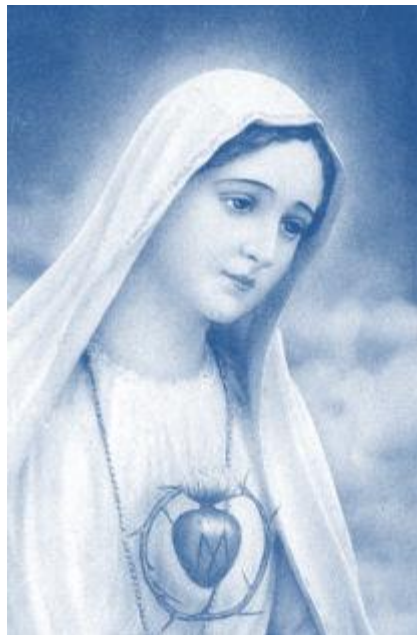


**ACT OF CONSECRATION OF THE
PARISHES OF THE DIOCESE OF LANSING
TO THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY**



**Sunday, August 13, 2017
Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**“The mystery of the Redemption took shape
beneath the heart of the Virgin of Nazareth when she pronounced her “yes.”
From then on, under the special influence of the Holy Spirit,
this heart, the heart of both a virgin and a mother, has always followed the work
of her Son and has gone out to all those whom Christ
has embraced and continues to embrace with inexhaustible love.”**

Pope Saint John Paul II, Encyclical *Redemptor hominis*, 22

Background

Occasion. This year marks one hundred years since the apparitions of Our Lady to three shepherd children in Fatima, Portugal. In this centennial year, as a sign of our unity and as an expression of our love for God through our patroness, Mary Immaculate, Bishop Boyea asks that every parish in the Diocese of Lansing entrust themselves on **Sunday, August 13th** to the Blessed Virgin, asking her special protection and maternal care. The text for this act of entrustment has been prepared by the Office of Worship.

Note on the Celebration. The prayer on the following page may be said by the celebrant following the Prayer after Communion. As circumstances suggest, the celebrant may wish to draw the attention of the faithful to an image of the Virgin Mary.

A text is provided in both English and Spanish.

You may wish to use or adapt any of the additional materials provided for your reference in the section entitled “Further Resources.” These are designed as an aid for bulletin articles or in other parish communications.

**Michael Andrews
Director, Office of Worship**

**Act of Consecration of the Parishes of the Diocese of Lansing
to the Immaculate Heart of Mary
Sunday, August 13, 2017
*Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time***

O Virgin Mother of God, you revealed to the shepherd children at Fatima that the Lord wishes to establish in the world devotion to your Immaculate Heart; help each of us in the Diocese of Lansing to hear and follow your message.

With a mother's love you participated in the mysteries of the life, death, and resurrection of your Son, for you *kept all these things and reflected on them* in your Immaculate Heart. Thus, in order to put us in living communion with Jesus through your maternal heart, you asked your children to pray the Rosary to obtain true and lasting peace in our world.

You asked for works of penance, especially for the conversion of sinners who have no one to pray for them, and for us to repair for sins by acts of sacrifice.

In keeping with your request made known at Fatima, and united with all parishes in the Diocese of Lansing:

We consecrate ourselves and *(name)* **Parish**, this day and always, to your Immaculate Heart. Help us to persevere in penance and prayer for the salvation of the world, and to advance the kingdom of Christ more effectively each day.

Pray for us, O Holy Virgin Mother of God, that we may be given a heart like yours, free from sin and attentive to God's will, so that, ever faithful to His commandments, we may love the Lord above all things and seek to help others in their need.

Holy Mary, Virgin of Fatima, accept this, our act of consecration. As a sign of our unity in this prayer, and with renewed gratitude for your maternal presence, we join our voices to those of *all generations who call you blessed*, as together we pray:

(All): Hail Mary, full of grace. The Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Acto de Consagración de las Parroquias de la Diócesis de Lansing
al Inmaculado Corazón de María
Domingo, 13 de agosto 2017
XIX Domingo del Tiempo Ordinario

Oh Virgen Madre de Dios, tú revelaste a los niños pastores de Fátima que el Señor desea establecer en el mundo la devoción a tu Inmaculado Corazón; ayuda a cada uno de nosotros en la Diócesis de Lansing a escuchar y seguir tu mensaje.

Con el amor de una madre, participaste en los misterios de la vida, muerte y resurrección de tu Hijo, y *guardaste todas estas acontecimientos y los volvías a meditar* en tu Inmaculado Corazón. Por lo tanto, para ponernos en comunión viva con Jesús a través de tu corazón materno, pediste a tus hijos rezar el Santo Rosario para obtener una paz verdadera y duradera en nuestro mundo.

Solicitaste, también, obras de penitencia, especialmente para la conversión de los pecadores que no tienen a nadie para orar por ellos, y nos pediste que reparáramos por los pecados, por medio de los actos de sacrificio.

De acuerdo con tu solicitud, hecha pública en Fátima, y unida a todas las parroquias de la Diócesis de Lansing:

Nos consagramos, y también consagramos este **Parroquia de (*nombre*)**, este día y por siempre, a tu Inmaculado Corazón. Ayúdanos a perseverar en la oración y penitencia para la salvación del mundo, y para avanzar el reino de nuestro Señor Jesucristo cada día más eficazmente.

Ruega por nosotros, oh Santa Virgen Madre de Dios, para que se nos dé un corazón como el tuyo, libre de pecado y atento a la voluntad de Dios, para que, siempre fieles a sus mandamientos, amemos al Señor sobre todas las cosas y busquemos ayudar a otros en sus necesidades.

Santa María, Virgen de Fátima, acepta este acto de consagración. Como señal de nuestra unidad en esta oración, y con renovada gratitud por tu presencia materna, unimos nuestras voces a las de *todas las generaciones que te llaman bendita*, y oramos juntos:

(Todos): Dios te salve, María, llena eres de gracia. El Señor es contigo. Bendita eres entre todas las mujeres, y bendito es el fruto de tu vientre, Jesús.

Santa María, Madre de Dios, ruega por nosotros pecadores, ahora y en la hora de nuestra muerte. Amén

Further Resources

Some of the faithful may not be familiar with the message of Fatima or with prayers of consecration to the Blessed Virgin Mary. Please feel free to use or adapt any of the following materials in bulletin articles or in other means of communication:

Message: A brief summary of the events and message of Fatima

During the First World War, after making failed pleas for peace to the warring nations, Pope Benedict XV appealed directly to Mary. On May 5, 1917, he wrote a pastoral letter strongly urging all Christians to unite in asking Mary, the Queen of Peace, to intercede for peace in the world. The Blessed Mother's response came eight days later. On May 13, she appeared to three young children, Lucia dos Santos, age ten, and her two cousins, Jacinta and Francisco Marto, age seven and nine, respectively. She asked that the children return on the thirteenth day of the next five consecutive months. During these apparitions the Blessed Virgin asked for prayers – particularly the daily recitation of the rosary – penance, and acts of sacrifice for the conversion of sinners. She told the children how God wishes to save souls from eternal damnation through devotion to her Immaculate Heart. The children reported a prophecy that prayer would lead to an end to the Great War, and that on October 13th of that year the Lady would reveal her identity and perform a miracle "so that all may believe." During the last apparition, October 13, 1917, despite a terrible storm, tens of thousands of pilgrims came to Fatima. Mary again appeared to the children, identifying herself as Our Lady of the Rosary. On that occasion, 70,000 people witnessed a supernatural event known as "the miracle of the sun" in which the storm clouds parted and the sun appeared to dance in the sky.

Approval by the Church: An Overview

Already in an April 29, 1918 letter to the Portuguese bishops, Pope Benedict XV referred to the occurrences at Fatima as "an extraordinary aid from the Mother of God." On October 13, 1930, with the consent of Pope Pius XI, the bishop of Leiria, Portugal (the diocese in which Fatima is situated) declared the apparitions to be authentic and worthy of belief. In 1940, Pope Pius XII spoke of Fatima for the first time in an official papal text, his encyclical *Saeculo exeunte*, in which he asked the faithful to ask Our Lady for an increase in missionary vocations. In 1967, Pope Paul VI personally travelled to Portugal and worshipped at the shrine of Our Lady of Fatima on the fiftieth anniversary of the apparitions. Pope Saint John Paul II stated his approval of the Fatima message on many occasions. He attributed to the protection of the Virgin of Fatima the fact of having survived the assassination attempt in Saint Peter's Square, in Rome, on May 13th, 1981. Saint John Paul donated the bullet that struck him to the shrine at Fatima, and it was placed in a crown adorning the statue of Mary that is on the exact site of the apparitions. He visited the shrine three times – in 1982, 1991 and 2000. During his 2000 visit he made the memorial of Our Lady of Fatima universal by ordering it to be included in the *Roman Missal*. In his 2010 visit, Pope Benedict XVI stated: "our Blessed Mother came from heaven, offering to implant in the hearts of all those who trust in her the love of God burning in her own heart." Earlier this year, Pope Francis became the fourth pope to visit Fatima. During the canonization homily

for Saints Francesco and Jacinta Marto, on May 13, 2017, the anniversary of the first apparition, he stated: "Fatima is more than anything this mantle of light that protects us... We need but take refuge under the protection of the Virgin Mary and to ask her, as the *Salve Regina* teaches: "show unto us... Jesus".

The third visionary, Sister Lucia dos Santos, died in 2005. This past February she was declared 'Servant of God' at the conclusion of the first step in her process of beatification.

What is Consecration?

To consecrate something or someone means to give that thing or person to God as his property, to take it out of the context of what is ours so that it is totally of the Lord. Consecration is thus a taking away from the world and a giving over to the living God. The thing or person no longer belongs to us, or even to itself, but is immersed in God.¹ Christ imparts to his disciples and followers a very special belonging to God. He gives us his own life by making us participants in his own consecration. This happens at baptism. Baptism is our first and most important consecration.² Baptism 'consecrates' or sets us apart for God as his adopted children. By means of this sacrament God shares his life, his holiness, with us.

From patristic times to the present, there are numerous examples of acts of consecration to the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Church is careful to identify such acts as a type of entrustment, rather than a consecration in the technical sense (ie, as in the sacraments of the Holy Eucharist or Holy Orders; or in the consecration of virgins and widows). These acts of entrustment are called a consecration by analogy. By them we promise to live as sons and daughters of God, and thus fulfill subjectively our objective consecration at baptism. It is a voluntary adherence to what baptism has made of us.

Mary is the prototype of perfect consecration to God. She helps us in our consecration through her intercession and by her maternal care, which disposes us to receive the gifts of God we received in baptism. She is the perfect example of the Church, and the model of all faithful.

Sunday, August 13, 2017: *Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time*

While the Blessed Virgin Mary requested that the visionaries return to the site of the apparitions on "the thirteenth of each month," the apparition of August 1917 would be the only exception. This apparition occurred on August 19th, rather than the 13th, due to the visionaries' detention by the civil authorities. Nevertheless, various commemorations honoring Our Lady of Fatima are being held around the world on Sunday, August 13, 2017; most notably, the monthly plenary indulgence granted by Pope Francis marking the Fatima centennial³. It is particularly apt that the

¹ cf, Pope Benedict XVI, Homily, Chrism Mass 2009

² Rev. Johann Roten, S.M., "The Meaning of Consecration," International Marian Research Institute, University of Dayton.

³ Pope Francis has granted a plenary indulgence, under the usual conditions of Eucharistic Communion, sacramental reconciliation, prayer for the pope's intentions, and freedom from attachment to sin, to "the

entrustment of our Diocese to Our Lady is held on a Sunday, as the Sunday celebration of the Lord's Day and his Eucharist is at the heart of the Church's life, for which the Virgin Mary is the model of holiness (cf, *CCC*, 2177, 2030).

Likewise, the current cycle of readings (Year A) for the Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time lend themselves well to themes that correspond to the message of Fatima: attentiveness to God's presence (*First Reading*); God's covenant with his people, (*Second Reading*); faith, and the signs and wonders that point to the recognition of Jesus as the Son of God (*Gospel*). The Collect asks God the Father to "bring ... to perfection in our hearts the spirit of adoption" as sons and daughters of God.

Michael Andrews
Director, Office of Worship

pious faithful who visit with devotion a statue of Our Lady of Fatima solemnly exposed for public veneration in any church, oratory or proper place during the days of the anniversary of the apparitions, the 13th of each month from May to October (2017), and there devoutly participate in some celebration or prayer in honor of the Virgin Mary."