

## **Consecration of the United States and Canada to Mary Mother of the Church**

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by

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My dear mother turned 100 last January and in late February she lost her husband of 73 years. Going through this time of isolation is anything but easy for my Mom. She is in a nursing home and finds herself isolated from family members and loved ones. That said, when I talk to Mom – and I try to do so every day – I experience her maternal love. Even though I'm in my late 60's, she's still my Mom and she loves me like a Mom. Never does a day go by without my thanking the Lord for the experience of her special love for so many years.

A mother's love – isn't that how Mary relates to you and me as members of the Church? Mary loves us tenderly. She understands us. A woman of sorrows, she knows what we're going through. And like a wise and loving mother, she is both compassionate and truthful.

In this time when so many people are vulnerable and grieving, a time of uncertainty and fear, we need to know that the Blessed Mother is close to us, not merely as isolated individuals but as members of the Church. For that reason, the decision was made to consecrate the Church in the United States to Mary, the Mother of Church. When we feel isolated, Mary's prayers link us to one another as her children. When we are afraid, Mary's strong faith lends us courage. When we are tempted to go it alone, Mary draws us back to upper room where she and the disciples received the Spirit of the Risen Lord. And when we are sick, Mary is there beside us, interceding for us. When the Church goes through troubled times, it is Mary who prays for us with us and for us.

I am so happy we are consecrating the Church in our country to Mary, Mother of the Church. I invite every member of the Archdiocese of Baltimore to join me in the consecratory prayer which today is being prayed throughout the United States and Canada. Surely this great chorus of prayer will ring out in the halls of heaven. Surely Mary's prayers will help see us through these difficult days. Mary, Mother of the Church, pray for us!