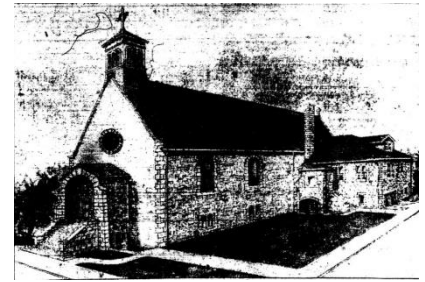


Our Lady Queen of Peace Church (since 1930)

SHRINE TO INFANT JESUS of PRAGUE (since 2003)



PASTOR Rev. John Domotor
ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT: Carol Molloy
PARISH MUSIC DIRECTOR: Ryan Narciso



PARISH WEBSITE:

www.QOP.CA

www.LATINMASSVICTORIA.COM

www.LATINMASSVICTORIA.COM

www.BLESSEDEJOHNHENRYNEWMANFELLOWSHIP.CA

HUNGARIAN Mass: Rev. John Domotor
TRADITIONAL LATIN Mass: Rev. John Domotor
ORDINARIATE Mass: Rev. Lee Kenyon

IMPORTANT: IN THE HOSPITAL? <i>If you or family member is hospitalize or is going to hospital and would like to be visited by your PARISH PRIEST, Please call the PARISH OFFICE to make this request.</i>	HOSPITAL <u>EMERGENCY ONLY!</u> <i>After office hours including weekends, holidays or during the night, you can call:</i> ☎ 250.889.3761
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KEEPING IN CONTACT: We extend our hands and hearts in Christian fellowship to you here, celebrating with us, whether long time residents or newly arrived in the Parish. We thank God that you are with us. If we may assist you, please fill out the form below and place in the collection basket or mail to the PARISH OFFICE (address on top) . Please mark the proper BOX (below on the left side).

New Parishioner
 Have moved here is new address
 I am home-bound and would like someone to visit me
 I am going to be in the hospital, please call on me

NAME: _____
 ADDRESS: _____
 ☎ HOME ☎ WORK
 e-mail: _____ @ _____

SUNDAY DONATIONS can be done by using:
 Sunday Envelopes or by automatic bank withdrawal. (The PARISH OFFICE can supply you with necessary documents).

At this time, our regularly scheduled bulletin will not be published, however I will do my very best to keep you updated through our website.

If however you would like to receive personal updates from the parish office Please send your email to the parish office: office@qop.ca then I will include you on our email list. Thank you

Praying that during this time of social isolation you and your loved ones are safe and healthy and that your spirits do not grow weary but remain strong in the Lord.

'Legacies'

Our Lady Queen of Peace acknowledges with gratitude past legacies which we use to maintain the integrity of our Church.

Please include us in your 'LAST WILL', how will we survive without it?

Legacies are a way of providing assurance that the parish has income or savings in the event of unforeseen emergencies.

The monthly 'Building Fund and Collection' pays for maintenance/replacement items.

Sacramental Information

Baptism: at Our Lady Queen of Peace you must call the office at least 3 months in advance to arrange an appointment with the Pastor. It is assumed that the family has Our Lady Queen of Peace parish connection and practices the faith by attending Sunday Mass on a weekly basis. You may meet with the Pastor and take the course even if your child has not yet been born. **Parents are expected to participate in the Baptismal preparation.** At least one Godparent or both must be baptized and confirmed and are practicing Catholics. **Non-parishioners are required to have a Letter of Recommendation from your Pastor to have your child Baptized in our parish.**

Marriage: at Our Lady Queen of Peace because the Church is deeply concerned about each marriage, couples are asked to give a minimum of six months' notice prior to the intended date of their wedding. Church policy requires that marriages be performed in your home parish – unless you are registered and attend elsewhere.

Funeral: at Our Lady Queen of Peace individual arrangements with a priest. Begin by calling the parish office.

Please Note

If you suffer from Celiac disease, we are able to offer a low-gluten Host. If you are interested, please come to the sacristy before Mass and inform the priest.

Respect Life Ministry

If you are expecting a child and are feeling confused; if you are thinking that there is no way out of this situation for you; if you want to talk to someone, call, text 250.812.0087 email: respectlifem@gmail.com

Vancouver Island Crisis-Line

The Vancouver Island Crisis Society is contracted by **Island Health**. We are a registered non-profit agency whose services include:

24-hour crisis lines: 1-888-494-3888

Crisis Text Services: 250-800-3806

(from your mobile) 6pm - 10pm - 7 days a week

Crisis Chat Services: 6pm - 10pm - 7 days a week

We work in partnership with Island Health to provide public access to Mental Health & Substance Use services in the communities administered by Island Health.

'Mass Intentions'

April 28	TUESDAY	
April 29	WEDNESDAY	
April 30	THURSDAY	
May 1	FRIDAY	in thanksgiving Agustina Manguerra
May 2	SATURDAY	

May 5	TUESDAY	
May 6	WEDNESDAY	Choose-Life Victoria Society
May 7	THURSDAY	
May 8	FRIDAY	in thanksgiving Agustina Manguerra
May 9	SATURDAY	

Please remember the following persons who are ill in your prayers: Helen McGovern, Lorna Cue, Ann VanNoordt, Christine Stornebrink, Jean Halliwell, Charles Lennaghan,

While public Masses throughout the diocese are cancelled, previously scheduled intentions will be fulfilled privately by Fr. John Domotor. Mass Intentions are still being accepted.

However, in keeping with social distancing practices, please place your Mass intention request and appropriate stipend (min. \$10) into an envelope and drop the envelope into the church mail box, located on the outside door before going into the church parking lot.

You may reach Carol by phone from 9:00 am – 2:45 pm, Tues. to Friday.

Collection Envelopes

If you are new to the parish and would like to have a box of pre-numbered collection envelopes, please contact the parish office at 250-388-5571 or email: office@qop.ca

Parish Database

If you have moved or changed your email/phone number in the past year or so, please make sure to update your information with the parish office. Tax receipts will be prepared early in the New Year and this will help the parish save on postage expenses by reducing returned mail.

Daily Mass with Bishop Gary

As we continue to journey together during these challenging times, all are invited to join Bishop Gary Gordon from the comfort and safety of your homes as he celebrates Mass. To access the live stream link from the Diocese of Victoria website simply google: Diocese of Victoria or go to:

www.rcdvictoria.org/diocese-of-victoria-live-stream.

DAILY MASS: Monday - Friday at 7:00 pm

St. Andrew's Cathedral

9-10 Club - Serving Soup to the Hungry

Did you know the Soup Kitchen is an essential service, and continues to provide food to those in need during the current pandemic. In this challenging time, we offer soup-to-go bagged meal service, and observe physical distancing and other prescribed practices in fulfilling our community mission. The 9-10 Club - Serving Soup to the Hungry is the oldest, completely volunteer-run food resource for the hungry in Victoria. The Soup Kitchen is located in the basement of St. Andrew's Cathedral, and is open Mon. to Fri., from 8:00 to 10:00 am. We wish to extend our thanks, and appreciation, to the numerous volunteers and donors who have graciously supported our operations for more than 30 years.

Further information is available at: www.thesoupkitchen.ca

VICTORIA MARCH FOR LIFE - UPDATE

Due to concerns and restrictions around COVID-19, there will no longer be a March for Life in Victoria in 2020. Although this cancellation is unfortunate, this provides pro-life Canadians from across the country the opportunity to come together to defend life. **The National March for Life is organizing a week of online pro-life activities from May 10-14, culminating in a virtual rally on Thurs., May 14th** We encourage you to tune in to this national, virtual celebration of life. Let us let our entire country know that, although COVID is shutting down things across the country, it will not shut down our defence of life! Follow our M4L Victoria website and the National March for Life website for further details and updates: m4lvictoria.ca or marchforlife.ca

Join us for a time of reflection and prayer on Pope Francis' Message and Blessing for the World in this Easter Season

Pope Francis reminds us that the storm of our current world reality exposes our vulnerability and weaknesses. He invites us to seize this time as an opportunity to awaken our faith in the Risen Lord. Join us as we explore and reflect on the ways Pope Francis is comforting and challenging us in this unique time. **Wed., May 6th - 4:00-5:00pm via ZOOM** Facilitated by Gwen Jahelka & Glen Palahicky, Co-directors of Faith Formation & Evangelization, please register by email

to: gjahelka@rcdvictoria.org OR gpalahicky@rcdvictoria.org

A Zoom link will be sent to participants prior to May 6th.

If you are unfamiliar with how Zoom Meetings work we are happy to walk you through this easy process. Here are links to the Urbi et Orbi blessings of Pope Francis. Please read before we gather on May 6th.

http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/homilies/2020/documents/papa-francesco_20200327_omelia-epidemia.html
http://www.vatican.va/content/francesco/en/messages/urbi/documents/papa-francesco_20200412_urbi-et-orbi-pasqua.html

Other Televised Mass Options

Salt + Light TV has made arrangements with cable companies across Canada (Rogers, Bell, Telus, Shaw Direct, Videotron) to make Salt + Light TV available free of charge to all subscribers until May 1, 2020.

Anyone who subscribes to Cable TV will be able to access Salt + Light TV, and therefore to tune in for the Daily TV Mass, and Sunday TV Mass, produced by the National Catholic Broadcasting Council.

Salt + Light TV is also televising the daily Mass celebrated by Pope Francis from Casa Santa Marta. This airs every day at 9:00 am and will be televised in both English and French. "La Messe du jour" produced and televised by Salt + Light TV from the crypt at Saint Joseph Oratory in Montreal will now be televised on Sundays through arrangements with the Archdiocese of Montreal, enabling everyone access to the televised Mass in both French and English seven days a week. The channel number for each cable company that carries Salt + Light TV can be found at:

<https://saltandlighttv.org/subscribe>

*Please note that the Daily TV Mass is also available on other faith-based television networks besides Salt + Light TV. The various networks and Mass times can be found at <https://dailytvmass.com/about/broadcast-schedule/>

Pope Francis' Message and Blessing for the World in this Easter Season

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What is a Marian consecration and why consecrate Canada to Our Lady?

Q 1. In what way are we already consecrated to God?

Through the gift of Baptism, we are reborn, both spiritually and sacramentally, and become children of God. The other Sacraments of Christian Initiation, Confirmation and the Eucharist, strengthen and nourish our life of faith, leading us into an even deeper relationship with Christ through his grace.

Through each of these Sacraments, we experience the joy of living as sons and daughters dedicated to the Lord, sharing in his divine life, joining ourselves to his Passion, Death, and Resurrection, and receiving the free and empowering help that God gives us to respond to his call to become disciples, temples of the Holy Spirit, and members of his Church.

A.1. As baptized persons, young and old, we are called to follow Christ through a life of holiness and service, to witness and evangelize, spreading the Kingdom of God in our midst. When we strive to follow Christ, despite our personal and communal weaknesses and failings, we embody more fully our vocation as “*a chosen people, a royal priesthood, a holy nation, God’s own people*”

(1 Peter 2:9). Informed and motivated thus by our God-given identity, as Christians we look daily to the teachings of Christ and his Church to shape how we think, decide, and act.

It is not easy to respond to life’s challenges and trials in a manner which is coherent and deeply faithful to Christ. With the unfailing help of the Holy Spirit, however, we can turn to the Father for divine assistance, not only at the crossroads of our life, but at every moment. The first and foremost way of understanding what consecration means comes from the viewpoint of God himself, for it is he who consecrates us before all else. Through Baptism, God makes us his adoptive children and confers on us his very own holiness of life and love. With God’s sanctifying and healing grace, we are made partakers of his Trinitarian life, enabling us to believe in him, to hope in him, and to love him through the theological virtues; we live and act under the promptings and with the gifts of the Holy Spirit; we grow in goodness through the moral virtues.

A second, complementary way of understanding consecration is from the viewpoint of our human and Christian experience.

Living in holiness and truth, we share in God’s life and love. To consecrate ourselves to him personally, then, is to make a faith-filled decision in which our response to God’s love for us is uniquely our own. A personal act of consecration is a means of further appropriating our Christian calling and continuing to abide in God’s grace. It is the renewal of our first consecration at Baptism in the particular form of a personal pledge, made willingly in faith, to live in more profound communion with Our Lord, committing ourselves to him and his Kingdom with greater fervour. It is an entrustment of our entire being to God, including all that we are and do, that we may belong to him more fully and to open ourselves even more to his grace in our lives. Christ Jesus is the best and prime example of what it means to consecrate oneself to God and to his will.

1 Cf. *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1212-1419.

2 Cf. *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 1266.

Q 2. How is the Virgin Mary a model of holiness?

Mary, the Mother of Jesus, holds an eminent and irrevocable place of honour in our faith tradition because of the unique and undeniable role she played in salvation history as attested in Sacred Scripture.

Mary was graced in a most unique and immaculate way at her conception and lived in that holiness all her life. She is the model for our journey of faith because, more than any other person, she was attentive to the Lord’s voice and answered her own vocation with an unconditional “yes” to his Word (Luke 1:38). By God’s wisdom, providence, and free initiative, she became the Mother of God-Incarnate, as well as the first and perfect disciple of her only begotten Son, Jesus. Faithfully following Christ with an undivided heart, she persevered as a woman of faith to the foot of the Cross, where the dying Redeemer conferred upon her another vocation, making her the spiritual Mother of all of Christ’s disciples. We read in Saint John’s Gospel of this admirable, mutual entrusting of the Mother of Jesus and the “beloved disciple,” the latter indeed representative of all future disciples of the Lord: “*When Jesus saw his mother, and the disciple whom he loved standing near, he said to his mother, ‘Woman, behold, your son!’ Then he said to the disciple, ‘Behold, your mother!’ And from that hour the disciple took her to his own home.*” (John 19:26-27).

At Pentecost, where Mary interceded with the Apostles for the gift of the Spirit, the Church was born, Christ’s Mystical Body sent out into the world; and Mary was present as pre-eminent member and loving Mother of the Church. In each of these vocations – Mother of Christ, Mother of all disciples, Mother of the Church – Mary’s life was and remains the model of the sequela Christi, a Latin expression meaning “to follow in Christ’s footsteps.”

Today, the Blessed Mother continues to shine forth in the community of believers as the perfect example, icon, and model of what it means to live by faith, to welcome grace, and to cooperate with the Lord in the fulfilment of his plan of salvation. In their joint statement to mark the Marian Year of 1954, the Bishops of Canada likewise underscored the contemporary significance of Mary as a paradigm of Christian living:

Mary is, for all generations, the perfect example of redeemed humanity which has recovered its original integrity; and moreover, for our own generation which seeks to do away with God, she is the model of the creature which abandons itself entirely and unconditionally to the will of its Creator.... Thus, dear Brethren, far from diminishing the majesty of God, true devotion to Mary “exalts the humility of a handmaid” (Luke 1:48), and proposes the ideal of a humanity freely and totally submitted to divine action. That is why our generation which is witnessing the rebellion of man against God turns now to the Blessed Virgin with such an ardent yearning.

Indeed, Mother of the Church and our Mother in the order of grace, Mary continues to intercede on our behalf, presenting our petitions, prayers and needs to her Son, and encouraging us in our faith journey by her example and maternal mediation. ⁴It is fitting, therefore, that we should lovingly

turn to her, “*who from the beginning had given herself without reserve to the person and work of her Son, could not but pour out upon the Church, from the very beginning, her maternal self-giving. After her Son’s departure, her motherhood remains in the Church as maternal mediation: interceding for all her children, the Mother cooperates in the saving work of her Son, the Redeemer of the world.*”

³Canadian Catholic Conference, *Statement of the Canadian Hierarchy*, 12-14 October 1954.

Q 3. How can we be consecrated to the Blessed Mother?

Consecrating ourselves to Mary is truly a privileged and effective way of living our ecclesial and personal faith in Christ. In entrusting ourselves to Mary’s maternal care and protection, we benefit from her intercession, joining our feeble efforts to her powerful prayers and her closeness to Jesus. Mary helps us through her companionship and counsel. When we love his blessed Mother, Our Lord looks more favourably upon us, showering us with abundant graces and blessings.

With Mary by our side, uniting herself to our prayers, we are more pleasing in God’s sight. Thanks to his Mother, to whom he gave a share in the work of redemption and ongoing sanctification which he continues to accomplish in our lives, our communion with Christ deepens and our life of grace increases. The Mother of Jesus always leads us to her Son; and the more we are trustingly and lovingly devoted to her, the more we are conformed to and united with the Son in the Spirit. Since God willed that the Saviour should come to us through the loving consent and active faith of the Mother, so we return to him with the aid and accompaniment of the same Mother.

Q 4. How might the consecration of Canada to the Blessed Virgin Mary benefit our country?

There are a significant number of dioceses and eparchies, parishes, schools, towns and cities, streets, buildings, groups and movements, and varied institutions in Canada that bear the name of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

The humble maiden of Nazareth is undeniably part and parcel of our Christian heritage and religious history.

⁴ Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops, National Liturgy Office, “Mary, Mother of our Lord,” 2006: “The Church invites us to base our devotion to Mary on the Scriptures that speak of her and of her relationship to Jesus. Our prayer – with Mary and to Mary – leads us to a deeper sharing in the liturgy, the worship Jesus gives to the Father, the worship we give to God in his name. Our devotion to Mary leads us to love God as she did: as the mother of Jesus, as the first to believe in him, his first disciple. She is inseparably linked to the saving activity of Jesus, her Son.”

⁵ Saint John Paul II, Encyclical Letter *Redemptoris Mater*, 40

⁶ In the 20th century, many countries were consecrated to Our Lady, including Canada in 1947. Often, these acts of Marian consecration were inspired by the messages from apparitions at Fatima. Conspicuous among the many Marian consecrations that took place, are that of Pope Pius XII on 31 October 1942; Pope Saint John Paul II on 13 May 1982, 16 October 1983 (Synod of Bishops), 25 March 1984 to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, which he made in union with all the Bishops of the world, and 8 October 2000 (during the Jubilee of Bishops), following the Eucharist, in unison with Bishops, an “Act of Entrustment” to the Blessed Virgin Mary. On 12 May 2010, Pope Benedict XVI consecrated all priests and, on 13 October 2013, Pope Francis consecrated the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

During his pontificate, Pope Saint John Paul II underscored the rightful and loving place of honour that Mary occupies at the heart of the Church.⁷ On 25 March 1987, he published the Encyclical Letter *Redemptoris Mater* to remind Christians of the beauty and importance of looking to Mary with love and welcoming her into our lives as mother, guide, confidante, and companion on the journey of faith. He spoke of the abundant fruits that are born from bearing an authentic devotion to her.

He likewise emphasized her special role of interceding with her Son and before the Father on behalf of the Church and of all humanity. The third part of his Encyclical presents a splendid summary of Mary’s *maternal mediation*, following the profound insights and authoritative teaching on the subject found in Chapter 8 of the Second Vatican Council’s Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, *Lumen Gentium*.

⁸ At the dawn of the third millennium, accompanied by many Bishops, Pope Saint John Paul II consecrated the Bishops, the Church, and the world to the Blessed ever Virgin Mary, asking her to watch over the new era that was to begin: “*Here we stand before you to entrust to your maternal care ourselves, the Church, the entire world. Plead for us with your beloved Son that he may give us in abundance the Holy Spirit, the Spirit of truth which is the fountain of life.*”⁹

As we journey on the path of daily conversion and sanctification, marked by faith, hope, love and the work of grace, it becomes necessary at certain times to express and reaffirm our deep desire for a better, fuller, more authentic life, truly free from distress and the effects of sin. We do this annually at the celebration of the Easter Vigil when we renew our Baptismal promises, thus renewing our consecration to God, which was first sealed by the Lord when we were baptized.

The human need to renew and rekindle one’s love and commitment is similarly reflected in the experience of loving couples who renew their marriage vows on the anniversary of their first sacred commitment to each other. As the Order of Christian Matrimony suggests, they may ask for a renewal of God’s blessings on themselves and their family. Similarly, as a way of progressing in our walk of faith, we entrust and dedicate ourselves to Our Lady so that the grace of Baptism may continue to bear fruit and we may be more open to the promptings of the Holy Spirit in our lives who bestows every good gift and blessing upon us. In consecrating our country to God, or even ourselves and our families, we are but imitating how Christ chose to be united to us and our humanity. Consecration to Mary allows for an even greater partaking in the gifts of the Spirit and solicits a more profound personal commitment to Christ. In order that we might grow in holiness and be active partners in building the Kingdom, it is fitting, therefore, that we should turn to Mary to intercede with God. In imploring Our Lady’s help, that our country may be protected and that our people may be more greatly disposed to the Good News of salvation, we welcome with joy and enthusiasm the joys of discipleship in the work of the New Evangelization. At a time when our country discerns great social changes, addresses urgent needs, is confronted with life-altering challenges, and strives to build a just society, consecrating it to Our Lady will allow

for new dynamism to be born in the hearts of believers and will call down more abundant graces for all.¹⁰

⁷ Many Popes prior to Saint John Paul II emphasized the dignity of the Virgin Mary on numerous occasions, and some of them also carried out consecratory actions in relation to her. The Orthodox Churches likewise have always honoured Mary with great devotion under the title *Theotokos*, Mother of God. Moreover, there has recently been renewed interest in Mary's role in salvation history, in the communion of Saints and in Marian devotion among Anglicans, Lutherans and other Reformed Churches. For example, see Pontifical Council for Promoting Christian Unity, Anglican-Roman Catholic International Commission, "The Seattle Statement. Mary: *Grace and Hope in Christ*", 2 February 2004, http://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/pontifical_councils/chrstuni/angl-comm-docs/rc_pc_chrstuni_doc_20050516_mary-grace-hope-christ_en.html.

⁸ Saint John Paul II, Encyclical Letter *Redemptoris Mater*, 38-50. See also the Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, *Lumen Gentium*, Chapter 8, 52-69.

⁹ Saint John Paul II, *Act of Entrustment to Mary* on the occasion of the Jubilee of Bishops in Rome, 8 October 2000

¹⁰ Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, *Lumen Gentium*, 62: "Taken up to heaven she did not lay aside this salvific duty, but by her constant intercession continued to bring us the gifts of eternal salvation. By her maternal charity, she cares for the brethren of her Son, who still journey on earth surrounded by dangers and difficulties, until they are led into the happiness of their true home. Therefore the Blessed Virgin is invoked by the Church under the titles of Advocate, Auxiliatrix, Adjutrix, and Mediatrix.

This, however, is to be so understood that it neither takes away from nor adds anything to the dignity and efficaciousness of Christ the one Mediator."

Q 5. In summary, what can we say about the meaning of consecrating Canada to the Blessed Virgin Mary?

Having been baptized and answering the call of our faith, before the Father of all mercies in the name of Christ and in the Holy Spirit, we place ourselves, our loved ones, and our country under the protective mantle of Our Lady, the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of Jesus our Saviour, the Mother of God, the Mother of the Church, and our spiritual Mother. As a pledge in faith, we entrust ourselves to the very woman who, through her free and pure consent at the Annunciation, singularly collaborated in the plan that God should become Incarnate and present in our world as one like us in all things but sin.¹¹ The consecration of Canada to Our Lady will enrich our faith, allow a more abundant outpouring of God's spiritual and temporal gifts on us, and enable us even more to fulfill our calling and mission. Ultimately, consecration to Mary, which springs from a more fervent, more committed, and more sustained life of prayer and devotion in which the Blessed Mother plays a unique and loving role, points and leads to a renewed spirit and understanding of family, Church, and the need for societal engagement.¹²

Contemplated in the episodes of the Gospels and in the reality which she already possesses in the City of God, the Blessed Virgin Mary offers a calm vision and a reassuring word to modern man, torn as he often is between anguish and hope, defeated by the sense of his own limitations and assailed by limitless aspirations, troubled in his mind and divided in his heart, uncertain before the riddle of death,

*oppressed by loneliness while yearning for fellowship, a prey to boredom and disgust. She shows forth the victory of hope over anguish, of fellowship over solitude, of peace over anxiety, of joy and beauty over boredom and disgust, of eternal visions over earthly ones, of life over death.*¹³

¹⁰ Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, *Lumen Gentium*, 62: "Taken up to heaven she did not lay aside this salvific duty, but by her constant intercession continued to bring us the gifts of eternal salvation. By her maternal charity, she cares for the brethren of her Son, who still journey on earth surrounded by dangers and difficulties, until they are led into the happiness of their true home. Therefore the Blessed Virgin is invoked by the Church under the titles of Advocate, Auxiliatrix, Adjutrix, and Mediatrix. This, however, is to be so understood that it neither takes away from nor adds anything to the dignity and efficaciousness of Christ the one Mediator."

¹¹ Cf. Hb 4:15.

¹² Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, *Directory on Popular Piety and the Liturgy: Principles and Guidelines*, "Consecration and Entrustment to Mary," 204: "The history of Marian devotion contains many examples of personal or collective acts of 'consecration or entrustment to the Blessed Virgin Mary' (*oblatio, servitus, commendatio, dedicatio*) They are reflected in the prayer manuals and statutes of many associations where the formulas and prayers of consecration, or its remembrance, are used.

The Roman Pontiffs have frequently expressed appreciation for the pious practice of 'consecration to the Blessed Virgin Mary' and the formulas publicly used by them are well known. Louis Grignon [de] Montfort is one of the great masters of the spirituality underlying the act of 'consecration to Mary'. He 'proposed to the faithful consecration to Jesus through Mary, as an effective way of living out their baptismal commitment.' Seen in the light of Christ's words (cf. John 19, 25-27), the act of consecration is a conscious recognition of the singular role of Mary in the Mystery of Christ and of the Church, of the universal and exemplary importance of her witness to the Gospel, of trust in her intercession, and of the efficacy of her patronage, of the many maternal functions she has, since she is a true mother in the order of grace to each and every one of her children."

¹³ Blessed Paul VI, Apostolic Exhortation *Marialis Cultus*, 57

For Further Reflections See:

- Second Vatican Council, Dogmatic Constitution on the Church, *Lumen Gentium*, Chapter 8
- *Catechism of the Catholic Church*, 963-975; 2617-2619; 2673-2679
- Blessed Paul VI, Apostolic Exhortation on Marian devotion, *Marialis cultus*
- Saint John Paul II, Encyclical Letter *Redemptoris Mater*
- Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments, *Directory on Popular Piety and the Liturgy: Principles and Guidelines*, 2001
- Pascal-Raphael Ambrogi et Dominique Le Tourneau, *Dictionnaire encyclopédique de Marie*, "Consécration à Marie", éd. Desclée de Brouwer, Paris, 2015, p. 324-328
- New Catholic Encyclopedia, "Consecration, Personal", CUA, Washington, DC, 1967, p. 209
- Father Johann Roten, S.M., "Meaning of consecration", <https://udayton.edu/imri/mary/c/consecration-meaning-of.php>
- Msgr. Arthur Calkins, "Marian Consecration and Entrustment" <http://www.christendom-awake.org/pages/calkins/marian-consecration-part1.htm>



Consecration of Canada to the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church, in Time of Pandemic

1 May 2020

Sign of the Cross

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen

Greeting

Bishop: Peace be with you.

All: And with your spirit.

Introduction

Brothers and Sisters, in this time of pandemic marked by desolation and with worry about the future, let us entrust our country to the care and protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary, that we may benefit from her powerful intercession as we join our prayers and efforts with her maternal mediation in Christ.

1.

A Priest or a Deacon says:

The Lord be with you.

A Layperson says:

Let us praise our Lord Jesus Christ, who loved us and gave himself to us.

All respond:

Blessed be God for ever.

The following may be added: Dioceses/Eparchies, parishes, families, communities and institutions.

2.

Consecration of Canada to the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church, in Time of Pandemic, 1 May 2020 © Concacan Inc.

By imploring the incomparable help of Mary, Mother of God and our Mother, we invoke her solicitude upon our country and ask that she intercede with her Son Jesus to hear the prayers of her children who seek protection from the ravages of the coronavirus, healing for those who are ill, wisdom and courage for those who assist the sick and distressed, and eternal rest for those who have died.

During this month of May,³ which the Church particularly dedicates to the Mother of Christ, we are one in consecrating ourselves and our loved ones to Mary most Holy, the humble Handmaid of the Lord and his most perfect Disciple. We lift up in prayer and in recognition all those many women and men, clergy, religious and laity, who tirelessly commit themselves to the care of others. The innumerable acts of deep human kindness as well as authentic Christian charity which we witness across the globe are a source of great consolation for all. We are reminded evermore of the need to believe and hope against all hope, and we are called to reach out to the needy, the lonely and the dying, and so welcome the graces of divine consolation.

Opening Prayer

Let us pray:

O God, Father of mercies, whose Only Begotten Son, as he hung upon the Cross, chose the Blessed Virgin Mary, his Mother, to be our Mother also, grant, we pray, that with her loving help

your Church may be more fruitful day by day and, exulting in the holiness of her children, may draw to her embrace all the families of the peoples. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever

R. Amen.

Word of God John 19.25-27

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John, Standing near the Cross of Jesus were his mother, and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple whom he loved standing beside her, he said to his mother, "Woman, here is your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Here is your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his own home.

The Gospel of the Lord

R. Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

3.

Cf. Pope Saint Paul VI, *Mense Maio*, 1-2: "The month of May is almost here, a month which the piety of the faithful has long dedicated to Mary, the Mother of God. Our heart rejoices at the thought of the moving tribute of faith and love which will soon be paid to the Queen of Heaven in every corner of the earth. For this is the month during which Christians, in their churches and their homes, offer the Virgin Mother more fervent and loving acts of homage and veneration; and it is the month in which a greater abundance of God's merciful gifts comes down to us from our Mother's throne. We are delighted and consoled by this pious custom associated with the month of May, which pays honor to the Blessed Virgin and brings such rich benefits to the Christian people. Since Mary is rightly to be regarded as the way by which we are led to Christ, the person who encounters Mary cannot help but encounter Christ likewise. For what other reason do we continually turn to Mary except to seek the Christ in her arms, to seek our Savior in her, through her, and with her? To Him men are to turn amid the anxieties and perils of this world, urged on by duty and driven by the compelling needs of their heart, to find a haven of salvation, a transcendent fountain of life." Consecration of Canada to the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church, in Time of Pandemic, 1 May 2020 © Concacan Inc. 3

Short Reflection:

Apostles' Creed:

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting.

R. Amen.

Rosary – Jesus is Crucified

Recalling Jesus' words as he hung on the cross – “Behold your mother” – we meditate on the fifth sorrowful mystery of the Rosary, *The Crucifixion and Death of Our Lord*.

Our Father 4

10 Hail Marys

Glory Be

O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell, and lead all souls to Heaven, especially those in most need of your mercy.

4

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Prayer of Consecration

Most Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church, in this time of pandemic, we turn our gaze to you, and in Christ consecrate to you *the faithful of our Diocese/Eparchy 5 together with all the people of Canada*.

At the Annunciation, fear gave way to trust as you embraced the mysterious and loving plan of God, who through his providence, care and concern brought about newness of life in you and through you. Intercede, we pray, on our behalf as your children, *Virgin most faithful*. Grant us faith, hope and perseverance, as we strive to serve and bear witness to all persons, responding to the needs of those affected by this virus. Standing at the foot of the Cross at Calvary, you united yourself with the sufferings of Christ and so uniquely contributed to the mystery of our redemption. We beseech you as *Health of the sick*, draw to yourself in maternal compassion the brothers and sisters of your Son Jesus and all those who are grieved by this pandemic. Strengthen the dying and comfort those who weep so that all may experience the healing grace of Christ our Divine Physician.

At the Cenacle, after the Resurrection, you accompanied the Apostles with prayer for the outpouring of the Holy Spirit. In your maternal care as *Consoler of the afflicted*, accompany healthcare professionals, all who minister to the sick and those who seek a cure to end this pandemic, that the Holy Spirit may renew the face of the earth. To all of us, dearest Mary, *Mother of all the living*, be present and show forth your tenderness, as we raise our eyes to you who shines forth before the entire community as a merciful and compassionate companion on our journey.

Time and time again, with burdens weighing heavily on their hearts and in their many necessities, the Christian faithful have sought refuge under your mantle of protection. Come quickly to our aid at this time, *Mother of Mercy*, and deliver us from the dangers that surround us in our hour of need; watch over especially the elderly, the weak and the infirm, our children and the unity of our families, and all those who give of themselves selflessly in pastoral care to those in need until in your arms and in your gentle embrace we all find safety and solace.

R. Amen.

5. Intercessions:

The following wording may be adapted accordingly: For a Bishop: *the faithful of our Diocese/Eparchy*; for a Priest: *the faithful of our parish*; for families: *the members of our family*; for groups and other faith communities: *the members of N.*; for an individual: *myself*. Consecration of Canada to the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church, in Time of Pandemic, 1 May 2020 © Concacan Inc.

Intercessions:

United as one Body in Christ, let us direct our prayer to our All-loving God, who wants us to honour Mary our Mother; with her we, too, praise the Lord's mighty deeds as he continues to lift up the lowly, remembering his promise of mercy:

R. Look upon Mary and hear our prayer.

May the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church, who experienced the cares and hardships of earthly life, the weariness of daily toil, the trials of poverty and the sorrows of Calvary, come to assist the needs of the Church, the initial budding forth of your Kingdom on earth, and all of humankind.

R.

May the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church, lend a gracious ear to the devout pleas of those who from across the world implore her goodness for health, safety and peace, especially for our parishes, our domestic churches and all our communities of faith.

R.

May the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church, obtain the gifts of knowledge and wisdom for government officials and medical professionals that a cure for the virus may be found, and for all who care for the sick, the suffering and the dying, may she obtain from the Lord courage and benevolence.

R.

May the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church, pray on our behalf and with us to the Lord of life and love, who rules the winds and storms, to calm the tempests in our minds and hearts and grant us consolation, security and peace in our day.

R.

6. The Lord's Prayer

Concluding Prayer

As we conclude this consecration, we ask the blessing of Almighty God: Bestow the grace of your kindness upon your supplicant people, O Lord, that, formed by you, their Creator, and restored by you, their sustainer, through your constant action they may be saved. Through Christ our Lord,

R. Amen.

7.

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Final Blessing

Bishop/Priest/Deacon:

The Lord be with you.

R. And with your spirit.

May almighty God bless you,

the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

R. Amen.

8.

Regina Caeli

Regina caeli laetare, alleluia; Quia quem meruisti portare,

alleluia: Resurrexit, sicut dixit, alleluia: Ora pro nobis

Deum, alleluia

Queen of heaven, rejoice, alleluia. For Christ, your Son and

Son of God, alleluia, has risen as He said, alleluia. Pray to

God for us, alleluia.

9.

A Layperson says: May the Lord bless us, protect us from all evil and bring us to everlasting life.

R. Amen

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May 1, 2020

Feast of St. Joseph the Worker

Dear friends in Christ,

“Be Ready to Open the Door”

In solidarity with Pope Francis, the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops (CCC) and a number of Episcopal Conferences throughout the

world, today I consecrate the Diocese of Victoria to Mary, Mother of the Church. During this traditional Marian month of May, as we unite in prayer, we continue to seek the maternal protection and intercession of our Blessed Mother during the Coronavirus pandemic. It is most appropriate at this time, unparalleled in modern history, to seek Our Blessed Mother’s protection and intercession with her Son, Jesus. It was Mary’s loving response and “yes” to God’s will that opened up the world to receive God’s only begotten son, Jesus, born of Mary, and the power of the Holy Spirit.

During the month of May I invite everyone to pray the rosary at home, so that the world, and the churches, long houses, mosques, synagogues and temples may be opened in freedom from Covid-19. Opened up to new life, to a “new normal”, creating solidarity, justice and peace, moving towards the horizon of hope for all in the midst of our global vulnerability.

What will “new life” look like? That is a good question, for only God knows the answer. However, if we are docile to the Holy Spirit, we too, will be open to the challenges of a “new normal”. We look forward to the day when our churches will re-open and a small committee is planning for this eventuality to ensure that all are safe, healthy, and there is no further spread of Covid-19. This will mean changes in the way we gather as Church to celebrate the Liturgy. Opening will be much more complicated than closing, for it will be gradual. We need patience and docility to the Holy Spirit for our joyful re-entry as a community, for our full and active participation in the Liturgy, gathered around the table of the Word and Eucharist.

The world and our Church need the intercession of Mary, who reveals the maternal face of God for us, God’s children. We have much to learn from the example of Mary and her faithful responses when she: was fearful and troubled at the Annunciation (Lk 1:26-38); experienced the poverty of giving birth to Jesus in a stable (Lk 2: 1-6); fled to Egypt as refugees (Mt 2:13-15); lost Jesus in the temple (Lk 2: 41-49); had no wine at the wedding in Cana (Jn 2:1-12); and stood at the foot of cross (Jn 19:25-27). Mary’s witness guides the world and us to a new way of authentic humility, and a revolution of tenderness, as we seek a way to live in mercy and justice for the vulnerable. Indeed, vulnerability is what we all experience during this time of Covid-19. The global pandemic has pushed the Church, her pastors and people, outside. The words of our Holy Father Pope Francis in *Evangelii Gaudium (The Joy of the Gospel)*, may now be seen as prophetic for they prepared the way for a “new normal,” provided we are docile to the Spirit, like Mary.

“I dream of a missionary option, that is, a missionary impulse capable of transforming everything, so that the Church’s customs, ways of doing things, times and schedules, language and structures can be suitably channeled for the evangelization of today’s world rather than for her self-preservation”. (#27)

The reality of social distancing, staying home, and not being able to gather in large groups to prevent the spread of a deadly virus (especially to our vulnerable elders) are signs of charity, concern and caution, and represent a dramatic shift. It is a shift for the pastors, school teachers, catechists, and all people as we have shifted from “showing up” in churches and schools, to “showing up” virtually in homes via the phone lines and internet. These moments to reach out, beyond the walls, are unparalleled in modern times. This is also a missionary opportunity that is virtually limited, in terms of our traditional understanding of human encounter. This new missionary opportunity may serve as a time to plant seeds of the Gospel, much like the invisible working of the Holy Spirit in what missiology would call “pre-evangelization”. Again, Pope Francis in *The Joy of the Gospel* points out, “*Pastoral ministry in a missionary key seeks to abandon the complacent attitude that says: ‘We have always done it this way’. I invite everyone to be bold and creative in this task as we rethink the goals, structures, styles and methods of evangelization in our respective communities*”. (#33)

As we journey through the month of May, and we prepare spiritually to celebrate the feast of Pentecost on May 31st, we are invited to reflect on the role that Mary may have played in that dramatic outpouring of the Holy Spirit, when a rushing wind and tongues of fire appeared on the heads of the bewildered and frozen apostles. I think that Mary probably unlocked the door of the upper room, opened it wide, gently pointed her finger towards the open door and said to the astonished apostles, “get going”! Perhaps Mary literally pushed them out the door and compelled them to venture into a very tired and sick world, to the very ends of the earth, to share the Good News of new life in the Risen Christ.

We pray to Mary during the month of May to help us to hear her courageous “yes” to God at the Annunciation, which opened the door to healing in her Son Jesus. May her going forth in that “valley of tears,” all the way to the foot of the cross and beyond to the empty tomb and Pentecost, lead us to a “new normal” as disciples of her Son. May the people of God no longer be satisfied with the old normal of “showing up” in buildings. But rather, “showing up” for the marginal, weak and scattered flock of our communities, to build a civilization of love—one sidewalk at a time, one vulnerable person at a time. We pray fervently for the intercession of Mary, our Blessed Mother, for the grace and tenderness to help us to accompany in humility and hope all whom we encounter on our pilgrim journey.

In Communion,

Most Rev. Gary Gordon

Bishop of Victoria

+GG/cb

Why is May the Month of Mary?

The tradition of dedicating the month of May to Mary, came about in the 13th century. Some say because it was created to replace various pagan cults. The actual reason is the fact that this month is the time when spring is at the height of its beauty. Spring is also connected with nature renewing itself. In her way, Mary gave new life to the world when she gave birth to our Saviour Jesus Christ. The link between Mary and the month of May became popular among the members of the Jesuit Order — by 1700 it had a firm hold among their students at the Roman College and a short time later it was publicly celebrated in the Gesu Church in Rome. From there it spread to the rest of the Church. The pious practice of honouring Mary during the month of May has been especially promoted by the Popes. Pius XII made frequent reference to it and in his great Encyclical on the Sacred Liturgy *Mediator Dei* he characterized it as one of “other exercises of piety which although not strictly belonging to the Sacred Liturgy, are nevertheless of special import and dignity, and may be considered in a certain way to be an addition to the liturgical cult: they have been approved and praised over and over again by the Apostolic See and by the Bishops” Devotion to Mary is one an important part of the Catholic identity. As our mother she is an example of a committed “Yes” to the will of God. Because of the devotion to her many people ask her for help in the most difficult moments of their life as any child does with his mother. Hail Mary full of Grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed are 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.

Praying the Rosary in May

Pope Francis sent a letter Saturday encouraging Catholics to pray the rosary throughout May. He also shared two new prayers to implore the help of the Virgin Mary during the coronavirus pandemic. “Contemplating the face of Christ with the heart of Mary our Mother will make us even more united as a spiritual family and will help us overcome this time of trial,” Pope Francis said in a letter April 25. He urged families and individuals to “rediscover the beauty of praying the rosary at home in the month of May,” which is traditionally a time of increased devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary. With his letter, the pope included two prayers to Our Lady to recite at the end of the rosary, which he said he would also pray throughout May “in spiritual union with all of you.”

In the first prayer, Mary’s help is invoked “to conform ourselves to the will of the Father and to do what Jesus tells us.”

In the second, longer prayer, the Virgin Mary is asked to “turn your merciful eyes towards us amid this coronavirus pandemic,” and her intercession is asked “that this great suffering may end and that hope and peace may dawn anew.”

The prayer asks for Mary’s comfort for those who mourn and for those who are anxious about the future, and prays for health care workers, scientists, and national leaders.

The prayer also asks Mary to “be close to those who assist the sick night and day, and to priests who, in their pastoral

concern and fidelity to the Gospel, are trying to help and support everyone.”

“Mary, Consolation of the afflicted, embrace all your children in distress and pray that God will stretch out his all-powerful hand and free us from this terrible pandemic, so that life can serenely resume its normal course,” the prayer says.

In his letter, Francis said people can pray the rosary as a group or individually, whatever fits their situation best. “The key to doing this is always simplicity,” he underlined, adding that the internet is a good resource for finding prayers to follow. During May, it is a tradition to pray the rosary “at home within the family,” he said, noting that the restrictions of the COVID-19 pandemic “have made us come to appreciate all the more this ‘family’ aspect, also from a spiritual point of view.”

Pope Francis concluded his letter by saying “I keep all of you in my prayers, especially those suffering most greatly, and I ask you, please, to pray for me.” “I thank you, and with great affection I send you my blessing.”

First Prayer:

O Mary, You shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope. We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick, who, at the foot of the cross, were united with Jesus’ suffering, and persevered in your faith. “Protectress of the Roman people”, you know our needs, and we know that you will provide, so that, as at Cana in Galilee, joy and celebration may return after this time of trial.

Help us, Mother of Divine Love, to conform ourselves to the will of the Father and to do what Jesus tells us. For he took upon himself our suffering, and burdened himself with our sorrows to bring us, through the cross, to the joy of the Resurrection, Amen

We fly to your protection, O Holy Mother of God; Do not despise our petitions in our necessities, but deliver us always from every danger, O Glorious and Blessed Virgin.

Second Prayer:

“We fly to your protection, O Holy Mother of God”.

In the present tragic situation, when the whole world is prey to suffering and anxiety, we fly to you, Mother of God and our Mother, and seek refuge under your protection.

Virgin Mary, turn your merciful eyes towards us amid this coronavirus pandemic.

Comfort those who are distraught and mourn their loved ones who have died, and at times are buried in a way that grieves them deeply.

Be close to those who are concerned for their loved ones who are sick and who, in order to prevent the spread of the disease, cannot be close to them.

Fill with hope those who are troubled by the uncertainty of the future and the consequences for the economy and employment.

Mother of God and our Mother, pray for us to God, the Father of mercies, that this great suffering may end and that hope and peace may dawn anew.

Plead with your divine Son, as you did at Cana, so that the families of the sick and the victims be comforted, and their hearts be opened to confidence and trust.

Protect those doctors, nurses, health workers and volunteers who are on the frontline of this emergency, and are risking their lives to save others.

Support their heroic effort and grant them strength, generosity and continued health.

Be close to those who assist the sick night and day, and to priests who, in their pastoral concern and fidelity to the Gospel, are trying to help and support everyone.

Blessed Virgin, illumine the minds of men and women engaged in scientific research, that they may find effective solutions to overcome this virus.

Support national leaders, that with wisdom, solicitude and generosity they may come to the aid of those lacking the basic necessities of life and may devise social and economic solutions inspired by farsightedness and solidarity.

Mary Most Holy, stir our consciences, so that the enormous funds invested in developing and stockpiling arms will instead be spent on promoting effective research on how to prevent similar tragedies from occurring in the future. Beloved Mother, help us realize that we are all members of one great family and to recognize the bond that unites us, so that, in a spirit of fraternity and solidarity, we can help to alleviate countless situations of poverty and need. Make us strong in faith, persevering in service, constant in prayer.

Mary, Consolation of the afflicted, embrace all your children in distress and pray that God will stretch out his all-powerful hand and free us from this terrible pandemic, so that life can serenely resume its normal course.

To you, who shine on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope, do we entrust ourselves, O Clement, O Loving, O Sweet Virgin Mary. Amen.