

Father O'Connor's Homily for 14 June 2026
Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time-A

Exodus 19: 2-6a
Romans 5: 6-11
Matthew 9: 36 – 10: 8

On Friday, the Church celebrated the Feast of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. It is a very welcome feast in our own times. And yet its meaning is sometimes misunderstood.

The Son of God is truly divine from all eternity. “For us men and our salvation He came down from heaven, and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the Virgin Mary and became man” [Nicene Creed]. Jesus is one eternal person with two distinct natures: one truly divine and one truly human.

Sacred Heart devotion centers on the humanity of Christ. While always divine, He possessed a real human nature: “The Son of God. . . worked with human hands; He thought with a human mind. He acted with a human will, and with a human heart He loved. Born of the Virgin Mary, He has truly been made one of us, like to us in all things except sin” [The Church in the Modern World, #22].

Above you, as you enter the church through the doorways just before the baptismal font, is a statue of the Sacred Heart with His arms outstretched, welcoming you into His heart and into His family, the Church.

There are four lines from the Scriptures for this Sunday that speak about the Lord's love for us.

In the First Reading, from the Book of Exodus, God says: “If you hearken to my voice and keep my covenant, you shall be my special possession, dearer to me than all other people, though all the earth is mine” [Exodus 19: 5].

Our response to this Reading was from Psalm 100: “We are His people: the sheep of His flock.”

In the Second Reading, from Paul's Letter to the Romans, we read: “God proves His love for us in that, while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” [Romans 5: 8].

And in the Gospel, “At the sight of crowds, Jesus' heart was moved with pity for them because they were troubled and abandoned, like sheep without a shepherd” [Matthew 9: 36].

Heart of Jesus, delight of all the saints:

Jesus, gentle and humble of heart:

Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us.

have mercy on
us.

touch our hearts
and make them
like your own.