



*The Heart of Christ
will grant us the
grace of Kateri's
prompt beatification !*

THE BICENTENNIAL OF THE INSTITUTION OF THE FEAST OF THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS

Apostolic Letter "*Investigabiles divitias Christi*"

TO THE PATRIARCHS, PRIMATES, ARCHBISHOPS,
BISHOPS OF THE CATHOLIC WORLD

PAUL PP. VI

VENERABLE BROTHERS,
GREETINGS AND APOSTOLIC BLESSING.

"The unsearchable riches of Christ," which sprang from the open side of the Divine Redeemer at the moment of His death on the Cross when He reconciled to His Father the human race, have been so well brought to our attention during recent times by the worship given to the Sacred Heart of Christ that the richest fruits have ripened for the good of the Church.

In fact, the Savior, in His great mercy, after having offered Himself — as it is reported from the vision of the chosen religious, Margaret Mary Alacoque, in the city of Paray-le-Monial — asked with great urgency that all men, emulating one another in prayer, should honor His Heart, wounded out of love for us, and that they should make reparation of all kinds for the injuries which He has received. The cult of this Heart — already established in various places by the work and

inspiration of St. John Eudes — went through a period of great flowering among the clergy and the Christian people, and spread throughout the entire world. And the Holy See crowned this public devotion when Our Predecessor, Clement XIII of venerable memory, welcomed the pleas of the Bishops of Poland and of the Roman Archconfraternity of the Heart of Jesus by instituting on the 6th of February 1765 the liturgical feast, with Office and Mass, in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, complying thereby with the desires of the valiant Polish nation and with those of the Holy Congregation mentioned above. He confirmed by this action the decree which the Sacred Congregation of Rites had issued on the 26th of January that same year. (cf. *Encycl. of Pius XII Haurietis aqua*, A. A. S. 48, p. 341; A. Gardinellini *Decreta authentica* S. R. C. T. II, 1856, n. 4324; T. III, n. 4579, 3.)