



## Daily reflections of Consecration to THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS AND THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

### First 7 Days

**Day 1** We are about to consecrate ourselves or renew the Consecration (as applicable). It would be worthwhile to make a small reflection; how do you define your life? Some say that life is a roller coaster, a puzzle, a journey, a symphony. What is your vision of life? It's very possible that you base your life on the wrong image. In order to fulfill the purposes God has for you and for each one of us, we will have to question the common wisdom and replace it with biblical approaches of life. Scripture says: "Do not model your behavior on the contemporary world, but let the renewing of your minds transform you, so that you may discern for yourselves what is the will of God" (Rom 12,2). Change means, change of course, to correct what's not right, what is susceptible of improvement. If we do it in the affairs of the world, more so we can do it in our spiritual life.

**Day 2** What does it mean to "change course" now a days? Here, everyone needs to reflect and do whatever is necessary to achieve the change we speak of, but there are five objectives that we can accomplish and begin to testify that change of course: • We change when we render worship to God, with our love, with our thanksgiving, our praise and with a holier life. • We change when we love our neighbor and we show it to him in as many ways as possible. • We change when we become Christ like. • We change when we make service a way of life and we put our gifts at the service of others. • We change when we witness to others.

**Day 3** But what is it to consecrate? What does it really mean? The heart of worship is to give in, surrender. The word "surrender" is unpopular because it generally evokes unpleasant images. Meaning, it is used in a negative context. However, today's culture of competitiveness teaches us that we should never give up, that we shouldn't surrender. We hear everywhere that we must overcome all difficulties. But in the context in which we now find ourselves, in its purest and higher meaning, consecrating is the natural response to the amazing love and mercy of God. We give ourselves to Him, not out of fear or obligation, but out of love "because He loved us first" (1Jn 4, 10). Paul in his letter to the Romans says: "give every part of your bodies to God to be instruments of uprightness" (Rom 6, 13).

**Day 4** After writing eleven chapters in the letter to the Romans, explaining the incredible grace of God with us, Paul exhorts us to give our life to God: "offer your bodies as a living sacrifice, dedicated and acceptable to God" (Rom 12, 1). This is the real consecration you must offer. Then, the true way to please God occurs when we give ourselves completely to God. Offering ourselves to God thru consecration is the essence of our worship.

**Day 5** The act of consecration, of personal surrender, is known by various names: consecration is referred to as saying that Jesus is the Lord of our life, taking the cross, dying to self, placing oneself in the hands of the Holy Spirit, etc. The important thing is that it's done, no matter what it's called. God wants our life: OUR WHOLE LIFE. Ninety-five percent is not enough. There are three obstacles that block our complete surrender to God: fear, pride and confusion. We do not realize how much God loves us, we want to control our own life and we misinterpret what it means to surrender, to consecrate.

**Day 6** Personal consecration, the consecration of our family, our city, supposes trust. Then it would be worth asking, can I trust God? Trust is the main ingredient of our surrender to God. You cannot give yourself to Him if you don't trust Him, but you can't trust Him either until you know Him better. Fear keeps us from surrendering, but "love drives out fear". The more we realize how much God loves us, the easier it is to surrender. How do you know God loves you? He shows you His love in many ways: He tells you He loves you, that He never loses sight of you, that He takes care of you, that He forgives you, that He's always with you, that though you might forsake Him, He will never forsake you... \*Saying that he, who surrenders, is because he trusts, because he loves. God has loved us so much that in order not to lose us, He gave us His Son Jesus. God's love for us is infinite because knowing that we are sinners, He sent His Son to die for us on the cross.

**Day 7** Another obstacle to the consecration and complete surrender of our self and our life to God is our pride. We do not want to admit that we are mere creatures and that we cannot control everything. Much of the stress that's spoken of everywhere is due to the desire for total control. Life is a struggle, but what many people ignore is that our life, like Jacob's is in fact a struggle with God! We want to read the bill of rights to God and tell Him not to meddle in our "light-weight" decisions that He does not approve of like abortion, insecurity, pornography, rampant sexuality, drugs, violence, gay marriage, euthanasia, planet deterioration, etc. We are still confused today, 2000 years after Jesus was present in the world.

