



250th Anniversary!

Consecrating Our Country to the Sacred Heart of Jesus

In a historic moment, the bishops of the United States will consecrate our country to the Sacred Heart of Jesus as part of the celebration of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, the birth of our nation. The consecration will take place on **June 11th, 2026**. Catholics are invited to join in this consecration, which may be in conjunction with their parish.

It may be helpful to identify what a *consecration* is in the life of the Church. A consecration is a blessing that has the authorization of the Church and is conferred on persons, places and things. It sets apart for special service to the Church who and what are being consecrated. In this case, the prayer from the U.S. bishops will consecrate each of us who participate as Catholic citizens of this country, and our nation, to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

You are encouraged to begin on **June 3rd** to pray the *Consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus* as a nine-day novena. The *Act of Consecration* is found on the back of this page. This preparation of praying the consecration prayer for nine days will foster a disposition in which your *Act of Consecration* will be professed with heart-felt conviction on **June 11th**.

Why Consecrate Ourselves and Our Nation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus?

In his reflection on the Consecration to the Sacred Heart, Archbishop Alexander K. Sample of the

Archdiocese of Portland in Oregon wrote the following: “Pope Pius XI... commended the ‘pious custom’ of consecrating the nation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus as a way to recognize the kingship of Christ. By celebrating this important national anniversary with this devotion, we have the opportunity to encourage all Catholics to honor our Lord and to ‘infuse the spirit of the Gospel into various communities and departments of life.’

“As we reflect with gratitude on the blessings God has bestowed on our country, our devotion to the Sacred Heart demands that we consider how we might foster truth, justice, and charity in American life. We are called to bring our faith into the actions we take and the lives we lead in our communities. We celebrate the ways the Church has contributed to a more just world, and we invite all in our society to see the face of Christ reflected in each sister and brother. We welcome God’s ‘kingdom of justice, fraternity and solidarity,’ remembering that ‘God has a special place in His Heart for those who are discriminated against and oppressed, and He asks us, His Church, to make a decisive and radical choice in favor of the weakest.’ This anniversary and consecration will be a great opportunity to promote the

beautiful devotion to the Sacred Heart and to encourage the laity to offer their lives in service to God and their country.”

Through this *Act of Consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus*, we invite Christ to reign in our hearts, in every aspect of our being. The Consecration also signifies the command of Christ to help others to encounter and know and love Our Savior. Therefore, let us be filled with zeal and energy to seek an ever-deeper relationship with Jesus, to be His witnesses in our communities.

As an offering of thanksgiving, we are invited to celebrate the Solemnity of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus on Friday, June 12th by attending Mass. Let us worship the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the physical symbol of His boundless, divine love, mercy and compassion for each one of us. Based upon revelations to Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque, the devotion repairs injustices against love, offering a way to return love to God, fosters intimate union with Him while receiving spiritual blessings.

Further Resources

The U.S. bishops have a website, entitled “We Hold These Truths” for this historic occasion. Visit uscbb.org/weholdthesetruths.

Resources are available, including a video series, Catholic Current: America 250 Special with Episode 1 entitled *Catholics and the Founding*.

By Ann Lankford, Office for Catechesis

Prayer to the Sacred Heart of Jesus

On the occasion of the U.S. Bishops Consecrating the United States of America to the Sacred Heart of Jesus



O Most Sacred Heart of Jesus:

You know the longings of our hearts, and You desire that we enjoy friendship with You.

From Your pierced side, You have poured out the wellspring of life, for which we thirst.

Your heart burns with love for all people to return to a right relationship with You.

We celebrate the abundant gifts You have given this nation, founded on the self-evident truths that our Creator has endowed all people with the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

We make reparation for the offenses against You and against human dignity that have taken place in this nation.

May our hearts be united to yours, so that our families and communities enjoy peace and happiness; may broken relationships be reconciled, injustices repaired, and the wounds of our land be healed.

May Your holy Catholic Church serve as a sign, pointing all people to Your infinite love.

O Desire of Nations and Center of History, we ask You to bless these United States of America.

Who live and reign with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever.

Amen.

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us!

Immaculate Heart of Mary, pray for us!