

*Dear Parishioners of St. James, Our Lady of the Valley,
St. Benedict and St. Theresa Parishes
In consultation with Father Peter
the Ministry of Militia Immaculata is once again offering:*

HEARTS AFIRE FAITH RENEWAL PROGRAM

HEARTS AFIRE: Come and Rekindle Your Faith

Would you like to deepen your relationship with Jesus, grow in your understanding of our Catholic faith, and discover anew the joy of living that faith each day?

Hearts Afire: Parish-based Programs is a Catholic faith-renewal journey developed by the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception. Through prayer, reflection, Hearts Afire invites ordinary Catholics to step away from the busyness of everyday life and discover more deeply the love and mercy of God. The journey draws us closer to the Sacred Heart of Jesus through the Immaculate Heart of Mary and encourages us to carry Christ's love into our families, parish and community through works of mercy. This complements "Upon This Rock" parish program.

You do not need to be an expert in the Catholic faith. **You need only bring an open heart and a desire to grow.** This is an individual home study program monitored by the coordinator.

Why **Hearts Afire**? Because vibrant parishes begin with **hearts transformed by Christ**. As individual parishioners grow in prayer, faith and love of God, that renewal can naturally enrich our relationships, our service to others and the spiritual life of our parish community. **Hearts Afire** gives us an opportunity to make that journey together.

Whether your faith is strong, needs refreshing, or you simply sense that God may be inviting you to something deeper, **we warmly invite you to consider Hearts Afire. Come and discover what can happen when we open our hearts more fully to the fire of God's love.**

What Will *Hearts Afire* Explore?

****"What will I discover?"****

- **Marian Consecration**, beginning with *33 Days to Morning Glory*, and learning what it means to entrust ourselves to Jesus through Mary. This is the **first step** in the Program – see **page 2**
- **Growing closer to Jesus** and discovering the spirituality of the Sacred Heart of Jesus. *Consoling the Heart of Jesus*
- **A deeper understanding of our Catholic faith**, including Catholic teaching on the mystery of the Most Holy Trinity. *WISDOM: The One Thing Is Three*
- **Putting faith into action through Works of Mercy** in our families, parishes and wider community.

ASK..."Is God calling you to take the first step?"

MARIAN CONSECRATION

33 DAYS OF MORNING GLORY

WHAT IS MARIAN CONSECRATION

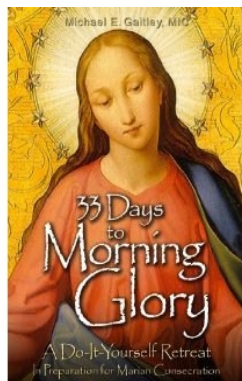
Marian consecration is a new way of life in Christ for all men and women. Very simply, it's allowing Mary's hand to lead you more closely to her Son. As He was dying for our sins on the cross, Jesus entrusted us to his Blessed Mother Mary. He wants us to "take her into our (spiritual) home" just as the apostle John did. Consecrating yourself to Mary means giving yourself entirely to Our Lady so that you may become closer to her son Jesus THROUGH her. When we consecrate ourselves to Mary, we learn to love her by relying on her intercession, communicate with her from our hearts, let ourselves be led by her, and trust her completely.

It means we offer up all of our prayers, our good works, our talents, our gifts, and even our suffering to Mary so that she may augment and purify these gifts and then lay them before her son, Jesus. It also means we give Mary our permission to complete her heavenly mission for us, which is to help us to grow in holiness---to form each one of us into "another Christ". Becoming consecrated to Mary has been described by many as a turning point in their spiritual journey.



HOW DO I CONSECRATE MYSELF TO MARY?

A recommended way is the *33 Days to Morning Glory Retreat, A Do-It Yourself Retreat*, written by Father Michael Gaitley. His own conversion story contains a powerful witness to the many graces of Marian Consecration. The program can be done individually or in a small group. Each week of the retreat focuses on a different Marian "expert"



and how they lived out their consecrations to Mary.

Saint Louis de Montfort, who preached that it is "**THE SUREST, EASIEST, SHORTEST AND MOST PERFECT MEANS ... *to becoming a saint!***" He is considered the greatest Marian Saint.

Saint Maximilian Kolbe, a priest from the World War II Holocaust who was known for his burning desire to understand the meaning of the Immaculate Conception and Mary's profound union with the Holy Spirit.

Blessed Mother Teresa of Calcutta, who explains how Mother Mary was the first to experience Jesus' "thirst" for our love, and in turn pleaded with us to "listen to Jesus' thirst for us."

Blessed John Paul II, whom Fr. Gaitley describes as the "second greatest story ever told" due to the many historical moments in our Church during his life-time, including the consecration of the entire world to Our Lady, which led to the fall of communism; and the establishment of Divine Mercy as a devotion and Church feast day.

REGISTER WITH ANGIE

At St James Parish Office

Register by October 30

You will be given options for the study **START** date.

Study Guide cost is \$41.00

Once registered, you will be given further details, and on who is your **Coordinator**