

become the heart of God Himself in Jesus Christ. How pure and holy that sweet heart of Jesus was! formed out of the blood of Mary the Blessed Virgin — Mary, the Virgin of whom it was said, under the inspiration of the Holy Ghost, that it was one of the privileges of humanity to be able through all generations to call her blessed — Mary, the Virgin whose graces were so abundant and so excellent and so unique in themselves that the very archangel who came down from before the throne of God bowed down before her as one of an order of grace superior to his, and declared that she was « full of grace », and that her name was blessed among all women, for the Lord God was with her. That sacred blood that was in the Virgin's veins was preserved from the slightest shadow or thought to sin allied. Where all sinned Mary alone was immaculate. Enshined in the omnipotent and eternal decrees of the Lord God, her Maker, the ocean of original sin, surging up like the flood of old, and sweeping over the whole face of human creation, touched all, defiled all, spoiled all, but God said to its waves at their very highest : « Touch not my immaculate one — she is my love, my star and my dove, and there is no spot nor stain in her. » Why did Mary receive this grace? In order that the veins of her bosom, unstained and unsullied by the slightest shadow of sin, might be worthy to give the materials of that human but most Sacred Heart of Jesus Christ, which was for ever a living chalice of the Precious Blood. Thus, pure in its origin, God made for Himself out of Mary's blood a human heart, so large, so simple, so strong as to be able to bear the rushing floods of the infinite sanctity of God that came upon Him. For that heart was united in the sacred humanity of our Lord to the divinity, so that the result of the union was not a human person, but a divine person, and the heart that was throbbing in the bosom of Jesus Christ was the heart of God.

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Secondly, consider how unique in its beauty was this Sacred Heart of God. All other men had hearts narrowed by selfishness, defiled in some way or another by sin. Mary