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## The Immaculate Heart of Mary.



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**A**ugust is justly called by some a second month of Mary on account of the solemnity of her Assumption which is to all other feasts in her honor like a crowning festival. Catholic piety has consecrated this month to Her most pure Heart, considering it as the center of all Her virtues and merits.

We might consider the Heart of Mary under different aspects, as being the most amiable, the most pure, the most sorrowful, etc., let us look at it today as the most loving of all hearts after the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

"Who", says the wise man, "has measured the height of heaven and the breadth of earth?" We may apply these words to the Immaculate Heart of Her who, from all eternity, has been chosen by the Almighty as Queen of heaven and earth, Mother of God and of mankind. As none can measure the breadth nor sound the depth of our world, so no one has ever estimated the vast capacity of Mary's Heart. Every one knows that marvellous organ which in all animated beings diffuses the blood to the various parts of the body and which we call the heart. Being the first motor of our existence it also feels most acutely the action of our affections, because of the close union of the body and soul. Joy dilates it, grief contracts it, pity melts it, hope makes it palpitate the quicker, sorrow slowly preys upon it and often finally devours it. Thus it has come to pass that mankind, as by common consent, has chosen the heart as the source of all the affections, and especially of love. Now the heart of Mary, our sister in Adam, was a heart like our own. Yet this heart, being that of the Mother of God, ought necessarily be distinguished from all others by certain special characteristics. With the