



A Personal Covenant with Jesus

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Consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus

Guidelines for its Celebration in the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network

The consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, in the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network, is understood in view of a greater apostolic availability. A personal relationship with Jesus and closeness to His Heart help us to notice and discern his joys and sufferings for the world, and thus hopefully become available at the service of his mission of compassion. In this sense, we understand the Personal Covenant with Jesus, or Consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, as a commitment to His mission. This means that the person who makes this commitment becomes available to support the mission of the Pope's Prayer Network in one's country and respond to its call.

As part of the mission of the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network, regardless of the modality of participation (in communities, in groups of the Apostleship of Prayer, in EYM or in an individual way) the participants could make the Personal Covenant with Jesus, if they wish to and if they feel called.

In this way, the **General Statutes** says that **personal consecration, or "covenant" with Jesus**, is for those who experience a call to live in close union with the Heart of Jesus and in this sense wish to formalize their personal devotion, commitment, and service. Those who consecrate themselves become "apostles of prayer," and through it they commit themselves to be open and ready to serve the communities of the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network (including the Eucharistic Youth Movement), in the mission of the local Church. Consecration, or covenant with Jesus, is made following the guidelines of the National Office and in coordination with the International Office. **This Covenant** is the person's response to a personal call that the Lord makes in the context of their participation in the mission of compassion wherein they collaborate in this Prayer Network. It is an invitation on the part of the Lord. He has the initiative; "It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you" (Jn. 15, 16).

The personal Covenant is an offering of greater love and a commitment to be available to the mission of compassion for the world, at the service of the mission that the National Office proposes. Thus, the personal Covenant with Jesus leads us back to apostolic availability as the intuition of the Consecration to the Heart of Jesus, as suggested at the beginning by the Apostleship of Prayer. The Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network has different forms of participation (not limited to the groups of the Apostleship of Prayer); that is why this Covenant has redefined its meaning, in line with this broader form of participation.

History and Recreation

This Covenant is rooted in the act of consecration to the Heart of Jesus in the groups of the Apostleship of Prayer. This consecration was especially made by the "zealous," as they were called then, who committed themselves to spread the Apostleship and promote the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus "with greater apostolic zeal" in order to motivate more people and/or groups

to join the Apostleship of Prayer. This was the intuition of Fr. Henri Ramiere SJ, the second founder of the Apostleship of Prayer, who, in his book “The Apostleship of Prayer,” describes the “zealous” as “people who have goodwill and the eagerness to work.” They registered the members, promoted and distributed the magazine “Messenger of the Sacred Heart,” and worked under the leadership for sake of the association, that is, for the sake of the intentions of the Heart of Jesus, who was the first to pray and intercede for us so the Kingdom of God may come. According to different sensibilities, this consecration has had different forms of realization, even in some places, and it has long been a requisite to belong to or to associate oneself with the groups of the Apostleship of Prayer.

In the Pope’s Worldwide Prayer Network, we want to recover the first foundational intuition wherein the consecration means a greater offering and availability for the mission of the Heart of Christ and his mission of compassion.

The person who makes the Covenant concretizes their commitment in relation to the mission that the National Office leads for the communities of the Prayer Network and its youth branch, the Eucharist Youth Movement. They commit themselves to be available to serve the communities of the Pope’s Worldwide Prayer Network in their own countries as well as the EYM, following the orientations of the National Office.

Given that it is a commitment of greater love and personal offering to Jesus to serve in His mission, it is advisable that the decision would be **the fruit of a formation process and discernment**. In this sense, the Pope’s Worldwide Prayer Network suggests making previously the formation program **The Way of the Heart**, which helps enter into the mission of compassion for the world. It is a spiritual experience of meeting Christ, of becoming attuned to the feelings and wishes of His Heart and available for his mission, with Him, like Him, with His style. He is the rhythm of our mission. This is the reason why this itinerary is the privileged way to embark on a formation process for the mission, with greater depth each time, and more in tune with the Heart of Christ, in the framework of the mission of the Prayer Network. Hence, it is advisable to have done **The Way of the Heart** at least once to experience how you can live out and actualize the mission of compassion in the spiritual charism of the Pope’s Worldwide Prayer Network.



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