

SHRINE OF THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS - PARAY LE MONIAL

Mass on 27 December 2023

On the occasion of the opening of the Jubilee of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the 350th anniversary of the apparitions of the Sacred Heart of Jesus to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, the Shrine of Paray-le-Monial has joined the Pope's World Prayer Network.

These are the words of Fr. Frédéric Fornos, S.J., the International Director, welcoming the Shrine's request for membership.

I am delighted to be here at the opening of the Jubilee of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and, as International Director, to welcome the application of the Shrine of the Sacred Heart to join the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network, a Vatican Foundation. I spoke with Pope Francis about this last week and he supports this initiative and this Jubilee. I will be giving you a rosary blessed by him.

This ecclesial service of the Holy See plays a coordinating and animating role at the global level, where dioceses embrace prayer as a form of apostolate and welcome the monthly prayer intentions proposed by the Holy Father, thus collaborating with the Church's mission to serve the challenges of humanity.

The Worldwide Prayer Network includes various forms of participation: the Eucharistic Youth Movement (EYM), well known in France, parish groups of the Apostleship of Prayer, as well as various communities and shrines throughout the world.

Faced with the challenges of today's world,
in the face of so much suffering,
what can we do?

Pray. True prayer brings us closer to the Heart of Christ.

Prayer is a way out of indifference.

Praying with so many other brothers and sisters around the world is already a way to take action.

Prayer opens our hearts to others and to the world.

We are present in 89 countries to pray together for the challenges of humanity and the mission of the Church. We thank the Shrine of Paray-le-Monial for joining this Worldwide Prayer Network.

This has been made possible in part thanks to our French-speaking team (in France, Belgium and Luxembourg), which in recent years has favored greater proximity with the Shrine. I would also like to thank our Jesuit companions who live here in Paray-le-Monial and whose presence and action have favored this new collaboration. Several of them have also had responsibilities in the Pope's Prayer Network.

As Fr. Etienne Kern has well said, the spiritual foundation of the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network is the Heart of Jesus. Our way of proposing this devotion is called The Way of the Heart. It invites us to place ourselves at the disposal of Christ's mission, a mission of compassion for the world.

I am grateful for the commitment of the Shrine of Paray-le-Monial to pray for the Pope's prayer intentions, and to offer The Way of the Heart to help people commit themselves to pray and live the challenges of humanity and the mission of the Church expressed in his intentions.

» I give you, dear Father Etienne Kern, the official letter of welcome to the Shrine's request for membership and the rosary blessed by the Holy Father.