

## 21. The Love of the Sacred Heart of Jesus: Taking Pain and Death on Behalf of the Neighbors

“I am the good shepherd, who is willing to die for the sheep (John 10: 11).”

“The Fatherr loves me because I am willing to give up my life, in order that I may receive it back again (John 10: 17).”

June is the month of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Every June, Kkottongnae holds an event called the Night of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Believers come from all over the country; dedicating candles and flowers, they give a prayer of dedication saying that they would live a life of taking pain and death on behalf of their neighbors by following the Sacred Heart of Jesus. We are going to see how the Kkottongnae spirit, which constitutes the core of the spirituality of Kkottongnae, was developed.

Kkottongnae founder Father Oh Woong-Jin has been a warm hearted man of not just passing by any fallen-down beggars or the sick on streets since his childhood. When he saw a dying father and his little daughter during the Korean War, as a child, he decided to live his life for such unfortunate people. He started Kkottongnae after he became a priest and met grandfather Choi Guidong. And he came to

make a new covenant with God on his way to the hospital with a dying old person he had found on the street. The new contract consisted of God’s promise that, “I will take care of everything else if you take those least important people in my name.” After that, whenever Father Oh received dying homeless people unconditionally, after praying and making every effort to look after them, he experienced food, clothing, and every other need being filled up naturally.

“If I had found and brought someone dying from the streets after breakfast, even when we were out of food for lunch, someone would always come and bring lunch for us before lunch time (excerpted from a sermon of August 19, 1991).”

However, the founder Father has had to endure a severe ordeal including much sadness, pain, and frustration. He has met opposition, persecution, and even risk to his life on his way to receiving and taking care of many beggars and the sick in his life time. He did not own anything, such as knowledge, money or skills, and had to work among worldly people who did not even understand God’s business. Through the hardships in his life, he could have confidence in his work that taking care of the



Supporting members of Kkottongnae praising and praying to the Lord on the feast day of Sacred Heart of Jesus.

homeless and sick people was the way to stick to the new contract with God, who said: "I tell you, whenever you did this for one of the least important of these followers of mine, you did it for me (Matthew 25: 40)." He also gained courage through the words of Jesus: "The greatest love you can have for your friends is to give your life for them (John 15: 13)."

The spirit of living the real love and cultivating it can be achieved by praying day and night, by living up to one's beliefs actively, and finally dying. This spirit formed the founding spirit of the Kkottongnae religious orders. That is, it is the taking pain and death on behalf of the helpless neighbors who do not even have the strength to beg.

"Therefore the legacy that constitutes the spirit of Kkottongnae is not money, land, buildings, or hundreds of thousands of Kkottongnae members, but this God-given charisma. The religious who value it more than their life are the biggest legacy (from a sermon of August 30, 1991)."

The founding spirit (or founding charisma) of Kkottongnae is taking pain and death on behalf of the helpless neighbors who do not even have the strength to beg by following the words of Jesus Christ: "The greatest love you can have for your friends is to give your life for them (John 15: 13)." Embracing this spirit is to live the life of ceaseless love of the Sacred Heart of Jesus who even sacrificed his last drop of blood for us.

**Kkottongnae families give a daily prayer:**

- 1) for the helpless who do not have anywhere to go, nor any strength to beg**
- 2) for Kkottongnae families**
- 3) for the religious orders of Kkottongnae and secular families**
- 4) for the members, patrons and their families**
- 5) for our country and all of humankind**

**We try to live the life of love of the Sacred Heart of Jesus so that the founding spirit may bloom up within Kkottongnae: By giving a daily prayer asking to take pain and death on behalf of them, by offering the pain of sickness and being forsaken to the families, and by offering the sacrifices of the religious and volunteer workers.**

The big statue of the Sacred Heart of Jesus at the entrance of Kkottongnae invites our neighbors who are in poverty and pain, the forlorn, and the troubled world, opening its arms with His holy heart and love.

"Come to me, all of you who are tired from carrying heavy loads, and I will give you rest (Matthew 11: 28)."



The statue of Sacred Heart of Jesus