

Strategic plan supplement - After Page 8



Parenting: learning from child's illness - Page 13



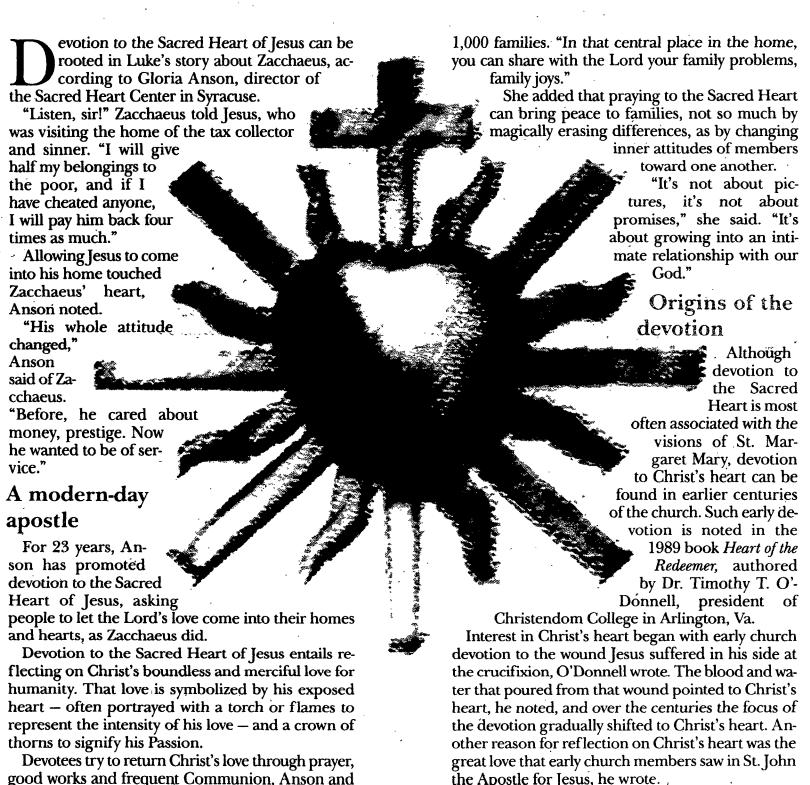


## atholic Courier

DIOCESE OF ROCHESTER, NEW YORK **W** VOL. 108 NO. 37

**THURSDAY, June 26, 1997** 

## Sacred Heart draws fervent devotees



good works and frequent Communion, Anson and other adherents said. They pointed to the promises Jesus reportedly made to devotees in a series of visions to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque (see accompanying article, Page 14). The 17th-century saint was a French nun whose visions of Jesus and his Sacred Heart became well-known throughout Europe after her death in 1690.

Anson has long encouraged families to "enthrone" a blessed image of the Sacred Heart, which means displaying a picture or statue of Jesus, with his heart exposed, in a prominent place in their homes.

"The gift of enthronement is an awareness of the presence of Jesus in the home," she said. "It's like making your home another tabernacle."

She urges families to gather in front of such domestic shrines for prayer as often as possible.

"I know that it's a survival kit for families today," she said of enthronement, which she has taught to the Apostle for Jesus, he wrote.

In the Middle Ages, such saints as Bernard of Clairvaux and Catherine of Siena wrote movingly of how the suffering of Christ's heart signified his love for humanity, O'Donnell noted. In particular, St. Bernard (1070-1153) spoke openly of Christ's heart in such writings as his "Sermon on the Canticle of Canticles":

"The secret of (Christ's) Heart is laid bare in the wounds of his body. One can easily read in them the mystery of God's infinite goodness and merciful tenderness which came down to us like a dawning on high."

O'Donnell's book emphasizes that devotion to the Sacred Heart was "a gradual, unconscious development" in the church. Such religious orders as the Dominicans, the Carthusians and the Jesuits played a role in spreading the devotion, he wrote.

Continued on page 14