

Text of Pope's Prayer of Consecration to Mary

Washington (NC) — Following is the text of Pope John Paul II's model prayer of consecration, "Act of Entrusting to Our Lady," which was released Feb. 14 in Washington by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops. It was dated Dec. 8, 1983, the feast of the Immaculate Conception.

"We have recourse to your protection, holy Mother of God." As we utter the words of this antiphon with which the Church of Christ has prayed for centuries, we find ourselves today before you, Mother, in the jubilee year of the redemption.

We find ourselves united with all the pastors of the Church in a particular bond whereby we constitute a body

and a college, just as by Christ's wish the apostles constituted a body and college with Peter.

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

Forty years ago and again 10 years later, your servant Pope Pius XII, having before his eyes the painful experiences of the human family, entrusted and consecrated to your immaculate heart the whole world, especially the peoples for which by reason of their situation you have particular love and solicitude.

This world of individuals and nations we too have before our eyes today: the world of the second millennium that is drawing to a close, the modern world, our world!

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" (Mt. 28:19-20); has, at the Second Vatican Council, given fresh life to 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, moved by the Holy Spirit, address directly to your heart. Embrace, with the love of the mother and handmaid of the Lord, this human world of ours, which we entrust and consecrate to you, for we are full of concern 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 thus entrusted and consecrated.

"We have recourse to your protection, holy Mother of God": despise not our petitions in our necessities.

Behold, as we stand before you, mother of Christ, before your immaculate heart, we desire, together with the whole Church, to unite ourselves with the consecration which, for love of us, your son made of himself to the father: "For their sake," he said, "I consecrate myself that they also may be consecrated in the truth" (Jn. 17:19). We wish to unite ourselves with our redeemer in this his consecration for the world and for the human race, which, in 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 his history.

How deeply we feel the need for the consecration of humanity and the world — our modern world — in union with Christ himself! For the redeeming work of Christ must be shared in by the world through the Church.

The present year of the redemption shows this: the special jubilee of the whole Church.

Above all creatures, may you be blessed, you, the handmaid of the Lord, who in the fullest way obeyed 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, hope and love! Help us to live in the 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 this very consecration of the world, placing it in your motherly heart.

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 towards 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 the loss of awareness of good and evil, deliver us.

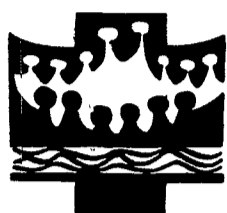
From sins against the Holy Spirit, deliver us, deliver us.

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

Help us with the power of the Holy Spirit to conquer all sin: individual sin and the "sin of the world," sin in all its manifestations.

Let there be revealed, once more, in the history of the world the infinite saving power of the redemption: the 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!

Insights In Liturgy



By Thomas P. Mull

Crossroads II: Renewed Hearts, Renewed Church

In the past few weeks, this column has focused on many ideas for the preparation and planning of the season of Lent-Easter. As we approach this sacred season we can begin to consider seriously the practical steps which must be taken to insure good liturgical preparation and prayer for all worshipping assemblies.

Bishop Clark has developed a program for Lent and Eastertide called "Crossroads II: Renewed Hearts... Renewed Church." This program allows the bishop to incorporate three very important elements: the Holy Year, evangelization and the "Challenge of Peace" pastoral letter of the U.S. bishops.

First, Easter Sunday will be the conclusion of the Holy Year of Redemption. Our Lenten experience, then, allows us one last chance to celebrate this Holy Year. At its center, the Holy Year has called for a renewal of heart, mind and Church. Throughout the past few months, the diocese has drawn together (at Sacred Heart Cathedral, St. Mary's, Canandaigua, and St. Charles Borromeo, Elmira Heights) for diocesan celebrations of the Holy Year. Numerous groups of pilgrims have journeyed to their respective pilgrimage churches to gather in prayer. All the activity of the Holy Year has been centered on the redemption. The mystery of the redemption by Jesus is the focal point of the Lent and Easter season.

It is for that reason that the bishop has chosen this Holy Year theme to be the focus of Crossroads II. In renewal of our hearts and awareness of God's presence in our lives, our church community is renewed. The heart becomes a symbol, not only of a person's life but also of the life of the Church. Remember our devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the scriptural reference to the Heart of Jesus pierced on the cross? It is most appropriate that this symbol become the vibrant sign of our Lenten journey, our Holy Year's end, and our Easter joy — redemption's victory.

Second in the bishop's focus is his three-year plan of evangelization. In June

of 1983, Bishop Clark stated it is impossible to be effective evangelizers if each person has not experienced the renewal of Jesus' spirit within himself. This renewal inspires one to go forth and proclaim the good news. To encourage the renewal of the parish becomes the first step in what will hopefully become a diocesan-wide evangelization challenge. The Lenten period of intense spiritual growth serves as an ideal time to launch this renewal. More will be mentioned regarding evangelization next week.

The third area of concern for the bishop's program is our diocesan response to the "Challenge of Peace." In this letter, the bishops call for a renewal of heart so that people will come to peace within themselves. Only after this important first step, can people effectively work for peace in the world. The motivation of this statement, plus the desire to renew the hearts of all people in the diocese has led to the bishop's participation in various discussion groups dealing with the pastoral. Once again, the concept of peace is found integrally connected with the Holy Year concept of redemption. It becomes evident that these two factors, peace and redemption, move hand-in-hand.

Using the bishop's journey as a model, parishes will be led to a Lent and Easter season which will encourage a renewal with themselves. This renewal can take many shapes and forms. It is not "tied down" to one activity or devotion. The dynamic community will allow its Lenten activities to be reflected in its liturgical celebrations. Conversely, the liturgical celebrations will further challenge and heighten a community's awareness of the call of this holy time of the year.

The challenge lies before us now. What focus will call forth renewal with the parish community? What dynamic will challenge an already committed people to deeper commitment of spirit and life? What can a community celebrate and how should a community celebrate to enjoy the fullness of the spirit's renewal power?

The questions are before us. The answers come slowly, deliberately and wonderfully. Let us be ready!



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WAR'S AFTERMATH

The news from Lebanon tells of continued hardships. Innocent civilian victims of war are trying to pull their scattered families together, rebuild their lives and repair or replace their bombed out homes, schools, churches and hospitals. Lebanon now is a nation of physically, mentally and emotionally wounded. Continued lack of proper food, clothing, housing and medicines make its people easy prey to typhoid, cholera, dysentery and other diseases. They cry to you for help!

Please answer their call as generously as you can—Now!

A CRY FROM THE INNOCENTS

As always, it is the innocent—the refugees, the very old and the very young who suffer most. They need help—urgently—for medicines, for food, for shelter, for clothing and to rebuild their homes, their churches and their schools. Please give what you can—\$500, \$50, \$5—as soon as you can. Tomorrow may be too late for too many!

The cold weather will soon be upon us, making their suffering all the more severe. So please, share what you can—Today!

A woman from New York has sent us her collection of 50-cent pieces; another woman sent precisely \$188.43—the exact amount of her savings account. Some gifts from priests measured in the hundreds of dollars. Catholic organizations throughout the country are sending support.

Extraordinary events—have now created extraordinary new suffering. Countless thousands of human beings need help. The threat has not yet passed. Will we forget again? Please help today—in an extraordinary way.

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