

JUNE 5

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*Immaculate Heart*

In two places in his Gospel, Luke talks about Mary keeping certain events and memories “in her heart.” It’s from these two references that devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary has arisen.

Devotion to the Immaculate Heart arose during the Middle Ages, when religious symbolism and spiritual fervor were at their peak. St. Bernardino of Siena, sometimes called the Doctor of the Heart of Mary, reflected that in Mary’s heart we can see seven burning furnaces with seven flames representing the seven acts of love that are shown in the seven “words” of Mary in the Gospels. That devotion continued to gain followers over the centuries, until finally, in 1944, the Feast of the Immaculate Heart was made part of the universal calendar of the Catholic Church.

While many who love Mary find particular joy and inspiration in the devotion to the Immaculate Heart, it’s not everyone’s favorite way of viewing her. Non-Catholics, in particular, often find it baffling or off-putting (or both!).

However, devotion to the Immaculate Heart is one of the great treasures of Mary, because it shows us that Mary presents herself in ways that appeal to all types of personalities and people. Like the mother she is, Mary makes her love and her message accessible to us in whatever way we can best accept—be it as a humble maid in Nazareth or in the lofty theological tones of the Immaculate Heart.

*Do I tend to view life in one way only? Am I stuck in a rut  
in my thinking about how Mary should be  
presented in the world?*

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I CELEBRATE THE FACT THAT NOT EVERYONE THINKS  
THE SAME WAY I DO.

365 MARY  
A DAILY GUIDE TO  
MARY’S WISDOM & COMFORT  
WOODEENE KOENIG – BRICKER