



CATHOLIC DIOCESE OF KLERKSDORP

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06 August 2021

PASTORAL LETTER – AUGUST 2021 -THE DIOCESE OF KLERKSDORP.

Dear Brothers and Sisters

INTRODUCTION

In the light of the Coronavirus crisis, I am calling for a time of prayer. Philippians 4:6 tells us: "Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." The Pandemic has taken the lives of our loved ones. I have lost many Christians in this diocese in the past 18 months. Among them, we have priests, our bishop-emeritus, lay ministers, catechists, members of sodalities and Lay Associations, and many other committed Catholics of goodwill. As the pandemic continues, let us take a stand and fight a spiritual war against Covid. Let us also pray for those who lost loved ones. Let us pray for those who lost their jobs, their salaries and other income-generating activities. Let us pray for the mental and physical health of our Laity, Priests and the Religious. Let us pray for the finances of our Diocese. We have been hit hard by Covid and we are struggling to survive. We thank the Lord for those who have been generous and have supported the diocese in these trying times. We pray during this time that we can have more people who can be generous enough to support the diocese. PLEASE REMEMBER THE "DIOCESE OF KLERKSDORP" IN YOUR *LAST WILL AND TESTAMENT*.

With this letter, I warmly encourage all parishes to consecrate themselves, to the Sacred Heart of Jesus on the 15th of August 2021, on the Feast of Mary Assumed into Heaven: the Patroness of Southern Africa). The Sacred Heart of Jesus sums up in one image, "All of the supremely loving things which combine the Divine and the Human love of Jesus the Son of God for us poor human beings": Divine Mercy, love, tenderness, compassion, understanding. Devotion to the Sacred Heart inspires trust, confidence, hope and joy. No matter how broken, low, unworthy, alone, desperate, anxious or feeling guilty, the very thought of the Sacred Heart of Jesus opens a door, brings light, lifts the spirit and heralds a return to healing, victory over Covid, breakthroughs, peace and joy. Open your heart to Him and experience the power of his eternal love for you!

At the end of the Mass, you may expose the Blessed Sacrament, and then Do the Act of Consecration as a parish. It is my prayer that all our parishioners may be consecrated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, with deep sincerity, joy and commitment! You will be consecrating yourself, your family and your parish to the Sacred Heart. This Consecration must be followed by the Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. For those who cannot attend Mass due to the lockdown restrictions, we encourage you to do this Consecration from home. Use your Catholic Prayer Book like Are rapeleng, Dithapelo le Difela, Thapelo ya ka/Umkhuleko Wami. Sondagsmissaal and Gebedeboek, etc. You will find the Prayers of Consecration in your own language. You can also translate the prayers below, make these prayers available for the people so that they can pray with you.

What is a Consecration?

Consecration means “to make holy.” When one makes an act of consecration, it is made ultimately to God with the understanding that our consecration is a serious commitment on our part to respond faithfully to God’s grace at work in our lives and to ask for the Blessings of God.

ACT OF CONSECRATION TO THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS

I give myself and consecrate to the Sacred Heart of our Lord Jesus Christ my person and my life, my actions, pains, and sufferings, so that I may be unwilling to make use of any part of my being other than to honor, love, and glorify the Sacred Heart. This is my unchanging purpose; namely, to be all His, and to do all things for the love of Him, at the same time renouncing with all my heart whatever is displeasing to Him. I therefore take You, O Sacred Heart, to be the only object of my love, the guardian of my life, my assurance of salvation, the remedy of my weakness and inconstancy, the atonement for all the faults of my life and my sure refuge at the hour of death. Be then, O Heart of goodness, my justification before God the Father, and turn away from me the strokes of His righteous anger. O Heart of love, I put all my confidence in You, for I fear everything from my own wickedness and frailty, but I hope for all things from Your goodness and bounty. Remove from me all that can displease You or resist Your holy will; let Your pure love imprint Your image so deeply upon my heart that I shall never be able to forget You or to be separated from You. May I obtain from all Your loving kindness the grace of having my name written in Your Heart, for in You I desire to place all my happiness and glory, living and dying in bondage to You. Amen.

WE NEED TO ASK FOR THE INTERVENTION OF OUR LADY

The Blessed Virgin Mary is like the neck. She connects the Body of Christ (the clergy, religious and laity) to the Head of the Church (Jesus). Imagine if the neck is missing in a human person? By consecrating ourselves and the parish to the Immaculate Heart, we are saying, individually and collectively, that we want to become even more alive in Christ. As Mary said at Fatima, on July 13, 1917, “In the end, my Immaculate Heart will triumph.” This parish consecration is one very sure way to help to accomplish this prophecy. We invite our Lady’s intervention against Covid-19 and other challenges we face. So, what are you waiting for? The historical record shows that consecration to the Blessed Mother and her rosary is more powerful than the former Soviet Union and the atomic bomb! When consecrating ourselves to Our Lady, we are consecrating ourselves to Jesus through Mary. As Pope John Paul II explained, “Consecrating ourselves to Mary means accepting her help to offer ourselves and the whole of mankind to Him who is holy, infinitely holy; it means accepting her help—by having recourse to her motherly heart, which beneath the cross was opened to love for every human being, for the whole world—in order to offer the world, the individual human being, mankind as a whole, and all the nations to him who is infinitely holy” (May 13, 1982). “Consecration to the Mother of God,” says Pope Pius XII, “is a total gift of self, for the whole of life and for all eternity; and a gift which is not a mere formality or sentimentality, but effectual, comprising the full intensity of the Christian life – Marian life.” This consecration, the Pope explained, “tends essentially to union with Jesus, under the guidance of Mary.”

ACT OF CONSECRATION TO THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

O Immaculate Heart of Mary, Mother of the Heart of Jesus, Mother and Queen of our household, that we may fulfil your ardent desire, we consecrate ourselves to you, and we beseech you to reign over our family. Reign over each one of us and teach us how to make the Sacred Heart of your Divine Son reign and triumph in us and about us, as he has reigned and triumphed in you. Reign over us, O Beloved Mother, so that we may be yours both in prosperity and in adversity, in joy and in sorrow, in health and in sickness, in life and in death. O most compassionate Heart of Mary, Queen of virgins, watch over our souls and our hearts and preserve them from the flood of pride, impurity, and paganism of which you have complained of so bitterly. We desire to do reparation for the numerous crimes committed against Jesus and you. We call upon our home, upon the parishes of this Diocese of Klerksdorp and upon those of the entire world, the peace of Christ in justice and charity. Wherefore we promise to imitate your virtues, by a practical Christian life and by frequent and fervent Holy Communion, regardless of human opinion. We come with confidence to you, O Throne of Grace

and Mother of Fair Love; inflame us with the same divine fire which has inflamed your own Immaculate Heart. Kindle in our hearts, our homes and our parish, the love of purity, an ardent zeal for souls, and desire for the holiness of family life. We accept now, all the sacrifices that the Christian life will impose on us and we offer them to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, by your Immaculate Heart, in a spirit of reparation and of penance. To the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Immaculate Heart of Mary be love, honour, and glory forever and ever! Amen.

Standing, recite the final prayer:

[Priest] Most Sacred Heart of Jesus...

[All] Have mercy on us!

[Priest] Most Sacred Heart of Jesus...

[All] Have mercy on us!

[Priest] Most Sacred Heart of Jesus...

[All] Have mercy on us!

[Priest] Immaculate Heart of Mary...

[All] Pray for us.

[Priest] St Joseph...

[All] Pray for us.

[Priest] St Margaret Mary...

[All] Pray for us.

[All] Glory to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus forever and ever! Amen.

YOU CAN CONCLUDE HERE WITH A PRAYER TO ST JOSEPH AND THEN BENEDICTION!

CONSECRATING THE DIOCESE TO THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS AND THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY – 22 AUG 2021

Why is the bishop consecrating the diocese?

“The consecration to the Sacred Heart reminds us that we know the love of God, that the Father has given us in Jesus, his Son. The Son who died and rose for us. We also recognize that we must still make reparation for our sins and the sins of others because God’s love is offended by sin, when we turn away from God.” During the Consecration, I will be consecrating the whole diocese to the Sacred Heart, asking for that grace: that Jesus take us over and that our will become His own. We will entrust the diocese to the Saviour, Our Lord Jesus Christ, who died and rose for us. We also recognize that in the light of the pandemic, poverty and the violence we have experienced recently, we must make Reparation for our sins and the sins of others because God’s love is offended by sin, when we turn away from God.” 2 Chronicles 7:14 “If my people, who are called by my name, will humble themselves and pray and seek my face and turn from their wicked ways, then I will hear from heaven, and I will forgive their sin and will heal their land.” (I ENCOURAGE YOU TO DO PRAYERS OF REPARATION BEFORE THIS CONSECRATION). As part of the consecration, I will pray, saying: “Humbly and fittingly, a shepherd of the sheep commended to my care, I humbly entrust and consecrate to Your most Sacred Heart, all the faithful of the Diocese of Klerksdorp. May its laity, religious, and clergy be protected by Your most august presence and continually avail themselves in the cloak of Your Divine Love. Protect us against this pandemic, deliberating poverty, violence, crime and financial ruin. Have mercy on us and save us!”

John 19:34

"But one of the soldiers pierced his side with a spear, and at once there came out blood and water".

John 15:13

"Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends".

I WILL ALSO CONSECRATE THE DIOCESE TO THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY – 22 AUG 2021

While there is a long history of consecration to Mary, the practice of consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary is closely linked to the apparitions of Our Lady of Fatima. During the third apparition, on July 13, 1917, Our Lady said to the three little shepherds: “God wishes to establish the devotion to her Immaculate Heart in the world in order to save souls from hell and bring about world peace, and

also asked for the consecration of Russia to her Immaculate Heart." Pope Pius XII consecrated the Church and the entire world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary on Oct. 31, 1942, as World War II continued to rage on. "To you, to your Immaculate Heart, in this tragic hour of human history, we confide our fortunes, putting ourselves in your hands," the Pope prayed. John Paul II did the same on May 13, 1982, and again on March 25, 1984, at the conclusion of the Extraordinary Holy Year of the Redemption, in union with many of the bishops around the world. On Oct. 8, 2000, he made an act of entrustment of the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary for the new millennium. Between them, Pius XII and John Paul II consecrated the Church and the entire world to Mary a total of eight times. On Oct. 13, 2013, Pope Francis renewed the consecration of the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and dedicated his pontificate to Our Lady of Fatima.

Mary in the Bible

"Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be done to me according to your word," Mary declares to the angel of the Lord (Luke 1:37-38). She's just been told she's going to bear the Son of God, the Savior of the world! In due course, she travels to the Judean hill country to visit her older relatives Elizabeth and Zechariah. Elizabeth has also miraculously conceived a son, after long-time barrenness, and is now six months pregnant. At the sight of Mary, Elizabeth bursts forth in excitement, affirming God's work in the "mother of her Lord" (Luke 1:39-45). Mary herself breaks out in a song of praise, the Magnificat, extolling God's mercy in using her despite her humble origins (Luke 1:46-56), in this Magnificat, she said, "All generations will call me blessed".

Consecration of the diocese of Klerksdorp to the Sacred Heart and the Immaculate Heart of Mary will take place at the Cathedral of Christ the Redeemer, at 11h15-11h50, after the 9h30 Mass. It will include the Divine Mercy, the Litany of the Sacred Heart and the Consecration to the two Hearts and a prayer to St Joseph, the Protector of the Universal church on this special occasion: the Year of St Joseph. We will live-stream the event. Follow us on the Diocesan Facebook Page. Buy enough data and let your family and neighbours be part of it. At 12h00 – the Bishop will celebrate Mass with Zimbabwean Nationals at the Cathedral. Only 50 people will be allowed.

Prayers to St. Joseph

The official prayer of the Year of St. Joseph—To you, O blessed Joseph (*Ad te, beate Ioseph*)—was composed by Pope Leo XIII in his 1889 encyclical, *Quamquam Pluries*. The Holy Father asked that it be added to the end of the Rosary especially during October, the month of the Holy Rosary. This prayer is enriched with a partial indulgence.

Matthew 1:19-20

Because Joseph her husband was a righteous man and did not want to expose her to public disgrace, he had in mind to divorce her quietly. But after he had considered this, an angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary home as your wife, because what is conceived in her is from the Holy Spirit. (NIV)

Luke 2:39-40

When Joseph and Mary had done everything required by the Law of the Lord, they returned to Galilee to their own town of Nazareth. And the child grew and became strong; he was filled with wisdom, and the grace of God was upon him. (NIV)

THE YEAR OF ST. JOSEPH PRAYER.

To you, O blessed Joseph (Ad te, beate Ioseph)

To you, O blessed Joseph, do we come in our afflictions, and having implored the help of your most holy Spouse, we confidently invoke your patronage also. Through that charity which bound you to the Immaculate Virgin Mother of God and through the paternal love with which you embraced the Child Jesus, we humbly beg you graciously to regard the inheritance which Jesus Christ has purchased by his Blood, and with your power and strength to aid us in our necessities. O most watchful guardian of the Holy Family, defend the chosen children of Jesus Christ; O most loving father, ward off from us every contagion of error and corrupting influence; O our most mighty protector, be kind to us and from heaven assist us in our struggle with the power of darkness. As once you rescued the Child Jesus

from deadly peril, so now protect God's Holy Church from the snares of the enemy and from all adversity; shield, too, each one of us by your constant protection, so that, supported by your example and your aid, we may be able to live piously, to die in holiness, and to obtain eternal happiness in heaven. Amen

COVID PROTOCOLS.

There is a concern in our country that Churches can become places where we spread the virus more and more. We must observe government health protocols to the letter. We must administer Sacraments safely and maintain social distancing, masks and sanitizing. We must try, to the best of our abilities to keep the numbers of 50 inside a church and 100 outdoors. Our bishops have decided not to rebel against government regulations. We are ready to comply in order to save lives and to teach our communities to observe the rules and regulations. Please encourage people to vaccinate and still continue to observe the health and safety protocols. We are losing too many people and we cannot relax. We must pray and continue to do our best to fight this invisible enemy. May God bless you and grant you peace, joy, protection, healing and comfort. On the 15th of August, I ask you to Consecrate yourselves and your parishes to the two Hearts. On the 22nd of August I will consecrate the Diocese of Klerksdorp to the Two Hearts.

Yours Faithfully,



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