Presentation Day Novena 2009
On Christmas Eve 1775, Nano Nagle founded a religious congregation identified as Sisters of the Charitable Instruction of The Sacred Heart of Jesus. In 1791, seven years after her death, the religious order was given a new title, “Sisters of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary.” (PBVM)

Nano had a deep and profound devotion to the Sacred Heart. This spirituality of the heart of Jesus, which was readily accessible to ordinary people, offered love and compassion to everyone. Over the centuries this devotion and the practices that surround its integration into our lives included the picture of the Enthronement of the Sacred Heart, wearing the Sacred Heart Badge or medal, and holding fast to participating in the Nine First Friday devotions and novenas in preparation for the June feast.

Long ago this devotion sparked passion and fire in the hearts of believers, especially for those who once were known as “Sisters of the Charitable Instruction of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.” In recent times, these symbols and practices seem to have lost their ability to influence and transform our lives. New thinking about the core message of the Devotion to the Sacred Heart confirms that this devotion is still relevant today, especially to the daughters and friends of Nano Nagle. May the praying of this novena deepen our faith in Jesus and help us to rediscover the riches of this devotion.

Welcome

On this the 225th anniversary of Nano’s death, it is with joy that the Conference of Presentation Sisters of North America share our prayer for a deepening of God’s love pulsing within us.
Reflection on the Theology of the Sacred Heart

The Theology of the Sacred Heart is both a theology for our times and a spirituality which is reflected in the holiness and heart of Nano. The Sacred Heart is the Heart of God laid bare for us. This Heart of God is in the heart of everyone who is open to all who seek, to all who thirst, to every lost sheep waiting to be found and carried home. This Heart calls to our hearts. It invites us to step out of the futile attempt of self-preservation. By joining in the task of love, and by surrendering ourselves to God, we discover the fullness of love which alone sustains the world.

One who has pondered the image of the soldier’s lance piercing the Heart of Jesus, and who has explored this powerful symbol in deep contemplation, has but one language to speak to the world: the language of the heart. It is learned not in conferences or classrooms or books, but in the silent contemplation of the Pierced One. It is learned especially in the presence of the broken hearts of the world. The language of the heart encompasses a thousand local dialects, a million accents. Devotion to the Sacred Heart impels us to an inventive charity, a love ready to explore every dark and treacherous place in search of the lost and vulnerable.

“Go out quickly to the streets and lanes of the city, and bring in the poor and maimed and blind and lame.” (Lk 14:21) (This meditation is based on the writings of Benedict XVI.)

As we celebrate the 225th anniversary of Nano Nagle’s death, we are challenged to “put on a new heart,” a “sacred heart.” In our day, may the devotion to the Sacred Heart cultivate a heart that is open, vulnerable and compassionate. Our love for the world, the vulnerable, and weak is a love that is born in the Heart of God.

Heartbeat of God, create within us, your daughters and sons, a sacred heart.
Gather in silence. Become still. Visualize the Presentation Family gathering from all over the world. We especially remember in prayer our sisters and friends of Nano in Ireland, England and Slovakia.

Leader: Creating Sacred Space
(Leader may play instrumental music while she lights a candle/lantern and guides the assembly into a contemplative space using the following reflection.)

Be still.
   Place your fingers on your wrist
   and be aware of your pulsating heart.
Be at peace.
   Be attentive to your heartbeat.
   Imagine God’s heart beating within you.
   Be in solidarity with God’s heart and the beating hearts of people around the world.

Jesus, Burning Heartbeat of God and Son of Mary

All: Call us to passionate discipleship.

Leader: Call to Prayer
Trusted Guide,
   You are my mentor, my Inspiration,
   my Home of good choices and decisions.
   You help me to search with confidence
   as I find my way to inner peace.
   “Prayer to Sophia” by Joyce Rupp

Reader: Meditative Moment
A pierced heart...asked to give all. It is only an empty cup that can be filled. It is only an empty, receptive, humble heart that can be enlivened by the Sacred Heartbeat of God.

Pierce our hearts, O Jesus. And then blood will gush forth...the passion of life...the love for all the living. And water will pour out...the symbol of cleansing and forgiveness that enhances interrelationships for the created cosmos.

Pierced like Jesus, we pulse with a passionate love. We wash in the stream of interconnectedness. Jesus, love through us in the sacred homeland of our hearts.

Silence

Presentation Litany of the Sacred Heart of Jesus
Leader: Jesus, Burning Heartbeat of God and Son of Mary...
   All: call us to passionate discipleship.
Leader: Jesus, Homeless Heartbeat of God...
   All: grace us with hospitality for all.
Leader: Jesus, Merciful Heartbeat of God...
   All: open us to the vulnerable and weary.
Leader: Jesus, Suffering Heartbeat of God...
   All: reveal the path of justice and peace.
Leader: Jesus, Forgiving Heartbeat of God...
   All: stir courage within us for new beginnings.
Leader: Jesus, Wounded Heartbeat of God...
   All: heal us for service.
Leader: Jesus, Creative Heartbeat of God...
   All: stretch us into new visions and dreams of You.
Leader: Jesus, Liberating Heartbeat of God...
   All: free us from darkness.
Leader: Jesus, Sacred Heartbeat of God...
   All: love through us in the sacred homeland of our hearts.
Reader: Scripture (Luke 24:31-33)
And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight. They said to each other, “Did not our hearts burn within us while he talked to us on the road, while he opened to us the Scriptures?” And they rose that same hour and returned to Jerusalem.

Reader: Meditative Moment
Nano Nagle’s wish, “If I could be of any service in saving souls in any part of the globe I would willingly do all in my power,” has been fondly realized. Today the daughters of Nano are carrying the Gospel to the uttermost parts of the earth, and there are no boundaries to the ministries that sprang from the tender and sacred heart of our foundress. The Presentation Sisters founded by this great woman with her sacred feminine heart is visible, flourishing in our midst – surprising in its origin, amazing in its growth, astonishing in its magnitude, and almost bewildering in its accomplishment. (Flame of Love a biography of Nano Nagle by Sister Rosaria O’Callaghan, Aberdeen South Dakota P.B.V.M.)

Silence

Presentation Litany of the Sacred Heart of Jesus
Leader: Jesus, Burning Heartbeat of God and Son of Mary...
All: call us to passionate discipleship.
Leader: Jesus, Homeless Heartbeat of God...
All: grace us with hospitality for all.
Leader: Jesus, Merciful Heartbeat of God...
All: open us to the vulnerable and weary.
Leader: Jesus, Suffering Heartbeat of God...
All: reveal the path of justice and peace.
Leader: Jesus, Forgiving Heartbeat of God...
All: stir courage within us for new beginnings.
Leader: Jesus, Wounded Heartbeat of God...
All: heal us for service.
Leader: Jesus, Creative Heartbeat of God...
All: stretch us into new visions and dreams of You.

Leader: Creating Sacred Space
(Leader may play instrumental music while she lights a candle/lantern and guides the assembly into a contemplative space using the following reflection.)
Be still.
Place your fingers on your wrist
and be aware of your pulsating heart.
Be at peace.
Be attentive to your heartbeat.
Imagine God’s heart beating within you.
Be in solidarity with God’s heart and the beating hearts of people around the world.

Jesus, Sacred Heartbeat of God

All: Love through us in the sacred homeland of our hearts.

Leader: Call to Prayer
“It is only with the heart that one sees rightly.” by Helen Keller

Reader: Scripture (John 19:34)
But one of the soldiers pierced His side with a spear, and immediately blood and water came out.
Leader: Jesus, Liberating Heartbeat of God…
All: free us from darkness.

Leader: Jesus, Sacred Heartbeat of God…
All: love through us in the sacred homeland of our hearts.

Silence

Leader: Blessing
Guide of my life,
thank you for all you have given me.
Reveal my spiritual path
and direct me in the living of it.
Lead me to inner peace and oneness with you.
Amen
Prayer to Sophia by Joyce Rupp

Song: “Open My Eyes” by Jesse Manibusan
(This suggestion may be helpful as you conclude the prayer, or
you may choose a song fitting to your own cultural experience.)

All: Heartbeat of God, create within each of us,
your daughters and sons, a sacred heart.

Leader: Blessing
O God, in ancient Decembers,
In the narrow corridor at Newgrange,
ancestors huddled very low,
yearning for the solstice sun.
We, too, wait – but for the Son.
We wait expectantly in the pregnant, holy dark.
We wait in joyful hope for the advent of our Savior.

Let the Christ light penetrate
into the inner corridors of our hearts.
Where there is darkness, let there be light.
Where there is coldness, let there be warmth.
Where there is doubt, let there be hope.
Where there is guilt, let there be forgiveness.
Marantha! Come, Lord Jesus!

Song: “Come to Me” by Gregory Norbet, OSB, ©1971, 1994 (revised text) The Benedictine Foundation of the State of Vermont. (This suggestion may be helpful as you conclude the prayer, or you may choose a song fitting to your own cultural experience.)

All: Heartbeat of God, create within each of us,
your daughters and sons, a sacred heart.
Gather in silence. Become still. Visualize the Presentation Family gathering from all over the world. We especially remember in prayer our sisters and friends of Nano in Australia and Papua New Guinea.

Leader: Creating Sacred Space
(Leader may play instrumental music while she lights a candle/lantern and guides the assembly into a contemplative space using the following reflection.)

Be still.
Place your fingers on your wrist and be aware of your pulsating heart.
Be at peace.
Be attentive to your heartbeat. Imagine God’s heart beating within you.
Be in solidarity with God’s heart and the beating hearts of people around the world.

Jesus, Homeless Heartbeat of God
All: Grace us with hospitality for all.

Leader: Call to Prayer
Touch our hearts, loving and compassionate God. Make them like your own.

Reader: Scripture (Ezekiel 36:26)
A new heart I will give you, and a new spirit I will put within you; and I will remove from your body the heart of stone and give you a heart of flesh.
Reader: Meditative Moment
The theme of today invites us to desire, as Nano did, a deep relationship with the Heart of God. We know how Jesus accepted the most “unacceptable” into his circle. He healed many, conversed with others, fed the multitudes and called sinners to be his friends. He touched the heart if not the flesh that needed his touch. How we make Jesus’ presence felt today is our privilege as we help others feel welcomed, respected and even loved, no matter where they come from or what they do, even if they are on the outskirts of our own safe circles.

Silence

Presentation Litany of the Sacred Heart of Jesus
Leader: Jesus, Burning Heartbeat of God and Son of Mary…
All: call us to passionate discipleship.

Leader: Jesus, Homeless Heartbeat of God…
All: grace us with hospitality for all.

Leader: Jesus, Merciful Heartbeat of God…
All: open us to the vulnerable and weary.

Leader: Jesus, Suffering Heartbeat of God…
All: reveal the path of justice and peace.

Leader: Jesus, Forgiving Heartbeat of God…
All: stir courage within us for new beginnings.

Leader: Jesus, Wounded Heartbeat of God…
All: heal us for service.

Leader: Jesus, Creative Heartbeat of God…
All: stretch us into new visions and dreams of You.

Leader: Jesus, Liberating Heartbeat of God…
All: free us from darkness.

Leader: Jesus, Sacred Heartbeat of God…
All: love through us in the sacred homeland of our hearts.

Silence

JESUS, LIBERATING HEARTBEAT OF GOD, FREE US FROM DARKNESS

DAY 8

Gather in silence. Become still. Visualize the Presentation Family gathering from all over the world. We especially remember in prayer our sisters and friends of Nano in North America.

Leader: Creating Sacred Space
(Leader may play instrumental music while she lights a candle/lantern and guides the assembly into a contemplative space using the following reflection.)

Be still.
Place your fingers on your wrist and be aware of your pulsating heart.
Be at peace.
Be attentive to your heartbeat.
Imagine God’s heart beating within you.
Be in solidarity with God’s heart and the beating hearts of people around the world.

Jesus, Liberating Heartbeat of God

All: Free us from darkness.

Leader: Call to Prayer
The Word, who is life, is our light. As the Light shines in the darkness, may Christ overtake all that robs our hearts of gentleness and compassion.

Reader: Scripture (Matthew 11:29)
Take my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble in heart, and you will find rest for your souls.
Leader: Blessing
May Jesus, the loving Heart of God, place in our hearts a desire to love more fervently so that every thought and deed may grow in loving compassion.

Song: “We Are Called” by David Haas 1957, GIA Publications Inc., 1988
(This suggestion may be helpful as you conclude the prayer, or you may choose a song fitting to your own cultural experience.)

All: Heartbeat of God, create within each of us, your daughters and sons, a sacred heart.

Leader: Blessing
May the creative heartbeat of God keep us ever mindful of the ability to dream with God. May God’s love wrap us ‘round warming and comforting us, enabling us much to share with others. May our new visions and dreams connect us with all creation, with all who are, with all who will be. Amen

Song: “Walk Into the Heart of God” by Kathy Sherman,CSJ in the album A Language of the Heart (This suggestion may be helpful as you conclude the prayer, or you may choose a song fitting to your own cultural experience.)

All: Heartbeat of God, create within each of us, your daughters and sons, a sacred heart.
**JESUS, MERCIFUL HEARTBEAT OF GOD, OPEN US TO THE VULNERABLE AND WEARY**

**DAY 3**

Gather in silence. Become still. Visualize the Presentation Family gathering from all over the world. We especially remember in prayer our sisters and friends of Nano in Central America and Latin America.

**Leader:** Creating Sacred Space  
(Leader may play instrumental music while she lights a candle/lantern and guides the assembly into a contemplative space using the following reflection.)

Be still.  
Place your fingers on your wrist and be aware of your pulsating heart.  
Be at peace.  
Be attentive to your heartbeat.  
Imagine God’s heart beating within you.  
Be in solidarity with God’s heart and the beating hearts of people around the world.

Jesus, Merciful Heartbeat of God

**All:** Open us to the vulnerable and weary.

**Leader:** Call to Prayer  
May Nano, whose welcoming heart reached out to the vulnerable and the weary, deepen our desires and strengthen our spirits to follow the merciful Jesus.

**Reader:** Scripture (2 Corinthians 4:16)  
Therefore we do not lose heart.  
Though outwardly we are wasting away, yet inwardly we are being renewed day by day.

**Silence**

**Reader:** Meditative Moment  
What a gift these words are—“I have good plans for you... I will give you hope and a good future.”

A new stirring pulsates in our hearts, inviting, urging, prodding us to throw open the doors of fear or security and to step out into a future full of hope. God, immanent and transcendent, dwells within us, and we can do more than we ever imagined.

In our contemplation of the Heart of Jesus, we hear the call to be visionaries. In stillness before the Lord, we become fire, and the stirrings of our hearts turn to flames that dance in our imagination.

From this God-centered place, we are summoned to dwell in hope, for we know ourselves as graced. We move into the future with a joy far greater than we could have ever asked or imagined. We have owned God’s promise and know God’s plan for us—a future full of hope.

**Presentation Litany of the Sacred Heart of Jesus**

**Leader:** Jesus, Burning Heartbeat of God and Son of Mary...  
**All:** call us to passionate discipleship.

**Leader:** Jesus, Homeless Heartbeat of God...  
**All:** grace us with hospitality for all.

**Leader:** Jesus, Merciful Heartbeat of God...  
**All:** open us to the vulnerable and weary.

**Leader:** Jesus, Suffering Heartbeat of God...  
**All:** reveal the path of justice and peace.

**Leader:** Jesus, Forgiving Heartbeat of God...  
**All:** stir courage within us for new beginnings.

**Leader:** Jesus, Wounded Heartbeat of God...  
**All:** heal us for service.
JESUS, CREATIVE HEARTBEAT OF GOD, STRETCH US INTO NEW VISIONS AND DREAMS OF YOU

DAY 7

Gather in silence. Become still. Visualize the Presentation Family gathering from all over the world. We especially remember in prayer our sisters and friends of Nano in Zambia and Zimbabwe.

Leader: Creating Sacred Space
(Leader may play instrumental music while she lights a candle/lantern and guides the assembly into a contemplative space using the following reflection.)

- Be still.
  - Place your fingers on your wrist
  - and be aware of your pulsating heart.
- Be at peace.
  - Be attentive to your heartbeat.
  - Imagine God’s heart beating within you.
  - Be in solidarity with God’s heart and the beating hearts of people around the world.

Jesus, Creative Heartbeat of God

All: Stretch us into new visions and dreams of You.

Call to Prayer:
The great secret, the great mystery, is this:
there is a heart of the world...
and this heart is the Heart of Christ.

Pierre Teilhard de Chardin

Reader: Scripture (Jeremiah 29:11)
“I say this because I know what I am planning for you,” says the Lord. “I have good plans for you, not plans to hurt you. I will give you hope and a good future.”
Leader: Blessing
May our God, who is rich in mercy and full of compassion, renew our hope, open our hearts, enliven our courage and bless us this day and always. Amen.

Song: “Blest Are They” by David Haas
(This suggestion may be helpful as you conclude the prayer, or you may choose a song fitting to your own cultural experience.)

All: Heartbeat of God, create within each of us, your daughters and sons, a sacred heart.

Leader: Jesus, Liberating Heartbeat of God…
All: free us from darkness.

Leader: Jesus, Sacred Heartbeat of God…
All: love through us in the sacred homeland of our hearts.

Silence

Leader: Blessing
May the fire of love that burned in Nano’s heart open our hearts to be attentive to the broken of our world. Jesus, wounded Heartbeat of God, heal us for service.

Song: “May All I Do Today” by Jan Novotka
“Light for the Journey” by Miriam Martin, PBVM
(These suggestions may be helpful as you conclude the prayer, or you may choose a song fitting to your own cultural experience.)

All: Heartbeat of God, create within each of us, your daughters and sons, a sacred heart.
Reader:  Meditative Moment
In the face of the prevailing Jansenistic tenancies to see humanity as depraved and unworthy, Nano’s devotion to the Sacred Heart was an affirmation of human dignity and the value of human life. This devotion to the Heart of Jesus resonated in her passionate service to those made poor.

We can imagine how Nano’s long hours of prayer, uniting her heart to the wounded Heart of Jesus, would impel her to “spend herself for the poor.”

As we ponder the wounded Heart of Jesus and our call to service, we are challenged to open ourselves to the fragile flesh of our time. This flesh may be that of a child without hope, an immigrant woman struggling to start a new life, or a forest about to be strip mined. The radical example of Nano’s relationship to the Divine, challenges us to reflect on our lives of prayer and service.

Silence

Presentation Litany of the Sacred Heart of Jesus
Leader:  Jesus, Burning Heartbeat of God and Son of Mary…
   All:  call us to passionate discipleship.

Leader:  Jesus, Homeless Heartbeat of God…
   All:  grace us with hospitality for all.

Leader:  Jesus, Merciful Heartbeat of God…
   All:  open us to the vulnerable and weary.

Leader:  Jesus, Suffering Heartbeat of God…
   All:  reveal the path of justice and peace.

Leader:  Jesus, Forgiving Heartbeat of God…
   All:  stir courage within us for new beginnings.

Leader:  Jesus, Wounded Heartbeat of God…
   All:  heal us for service.

Leader:  Jesus, Creative Heartbeat of God…
   All:  stretch us into new visions and dreams of You.

JESUS, SUFFERING HEARTBEAT OF GOD, REVEAL THE PATH OF JUSTICE AND PEACE

DAY 4

Gather in silence. Become still. Visualize the Presentation Family gathering from all over the world. We especially remember in prayer our sisters and friends of Nano in New Zealand.

Leader:  Creating Sacred Space
(Leader may play instrumental music while she lights a candle/lantern and guides the assembly into a contemplative space using the following reflection.)

   Be still.
   Place your fingers on your wrist
   and be aware of your pulsating heart.
   Be at peace.
   Be attentive to your heartbeat.
   Imagine God’s heart beating within you.
   Be in solidarity with God’s heart and the
   beating hearts of people around the world.

   Jesus, Suffering Heartbeat of God

   All:  Reveal the path of justice and peace.

Leader:  Call to Prayer
Listen to the song “Being in Communion” by Jan Novotka (from Hearts on Fire, to commemorate the 225th Anniversary of Nano Nagle’s death)
OR
Listen to soft reflective music while saying these words:
   Being in communion, we are one
   Being in communion, being one.
Reader: Scripture (Mark 12:33)
And to love God with all the heart and with
all the understanding and with all the strength, and
to love one’s neighbor as oneself, is much more than
all whole burnt offerings and sacrifices.

Reader: Meditative Moment
It is no use saying that we are born two thousand years too
late to give room to Christ. Nor will those who live at the
end of the world have been born too late. Christ is always
with us, always asking for room in our hearts.

But now it is with the voice of our contemporaries that He
speaks, with the eyes of store clerks, factory workers, and
children that He gazes; with the hands of office workers,
slum dwellers, and suburban housewives that He gives. It is
with the feet of soldiers and tramps that He walks, and with
the heart of anyone in need that He longs for shelter. And
giving shelter or food to anyone who asks for it, or needs it,
is giving it to Christ. “Room for Christ” by Dorothy Day

Silence

Presentation Litany of the Sacred Heart of Jesus
Leader: Jesus, Burning Heartbeat of God and Son of Mary…
All: call us to passionate discipleship.

Leader: Jesus, Homeless Heartbeat of God…
All: grace us with hospitality for all.

Leader: Jesus, Merciful Heartbeat of God…
All: open us to the vulnerable and weary.

Leader: Jesus, Suffering Heartbeat of God…
All: reveal the path of justice and peace.

Leader: Jesus, Forgiving Heartbeat of God…
All: stir courage within us for new beginnings.

Leader: Jesus, Wounded Heartbeat of God…
All: heal us for service.

Leader: Jesus, Creative Heartbeat of God…
All: stretch us into new visions and dreams of You.

JESUS, WOUNDED HEARTBEAT OF GOD,
HEAL US FOR SERVICE

DAY 6

Gather in silence. Become still. Visualize the Presentation Family
gathering from all over the world. We especially remember in prayer
our sisters and friends of Nano in the Philippines and Thailand.

Leader: Creating Sacred Space
(Leader may play instrumental music while she lights
a candle/lantern and guides the assembly into a
contemplative space using the following reflection.)

Be still.
Place your fingers on your wrist
and be aware of your pulsating heart.
Be at peace.
Be attentive to your heartbeat.
Imagine God’s heart beating within you.
Be in solidarity with God’s heart and the
beating hearts of people around the world.

Jesus, Wounded Heartbeat of God

All: Heal us for service.

Leader: Call to Prayer
Gracious God, your daughter Nano had your law of love
written in her heart. Open us to the loving wonder of
your presence.

Reader: Scripture (Jeremiah 31:33)
This is the brand-new covenant that I will
make with Israel when the time comes. I will put my law
within them—write it on their hearts!—and be their
God. And they will be my people.
Leader: Blessing
Heart of Jesus, bless us and forgive the times we forgot our connectedness to others. Give us the courage for new beginnings to explore every dark and treacherous place in search of the weak and vulnerable. Your Heart calls our hearts to a fullness of love and peace, a love which sustains the world and holds it in a loving embrace.

Song: “Make Me a Channel of Your Peace”
“Lay Your Hands Gently Upon Us”
(These suggestions may be helpful as you conclude the prayer, or you may choose a song fitting to your own cultural experience.)

All: Heartbeat of God, create within each of us, your daughters and sons, a sacred heart.

Leader: Blessing
God, you have given us hearts burning to relieve the suffering of people who have been made poor. May we continue to walk in Nano’s footsteps, ready to go wherever You lead. Give us hearts open and ready to receive your grace and blessing, so that Your love may be poured out to all we meet.

Song: “God of the Hungry” by Scott Soper
“Because We Love God” by Kathy Sherman, CSJ
(These suggestions may be helpful as you conclude the prayer, or you may choose a song fitting to your own cultural experience.)

All: Heartbeat of God, create within each of us, your daughters and sons, a sacred heart.
Gather in silence. Become still. Visualize the Presentation Family gathering from all over the world. We especially remember in prayer our sisters and friends of Nano in India and Pakistan.

Leader: Creating Sacred Space
(Leader may play instrumental music while she lights a candle/lantern and guides the assembly into a contemplative space using the following reflection.)

Be still.
Place your fingers on your wrist and be aware of your pulsating heart.
Be at peace.
Be attentive to your heartbeat.
Imagine God’s heart beating within you.
Be in solidarity with God’s heart and the beating hearts of people around the world.

Jesus, Forgiving Heartbeat of God

All: Stir courage within us for new beginnings.

Leader: Call to Prayer
When I focus on the clock or calendar, I will stop and gently lean on Jesus, (like St. John at the Last Supper), my ear listening to His Heartbeat. I hear the love and compassion of Jesus and while being rooted and centered in that love, I look at the world’s atrocities, without anger and bitterness, and give a loving response.

Reader: Scripture (Joel 2:12)
Even now, return to me with all your heart, with fasting and weeping and mourning.

Reader: Meditative Moment
Today, we live in a world where people are violent and disconnected (e.g. attacks in Mumbai, India and our convent in Swat, Pakistan, razed to the ground). We feel that this evil is completely separated from what we think and feel in our hearts. This separation is an illusion. The inner fascination with death and the most horrendous forms of human destruction are connected. Jesus knew this connection and when His heart was pierced, it was the heart that embraces our thoughts and far reaching actions. When we carry anger in our hearts, we do not hurt our enemies as much as we hurt ourselves.

Silence

Presentation Litany of the Sacred Heart of Jesus
Leader: Jesus, Burning Heartbeat of God and Son of Mary...
All: call us to passionate discipleship.

Leader: Jesus, Homeless Heartbeat of God...
All: grace us with hospitality for all.

Leader: Jesus, Merciful Heartbeat of God...
All: open us to the vulnerable and weary.

Leader: Jesus, Suffering Heartbeat of God...
All: reveal the path of justice and peace.

Leader: Jesus, Forgiving Heartbeat of God...
All: stir courage within us for new beginnings.

Leader: Jesus, Wounded Heartbeat of God...
All: heal us for service.

Leader: Jesus, Creative Heartbeat of God...
All: stretch us into new visions and dreams of You.

Leader: Jesus, Liberating Heartbeat of God...
All: free us from darkness.

Leader: Jesus, Sacred Heartbeat of God...
All: love through us in the sacred homeland of our hearts