB. I would like to promote the celebration of this feast and keep the Sacred Heart at the core of the month of June.