

Daily Devotional, March 19, 2021 Create in Me a Clean Heart, Oh God

Search me, God, and know my heart; test me and know my anxious thoughts. See if there is any offensive way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting. Psalms 139:23-24 (NIV)

I am sure that some of you who are reading this devotional have heart conditions, or some of your loved ones do. In our own family, we have experience with cardiac arrest, A-fib, open heart surgery, and more. Fortunately, nowadays, there is a lot that the medical profession can do for physical heart ailments.

But there is another heart ailment that cannot be cured by medicine, surgery, or any other techniques. That is a heart that isn't in harmony with God.

If we insist on behaving or talking in ways that do not consider the effects these words can have on others, that is a heart problem.

If we lose patience with a family member, a friend or even a stranger over something that is quite trivial, that is a heart problem.

If someone sees nothing wrong with committing a crime against another human being or doesn't value the lives of others as his own, that is a heart problem.

If our prayers are all about "me, me, me," and there is little or no intercession for others, we have a heart problem.

When someone is so obsessed with hating a particular politician, especially after their candidate has lost, that they actually wish death on that political leader, or even their family members, that is a dangerous heart condition. Besides calling law enforcement if we hear threats against anyone, we also must pray for these people who are consumed and blinded with such hate.

Although, of course, all death threats should immediately be reported to law enforcement, the only healing cure for this kind of heart ailment is God's intervention, as described in Psalm 51:

Create in me a clean heart, O God, and put a new and right[a] spirit within me. Psalm 51:10 (NRSV)

We each would be well off to pray this often, as well as the Psalm to open this devotion, Psalm 139:23-24.

We all need to pray for a heart revival in our country, one which cannot be orchestrated by human beings, but rather must be a work of the Holy Spirit working in human beings. I pray we can all get behind this effort.

Loving Father, I want my heart to be completely free to love You. Give me a heart that is free to know and love Christ in every person I meet. Give me a heart brimming with joy and peace, that remains firmly rooted in You, no matter my circumstances. Give me a heart free of doubt: doubt in You, doubt in myself and the gifts You have given me; doubt in others' intentions towards me. Give me a heart that is malleable, that can be molded and lovingly shaped, like clay in the Potter's hands, to be evermore in the likeness of Christ's Sacred Heart. Give me a heart that breaks with Yours at the sufferings of others and the hurt that seems to permeate the world. Enkindle my heart with Your gifts, oh Holy Spirit. Thank You for teaching me how to love. Amen.