

Only for You: A Message to Promoters

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I started working at the *Messenger* on 1 September 1998. In the 27 years that followed, I was privileged to meet wonderful women and men dedicated to spreading devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus by promoting the *Messenger*.

In recent years, I have heard people say devotion to the Sacred Heart is gone. They tell me that people don't know who the Sacred Heart is anymore, that you no longer see the Sacred Heart in homes. This saddens me. For me the name 'Sacred Heart' simply means the unconditional love of God. When we talk about devotion to the Sacred Heart, we are talking about the love of God for all humanity, the person of Jesus Christ alive and active.

Like all bad news, if we allow the negativity to inhabit our minds and hearts, we will not see the wonderful

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miracles that happen all around us every minute of the day. The Sacred Heart calls us to trust in his love and to believe that even in the most painful moments he is there with us, loving us through the pain.

When I reflect on the promoters that I have met over the years, I thank the Sacred Heart for each of them: mothers, fathers, grandparents, religious, people from all walks of life. I thank God for allowing me to share a moment with them, to hear the story of how they came to promote the *Messenger*. I thank the Sacred Heart for the blessing of seeing them again in my mind's eye, hearing once again the mantra that accompanied many of these encounters: 'What would I do without the Sacred Heart? Only for him, I would not have come through.'

To all our promoters of the *Sacred Heart Messenger*, I wish to say on behalf of all the staff at Messenger Publications a very sincere thank you. Without you and the generations of promoters before you the *Sacred Heart Messenger*, in print since 1888, would not have survived.

Through your devotion to delivering the *Messenger* every month to homes in your parish, you are part of that unconditional love of the Sacred Heart that calls and waits and says, 'I am here.' When you put a copy of the



Messenger in through a letterbox, you do not know just what article, prayer or even single word will help someone. And that is the miracle that is promoting the *Messenger*.

To all who read the *Messenger*, join with me in prayer for the people who deliver the *Messenger* every month. Hear the invitation of God to root your life in his love. Be a witness to that love by sharing the *Messenger* with your family and friends. Spread the positive message that the Sacred Heart, the heart of Jesus, is alive and active in this world; you just need to see with the eyes of faith.

When Fr Cullen first founded the *Sacred Heart Messenger*, he wrote to every convent in the country asking the sisters to help him promote devotion to the Sacred Heart by distributing the *Messenger*. They responded generously, and for many it was to become a vital part of their apostolic

work, visiting families, the elderly and the sick. Today many convents, like the Sisters of Mercy in Cobh, who last month celebrated 175 years, can say that they have promoted the *Messenger* since its inception in 1888. Just like many readers can say that the *Messenger* has been coming into their homes going back to their mother's, grandmother's and great-grandmother's time.

Today we need people to come forward and respond to this call with faith and courage, just as the sisters did so long ago. The *Messenger* has so much to offer families, so don't be afraid to become a promoter in your parish. You will be surprised just how the Sacred Heart responds when you take that first step in faith.

To become a promoter please contact Elizabeth Foley: Email: e.foley@messenger.ie or phone: 0872309219