

## Consecration FAQs

**1. What does it mean to consecrate?**

To consecrate means to “set apart as holy”, to designate an object or person for a sacred purpose. Consecration suggests a mission for the object or person who has been consecrated and implies a relationship between God and man, an intimate connection.

**2. How have we already been consecrated to God?**

We have been consecrated to God through the gift of Baptism. In Baptism, we receive God’s free gift of Himself and become His adopted children. Baptism sets us apart – *consecrates* us – as God’s chosen people. Through the other Sacraments of Initiation, Confirmation and the Eucharist, we are strengthened and nourished for the mission of building the Kingdom of God.

**3. Why do we consecrate ourselves?**

We consecrate ourselves to God because we want to grow closer to Him. Consecration is a response to the Lord’s invitation to live in holiness and self-giving. When we consecrate ourselves to God, we are making a commitment to live very intentionally for Him in all aspects of our daily lives, giving ourselves fully to God out of love.

**4. What is a Marian consecration?**

Mary is the disciple *par excellence*, the model of holiness, the supreme example of what it means to devote one’s life to God – to love God. She is the ultimate mother, and a mom always wants the very best for her children. Mary wants all people to have a deep and loving relationship with her Son, our Lord, and will do everything to make it happen. This is why we ask her to take all of our being and offer it to God the Father, through Christ, her Son, in unity with the Holy Spirit. There is a rich tradition in the Church with respect to Marian Consecration. The most popular and beneficial form is that of St. Louis de Montfort.

**5. What is an Act of Consecration?**

Also known as *dedication* or *entrustment*, an Act of Consecration is a prayer that is used to consecrate a person, family, parish, diocese, religious community or group. It can vary in length and detail but the core of it is the same: the giving of one’s entire being to God and asking for the grace to carry out God’s will.

**6. Can a person re-consecrate him/herself?**

Once a person has consecrated him/herself it is a common and good spiritual practice to *renew* that consecration, particularly on the anniversary of their original consecration. Pope Francis has asked the Faithful to renew the Act of Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary on the Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord, March 25.

**7. Can families or other communities consecrate themselves?**

Yes. Consecrating a family or community (religious or other faith-sharing groups) is a wonderful way to draw closer together, united in love by the Holy Spirit. For families, it can strengthen their identity as a household of faith, a domestic church; for religious communities and other faith-sharing groups it can reawaken commitment, charisms and inspire new avenues for service.

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**8. *How do I prepare for consecration to Mary?***

Begin with an open heart and a firm desire to know Jesus more deeply through Mary. Preparation can include meditation on a passage of Scripture, prayers of intercession, a litany and or a Marian prayer. The length of preparation is variable. It may be for a designated period of time, such as three days (triduum) eight day (octave) or nine days (novena).

**9. *What is a triduum?***

Most often, the word “triduum” is associated with the Easter Triduum, however, a triduum is any three-day period that prepares us for the celebration of something special. The *Renewal of Consecration to Our Lady on the Solemnity of the Annunciation* is a very special celebration, and the Archdiocese of Toronto is preparing with a **Marian Triduum**. In 2024, the Solemnity of the Annunciation, normally celebrated on March 25, is transferred to April 8 because of the date of Easter.

**10. *Why a Marian Triduum?***

As Mother of God and Mother of the Church, Mary’s only desire is that all God’s children, those consecrated to him in Baptism, share in the fullness of his life and love. By entrusting ourselves to our Blessed Mother’s maternal care, we receive her intercession and companionship. Consecration to our Blessed Mother is a profound expression of our desire to live our lives fully in Christ and to grow in holiness. Such an act of faith requires intentional spiritual preparation, an example of which is a Marian Triduum.