

CONSECRATION OF THE DIOCESE OF BRIDGEPORT TO THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS

Saturday, November 5, 2016
St. Augustine Cathedral, 1:00 PM – 5:00 PM

This is the fourth of four preparatory essays for the Consecration of the Diocese of Bridgeport to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

IV. The Sacred Heart of Jesus and the Immaculate Heart of Mary

At the Closing of the Synod Mass on September 19, 2015, Bishop Caggiano consecrated the Diocese of Bridgeport to Mary's protection, under the title of the Immaculate Heart of Mary. He asked that "Our Blessed Mother lead the ship of Christ, our Diocesan church, on a path for renewal and take us safely to Christ, Her Son and our Lord," reminding us that Mary always is united with and leads us to her Son, Jesus.

Therefore, it is fitting that on **Saturday, November 5th** at St. Augustine Cathedral the Bishop will consecrate the Diocese to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Our veneration of the Immaculate Heart of Mary is analogous to our worship of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Just as Christ's divine and human love is symbolized in His physical Heart, the Immaculate Heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary is a sign and symbol of her compassion and sinlessness. As such, her physical Heart is an object of devotion by the faithful. When we meditate on the Immaculate Heart of Mary we ponder all of Mary's interior life: her joys and sorrows, her virtues, her trust in God, her maternal love for her Divine Son and her motherly and compassionate care for her children here below. As He hung upon the Cross, Jesus was consoled by the presence of His Mother, because her Immaculate Heart, which had never known sin, was a tender strength for him as He bore the sins of mankind. She was the only one who fully understood the mystery of His suffering heart at that moment. She entered into the intimacy of His Heart. The wounds that Christ received in His body, she felt in Her heart.

Many faithful throughout the Diocese have begun the Novena to the Sacred Heart of Jesus in preparation for the event on November 5th. Bishop Caggiano is also asking that in immediate preparation for the consecration all priests, consecrated men and women and lay men and women of the Diocese participate in a day of fasting and abstinence on **Friday, November 4th**. All persons between the ages of 18 and 59 and not otherwise unable to fast are invited to abstain from meat and take only one full meal and two smaller meals that together are not equal to the full meal.

Along with your own intentions, please pray and fast for Bishop Caggiano, the priests, deacons and consecrated men and women, the lay faithful and all of the parishes, Catholic schools and institutions of the Diocese of Bridgeport.

Furthermore, Bishop Caggiano has asked that all Masses celebrated in the Diocese of Bridgeport on **Sunday, November 6th** (including the Saturday Vigil Masses) use the prayers for the Votive Mass for the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus (Votive Mass #8 in the *Roman Missal*). White vestments should be worn, and the homily should make some reference to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. The readings, however, are to be taken from the Thirty-Second Sunday in Ordinary Time.