

January 3, 2020

Dear Parishioners,

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We start the calendar year out with the solemnity of Mary, Mother of God on January 1<sup>st</sup>. It's a way of giving the entire year to her. On various occasions, especially near the Marian feasts, you've heard me talk about consecration to the Blessed Virgin Mary. I would love every single parishioner to make a consecration to the Blessed Virgin Mary, because I know she will keep any soul dedicated to her on the right path towards ever greater holiness. The most popular program for making such a consecration is that of St. Louis de Montfort. It's a small booklet that you can easily purchase.

Every morning I use the prayer of St. Maximilian Kolbe to rededicate my life to the Blessed Virgin Mary:

O Immaculata, Queen of heaven and earth, Refuge of sinners and our most loving Mother, God has willed to entrust the entire order of mercy to You. I, an unworthy sinner, cast myself at Your feet, humbly imploring You to take me with all that I am and have, wholly to Yourself as Your possession and property. Please make of me, of all my powers of soul and body, of my whole life, death, and eternity, whatever pleases You. If it pleases You, use all that I am and have without reserve, to accomplish what was written of You: "She will crush the serpent's head", and "You alone have destroyed all heresies in the whole world." Let me be a fit instrument in Your immaculate and merciful hands for introducing and increasing Your glory to the maximum in all the many strayed and indifferent souls, and thus help extend as far as possible the blessed Kingdom of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. For, wherever You enter, You obtain the grace of conversion and growth in holiness, since it is through Your hands that all graces come to us from the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. *V.* Allow me to praise You, O most holy Virgin. *R.* Give me strength against Your enemies.

Then, there is the great St. Joseph, to whom Pope Francis dedicated the current year from December 8, 2020-December 8, 2021. More and more people are realizing how powerful St. Joseph's help can be in their lives. We can also consecrate our lives to St. Joseph. Fr. Don Calloway wrote a book entitled, *Consecration to St. Joseph* that you can use to prepare and make such a consecration. Here is the consecration prayer to St. Joseph that I use every morning. I adapted one of the prayers that Fr. Calloway provided in his book:

Oh glorious Patriarch and Patron of the Church! Oh Virgin Spouse of the Virgin Mother of God! Oh Guardian and Virginal Father of the Word Incarnate! In the presence of Jesus and Mary, I choose you this day to be my father, my guardian, and my protector.

Oh great Saint Joseph, whom God has made the head of the holy family, accept me, I beseech you, though utterly unworthy, to be a member of your holy house. Present me to your Immaculate Spouse; ask her also to adopt me as her child. With her pray that I may constantly think of Jesus, and serve him faithfully to the end of my life. O Terror of Demons, increase in me virtue, protect me from the evil one, and help me not to offend God in any way.

O my Spiritual Father, I hereby consecrate myself to you. In faithful imitation of Jesus and Mary, I place myself and all my concerns under your care and protection. To you, after Jesus and Mary,

I consecrate my body and soul, with all their faculties, my spiritual growth, my home, my parish, and all my affairs and undertakings. Forsake me not, but adopt me as a servant and child of the Holy Family. Watch over me at all times, but especially at the hour of my death. Console and strengthen me with the presence of Jesus and Mary so that, with you, I may praise and adore the Holy Trinity for all eternity. Amen.

So there are the prayers I use regularly to consecrate myself to Mary and Joseph. Perhaps a consecration to Mary and Joseph will be one of your New Year's resolutions?

Have a blessed New Year!  
*In cordibus Iesu et Mariae,*  
Father Poggemeyer