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Bishop Persico to renew consecration of diocese to Blessed Mother May 1
Nation's consecration to be renewed earlier the same day

In another effort to bring people together for prayer as a response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the Most Rev. Lawrence T. Persico, bishop of Erie, will renew the consecration of the Diocese of Erie to Mary, Mother of the Church, on **Friday, May 1, at 7 pm**. The event will be livestreamed.

At 3 p.m. on the same day, Los Angeles Archbishop José H. Gomez, president of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops, will do the same for the nation. Livestreams for both events can be accessed on the diocesan Facebook page and through a banner found at www.ErieRCD.org. Printable worship aids for the consecrations are available at www.ErieRCD.org/inspiration.html. Catholic faithful and all who wish to join them are warmly encouraged to participate in this rare experience.

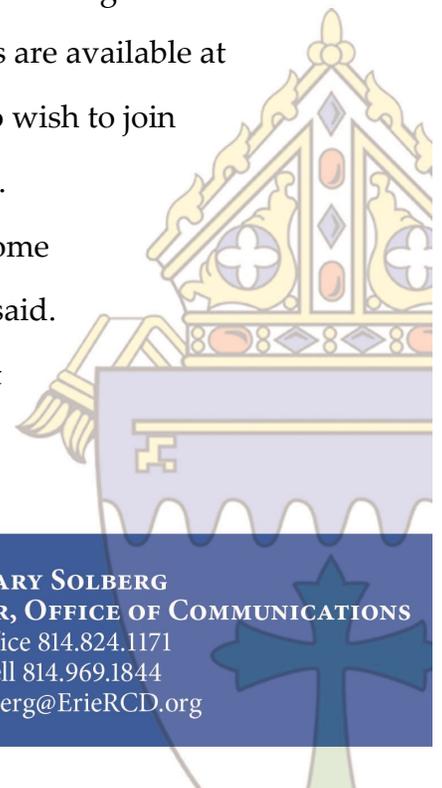
"I think it's very important for the people of our diocese to come together in prayer in the midst of this pandemic," Bishop Persico said.

"Mary is our mother, the mother of the church. We are asking that

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she come to our aid by interceding with her son on our behalf during this time of real need.”

By holding the diocesan event at 7 p.m., Bishop Persico hopes entire households will be able to participate together.

“Its important that all of our voices be heard,” he said.

An act of consecration to Mary is a reminder to the faithful of the Blessed Mother’s witness to the Gospel, and provides an opportunity to ask for her to intercede with her son on behalf of those in need. Bishop John Carroll of Baltimore, the first bishop of the United States, promoted devotion to Mary, the Mother of God, and first placed the United States under her protection in a pastoral letter in 1792.

The consecration is a fairly brief service that includes a short Scripture passage, a single decade of the rosary, a short reflection and the consecration prayer itself.

Pastors also are being encouraged to consecrate their parishes to Mary, Mother of God, via livestream for their parishioners if possible.

Bishops in the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops plan to renew their country’s consecration to Mary on May 1 as well. The bishops’ conference of Latin America and the Caribbean (CELAM) consecrated their nations to Our Lady of Guadalupe on Easter Sunday.

**Bishop Persico is available for interviews about the consecration
on Thursday, April 30. His schedule will not allow for interviews on May 1.**

**Those interested in speaking with the bishop
should work with Anne-Marie Welsh;
find email and cell information on page 1.**

For more information and additional details about consecration, visit

<https://www.eriescd.org/news/NATION-AND-DIOCESE-TO-RENEW-CONSECRATION-TO-MARY-MAY-1.html>