

My Catholic Roots: Special Edition

What is Consecration to Mary? (1 of 3)

“Planted and built up in Jesus Christ, firm in the faith.” Col. 2:7

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Icon by Rachel Brooks, MI Member



“In the angel’s message, it was as if God made a marriage proposal to the human race. And in our name, Mary said yes.”

World Youth Day Message

Dear Friends, the decision to believe in Jesus Christ and to follow him is not an easy one. It is hindered by our personal failures and by the many voices that point us towards easier paths. Do not be discouraged...

May the Virgin Mary accompany you along this path! At the message of the angel, she received God’s word with faith. It was in faith that she consented to what God was accomplishing in her. By proclaiming her “fiat”, her “yes”, she received the gift of immense charity which led her to give herself entirely to God.

(From WYD 2008): In the angel’s message, it was as if God made a marriage proposal to the human race. And in our name, Mary said yes. In fairy tales, the story ends there, and all “live happily ever after”. In real life it is not so simple. For Mary there were many struggles ahead, as she lived out the consequences of the “yes” that she had given to the Lord. Throughout her trials she remained faithful to her promise, sustained by the Spirit of fortitude.

Dear young people, we too must remain faithful to the “yes” that we have given to the Lord’s offer of friendship. We know that he will never abandon us. We know that he will always sustain us through the gifts of the Spirit. Mary accepted the Lord’s “proposal” in our name. So let us turn to her and ask her to guide us as we struggle to remain faithful to the life-giving relationship that God has established with each one of us. She is our example and our inspiration, she intercedes for us with her Son, and with a mother’s love she shields us from harm. ~ *Benedict XVI*



YOUR QUESTIONS GOD'S ANSWERS

What is Consecration to Mary? (1)

Fr. James McCurry, OFM., Conv.

Consecration to Mary may be explained in many ways. It can be traced back to biblical times, when Our Lord saw John and Our Lady at the foot of the Cross (cf. Jn 19:25-27). There He asked John to make his act of consecration to Mary. During the centuries, great religious Orders (such as the Carmelites, the Franciscans, and the Dominicans) and saints (St. John Eudes, St. Louis de Montfort, and others) encouraged and promoted consecration to Mary. In our time, the foremost teacher of Marian consecration is certainly St. Maximilian Kolbe, whose teachings and example have a profound impact upon the life of the Church and the world. Consecration to Mary might be seen as a coin with two sides: 1. The imitation of the Son of God Who lived at home with his Mother; and 2. The imitation of a Mother who believes her Son to be God.

Living at Home with the Mother

When we make our act of consecration to Mary, we say: "I am all yours, Mary. I offer myself to you. Take me as your child." In doing so we come to imitate Jesus' relationship to Mary, because we are doing no more than "living at home with the Mother," as He did. St. Paul writes: "Though He was God, Jesus did not deem equality with God something to be grasped at. Rather, He emptied Himself and took the form of a slave" (Phil 2:6-7). Where did Christ take the form of a slave? In Mary's womb, the Second Person of the Most Blessed Trinity entered this world in the womb of Our Lady, in a position of total dependence upon her. ⇒



Icon by Rachel Brooks, MI Member

"I got home from MI camp in 2009 and there was a message waiting for me with the invite to learn how to write icons. It has been such an incredible blessing. I am glad that others will have the opportunity to enjoy Our Lady's image as much as I have."

-Rachel Brooks
MI Member from Washington

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⇒ When we entrust ourselves to the Virgin Mary, we are imitating what the Lord Jesus did, placing ourselves in the care of the Mother in order to live at home with her. Even when Jesus emerged from the womb and grew up, He still lived at home with his Mother learning her lessons of wisdom and grace.

A Mother Who Believes

Our Lady believed her Son to be her God and she followed Him. She supported Him all the way to Calvary's Cross. When we give ourselves to Mary, we come to imitate her relationship to Jesus. Just as we imitate Jesus' dependence upon Mary on one side of the coin, on the other we identify with Mary in her stance of following Him.

DIG DEEPER Scripture & Tradition

[Jn 19:25-27](#)

[Lk 1:26-35](#)

[CC#511, CC#2617-2618](#)

[WYD Message](#)

Through such a close identification with Mary, we begin to see Jesus through her eyes and to love Him through her heart, or better yet, she sees Him through our eyes and loves Him with our hearts.

St. Maximilian describes this close relationship with Our Lady through total consecration, saying: "To come close to her, to become like her, to permit her to reign over our hearts and whole beings, that she may live and act in and through us, that she may love God with our hearts... this is our ideal!"

Interior Life with Mary

When we say to Mary, "Totus Tuus", "I am totally yours," she receives us and takes up residence in us, just as we take up residence in her. Through our consecration we invite her to become part of our *inner life*. Although invisible, the presence of Mary becomes a spiritual reality within us and she speaks through our hearts to God. Through our own soul, prayerfully, she repeats her words at Nazareth: "*Fiat! Let it be done to me...*" and her *Magnificat* – "*My soul magnifies the Lord.*" Thus, Mary begins to share the interior dynamics of her own prayer life with us and we echo her *Fiat* and *Magnificat* to God.

Secondly, since Our Lady was ever obedient to the will of God, the second fruit of our total consecration to her is *obedience*, touching on the very heart of our soul, which has an intellect and a will. With our intellects our souls come to see and understand the truth as God reveals it, and with our wills our souls respond to the truth; that is, obey God's law and do God's will. Through consecration, Our Lady is not just interiorly present within us, but she is identified with us. Mary's soul and our souls fuse together in an intimate union, so that her constant attitude of obedience to God's will becomes gradually our souls' attitude, and we are strengthened to say "yes" to God the way Mary always does. ✚

"O Queen of heaven and earth, I pray that you may soon reign in every single heart and that all men may recognize you as their Mother and God as their Heavenly Father, thus loving one another as brothers and sisters." ~ St. Maximilian Kolbe

Cultivating Communion

Group Activity Page

What is Consecration to Mary?

Holes in the Ice

Goals	Trust, Communication, Listening in the midst of chaos, Following direction, Overcoming obstacles
Time	15-20 minutes (not including processing)
Physical contact	None
Physical challenges	Must be able to move across the room blind folded
Number of participants	12-20
Space requirements	Open floor space
Materials needed	Ordinary objects that are durable and safe, and a blindfold
Preparation	Obtain objects to place in the circle

Instructions

1. Have the group stand in a circle. The inside of the circle is the “ice.”
2. Ask for a volunteer to be the first “skater” across the ice. Blindfold the skater.
3. Place some objects in the circle, such as books, pencils, paper, or anything you have around that is not sharp or breakable. You can also ask people to contribute objects they might have, such as keys or jackets or purses. Spread the objects evenly around in the space.
4. The skater’s task is to walk to the opposite side of the circle without touching any of the objects. Each object is a “hole in the ice.” If the skater touches an object, you say “Splash” to indicate they have fallen into a hole and their turn is over.
5. Everyone else in the circle tries to help the skater navigate around the holes by calling out directions. They cannot allow one person to be the navigator; everyone has to be part of the process. Continue the exercise for three or four more rounds with other volunteers. In between rounds, you can have everyone close their eyes while you rearrange the objects.

Processing Suggestions

1. Begin with the Opening Reading. 2. Then, process the activity. 3. Sum up processing with Closing Reading.

Opening Reading:

“The decision to believe in Jesus Christ and to follow him is not an easy one. It is hindered by our personal failures and by the many voices that point us towards easier paths. Do not be discouraged. May the Virgin Mary accompany you along this path! At the message of the angel, she received God’s word with faith. It was in faith that she consented to what God was accomplishing in her....For Mary there were many struggles ahead, as she lived out the consequences of the “yes” that she had given to the Lord. Throughout her trials she remained faithful to her promise, sustained by the Spirit of fortitude.

Closing Reading:

Dear young people, we too must remain faithful to the “yes” that we have given to the Lord’s offer of friendship. We know that he will never abandon us. We know that he will always sustain us through the gifts of the Spirit. Mary accepted the Lord’s “proposal” in our name. So let us turn to her and ask her to guide us as we struggle to remain faithful to the life-giving relationship that God has established with each one of us. She is our example and our inspiration, she intercedes for us with her Son, and with a mother’s love she shields us from harm.

- How might this activity be related to the Pope’s message about the challenge to follow Christ?
- What does the Pope mean when he speaks of the “many voices that point us towards easier paths?” How did the skaters feel as they listened to being navigated by all the voices? Did too many voices cause confusion? Was it difficult to hear? Was there conflicting information? Did some voices stand out?
- For those skaters who fell in a hole, what do they think contributed to their falling?
- What was it like to be in the circle trying to help the skater? Did the group work together to help the skaters; How could that be likened to the communion of Saints?
- Did anyone intentionally try to get the skater to fall in the ice? What are some ways others sometimes prevent you from following Christ?
- The exercise illustrates what it’s like to be vulnerable and dependent. How can a relationship with Mary assist you when you are vulnerable? How can Consecration to Mary assist your struggle in saying ‘yes’ to God in your life?