

Brothers and Sisters, perhaps you have some real life experiences that cause you to identify with me on this statement... There comes a time in life when the situation demands more than what you have. Satan is trying to draw you in, goofy people are trying to sway your heart, finances are less than the bills on the overdue list and some of your very important relationships are broken, busted and disgusted. Do not fear, do not loose heart...My spirit abides among you; do not fear (Haggai 2:5). For if you follow Jesus through the situation, then God will come and bring you through straight to His heart. JESUS, consecrate our hearts and our families to your most Sacred Heart.

There are times in our lives, when we find ourselves knee deep in slippery situations that try to pull us down. The reality is that this drama is a large segment of the rhythm of life, the very stuff of human existence. Do not fear. God's shoes are big and God is always stepping over and crushing like a stale cookie those things that separate us from his love, mercy and grace. When are we going to learn that God's Holiness and love is greater than our mess? The arms of God are not too short to rescue us nor is the ear of our God too deaf to hear our every call. So, if you follow Christ through the situation, victory will be yours in the name of Jesus. God will come through because God holds us in His heart. JESUS, consecrate our hearts and our families to your most Sacred Heart.

Sunshine and rain, sickness and pain, joy and sorrow, we all have had our share. Surely so many families are strong and have stood the test and for this we thank God. However, if the struggle is before you, know this one thing for sure... Without giving your whole heart to Jesus, your blessings will be blocked like a wounded artery, requiring by-pass surgery. It's amazing what Jesus can do with your heart if you turn it over to Him. It's amazing what Jesus can do if there is a mess in the aorta of your life. It's amazing what Jesus can do if you make Jesus your Cardio-vascular Doctor. Jesus does the best by-pass surgery possible... if you just turn those heart-aches and those clogged arteries of family drama over to Him. JESUS, consecrate our hearts and our families to your most Sacred Heart.

Jesus can be the best Cardio-vascular Doctor we know, because Jesus knows how we are built. Jesus is not worried about the by-pass surgery because He knows that we are wired for His touch. Let's respond to His touch and by-pass doubt, by-pass fear, by-pass the devil and go straight to Jesus' hands. Lay your burdens down there, give your worries to Jesus, turn your heart and your families over to Jesus. Jesus has a Sacred Heart for the surgery that's required. This is why the "Word became flesh and dwelt among us." Jesus came to take you into His heart to transform and strengthen you, your family and your world. With Jesus you can overcome and lift up the many gifts of our families with celebration. JESUS, consecrate our hearts and our families to your most Sacred Heart.

Use this national day of prayer for African and African American families to show your love of Christ and love for your families by gathering together and worshiping together as FAMILY. It is never too late to touch the heart of another nor is it ever in vain. (Pope Benedict XVI Spe Salvi)