



The Source of Our Joy

Thoughts of Servant of God Sister Ida



With joyful and grateful hearts
we share with you the spiritual legacy of
our beloved foundress,
Servant of God Sister Ida Peterfy.

Meeting Sister Ida and hearing her speak
about the Joy of knowing God
inspired countless people to enter into
a deeper relationship with Him.
May you, too, know the Joy of God's love
through this small collection of Sister Ida's
written and spoken words
to our Sisters, friends and families.

Sisters of the
Society Devoted to the Sacred Heart

In presenting this booklet, we declare our sincere submission to the teachings of the Catholic Church.

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The Love of God

God is so available to us with His love, His friendship, His companionship! He is in the very center of ourselves. This leads to great strength and comfort. His presence is the most important reality of our life. This leads to union with God, a union to which we can always return.



*You are free to enjoy God's
presence,
His help, His gifts – if you wish.
Why would He be such a friend?
God loves us!
In His infinite love,
God wants to be an insider.
He wants to share His life with us.*

God did not create us because He is lonely. He created us out of love. Love wants to share and give.



*God is the One who seeks
us out first.
What is my response to Him?*



Love gives. He is the Source of life and goodness. Whatever I have: my self, talents, health, my ability to think, to walk, to love – it is all from him.



The Father sent the Son that we would know how good, how lovable God is, how much He desires that we, His children, would be friends with Him.

*When God showers His gifts on
you, don't be surprised.*



God keeps on giving to us, and we keep receiving from Him our peace, our faith, our hope, our love. He doesn't just give, He comes with his gift!



*A gift can be called a present.
In a gift, the Giver is always
present.*



The spousal love of God is hard to describe. Jesus had to use terms that we could understand. Jesus' love for us is as real as the love of a bride and bridegroom. It is forever. It unites.

May you never forget God's words
to you:

"You are precious in my eyes,
I honor you and I love you."



*The Father looks at you with great
delight and says,
"So much like My Son!"*



The Father does not love you because of
what you do, or because of what people say
about you, or because of what you have.
None of these make you who you are:

God calls you His Beloved
because that is who you are!

You have God as your protector and guide.
He promised you: "I am with you always,
until the end of the world."



*God is very personal
and very close.
His love for you is more real
than the love of a best friend.
God has a Heart for you.*

Jesus Shows You His Heart

Jesus shows you His Heart, because He wants to let you step beyond time and space in His love.



United to Jesus, you can love God with the best possible love because you love through the Heart of Jesus.



*A wonderful exchange of hearts
with our Lord
can happen in an instant.*



Why did Jesus show His Heart to the world? To present it clearly to our minds that His thorns, His wounds and His cross are all in the present.

Being united to Jesus, you cannot separate yourself from Jesus by saying, “Jesus, you love the way you wish to love, and I will love the way I want to love.” No! Knowledge and faith have to join to be able to love with the best possible love, the love of Jesus.



The flame on His Heart is to show you that His love is active, to inspire you to love as He loves.



We must know the Person of Christ if we want to be true Christians. The more we know about Him, the more we love Him because He is so lovable!



*Keep walking
in the Lord's presence.
He enjoys your company.*

The Holy Spirit Moves Us

*Spirit of God, come, accept, fill,
shape and guide my intellect; let it
always be master over my senses.*



With the help of the Holy Spirit, we can give hope to people. We lead a life which is most definitely an anticipation of eternal life, and it is very unique because of its exclusive relationship with God.



In prayer, joy and happiness are the gifts of the Holy Spirit of God, and they are not our doing. He is the Source of our joy. How true and wonderful it is that He, the Source of our joy, is very present and carries us through the whole day, not only in times of formal prayer.

There is truthfulness in asking the Spirit of God to “come and renew the face of the earth.” He can reshape the immense seashore. He can move us to unknown newness and beauty, if we are “there” like sand, in our littleness, waiting for His coming, allowing ourselves to be touched, moved and renewed. Pray for the miracle to be renewed, with a deep understanding that it is His work and ours.



The Holy Spirit is in our hearts, and the Scriptures encourage us to stir up the Holy Spirit in us. We can compare this to a talent we have but may not use. The more we use our talents, the stronger and better they become. We can stir up the Holy Spirit in us, and His anointing will be activated in us.

*The Holy Spirit moves our hearts
to thirst for Him.*



The Holy Spirit leads us to service, He leads us to looking out for others. The Holy Spirit helps us to stand at the foot of the Cross with Mary. Breathe the Spirit of God Almighty.

Become Yourself

Who are we? Jesus says, “You are a gift of the Father to me.” If we are a gift of the Father to Jesus, this means that we are God’s masterpieces, His work of art, one of a kind, unique, original, precious, absolutely unsurpassable, unrepeatable, infinitely precious gifts of God.



Love is stronger than law.

There is no law that a mother should get up at night to tend her sick child; it is the “law” of love. When this is mutual, it is heaven.



What you are doing is not as important as why you are doing it and for whom. Don’t get lost in immediate goals.

Recall that part of your life which God recalls:
He remembers the cup of cold water that you
gave someone in His Name.



*The closer we come to God,
the more fully we become ourselves.*



You are not what the world tells you that you
are. You are created and recreated in that Love
which is beyond all expectations, the total
Love of God.



Nothing stops God from loving us. Don't
doubt His forgiveness and goodness. We are
most ourselves, most truly who we are, when
we look at ourselves in the sight of God.

Everything worthwhile demands sacrifice. This helps us to overcome our timidity and truly become what we are meant to be by being united to the Source of life, by being united to God. He wants us to be united to Him. He is glorified by our bearing much fruit.



Pray that you would be transformed not into something that you are not, but into what you really are.



Are you letting Him be your teacher? When are his classes given? How often? Find out and attend them!

Stand in the Light of the Resurrection

*Gradually, we stand in the light of
the resurrection;
the whole of it takes a lifetime.*



In the light of the resurrection our vision becomes clearer, we have greater intimacy with Jesus and, therefore, our prayer becomes more simple.



The risen Christ is so near, with his suffering more than we can ever suffer, wounded more than we can ever be wounded, and more joyful than we can ever be!

For the risen Jesus to be alive means to be very concerned to know that Peter loves Him, to be sure that he does, and to hear it with his own words.



We cannot take it for granted that Jesus came back among us on Sunday after He was rejected by mankind on Friday. A shocking event – and He came back with delight!



Be with Jesus. You can only see Him with the five wounds, but don't let it surprise you. It is His life now. The risen Jesus has a sense of humor, He is playful and lighthearted with His friends. So "unworthy" of God! Ask Him: are You really the image of the Father?

*Jesus can only come back to those
who seek Him. He gives proof that
He is alive.*



The risen Christ is coming to win back the Bride. Is it too much? Sometimes we can be afraid of being scorched by the flames of His love. If we get too close to Him, we might lose our life. He tells us to lose our life so we can find it!

Adore the Holy Trinity

Love Jesus. Love the Father as Jesus did. This is devotion to the Sacred Heart - have His Spirit. Let your goal be to become as loving as He is. It is forever. It unites.



*Through the grace of Jesus
and the guidance of the Holy
Spirit,
may you become a gift to the
Father.*



Adore the Holy Trinity and come into the presence of the Holy Spirit, Father and Son. If we do not use this gift of prayer and call on the Most Holy Trinity, we are missing such a great opportunity!

The resurrection of Jesus is hardly noticed, like his nativity. It is intimate - only the Holy Trinity is present.



What would the Father give us if we asked Him? Let us ask according to what the Holy Spirit tells us. Ask for all you need to be His beloved and chosen friend whom He called to serve Him and to continue His work.



Do not miss the opportunity and the privilege of being with God the Father, and with our Lord who is dead and alive because He has the Spirit of Love for us.



In whatever good I do during the day, I am absolutely praising God and loving Him through Jesus and the Holy Spirit. It is not a matter of feeling but a matter of reality.

God has a Plan for You

Make sure you place everything on the “heavenly plan,” that is, doing everything for God and for everlasting life. Even breathing!



Pray in thanksgiving for today and for the future, for whatever God’s plan is, it is perfect and good for you and for all of us.



*The Lord is very present to you
and He has good plans for you.*



If your plan is His plan, then nothing can ruin it. God can bring good out from everything.

*Love the Lord
and want His will.*



You cannot depend on what you have to do, or on what people say or think about you, but you can depend on the loving will of God for you.



Life in Nazareth meant daily submission to the will of God. Was Nazareth a waste of time? One occupation is never a waste of time: submitting more and more to the will of God.



See the depth - beyond the wounds and the chalice is resurrection and peace.

Love is not looking for “self-fulfillment.”
Love is giving self! Love is living, working,
suffering for others. In love we say, “As long
as they are happy, I am happy.”



As long as you live, as long as there are
sinners in this world, there is suffering.



*After the resurrection,
Calvary and everything else that
happened to Jesus makes sense,
so much so that sometimes
we would like to forget the Cross.*



If you follow Him, you will not close the
gates of suffering with a sigh of relief.

Jesus called his apostles so fast, without explaining any details of His plan for them. At the Last Supper He gave all the details: with tenderness, goodness, simplicity and without airs.



God is good. I believe that He hears our prayers. Our Lord is not an “outsider,” but He is very interested and involved in every detail of our lives.



The risen Jesus restores faith but He does not take away sorrow. When sorrow and suffering strike, it is sometimes easier to pray. Only He can give me faith to see it through.

The same Jesus who was able to answer all the questions of old and wise Rabbis will be able to calm you, strengthen you and lift you up.



*Look at the generous love of
Christ,
never counting the cost.
He died so I can live.*

God is Always Coming

May this day bring you the Presence of the One who is coming, the humble Lord who is standing at the door knocking to be let in. May He find a warm home in your heart.



*In His loving kindness
God reveals Himself to us
in many ways.*

*All He asks of us is
to pay attention to Him,
to wait, listen and see His coming
through the most ordinary events
of our lives.*



Sunday always means the coming of the Lord.

You Belong to God, He takes Delight in You

In Baptism, God places His hand upon us and says, "You are my child; son with my Son." The Son feeds us, unites us with His Body. The Holy Spirit is given to us. This is all notional, unless we keep going back to this realization and making it our very own. This is our call, to make this reality our very own.



Jesus is your Lord and you belong to Him.



How could we share with God more deeply than by being adopted into His Family? When we adopt a child, he becomes a son with the other sons. This is what happens to us in God's Family: we become sons with the Son, and we are sharing His life!

Grace is knowing that we belong to God, that He is the Father. We are His very own and He has a Heart for us.



In Baptism we die with Christ. We do not lose our identity but we receive a new dignity and the love of the Father which is forever. This is the number one reason why we truly are “the Beloved.”



*God is in complete charge.
He called you,
He was with you all these years.
He will be with you tomorrow
and until the very last day
of your life.*

You are a jewel of great price. Our Lord Himself formed you to be tough as a diamond and delicate as the rays of light sparkling from it in most delightful colors.



It is a grace to recognize and to respond to God's unfathomable love and to live knowing that He takes delight in you!



How deeply Jesus loves you, and how delighted He is in all you do in your love for His children and for His people!



In truth and humility allow God to be God. Allow Him to call you "Beloved."

You are the work of His hand. He always works on you, He calls you friend, He calls you His beloved. He loves you with an everlasting love!



*God is delighted
when He finds you
faithful, trustworthy
and standing in the light.*

Happiness and Gratitude

We are all made to have and possess not only some happiness but ALL. And who has all happiness? God! To “have God,” to “possess” God is what we are craving for knowingly or unknowingly. Perfect happiness is what we are working for all our lives!



Gratefulness is not just a word but an inner attitude. If I have good self-esteem, I will be able to see how others help me. Selflessness can see the gifts received.



Gratitude is a shortcut to holiness.

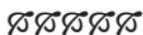


Grateful people are pleasant people and happy people.

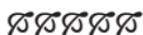
It belongs to God to give consolation, popping up in my life without any preceding cause. If we give Him the chance, and don't let go of His hand, He will come!



Keep walking in the Lord's presence. He does enjoy your company! His Heart delights in the friendship you can offer in response to His call that He personally addresses to you.



Ask for the interior knowledge of every single gift that you have received from God so that you can recognize Him through everything, serve Him and love Him freely.



Thank God for something that you seldom thank Him for: "I can breathe." "My heart is beating." Then rejoice in Him.

The Source of Our Joy

*Joy deepens if I know who God is,
what He has done for me, and what
He has planned for me.*



Open your eyes to God and you will thoroughly enjoy everything. You will be delighted to “seek His Face” in everything.



If you have the Spirit of Jesus, then you have joy, even in the midst of difficulties. Joy is the gift of the Holy Spirit.



Listen to the Maker, the Creator. He loves you! He knows what brings you happiness.

Listen to your heart because He lives there.



For Jesus to be alive is to cook breakfast for his friends on the shore because He knows that they must be tired and hungry after a long night's disappointments. He gives them tremendous joy! With His help, we, fishers of men, can do it!



*Don't forget the joy and
tremendous fulfillment of the risen
Jesus:
his joy of being alive!*



The embarrassing joy of the Father: His Son carried all the sins of the world.

If you have the gifts of the Holy Spirit and you activate them, then you will have love, peace, joy, the fruits of the Holy Spirit – even in the midst of difficulties.



In these difficult times, our union with our Lord is our joy. What a precious gift we have in our oneness with Jesus and with each other! Draw your strength from Him for yourself and for the benefit of others, for the strength of the Body of Christ, the Church.



*See God who rejoices
in intimacy with us.*



Blessed detachment, heavenly herald!
Home of real happiness! Pure intention!
Pure joy!

"Waste" Time with God in Prayer

Arrive in prayer to the point when you do not think "about Him" but you are with Him. Be with Him, rejoice, ponder, question, be with Him without words – be present!

* * *

*Desire prayer. Savor the reality.
"Waste" time with God in prayer.*

* * *

Often, we tie God's hands by not asking. If we do not turn to Him and give him "permission," He cannot help us because we will not accept His help.

* * *

The more you ask, the more will be revealed to you.

We need to “overhaul” our prayers. Cars need tuning. A day of recollection is a time of getting “in tune” with who we are, who we are to God and to each other. Each one is “Beloved.”



Let us listen to the Word and “take our home in Him.” (Ps.16) What is He saying to me? “Don’t worry, the Holy Spirit, the Helper whom the Father will send in my Name will teach you everything and make you remember all that I have told you.” (John 14:26)



*Prayer is more
than just raising your soul to the
Lord: it is an encounter
with the fullness of Persons,
Father, Son and Holy Spirit.*

Meeting the Word of God is the point of the Bible. Meeting the Word of Christ is our fulfillment.



Prayer is being with a Person who wants me as I am and takes me by the hand.



The Word of God is new and alive each time you read it. It is almost an insult to read the Bible just for content. Read it prayerfully in the presence of God. You cannot separate the Person from the words. When you read a letter from someone, you can almost see the person. Do not disassociate the words from the Person.



It is important for us to be cleansed – not only from sinfulness but also from distorted ways we think about God.

The Risen Lord Sends Us

The risen Lord sends us, as the Father sent Him: in his life style and for the same purpose.

We are God's co-workers. We work hard with God – and then what we could not possibly do by ourselves is achieved!

*You cannot resemble Jesus
outwardly, but in whatever you
do, do it with love,
and then you are like Jesus.*

The one who deeply senses the warmth of God's love will not rest until others sense it, too. This is untiring zeal!

Many people try to find fulfillment in work. I find my fulfillment in the mission for which I work: my fulfillment comes from being sent and having union with the One who sends.

We cannot accept the mission once and for all; it comes each day.

*The heart of mission is
the indwelling union
of one who is sent
and the Sender.*

If we rely on our own power, we will be weak. Christ tells us that in our weakness His power reaches perfection.

Pray and keep up your spirit of mission, so that you would be “sendable” by God.

*God chose us to show
the Love of God and His Face
to each other and to the world.
His Face is kindness
and tenderness.*

Jesus wants us to allow Him to take us by the hand. It is not “I want” and “I am called” but it is God calling and God working in me. Jesus stands at the door, He knocks and waits.

Fruitfulness

Fruitfulness presupposes personal contact and relationship. Be in touch. You must keep in touch with Jesus to be fruitful.



Fruitfulness comes from the gift of self. A grain of wheat must give of itself a hundredfold.



Both fruitfulness and achievement require much work, care, patience and endurance. One difference is that in achievement everything seems to be under my control, but fruitfulness is a mystery that happens in hiddenness and you must trust.

*You are like the blossom of a tree -
you show forth the beauty of
God's grace.*



We are fruitful when we give freely and without counting the cost. What we have received is a gift from God, and we offer it freely.



*Intimate union with God
and fruitfulness are connected.
If the union is vital,
fruitfulness will grow.*



God enters into our life continuously and He gradually reveals Himself to us.

The one who sees the reality of being a temple of God will never be self-assured but rather God-assured, never self-asserting but rather God-asserting.



True humility is the state of a soul filled with grace, a genuine God-consciousness, a truthful vision of God. When you have that, you cannot shrink yourself to a size that is small enough. This is not hypocrisy! This is wisdom.



I prefer to call humility “God-consciousness.” See what you can do for souls at the inspiration of the Holy Spirit!

Mary, Prototype of the Bride

What did Mary do while she was carrying Jesus? She went into the world, continued her activities in the midst of a noisy clan. She said her Magnificat, her prayer. In the meantime, she missed nothing of ordinary life.

*Jesus chose Mary
to be the prototype of the Bride
who loves Him
with an undivided heart.*

See the relationship between Jesus and Mary, painful at times, but intimate and wonderful, as the relationship between Jesus and the Church, between Jesus and me.

*The Heart of Mary is the proof
that your heart can
be like the Heart of Christ.*

* * * * *

Jesus, who teaches the teachers and professors, is obedient to Joseph, the carpenter, and to Mary, the teenager.

* * * * *

Our Lady did not do anything unusual when she was a young girl in Nazareth, but she was unique because of her unique good will and good attitude.

* * * * *

*God did not impose His will
on our Blessed Mother.
He invited her to accept
the mystery of God's love.*

How actively Mary participated in the life of Christ, in His sufferings! We don't know what shape of a cross the Lord will give you, when and in what way; but we know that you will have to embrace it as the Blessed Mother did.

* * * * *

You might say that "it was easy for Mary to love Jesus; she could hold Him in her arms." But it is much easier for you, because you can carry Him in your heart all day long.

Yes, You are Called to be Holy

*How do we become holy?
By simple acts done for the right
reason: to be in union with God,
and for the love of the Lord.*



Jesus is so concerned for each of us that He would not adapt to our way of thinking, so that we can adapt to His way of thinking.



*Do something kind for no other
reason than the love of God.
This is true kindness.*

*Everything good
that is in us
comes from God.*



Do you seek the state of perfection?
You are united to Jesus - go to him! The
smallest acts we do are infinitely precious
if we do them in union with our Lord and
with the final goal of Love and total union
with the Lord.



*“Perfection” is not to “act
perfectly” but to be a blessing for
others. It is not a “work.”
Anybody can do your work, but
nobody can love with your heart.*

Adore Him.
Invite Him.
Ask for His gifts.
Blossom in Christ.
Mature for heaven.

Servant of God

Sister Ida Peterfy, SDSH

1922-2000

Foundress, Society Devoted to the Sacred Heart

Sister Ida was born on October 7, 1922, of a Hungarian Catholic family in Košice, Czechoslovakia (*formerly Kassa, Hungary*). From her early youth, God prepared her to be a leader, to work for others, and inspired her to establish a new religious community. On October 7, 1940, her eighteenth birthday, Sister Ida pronounced her perpetual vows in Kassa, Hungary (*now Košice, Slovakia*). This marks the beginning of the Society Devoted to the Sacred Heart.

God called Sister Ida to bring forth a new community in times when the universal Church was attacked in her Chief Pastor and in her religious children. As the future of formal religious education became

uncertain, the times called for religious who dedicated their lives to proclaim the Good News of Our Lord Jesus Christ in a new, appealing and personal way. Sister Ida, with her earliest companions lived the vows of chastity, poverty and obedience in community life, without wearing a traditional religious garb, in order to be more approachable to those who were alienated from the Church by Nazism and Communism.

With her ardent faith in God, in cooperation with the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, Sister Ida developed an innovative catechetical method which initiated the community's religious education charism: *The Five Step Illustrated Method*. The small community was instrumental in religious education of children and youth as well as formation of catechists and distribution of catechetical material throughout Hungary amidst the dangers of religious persecution. Following

the arrest of Cardinal Mindszenty, in 1949, Sister Ida and her companions were advised by Church leaders to leave the country, develop the community in the free world and some day return to Hungary.

A new beginning awaited Sister Ida and the Sisters when they arrived penniless in Toronto, Canada, in 1950. To obtain immigrant status, Sister Ida and her companions had to work as domestic servants for a year, earning room and board and \$40 a month. For two summers, working in tobacco harvests as unskilled laborers, they earned enough for a down-payment towards a small house and printing machines. Through their new St. Joseph's Press, they had a modest livelihood while they were learning English.

In 1956, James Francis Cardinal McIntyre personally welcomed the young community

to Los Angeles and warmly supported them in their life and apostolate. When Sister Ida asked him about possibly adopting a more traditional veil and habit, Cardinal McIntyre assured her: "Don't change. The Church will need you as you are."

The Cardinal's vision was proven correct during the following decades; the Society Devoted to the Sacred Heart has harmonized the best of religious life tradition with the renewal of Vatican II. In 1991, after a private Mass in his chapel during a private audience, Pope John Paul II, said to Sister Ida's community: "You are a blessing for the Pope. You are truly American and truly Catholic."

The religious education charism given by God to Sister Ida is treasured by her Sisters. The charism is well described in their newsletter, the "Joyful Apostolate" which

Sister Ida began in the early 1950's. She expanded the Community's catechetical work to include a variety of Religious Education ministries from teaching children, youth and adults to directing parish religious education programs, sacramental programs, RCIA, catechist formation, indeed anywhere the word and love of God need to be proclaimed.

The Society was formally erected as a Religious Institute of diocesan right in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles in 1985, on the feast of the birth of St. John the Baptist. Today, Sacred Heart Sisters, from a variety of international backgrounds, joyfully serve the universal Church through their community apostolate of evangelization and catechesis in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, in the Dioceses of Orange and San Bernardino, and in the Archdiocese of Taipei where the community's catechetical apostolate is complemented

with significant medical work. After the collapse of Communism, Sister Ida opened a mission in the Archdiocese of Budapest-Esztergom in Hungary where the Sisters conduct catechist formation and extend our catechetical works throughout Hungary and to neighboring countries.

With wisdom, foresight and trust in God,

Sister Ida opened the Heart of Jesus Retreat Center, in Santa Ana, and Sacred Heart Retreat Camp, in Big Bear Lake, California. Both of these centers established unique locations for the Sisters' continuing work and steadfast commitment to the spiritual enrichment of children, youth and adults, through Girls' Camps, Leadership Retreats for young adults, as well as sacramental retreats for children and teens. Children's Camps are also conducted by her Sisters in Taiwan and in Hungary. Seeing the spiritual quest of families, Sister Ida developed a unique Family Retreat Camp program

which is enjoyed annually by families in California and Hungary and periodically in other locations in the United States of America.

The production of “Sacred Heart Kids’ Club”

video program followed from the request of parents, priests and educators who saw how effective Sister Ida’s *Five Step Illustrated Method* was. With a team of her Sisters, Sister Ida produced 30 half-hour videos with teachers’ guides, providing a unique religious education program for children. The program spread to six continents in English, Spanish, Chinese, Korean and Hungarian. When the new “Catechism of the Catholic Church” was released in 1994, the “Sacred Heart Kids’ Club” was immediately recognized as a dynamic catechetical tool in complete harmony with the four pillars of the Catholic Church: Creed, Sacraments, Commandments and Prayer.

In response to the growing need for Catechist Formation, Sister Ida created the “Be a Dynamic and Effective Religion Teacher” video course to bring her unique catechetical method, *The Five Step Illustrated Method*, to catechists and educators everywhere.

With her undaunted receptivity to the Holy Spirit, Sister Ida compelled her community to “move on into the future,” as she said, with young leadership; and so in 1988, Sister Jane Stafford was elected as the first Superior General of American background. Sister Ida continued teaching the novices, giving spiritual retreats and monthly seminars to the Sisters, being actively involved in the community’s spiritual leadership and travelling as a religious education speaker nationally and internationally.

Sister Ida passed on to eternal life on February 8, 2000 in the Motherhouse of the Society Devoted to the Sacred Heart in Northridge, California, lovingly surrounded by her Sisters.

At the Mass of Resurrection, Cardinal Roger Mahony was the main celebrant; many bishops and priests concelebrated. The church was filled with many friends, permanent deacons, religious and families who had been personally touched by Sister Ida's love and inspired by her life of dedication to Jesus Christ and service to the Church. The Cardinal noted that it was "a very unique moment for the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, a very wonderful grace because it was the first time that we had a foundress of a Religious Community die in our midst."

"The Joyful Apostolate must go on," said then Archbishop Justin Rigali, in his homily at the funeral. "Sister Ida, in her

legacy of generous love still speaks to us.” This rite of Christian burial “...is a hymn of praise and thanksgiving for the love of God manifested in the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and reflected in the gentle life and zealous devotion of our Sister Ida.”

Paul VI Pontifical Catechetical Institute in St. Louis, Missouri, welcomed the Sisters in 2002 to teach *The Five Step illustrated Method* to seminarians, religious, and lay catechists and conduct the community’s unique sacramental retreats for children and youth throughout the Archdiocese of St. Louis.

The Pontifical appointment of one of the Sacred Heart Sisters to the 15-member International Council for Catechetics (from 2002-2008) was a singular privilege. It provided an opportunity to contribute Sister Ida's catechetical charism to religious

education in the universal Church in close collaboration with Vatican Congregations, in the heart of the Church.

With her God-given talents, Sister Ida's outstanding, global and lasting contributions in the field of religious education and in religious life are great treasures for generations to come. But what most touched those who spoke with her was the eloquent simplicity of her joyful spirituality that she often expressed in brief words:

“God has a Heart for you!”

Prayer to Obtain a Special Favor

adapted from Sister Ida's favorite "Panic Prayer"

I love you, Lord, I praise you.
Thank you, Lord, for all you have done for me.

Lord, I am totally helpless. Only you can help.
I ask you to grant ... (mention intention).
This is my burden. I give it to you.
I know that you love ... (mention name).
I know that you love me.

Please, come and enter this situation.
Please, help as only you can help.
I know that your Heart is moved by need.

Thank you, Lord.
I trust and accept your Divine Will.
I believe you have already given me
what I am asking. I place all my trust in you.

I ask you to grant my request
through the intercession of
Servant of God Sister Ida. Amen.

Please, send description of favors received
through the intercession of Servant of God Sister Ida to:
Sacred Heart Sisters, 10480 1/2 Winnetka Ave., Chatsworth, CA 91311
or sisterida@sacredheartsisters.com



Servant of God Sister Ida Peterfy, SDSH
1922-2000

The title “The Source of Our Joy” reflects Sister Ida’s joyful spirit in telling of the personal love of Father, Son and Holy Spirit for each of us. With her God-given talents she introduced Him, the Source of our Joy, to the Sisters of the community which she founded, to families and to children everywhere.

Sister Ida expressed the deepest truths of our faith in delightful words with profound simplicity. Her practical, down to earth insights have drawn people of all ages to the Heart of Christ. Her Joyful Apostolate continues to deepen the faith, strengthen the

hope and increase the love of people all over the world.

During her lifetime, Sister Ida generously prayed for all who turned to her. Surely she continues to pray for us now that she has entered eternal life! These are her words, take them very personally:

“I am praying for you, for your health and for your good.

*May the Lord extend His loving presence and
send His Holy Spirit to guide you.*

*I am praying for the many needs that you have,
especially to love with the love of Jesus and to live in faith.”*

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