

Please join the diocesan Consecration to Our Lady!

May 31, 2024 (preparation begins April 28)



Have you ever heard of people “consecrating” themselves to Our Lady? Lots of people have done so—many who are beloved Saints who lived in our times like Pope John Paul II, Mother Teresa of Calcutta, and Maximilian Kolbe. Each of these has said that Marian Consecration was a huge help in their personal faith lives. In fact, St. Louis de Montfort said that entrusting oneself to Our Lady truly is “the surest, easiest, shortest, and the most perfect means” to grow in holiness and become a saint.

So, what does it mean that our diocese is going to “Consecrate” itself to Our Lady?

Basically, this is a formal act of entrustment of each person, and all people, within our diocese to Mother Mary.

Why should I participate in this?

Even as Jesus entrusted His Mother to the beloved Apostle from the Cross, and entrusted His beloved Apostle to His Mother, so are we invited into a special relationship with Mary.

Some might ask if it is wrong to go to Mary instead of to Jesus. Is this a problem?

Marian Consecration is not an either/or. We are not either with Jesus or with Mary. The Fourth Commandment requires that we ‘Honor our father and our mother.’ Mary is our spiritual mother. Her willingness to receive the Lord’s Incarnation set her apart. When we entrust ourselves to her, we are placing ourselves squarely under her protection and she, in turn, takes all our intentions, our gifts, our concerns and our weaknesses directly to Jesus.

How does one make such a consecration?

There is no one right way to do this. A person can simply make an act of the will to entrust everything to Our Lady. Still, for such an important entrustment, normally there is a period of preparation which culminates in a formal Act of Consecration (usually on a Marian feast), followed by an intentional living out of this grace. If one has already done so in the past, he or she can readily join in to renew his or her former entrustment.

How can I join in this communal act of consecration?

In our diocese, we will begin the period of preparation on Sunday, April 28 and continue with daily prayers for thirty-three days. The formal consecration will take place in all the parishes on Friday, May 31, 2024, the Feast of the Visitation, and at Terra Sancta, for the diocesan event.

The diocese recommends four intentions be especially lifted up during the period of consecration:

- 1) **That you might grow in your personal union with Jesus and Mary.**
- 2) **Your own personal intentions.**
- 3) **For our diocese and all the priests, deacons, religious, and lay faithful: for a continual growth in holiness and spiritual and physical protection.**
- 4) **Repose of the soul of Bishop Peter Muhich.**

On the diocesan website, there are numerous resources available—from the more traditional plan for consecration using the de Montfort formula to materials for families with *children*. In our parish, we have limited free booklets written by Fr. Michael Gaitley which are a shortened version of his “33 Days to Morning Glory”. We can also help you access free on-line materials.

There is a diocesan, three-day retreat for all who are interested in learning more about Marian consecration and exploring our relationship with Mary and the times in which we live, through this lens. Registration is available through the diocesan website at <https://www.rapidcitydiocese.org/consecration24/>.

There is also a Mass, Adoration, and prayers for Consecration, followed by a celebration at Terra Sancta on Friday, May 31, the Feast of the Visitation.

The program for Consecration at St. John’s will be announced as we get closer. Ann Dvorak at 605-440-2509



Together with the Holy Spirit Mary produced the greatest thing that ever was or ever will be: a God-man. She will consequently produce the marvels which will be seen in the latter times. The formation and the education of the great saints who will come at the end of the world are reserved to her, for only this singular and wondrous virgin can produce in union with the Holy Spirit singular and wondrous things.
St. Louis de Montfort, 35