



The Serra Club of Arlington
Minutes for Tuesday 07 June, 2022 | Luncheon Meeting
The Portofino Restaurant | Arlington, Virginia



GUEST SPEAKER – VERY REVEREND FATHER ROBERT RIPPY, JV (CHANCELLOR OF THE DIOCESE OF ARLINGTON)

Meredith Hinkle introduced Father Rippy, not with a short bio, but with a “Father Rippy-to-the-Rescue” since the scheduled guest speaker, Father Philip Dabney – a former vicar of the Basilica of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in Boston and a lifetime of spiritual and missionary outreach to the sick and the poor -- could not come at the last minute due to COVID.

Father Rippy presented the history of the devotion and feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The devotion to the Sacred Heart began in the 1670s when Jesus appeared multiple times to Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque, a Visitation nun in France. He told her how He wished to be honored with the symbol of His heart, asking for the faithful to make amends for any wrongdoing, frequently take communion, and observe the Holy Hour. In 1856 Pope Pius IX added the devotion to the Church calendar but it was Pope Leo XIII who consecrated all mankind to the Sacred Heart.

Father Rippy then reviewed the *Twelve Promises of devotion to the Sacred Heart*:

1. I will give them all the graces necessary in their state of life.
2. I will establish peace in their homes.
3. I will comfort them in all their afflictions.
4. I will be their secure refuge during life, and above all, in death.
5. I will bestow abundant blessings upon all their undertakings.
6. Sinners will find in my Heart the source and infinite ocean of mercy.
7. Lukewarm souls shall become fervent.
8. Fervent souls shall quickly mount to high perfection.
9. I will bless every place in which an image of my Heart is exposed and honored.
10. I will give to priests the gift of touching the most hardened hearts.
11. Those who shall promote this devotion shall have their names written in my Heart.
12. I promise you in the excessive mercy of my Heart that my all-powerful love will grant to all those who receive Holy Communion on the First Fridays in nine consecutive months the grace of final perseverance; they shall not die in my disgrace, nor without receiving their sacraments. My divine Heart shall be their safe refuge in this last moment.

Fr. Rippy asked us all to focus on this devotion. So much of our nation and world are godless. We see the terrible acts of violence with our neglect of the sanctity of life. We need this devotion to the Sacred Heart even more now in our daily lives. The Feast of the Sacred Heart is celebrated the third Friday after Pentecost, so it falls on June 24 this year.