Here are some pertinent questions and answers concerning the "First Friday."

Did it all start with the private revelations of Our Lord to St. Margaret Mary in the seventeenth century?

Hardly. From the time of the Crucifixion, the early disciples showed great reverence to the sacred wound caused in Christ's side by the lance of the soldier.

But it is true, the devotion to the Sacred Heart became popular only in the seventeenth century due to the combined zeal of such saints as Margaret Mary and John Eudes and Blessed Claude de la Colombiere.

What is the main object of this devotion?

To express our love to the Heart of Christ as the source of the divine-human love which wrought our salvation on the Cross and to make reparation to that same Heart for the coldness and indifference of so many who neglect the love of the Saviour.

But why is Christ's Heart chosen as the special object of our love? Why not direct our love to His whole divine person?

The heart is the most important muscle in the human body; it pumps blood through the whole system. It is also the organ which manifests and registers our affective life. It has always been the symbol of love. How often you've seen in literature the metaphor: "I give you my heart." As a matter of fact, while it is literally true that the human, fleshly Heart of Christ is adored, precisely because it is the heart of God-made-man, the prayers and devotion of Catholics are directed not only to the Sacred Heart but to the Person of the Word made flesh. To avoid scandal or derision of our Faith the Church however forbids the public worship of pictures or images of the Heart separated from the rest of Christ's person.

How can you best make reparation to the Sacred Heart?

By doing only what pleases Christ's Heart. By staying away from the occasions of sin. By making careful confessions and Holy Communions and thus increasing His grace in your own heart and uniting yourself to Him ever more closely. By living a life of love.

During the First Friday Adoration tomorrow (7 A.M. to 7 P.M.) make up for your sins.

Father D'Arcy.

Goodbye, Sweet Liberty.