

World Consecrated to Heart of Mary

The following is from an address by Pope John Paul II given at the May 13 Mass at Fatima when he reconsecrated the world to the Virgin Mary.

"We have recourse to your protection, holy mother of God."

As I utter the words of this antiphon with which the Church of Christ has prayed for centuries, I find myself today in this place chosen by you, O mother, and by you particularly loved.



I am here, united with all the pastors of the Church in that particular bond whereby we constitute a body and college, just as Christ desired the apostles to be in union with Peter.

In the bond of this union, I utter the words of the present act, in which I wish to include once more the hopes and anxieties of the Church in the modern world.

Forty years ago and again ten years later your servant Pope Pius XII, having before his eyes the painful experience of the human family, entrusted and consecrated to your immaculate heart the whole world, especially the peoples for which you had particular love and solicitude.

This world of individuals and nations I too have before my eyes today as I renew the entrusting and consecration carried out by my predecessor in the See of Peter: The world of the second millennium that is drawing to a close, the modern world, our world today!

The Church — mindful of the Lord's words: "Go . . . and make disciples of all nations . . . And lo, I am with you always, to the close of the age" — renewed, at the Second Vatican Council, her awareness of her mission in this world.

And therefore, O mother of individuals and peoples, you who "know all their sufferings and their hopes," you who have a mother's awareness of all the struggles between good and evil, between light and darkness, which afflict the modern world, accept the cry which we, as though moved by the Holy Spirit, address directly to your heart. Embrace with the love of a mother and handmaid this human world of ours, which we entrust and consecrate to you, for we are full of disquiet for the earthly and eternal destiny of individuals and peoples.

In a special way we entrust and consecrate to you those individuals and nations which particularly need to be entrusted and consecrated.

"We have recourse to your protection, holy mother of God: Reject not the prayers we send up to you in our necessities."

Reject them not!

Accept our humble trust — and our act of entrusting!

"For God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life."

It was precisely by reason of this love that the Son of God consecrated himself for all mankind: "And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be consecrated in truth."

By reason of that consecration the disciples of all ages are called to spend themselves for the salvation of the world and to supplement Christ's afflictions for the sake of his body, that is the Church.

Before you, mother of Christ, before your immaculate heart, I today, together with the whole Church, unite myself with our redeemer in this his consecration for the world and for people, in which only his divine heart has the power to obtain pardon and to secure reparation.

The power of this consecration lasts for all time and embraces all individuals, peoples and nations. It overcomes every evil that the spirit of darkness is able to awaken and has in fact awakened in our times in the heart of man and in his history.

The Church, the mystical body of Christ, unites herself through the service of Peter's successor to this consecration by our redeemer.

Oh, how deeply we feel the need for consecration on the part of humanity and of the world — our modern world — in union with Christ himself! The redeeming work of Christ, in fact, must be shared in by the world by means of the Church.

Oh, how pained we are by all the things in the Church and in each one of us that are opposed to holiness and consecration! How pained we are that the invitation to repentance, to conversion, to prayer, has not met with the acceptance that it should have received!

How pained we are that many share so coldly in Christ's work of redemption! That "what is lacking in Christ's afflictions" is so insufficiently completed in our flesh.

And so, blessed be all those souls that obey the call of eternal love! Blessed be all those who, day after day, with undiminished generosity accept your invitation, O mother, to do what your Jesus tells them and give the Church and the world a serene testimony of lives inspired by the Gospel.

Above all, blessed be you, the handmaid of the Lord, who in the fullest way obey the divine call!

Hail to you, who are wholly united to the redeeming consecration of your son!

Mother of the Church! Enlighten the people of God along the paths of faith, of home and love! Help us to live with the whole truth of the consecration of Christ for the entire human family of the modern world.

In entrusting to you, O mother, the world, all individuals and peoples, we also entrust to you the consecration itself, for the world's sake placing it in your motherly heart.

O immaculate heart! help us to conquer the menace of evil, which so easily takes root in the hearts of the people of today and whose immeasurable effects already weigh down upon our modern world and seem to block the paths toward the future!

From famine and war, deliver us.

From nuclear war, from incalculable self-destruction, from every kind of war, deliver us.

From sins against the life of man from its very beginning, deliver us.

From hatred and from the demeaning of the dignity of the children of God, deliver us.

From every kind of injustice in the life of society, both national and international, deliver us.

From readiness to trample on the commandments of God, deliver us.

From attempts to stifle in human hearts the very truth of God, deliver us.

From sins against the Holy Spirit, deliver us, deliver us.

Accept, O mother of Christ, this cry laden with the sufferings of all individual human beings, laden with the sufferings of whole societies.

Let there be revealed once more in the history of the world the infinite power of merciful love. May it put a stop to evil. May it transform consciences. May your immaculate heart reveal for all the light of hope.

I would address yet another special prayer to you: O mother, know the anxieties and preoccupations of your children. I beg you, in ardent, doleful imploration, to interpose your intercession for peace in the world, for peace among peoples which, in various parts of the world, are bloodily opposed to each other by differences of national interest and acts of unjust force.

In particular, that the hostilities that now divide two great countries in the waters of the South Atlantic, causing sad loss of human lives, may cease. Let a just

and honorable solution be found at last between the parties, not only for the controversy that divides them and threatens unforeseen consequences, but also and above all for the re-establishment between them of more worthy and more profound harmony as befits their histories, their civilizations and their Christian traditions.

We pray that shortly the grave and troubling controversy may be overcome and be concluded in such a way that my projected pastoral visit to Great Britain may be happily accomplished, so that not only my personal desire may be satisfied, but also the desire of all those who ardently await this visit and are preparing for it with so much devotion and with all their hearts.

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