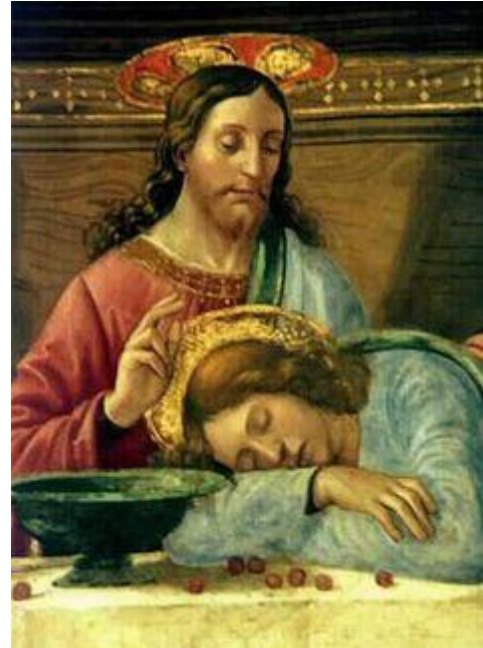


## *Leaning on the Truest Heart*



Whose heart do you lean on most? To whose heart would you entrust your very life? Whose heart will never break yours? As we approach Holy Week we are invited to draw closer.....to become more intimate with Jesus, to lean on His breast and listen to the comforting beat of His Sacred Heart....to allow our own hearts to come into rhythm with His. The fact that we are forced by social circumstances to slow down at this time we're passing through....has advantages for your spiritual life. You can afford to stop, be still and sense your heart, like the beloved disciple at the Last Supper being drawn to where he sensed the deepest peace was on offer.....reclining on the heart of his true friend, Jesus of Nazareth. Son of God. It is a peace that Jesus makes available even as he tells the assembled disciples of the darkness about to descend....a peace that the worried world cannot offer.

You who read this are a "beloved disciple" yourself, though perhaps you don't always feel worthy of that title. You've been wrapped in that abiding love ever since your pristine baptismal shawl enfolded you in your eternal belonging to God. Maybe you don't feel that way today. Perhaps you feel more at home with the image of the prodigal son who has been somewhat lost in a land far away and arrives full circle, bedraggled and worn out, exhausted by his own futile attempts to find happiness solo. His self image can't get any lower. He is starving, penniless, repentant, needy, tired of himself, with nowhere to run and uncertain of the reception he will get back home. But arrive he does, and Rembrandt takes us so skillfully into the place of lovers' silence....the unity of hearts that belong together regardless of past one-sided infidelities. His shaven head, like that of a convict, represents his loss of all status.....yet kneeling before his father, his worn out heart finds complete

redemption.....forgiveness, acceptance, love without strings, and the home that was never going to be taken away from him. That home is on the breast of his father (whose “gentle and humble” heart is a perfect image of that of the only begotten Son). That same home is calling you.

The week that awaits us is a perfect time to gather the family together to make an act of consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus (if you are on your own, you can do it “in secret” *“and your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you”* [Mt 6.18] ). Simply behold an image of the Sacred Heart..... or Jesus crucified...and entrust everything in your lives, past, present and future....to He whose heart was pierced on Calvary to become your fountain of life. Pray thus....

*Lord Jesus, on the cross your merciful Heart was trespassed  
to pour out the love of the Father on a darkened world,  
trapped in the many faces of sin.*

*We, your beloved brothers and sisters, wish to recline our heads on your Heart  
as the safest of refuges and the place of divine peace.*

*Give us the gift of a deeper intimacy with you like that of the Beloved Disciple.*

*May we have a heart always ready to forgive  
and look kindly on each other's shortcomings.*

*Save us from strife and all bitterness.*

*We enthrone your Sacred Heart in our home, your domestic church.*

*May you reign as Lord and King here  
and watch over all those who live within its walls.*

*Make our hearts tender and ever more sensitive to your presence.*

*May our home become fragrant with the love, peace and joy that You alone can offer.*

*Lord Jesus, may this be a house of prayer  
and may your Holy Name be glorified here today and always. Amen.*

*Mary, Mother of Jesus, be the mother of this family.*

*St. Joseph, watch over us.*