

Pope Francis consecrates Ukraine and Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

Pope Francis announced on March 15 that he will consecrate Russia and Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. This consecration will take place on March 25 at St Peter's Basilica in Rome.

The pontiff wrote on Twitter, "On Friday 25 March, during the Celebration of Penance at 17.00 in Saint Peter's Basilica, I will consecrate #Russia and #Ukraine to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. #PrayTogether #Peace."

Pastors of parishes and others entrusted with the care of souls might wish to encourage their people to participate in some way in the Act of Consecration offered by Pope Francis for Ukraine and Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Some suggestions include praying the rosary — communally or individually — for this intention or to participate in some other act of prayer after daily Mass or as part of the Way of the Cross (a practice on the Fridays of Lent).

While the Diocese of Erie's Worship Office does not yet have the complete text of Pope Francis' prayer of consecration, the three items that follow may serve as a starting point for priests and people who wish to participate in this spiritual effort. They are:

- A prayer offered by the Holy Father at the general audience this past Wednesday
- An Act of Consecration offered by Pope St. John Paul II in 1982
- An Act of Consecration offered by the Venerable Servant of God Pope Pius XII in 1942.

The following pages include the texts of Pope Francis' prayer and consecrations from St. John Paul II and Pope Pius XII:

Prayer offered by Pope Francis at the General Audience March 16, 2022

Composed by: Archbishop Domenico Battaglia of Naples

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Forgive us for war, O Lord.
Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, have mercy on us sinners!

Lord Jesus, born under the bombs of Kyiv, have mercy on us.
Lord Jesus, who died in his mother's arms in a bunker in Kharkiv, have mercy on us!

Lord Jesus, sent at 20 years old to the front, have mercy on us!
Lord Jesus, who still sees armed hands in the shadow of your Cross, have mercy on us!

Forgive us, Lord, if not content with the nails with which we pierced your hands, we continue to drink from the blood of the dead torn apart by weapons.

Forgive us, Lord, if these hands that you created for care have been transformed into instruments of death.

Forgive us, Lord, if we continue to kill our brother, if we continue like Cain to remove the stones from our field to kill Abel. Forgive us if we continue to justify cruelty with our toil, if with our pain we legitimize the cruelty of our actions.

Forgive us the war, Lord.
Lord Jesus Christ, Son of God, we implore you: Stop the hand of Cain!

Enlighten our consciences: let not our will be done,
do not abandon us to our own actions! Stop us, Lord, stop us!

And when you have stopped the hand of Cain, take care of him too. He is our brother.
O Lord, stop the violence! Stop us, Lord!

Amen.

Act of Consecration by St. John Paul II

On May 13, 1982, after the concelebrated Mass in Fatima, Pope John Paul II made an act of consecration of the modern world to Our Lady of Fatima. What follows are excerpts from that prayer.

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O Mother of individuals and peoples, you who “know all their sufferings and their hopes”, you who have a mother’s awareness of all the struggles between good and evil, between light and darkness, which afflict the modern world, accept the cry which we, as though moved by the Holy Spirit, address directly to your Heart. Embrace, with the love of the Mother and Handmaid, this human world of ours, which we entrust and consecrate to you, for we are full of disquiet for the earthly and eternal destiny of individuals and peoples.

In a special way we entrust and consecrate to you those individuals and nations which particularly need to be entrusted and consecrated.

Before you, Mother of Christ, before your Immaculate Heart, I today, together with the whole Church, unite myself with our Redeemer in this his consecration for the world and for people, which only in his divine Heart has the power to obtain pardon and to secure reparation.

Oh, how pained we are by all the things in the Church and in each one of us that are opposed to holiness and consecration! How pained we are that the invitation to repentance, to conversion, to prayer, has not met with the acceptance that it should have received!

Oh, Immaculate Heart! Help us to conquer the menace of evil, which so easily takes root in the hearts of the people of today, and whose immeasurable effects already weigh down upon our modern world and seem to block the paths towards the future!

From famine and war, deliver us:

- From nuclear war, from incalculable self-destruction, from every kind of war, deliver us.
- From sins against the life of man from its very beginning, deliver us.
- From hatred and from the demeaning of the dignity of the children of God, deliver us.
- From every kind of injustice in the life of society, both national and international, deliver us.
- From readiness to trample on the commandments of God, deliver us.
- From attempts to stifle in human hearts the very truth of God, deliver us.
- From sins against the Holy Spirit, deliver us, deliver us.

Accept, O Mother of Christ, this cry laden with the sufferings of all individual human beings, laden with the sufferings of whole societies.

Let there be revealed, once more. in the history of the world your infinite power of merciful Love. May it put a stop to evil. May it transform consciences. May your Immaculate Heart reveal for all the light of Hope.

Amen.

Sources

L'Osservatore Romano, Weekly Edition in English, 24 May 1982
L'Osservatore Romano is the newspaper of the Holy See.
The Weekly Edition in English is published for the US by: The Cathedral Foundation, L'Osservatore Romano English Edition, 320 Cathedral St. Baltimore, MD 21201, Subscriptions: (410) 547-5315, Fax: (410) 332-1069
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Provided Courtesy of: Eternal Word Television Network, 5817 Old Leeds Road, Irondale, AL 35210 www.ewtn.com

Pope Pius XII's Consecration of the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

On October 31, 1942, Pope Pius XII performed a Marian consecration, entrusting the world to the Virgin Mary, as Queen of Peace, through her Immaculate Heart. What follows are excerpts from that prayer.

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Queen of the Holy Rosary,
Help of Christians,
Refuge of the human race,
Conqueress in God's battlefields,
To You and to Your Immaculate Heart
In this tragic hour of human history
We entrust and consecrate ourselves,
And the Holy Church.

She is the Mystical Body of Your Jesus,
Suffering and bleeding in so many parts
And tormented in so many ways,
We consecrate to You the whole world torn by bitter strife
And consumed by the fire of hatred
The victim of its own wickedness.

Oh, Mother of Mercy, obtain peace for us from God!
Obtain especially those graces, which can convert human hearts quickly.
Those graces, which can prepare, establish, and insure peace.
Queen of Peace, pray for us.
Give the world at war the peace for which all are longing,
Peace in Truth, Justice, and the Charity of Christ.
Give them peace of the arms and peace of mind,
That in tranquility and order
The Kingdom of God may expand.

May Your love and patronage hasten the victory of the Kingdom of God,
May all nations, at peace with each other and with God, proclaim You Blessed
And sing with You from one end of the earth to the other,
The eternal Magnificat of glory, love, and gratitude
To the Heart of Jesus, in which alone,
They can find Truth, Life and Peace.

Amen.