

Consecration of Canada to Mary on May 1

The United States and Canadian Bishops conferences have jointly agreed to invite the bishops and eparchs of their countries to consecrate their dioceses, parishes, families, individuals and other institutions or groupings to Mary. The Bishops of Latin America carried out such a consecration on Easter Sunday and the bishops of some European countries have done or are doing something similar. It seems in great numbers we feel the need for Our Blessed Mother's intercession with her Son.

This gesture will be performed on this coming Friday, May 1, the Feast of St. Joseph the Worker and the beginning of the spring month dedicated to Our Lady. Catholics naturally wish to invoke the maternal protection of Mary, Mother of the Church's for the people of our country during our shared experience with the whole world of the Covid-19 pandemic.

The time that has been recommended is 3PM EDT, but priests and others may choose another time that is more suitable to consecrate the parish, yourself and your families, your town or city (for example following the daily Mass celebrated in your parish, whether live-streamed or not). Bishop Desrochers and I will pronounce this Act of Consecration in English and French from Notre Dame Cathedral Basilica next Friday afternoon.

A background text on the meaning of "consecration" is attached, along with a prayer that was used in 2017 on the occasion of Canada's 150th anniversary of Confederation that can be adapted to your particular circumstances.

- May 1st: Consecration of Ottawa Archdiocese and Alexandria-Cornwall Diocese to Mary, Mother of the Church.

Please pray for ✠ Guy and for me as we do for you.

✠Terrence