



Infobox



150th of Canadian Confederation and Consecration to Mary

This year, Canada celebrates the 150th anniversary of Confederation. From one ocean to the other (*a mari usque ad mare*), as our motto recalls, numerous events are planned to highlight the anniversary.

For her part, the Catholic Church, in addition to participating in these festivities, intends to highlight the truly spiritual dimension of this anniversary. To this end, during a special celebration on July 1st or thereabouts, the Bishops of Canada will consecrate their dioceses and through that, the whole country, to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Thus I am pleased to invite the faithful of Timmins to a Eucharistic celebration for Canada that will take place **in the Cathedral on Saturday, July 1st at 10 a.m.** The priests and faithful of the city parishes are the first invited to this mass that is obviously open to other faithful, for example, those who would eventually be present in Timmins for the first of July festivities. As required, after the homily, I will proclaim the prayer of consecration of the country and the diocese to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

For each baptized person, such a consecration is first of all the renewal of the first consecration God carried out at Baptism. In a way, it is a personal pledge made voluntarily in faith, to live in deeper union with the Lord, by putting oneself at his service in order to implant his Kingdom in the world. Such a step falls fully in line with my Lenten 2017 Pastoral Letter in which I recalled that each person is called to holiness.

This consecration is made to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. We well know that the Blessed Virgin is the unsurpassable model of holiness, she who said 'yes' to God at every moment of her existence. Since Jesus gave her to us as Mother at the moment of his dying on the Cross (Jn 19: 26-27), we can count on her intercession in our own spiritual journey because she comes to the aid of those who have recourse to her, as the ancient prayer 'Sub tuum praesidium', 'beneath your compassion', teaches.

Devotion to the Blessed Virgin is fundamental for the Catholic faithful. It is to be noted that innumerable churches bear her name under different titles ... in our diocese we have *Assomption-de-la-Bienheureuse-Vierge-Marie*, in Kirkland Lake; *Our Mother of Perpetual Help* in New Liskeard; *Marie-Reine-du-Monde*, in Matheson; *Immaculée-Conception*, in Val-Gagné; *Notre-Dame-de-Bon-Secours*, in Belle-Vallée; *Notre-Dame-du Lac*, in Larder Lake; *Notre-Dame-de la-Paix*, in Timmins, *Our Lady Queen of Poland* (Timmins).

Many of the faithful assured of finding in Mary, the Mother of Mercy, the Help of Christians as the Marian litanies address her, regularly say the rosary and carry it with them.

We can count on the Blessed Virgin by praying for our country. With its wealth, its prosperity, its freedom, Canada always needs to be transformed through the Gospel, especially through promotion of a culture that respects life from conception to its natural end, through promotion of the family and its unique and fundamental character, through respect for religious freedom, commitment to service of the common good, attention to the poor and the disadvantaged, respect for different cultures...

Priests and the faithful who cannot be present at the Cathedral on July 1st are invited to draw inspiration from the Act of Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary at the Sunday celebrations in their parishes on the 1st or 2nd of July.

Our Lady of Canada, pray for us!



(Image of Our Lady of Canada, *Notre-Dame* Basilica in Montreal)

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