

**A Jubilee for the 350th anniversary
of the Apparitions of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in Paray-le-Monial
« To return love for love »**

To commemorate the 350th anniversary of the Apparitions of the Sacred Heart of Jesus to St Margaret Mary in Paray-le-Monial, a Jubilee lasting a year and a half will take place from December 27th 2023, the anniversary of the first main apparition, to June 27th 2025, the date of the Solemnity of the feast of the Sacred Heart. « To return love for love », such is the theme of this great moment of pilgrimage, liturgies, meetings.

A preparatory year

The preparatory year for this Jubilee begins on December 27th 2022. Invitations will be sent to all the dioceses of France, to the bishops' conferences of the whole world, as well as to the communities living this spirituality of the Sacred Heart. Parishes, churches, chapels or educational institutions working under the patronage of the Sacred Heart will also be invited to come on a pilgrimage. A theological symposium will take place in 2024 on the theme of the Jubilee and a competition for artists will be launched. The definitive programme will be presented in a few months time.

Everyone then will be invited to come to Paray-le-Monial or organise local events. Journeys of discovery of the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and its current relevance will be especially created for this Jubilee. The basis of this endeavour is to make this call to *Return love for love* radiate in this world, which for many reasons, has such a great need.

A bit of history

In the 17th Century, Christ revealed his Heart to sister Margaret Mary, a nun of the Visitation order in Paray-le-Monial in Burgundy, today the departement of Saône et Loire, in the diocese of Autun. The 3 main apparitions took place on December 27th 1673, the first Friday of a month in 1674 and in June 1675.

Why *Return love for love* ?

The saint received her mission in three stages. First of all, Jesus declares his love : *my Heart is so passionate in its love for all men and for you in particular*. Then he complains that his love is not returned and from most he receives only « *ingratitude and indifference* ». He is especially sensitive to the lack of love in the sacrament of the Eucharist, and in particular from those men and women who are consecrated to him. Finally, Jesus asks as a reparation a feastday to honour his divine Heart.

So that each one can welcome this abundant yet also wounded love, and that all can respond to his call, this Jubilee is organised in order to return to Christ « love for love ». Thus it is this demand, which constitutes the theme of this Jubilee of the 350 years since the Apparitions.

By living this devotion, let us embark on a path of justice and mercy : Jesus repairs wounded humanity and awaits our collaboration. In Paray, we keep watch, we pray night and day. Adoring God is also welcoming our neighbour and repairing any injustice.

A mobilisation of all the local strengths for this Jubilee

The operation of the sanctuary of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, a diocesan sanctuary, is entrusted to the Emmanuel Community. In Paray, pilgrims experience a true journey of a revitalisation of the faith in the various places : the Apparition Chapel, where St Margaret Mary rests, the La Colombière Chapel where St Claude rests, and the 11th Century romanesque cluniac basilica.

Each christian community works in its own way to bring to life this site, which is unique in the world. The parish of the Sacred Heart in Val-d'Or, the Emmanuel Community, the religious communities : the Jesuits Fathers, the monasteries of the Visitation sisters, the Dominican sisters, the Poor Clares, the auxiliary Sisters of the Priesthood, the Little Sisters of the Heart of Jesus, the Sisters of the Sacred Heart, the House of St François de Sales for the propedeutes, the Cor Jesu Academy, the Guard of Honour Association : they are many in number together with all the catholic faithful to passionately carry out this mission !

The young people from the diocese of Autun, who will take part in the next WYD in Lisbon in summer 2023, will take with them the relics of St Margaret Mary, which they will offer for veneration by the young people of the whole world. In fact Jesus had said to the humble nun of Paray : « I want you to be an instrument to attract hearts to my love ». A unique chance to become « apostles of the Sacred Heart of Jesus » alongside the whole catholic community of the diocese and to reveal to them the grace of Paray.

To contact the sanctuary to organise a pilgrimage or a visit
03 58 42 20 42 sanctuaire@parayparay.org

