



At their Plenary Assembly this past November, the U.S. Bishops announced plans to consecrate the nation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The consecration is planned for June 2026, coinciding with the nation's 250th birthday. The bishops invite all parishes to join in this consecration.

Why the Sacred Heart? In his *Reflection on the Consecration to the Sacred Heart*, Archbishop Alexander K. Sample (Portland, Ore.) speaks of the origins of this devotion, noting that it "developed over centuries following the experiences of St. Margaret Mary Alacoque in the 17th century." Since then, popes have "lauded the practice of consecration of the self, home, and even whole nations to the Sacred Heart," seeing it as a powerful "way to recognize the kingship of Christ." Archbishop Sample also added that this consecration is an opportunity to "infuse the spirit of the Gospel" into our parishes and communities.

In a 2024 encyclical, Pope Francis wrote: "In contemplating the pierced heart of the Lord ... we too are inspired to be more attentive to the suffering and needs of others." Drawing on this theme, Archbishop Sample writes that "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."

Archbishop Sample concluded by saying that "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." †

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 a 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!

HISTORY OF THE DEVOTION

In 1673, at a small monastery in eastern France belonging to the Order of the Visitation of Holy Mary, Sister Margaret Mary Alacoque began experiencing visions of the Sacred Heart that continued for 18 months.

During her visions, she learned ways to venerate the Sacred Heart of Christ. These devotions included a Holy Hour on Thursdays, the creation of the feast of the Sacred Heart and the reception of the Eucharist on the first Friday of every month.

On June 16, 1675, Jesus told Sister Margaret Mary to promote a feast that honored His Sacred Heart. He also gave Sister Margaret Mary 12 promises to all who venerated and promoted the devotion of the Sacred Heart.

In 1856, Blessed Pius IX designated the Friday after the octave of Corpus Christi as the feast of the Sacred Heart for the universal Church.

THE PROMISES OF THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS TO ST. MARGARET MARY

1. "I will give them all the graces necessary in their state of life.
2. I will establish peace in their homes.
3. I will comfort them in all their afflictions.
4. I will be their secure refuge during life and, above all, in death.
5. I will bestow abundant blessings upon all their undertakings.
6. Sinners will find in My Heart the source and infinite ocean of mercy.
7. Lukewarm souls shall become fervent.
8. Fervent souls shall quickly mount to high perfection.
9. I will bless every place in which an image of My Heart is exposed and honored.
10. I will give to priests the gift of touching the most hardened hearts.
11. Those who shall promote this devotion shall have their names written in My Heart.
12. I promise you in the excessive mercy of My Heart that My all-powerful love will grant to all those who receive holy Communion on the First Fridays in nine consecutive months the grace of final perseverance; they shall not die in My disgrace, nor without receiving their sacraments. My divine Heart shall be their safe refuge in this last moment." †

"IN CONTEMPLATING THE PIERCED HEART OF THE LORD ... WE TOO ARE INSPIRED TO BE MORE ATTENTIVE TO THE SUFFERING AND NEEDS OF OTHERS."

— POPE FRANCIS

Apparition to Marguerite Marie Alacoque by Francesco Podesti (1800–1895).



Enthroning Christ

AT THE HEART OF THE HOME

BY DEACON BILL MEAGHER



Getty Images/SwcreamStudio

On June 12, 2026, the bishops of the United States will consecrate our great nation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. That's a powerful moment for the Church — but it's also an invitation. It's an invitation for each of us to respond personally, beginning right in our own homes.

One of the most meaningful ways to do that is through the consecration and enthronement of our homes to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

WHAT IS A HOME CONSECRATION?

Consecration is a sacred act by which we dedicate ourselves, or something entrusted to us, to God. When we consecrate our home, we intentionally place our family life under the Lordship of Jesus Christ and entrust ourselves to the care of His Mother. The enthronement of the Sacred Heart is a long-standing devotion in the Church, strongly encouraged by Pope Pius XII. At its heart, it's simple. We place an image of the Sacred Heart in a place of honor in our home as a sign that Christ is not just part of our lives; He is at the center of them.

When we include devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, we recognize something the Church has always taught — that we come most securely to Jesus through His Mother.

This isn't just a symbol or a nice tradition. It's a decision. It's a way of saying, as a family, "Christ belongs at the center of this home."

WHY CONSECRATE THE HOME?

As a deacon, I've seen how easy it is for family life to become busy, scattered and pulled in a dozen different directions. Even good things can crowd out what matters most.

Consecrating the home is a way of bringing everything back into focus. Through this act, families:

- **Invite Christ into the ordinary moments of daily life**
- **Make a renewed commitment to prayer in the home**
- **Ask for the grace to live with charity, forgiveness and unity**
- **Place their struggles, joys and future into God's hands**

The Sacred Heart reminds us that Christ's love is real, personal and poured out for us on the Cross. The Immaculate Heart of Mary shows us what it looks like to trust God completely. Together, they give us both a model to follow and a place to turn when life is difficult.

HOW TO CONSECRATE YOUR HOME

The good news is that this is something any family can do. It doesn't have to be complicated, and it can happen at any time.

■ **Prepare your home and hearts** — Choose a place in your home where the images of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary will be clearly visible. Take some time as a family to pray and, if possible, go to confession beforehand.

■ **Gather for prayer** — Bring your family together. If a priest or deacon is available, you can invite him, but it is not required.

■ **Proclaim the Word of God** — Read aloud a passage like John 19:31–37, which recalls the pierced Heart of Christ, and helps root what you are doing in Scripture.

■ **Pray the Act of Consecration** — Recite one of the consecration prayers provided or offer a prayer from the heart to formally dedicate your home and your family to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

■ **Enthroned the images** — Place the images in their place of honor as a visible reminder that Christ is at the center of your home.

■ **Live it daily** — This isn't meant to be a one-time moment. It's something you live out through prayer, trust and the way you love one another each day.



FOR MORE INFORMATION or additional resources to consecrate your home, visit salinadiocese.org





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WHY IS NOW A GOOD TIME TO DO THIS?

When our bishops consecrate our nation on June 12, they are entrusting our country to the Heart of Christ. But the renewal of our nation begins much closer to home – with our families.

The Church teaches that parents are the primary educators of their children in the faith. That’s why we call the home the “domestic church.” What happens in the home matters deeply.

Consecrating your home is a simple but powerful way to live that out.

Please consider consecrating your home, placing your family in the loving care of the Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Let Christ truly be at the center of your family life, and trust that He will take care of the rest. †



FOR MORE INFORMATION, VISIT

salinadiocese.org/office/family-consecration-to-the-sacred-heart-of-jesus/ or use the QR code.