

Rome. He enriched it successively by other briefs and rescripts with singular privileges of which the following are the principal.

1. He permitted the establishment of several confraternities in the same place, if the convenience of the people required it.

2. That particular confraternities could be united to a confraternity of a different kind, already affiliated to an Arch-confraternity.

3. That on the day on which one of these confraternities is established, the office of the Sacred Heart may be said, also a solemn or private Mass any day except it be a Sunday or a feast of the first or second class, or a feria or privileged vigil, but always with the consent of the Bishop.

4. That the annual feast of the Sacred Heart which is fixed on the first Friday after the octave of Corpus Christi, can be transferred with the plenary Indulgence to any other day in the year, with liberty to say all the masses of the feast, but always with the approbation of the Bishop.

5. That it can be united to all the confraternities of the Sacred Heart lawfully established all over the world. By a rescript of the 16th of July, and the 12th of December, 1814.

RULES.

1. To promote more effectually and more extensively this devotion among all classes of people, it is strictly forbidden to receive any money for the enrolment of Individuals or to require any yearly subscriptions.

2. Among the statutes of this sodality it is ordained that three masses should be celebrated in Rome every month for the deceased members of this congregation.

3. It is most earnestly recommended that all the associates (without however imposing it as an obligation) will approach the holy communion once a month, and that they will occasionally offer up a communion or say the third part of the Rosary, or perform some other work of devotion for the eternal repose of the deceased members of the sodality.

4. It is a commendable practice that, wherever the sodality is erected throughout Ireland and England, one Mass in each establishment should be offered for the spiritual and temporal welfare of the associates, and of their relatives and friends, as also for the eternal repose of the deceased members of this sodality, on the first Friday of every month.

5. To effect this the Rectors of all the sodalities of the Sacred Heart in this kingdom should provide that Mass be punctually celebrated, as above, on the first Friday of each month.

6. It is recommended that there should be a picture suspended or placed over the altar in the chapel where the sodality is erected, representing the Sacred Heart of Jesus, which the faithful should frequently visit, if circumstances permit, to honor and venerate this Most Sacred Heart,

They may recite the prayer called, *The little Crown, or Rosary of the Heart of Jesus*, or such other prayers and devotions as may seem best calculated to inflame their hearts with love for their dear Redeemer.

These visits and other devotions here mentioned, even the daily recital of the Lord's prayer, Hail Mary, Credo and Verse, are not obligatory, but mere acts of supererogation. The only fault or rather loss sustained, is, that when through negligence these devotions are omitted, they do not receive the Indulgence and spiritual blessings annexed. There is no prescribed hour of prayer enjoined on the members of this recent association of the Sacred Heart.

To become a member of this Sodality, to gain the Indulgences annexed, and to partake of the good works performed by the associates, it is required (besides the spiritual conditions) to have the name enrolled in the register, where this pious association is established by the authority and grant of the priests of the Congregation of St Paul at Rome.

The mode of establishing the Confraternity of the Sacred Heart and admission of Members.

A Parish Priest who wishes to establish this Confraternity in his parish, ought in the first instance to obtain the consent of his Bishop *in writing*; which he will transmit to the Secretary of the Arch-confraternity at Rome, with his own application, assigning the motives. When he receives the diploma of erection and affiliation, he will present it to the Bishop, who will ascertain its authenticity; he will also permit its use, and will name the directors of this new institution, who will proceed to the execution of this diploma in the following manner:

1. He will appoint a day with the advice of the Bishop to proceed to the inauguration of this confraternity, for which there will be a novena, or at least three days prayer, attended with a sermon in honour of the Sacred Heart.

2. On this day all the priests will read the Office of the Sacred Heart, privately as well as publicly.

3. On this day the diploma of the association will be read publicly: the new members will go to communion, afterwards, each will get a picture of the Sacred Heart, and a certificate of admission. However this certificate is not absolutely necessary.

When the Bishop has the power of establishing this confraternity, it is to him the priests of his Diocese who wish to obtain this favour should write: the confraternity being canonically established by him, in accordance with his delegated powers, the members gain all the following Indulgences, but they cannot participate in the spiritual advantages of the other confraternities of the world, until they will be legitimately associated with that of Rome.

His present Holiness, Pope Gregory XVI, by an Indult of the 26th of June, 1831, granted to the