

Fr. Daniel Chowning, OCD : "St. Thérèse and the Sacred Heart"

In his Encyclical Letter on the Sacred Heart, "On The Human and Divine Love of the Heart of Jesus Christ (*Dilexit Nos*). Pope Francis reflected on St. Therese's devotion to the Sacred Heart. St. Thérèse received a religious education impregnated with devotion to the Sacred Heart. However, St. Therese speaks very little of the Sacred Heart in her writings, nor did she possess many images of the Sacred Heart. Her devotion to the Sacred Heart possessed a different spirit than the traditional devotion in France at that time. Her approach to the Sacred Heart was more "nuptial" and influenced by the *Song of Songs*, and *The Spiritual Canticle* of St. John of the Cross. In this lecture we reflect on the Sacred Heart in St. Thérèse's spirituality in light of Pope Francis' Encyclical Letter on the Sacred Heart.