

September 1, 2021

Dear Parents,

We are excited to share with you a beautiful project The Archdiocese of Hartford planned. Archbishop Blair and Shepherds of our Archdiocese are leading a 33 Day Consecration to Jesus through Mary. Our school along with other schools and parishes of the Archdiocese will be participating.

One of the time-honored traditions of the Church is Consecration to Jesus through Mary. A Consecration is an entrustment of ourselves and all we have to Jesus Christ through the Immaculate Heart of Mary. It is a beautiful prayer and one that carries great protection for those who participate. Our Blessed Mother stands ready to help guide and protect our children both young and old to her Son Jesus, but she never forces her help on anyone. This Consecration is the request we make to Our Blessed Mother for such assistance.

St. John Paul II was among those who advocated the Consecration journey as a method of deepening one's faith. Throughout the journey, we will be using the book, *Child Consecration: To Jesus through Mary—Following in the Spirit of St. Thérèse, the Little Flower*. The book seeks to unpack the St. Louis de Montfort Consecration outlined in the classic text, *True Devotion to Mary*, in a way children can understand. In addition, the book has received Ecclesiastical approval and has glowing endorsements from many Church leaders:

I commend this book to parents and teachers, who will find here a solid and ready means to develop the spiritual and devotional life of children, giving them a firm foundation from which to build their relationship with the Lord and his Church,
—HIS EMINENCE ROBERT CARDINAL SARAH, Former Prefect of the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Discipline of the Sacraments

I highly recommend it to parents who wish to introduce their children to Marian devotion and thus help them to give their hearts, one with the Immaculate Heart of Mary, completely to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.
—HIS EMINENCE RAYMOND LEO CARDINAL BURKE

Taking up Blythe Kaufman's Child Consecration: To Jesus through Mary reminded me fondly of my own childhood consecration. . . . I encourage every parent, teacher and priest to read this book, quite unique in these times, that accompanies parents as they

take up again the devotion of consecrating their children to Jesus through Mary. . . . this story represents a comprehensive Christian allegory that goes on to unfold, day by day through the consecration journey: the panorama of the Scriptures; the wisdom of the Church; its elementary catechesis; its treasury of Holy Mass and the Sacraments; its essential prayers and devotions; its training in virtue, and all in the service of forming characters and personalities in light of the Christian vision of the human person. The realism with which Original Sin and redeeming grace are taken into account has created a quite exceptional manual for leading today's children safely to Jesus around the pitfalls and temptations that abound in our modern culture. . . . Were I a parent, this would be my number one Marian book for my family.

—MOST REVEREND JOHN KEENAN, Bishop of the Diocese of Paisley in Scotland

The Archdiocese has purchased a copy of the book for every teacher of our school. We do have several copies available at the school that were donated. Please contact your child's teacher or Mrs. Sager to request a copy to be sent home with your child.

The Archdiocesan Consecration will take place from September 4th through October 7th. The Consecration journey will consist of 33 consecutive days of readings and prayers followed on the 34th day with a Consecration to Jesus through Mary. In addition, each night of the Consecration, a video will premiere at 8 pm of a Shepherd of our Archdiocese of Hartford leading us in the day's reading, prayers and reflection. To view the videos, please go to childconsecration.com. Our school plans to discuss the message each day at school; however, we ask that parents join their children in reviewing each day's readings and prayers of this amazing journey.

Please visit the website childconsecration.com for a host of wonderful resources that have been developed to organize this journey. In addition to an online version of the book, there are accompanying videos as well as instructional tools such as the daily Consecration Checklist and the Consecration Certificate to be signed at the completion of the Consecration.

This Consecration presents an exciting opportunity for our entire Archdiocesan community. Please join Archbishop Blair, the Shepherds of our Archdiocese, parishes, schools, and families on this Consecration Journey to Jesus through Mary.

Thank you for your prayerful support of this effort.

Mrs. Zorger