



33 Days
to
Morning
Glory

Retreat
Companion

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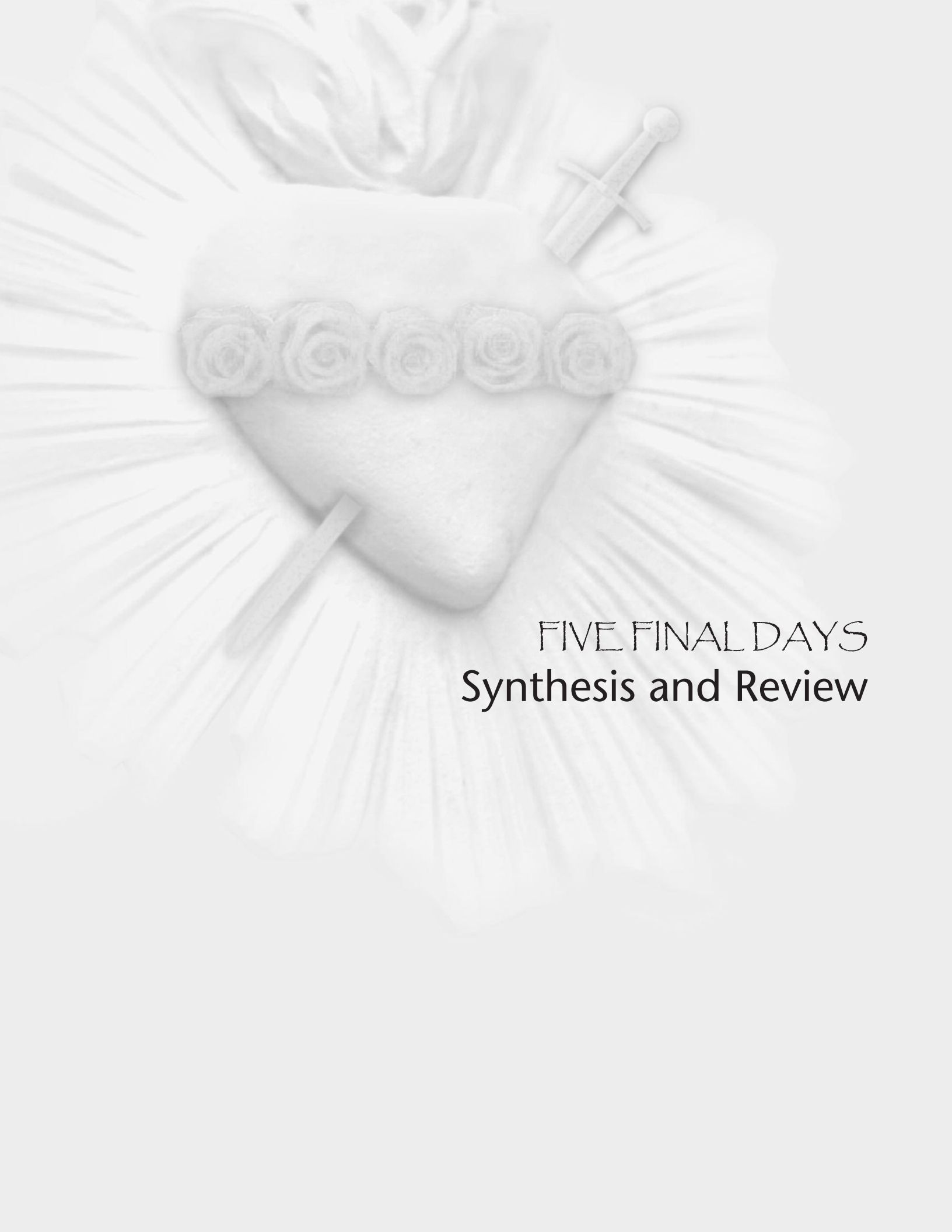
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FIVE FINAL DAYS
Synthesis and Review

After these five final days, your 33 days of preparation will be complete, and you will consecrate yourself totally to Jesus through Mary. The dawn of that day will be joyous and a new beginning for your spiritual life. In a more special way, Mary will become your spiritual mother and the quickest, easiest, and surest way to Jesus Christ, her Son.

Three Reflection Words

During these five final days, there will be no new questions. Instead, you'll have an opportunity to reflect on the three words that summarize the teaching of each of our four Marian giants: St. Louis, St. Maximilian, Blessed Mother Teresa, and St. John Paul II. Then, on the final day, you'll have the chance to reflect on the words of the prayer you will use in making your consecration. (See the corresponding pages in *33 Days to Morning Glory*.) Space is provided to record your thoughts and prayers and the fruits of your pondering, and yes, even your final few questions, if you have any.

Prayer for the First Four Days: The "Three Words" Rosary

To help you ponder the three words for each saint, you might want to try meditating on each of the three words as a decade of the Rosary. Here's how it works:

1. Say the Word — for instance, the first word for St. Louis de Montfort is "Passion."
2. Then pray:
Our Father
Hail Mary (10x)
Glory Be
O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell, lead all souls to Heaven, especially those in most need of Thy mercy
3. Say the next word, etc.

[Note: While saying the Hail Marys, meditate on how the word summarizes the teaching of the given saint or blessed. Also, you don't have to limit the meditation to just one decade for each word. You could do an entire "Rosary" just meditating on one word.]

Day 29

St. Louis de Montfort

Words to Ponder:

1. Passion

2. Baptism

3. Gift

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Closing Prayer:

St. Louis de Montfort.

Pray for us.

Day 30

St. Maximilian Kolbe

Words to Ponder:

1. Mystery

2. Militia

3. Love

Closing Prayer:

St. Maximilian Kolbe.

Pray for us.

Day 31

Blessed Mother Teresa

Words to Ponder:

1. Thirst

2. Heart

3. Covenant

Closing Prayer:

Blessed Mother Teresa.

Pray for us.

Day 32

St. John Paul II

Words to Ponder:

1. Mother

2. Entrust-ation

3. Mercy

Closing Prayer:

St. John Paul II.

Pray for us.

Day 33

Putting It All Together

Words to Ponder:

Reflect on the words of the Morning Glory Consecration Prayer (page 137 in *33 Days to Morning Glory*), or one from one of the saints or blessed (pages 137-138), or even write your own prayer of consecration. Savor the words. Ponder their meaning in your heart. Ask Mary to prepare you for the consecration. Write down your thoughts on this last full day of preparation.

SMALL-GROUP SESSION OUTLINE

~ Synthesis and Review; A Glorious New Morning ~

A. Prayer

1. + *Litany of Loreto* (see pages 142-144 in *33 Days to Morning Glory*)
2. *Come, Holy Spirit, and be with us. Help us to see in a single gaze of faith all we've learned about Marian consecration to Jesus, and prepare our hearts to live out our consecration to the full. Amen.* +

B. Personal Response

Which of the five final days of reflection left you feeling the most prepared for the day of Consecration and Morning Glory?

You pondered three “summary words” on the first four days and then the words of the consecration prayer on the last day. Which word or words were the most meaningful to you and why?

[For groups that make their consecration after this final meeting:] What decisions and plans have you made for Consecration Day (people invited, food prepared, activities planned)? What are you feeling as Consecration Day nears?

[For groups that have just made their Consecration:] Share your experience of the Consecration Day

C. Petition

[Leader] + Come, Holy Spirit, living in Mary...

[Group response] Help us to give our all to Jesus through Mary on Consecration Day!

St. Louis de Montfort...

Pray for us.

St. Maximilian Kolbe...

Pray for us.

Blessed Mother Teresa...

Pray for us.

St. John Paul II...

Pray for us.

Individual petitions...

Response: Come, Holy Spirit, and help me. +

SESSION 6 — DVD NOTES

Living Your Consecration**A. Renew**

1. Daily: Pray your consecration prayer, or at least a shortened form of it, daily.

2. Yearly: Renew your consecration every year on the same day.

B. Relationship

Marian consecration is about establishing a deeper relationship with Mary, and like all relationships, it takes work, especially the work of communication (prayer).

C. Rosary

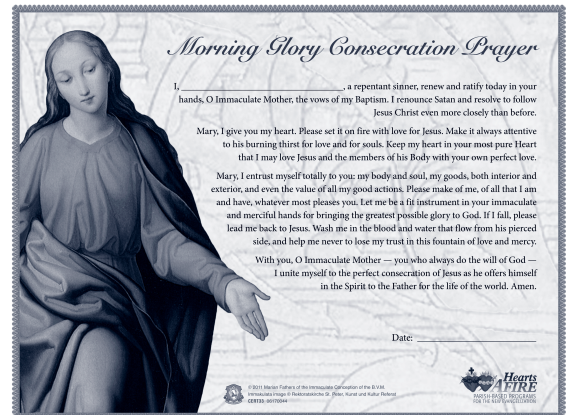
Three Reasons to Pray the Rosary

First, make sure you read pages 123-134 in your consecration book, 33 Days to Morning Glory, which includes the topics “before” and “after” the consecration. This present section is not meant to be a substitute for those pages; rather, it’s meant to supplement the treatment in your consecration book with information that will be helpful to those making the consecration in groups.

Before Consecration

CEREMONY AND CELEBRATION. Because your day of consecration is a significant day in your life, and because you’re making it in a group, we recommend that you celebrate it with a certain degree of solemnity. In other words, you might want to ask your pastor if your group can have a special ceremony (preferably after a Mass) during which all the members of the group will recite the consecration prayer individually in the church. Also, after the consecration ceremony, you might want to have a gathering where you’ll share a meal or time together in celebration. This could be an occasion for inviting friends and family. But for it to work, you’ll have to plan ahead, and that’s why we’re mentioning it in the “before” section. Ideas for such a celebration can be found on our website AllHeartsAfire.org.

HANDWRITTEN PRAYER AND CERTIFICATE. Many people like to write out their consecration prayer and then sign it on the day of their consecration. Others like to print up a decorated consecration prayer to sign by hand. Why not do both? You can keep the handwritten version in a safe place and sign it again each year. In addition, perhaps you can frame the certificate version and put it up on the wall to remind you of your consecration day. You can purchase or print our beautiful, full-color certificate from our website, AllHeartsAfire.org. Perhaps someone from your group can order or print several copies of the certificate before the ceremony so everyone can have one.



MIRACULOUS MEDALS AND SCAPULARS. As a special sign of seeking Mary’s maternal protection and help, it might be encouraging for everyone in the group (who hasn’t done so yet), on their consecration day, to be invested in a brown or blue scapular. This would need to be done by the priest, so it would take some planning beforehand. Also, it would be a source of encouragement if everyone (who hasn’t done so yet) could get a miraculous medal on the day of their consecration. For more information on scapulars and miraculous medals, visit the website.

After Consecration

CHJ AND STAGE TWO. After the consecration preparation is over, it's very likely that your group will want to get together again. Well, why not begin the next group retreat program, *Consoling the Heart of Jesus (CHJ)*? This retreat is the second part of Stage One of the Hearts Afire Program. And then you and your group can proceed to Stage Two of the Hearts Afire Program: Wisdom & Works of Mercy. It features The 'One Thing' Is Three Group Study and concludes with a program for works of mercy based on the book *'You Did It to Me.'* To learn more, visit AllHeartsAfire.org.

EXPAND YOUR GROUP EXPERIENCE. You can expand your experience of group consecration beyond your own small group. Do this by frequently visiting the AllHeartsAfire.org website. The website is not just a resource for answering your questions, it's also a place to share about your experience of living the consecration and to read what others are saying.

ENDNOTES

¹ A “novena” is typically a prayer or a series of prayers, offered for nine consecutive days, with a specific intention. It originated in the nine days of prayer by the disciples and Mary between the Ascension of Christ to the Father and Pentecost (the descent of the Holy Spirit upon the disciples and Mary in the Upper Room).

² See the following link for a longer explanation of this painting:
campus.udayton.edu/mary/gallery/artists/angelus.html.

³ See pages 133-134 of *33 Days to Morning Glory* for suggestions on further reading after your consecration.

⁴ CCC, 221, “... God’s very being is love. God himself is an eternal exchange of love, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit, and he ... destined us to share in that exchange.”

⁵ Regarding the relationship of Mary with the Holy Spirit, St. John Paul II states in *Redemptoris Mater*, 26:

We know that at the beginning of this journey Mary is present. We see her in the midst of the Apostles in the Upper Room, “prayerfully imploring the gift of the Spirit.” In a sense her journey of faith is longer. The Holy Spirit had already come down upon her, and she became his faithful spouse at the Annunciation, welcoming the Word of the true God, offering “the full submission of intellect and will ... and freely assenting to the truth revealed by him,” indeed abandoning herself totally to God through “the obedience of faith,” whereby she replied to the angel: “Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.”

⁶ See CCC, 2742-2745, for an understanding of how love leads to prayer and opens our hearts to God’s grace.

⁷ See page 169 in *33 Days to Morning Glory* for more information on the miraculous medal and St. Catherine.

⁸ CCC, 2677, “... By entrusting ourselves to [Mary’s] ... prayer, we abandon ourselves to the will of God together with her: ‘Thy will be done.’”

⁹ See CCC, 618, which describes our participation in Christ’s sacrifice.

¹⁰ CCC, 725, “... through Mary, the Holy Spirit beings to bring men ... into communion with Christ. And the humble are always the first to accept him: shepherds, magi, Simeon and Anna, the bride and groom at Cana, and the first disciples.”

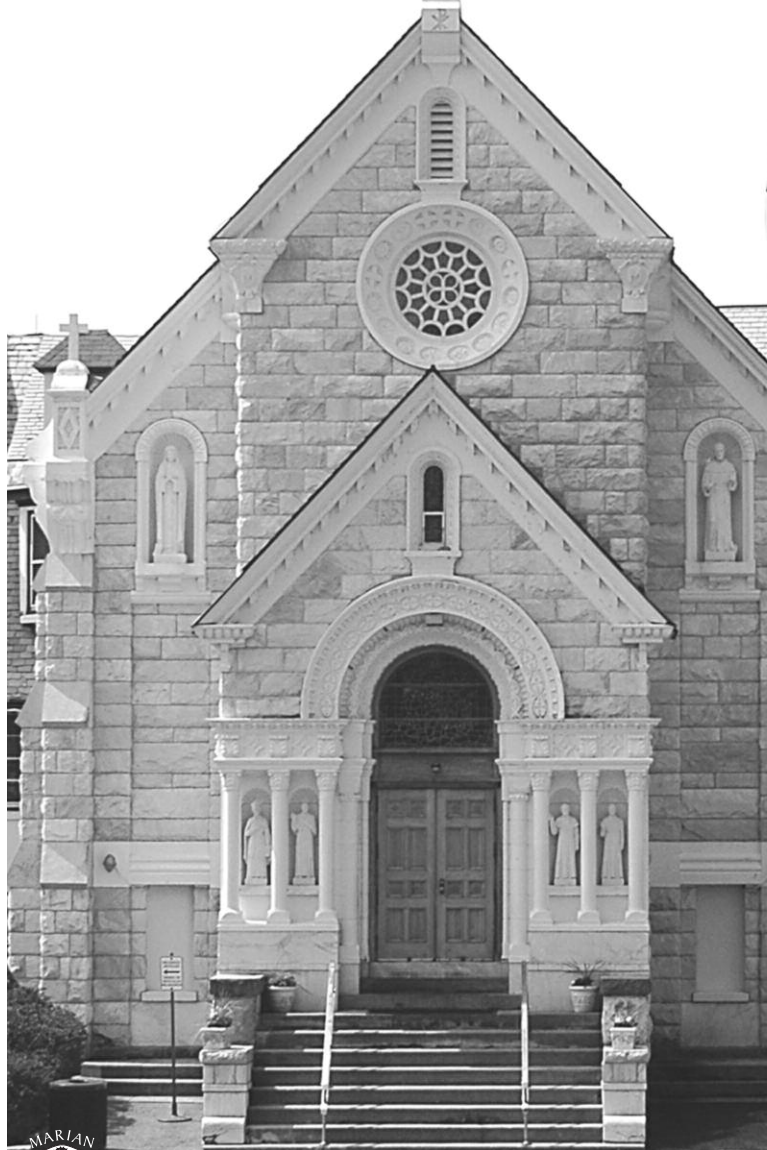
¹¹ Our Lady’s First Saturday requests and promises are explained in endnote 131 on page 194 in *33 Days to Morning Glory*.

¹² See CCC, 2618, which teaches about Mary’s prayer and intercession.

¹³ Saint Louis de Montfort recommends asking Mary to come into our hearts and to help us receive the Lord worthily when we go to receive him in Holy Communion. (See *True Devotion to Mary*, nn. 266-273.)

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Marian Press, the publishing apostolate of the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception of the B.V.M., has published and distributed millions of religious books, magazines, and pamphlets that teach, encourage, and edify Catholics around the world. Our publications promote and support the ministry and spirituality of the Marians worldwide. Loyal to the Holy Father and to the teachings of the Catholic Church, the Marians fulfill their special mission by:

- Fostering devotion to Mary, the Immaculate Conception.
- Promoting The Divine Mercy message and devotion.
- Offering assistance to the dying and the deceased, especially the victims of war and disease.
- Promoting Christian knowledge, administering parishes, shrines, and conducting missions.

Based in Stockbridge, Mass., Marian Press is known as the publisher of the *Diary of Saint Maria Faustina Kowalska*, and the Marians are the leading authorities on The Divine Mercy message and devotion.

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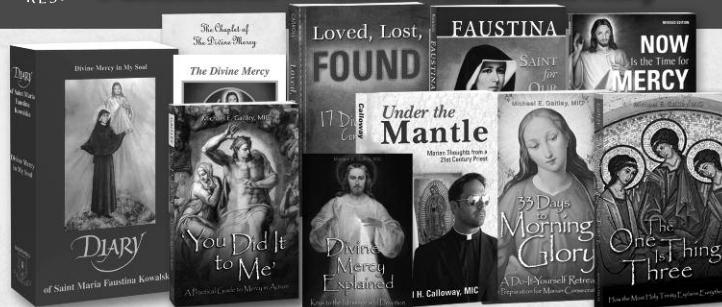
Globally, the Marians' ministries also include missions in developing countries where the spiritual and material needs are enormous.

To learn more about the Marians, their spirituality, publications or ministries, visit marian.org or thedivinemercy.org, the Marians' website that is devoted exclusively to Divine Mercy.

To the left is a view of the National Shrine of The Divine Mercy in Stockbridge, Mass. The Shrine, built in the 1950s, was declared a National Shrine by the National Conference of Catholic Bishops on March 20, 1996.



Your Trustworthy Resource for Publications on Divine Mercy and Mary



We welcome you to
Hearts Afire: Parish-
based Programs from
the Marian Fathers
of the Immaculate
Conception

Hearts Afire aims to set hearts on fire with the love of God. The first part of Stage One — 33 Days to Morning Glory — prepares you to consecrate yourself to Jesus through Mary by means of a 33-day group retreat.

To help you with your retreat, we've posted many resources and tips on our website AllHeartsAfire.org:

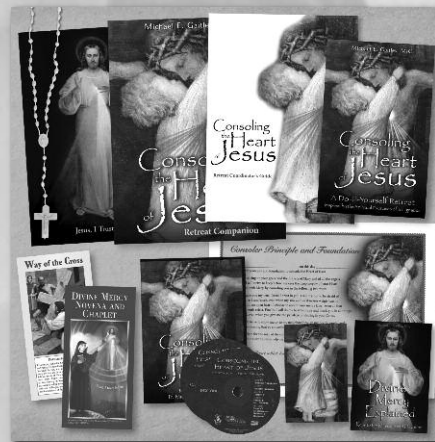
- Retreat Coordinator and Small Group Leader's Guide
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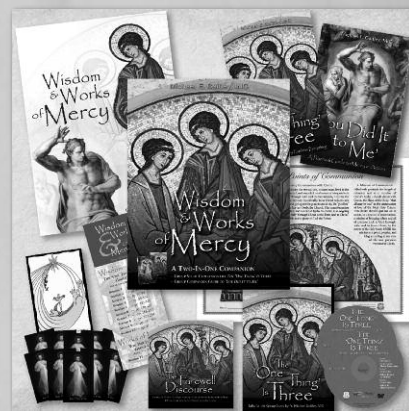
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UP NEXT: CONSOLING THE HEART OF JESUS GROUP RETREAT!



Consoling the Heart of Jesus Coordinator Kit with the retreat book, *Consoling the Heart of Jesus*.

THEN: STAGE TWO: WISDOM AND WORKS OF MERCY GROUP STUDY



Wisdom and Works of Mercy Coordinator Kit with the study book, *The 'One Thing' Is Three*.



facebook.com/AllHeartsAfire

CELEBRATE YOUR CONSECRATION!

There are many ways to celebrate your consecration day. Be invested in a scapular if you haven't already, give roses to Mary, or purchase a chaplet or rosary. You can even purchase more Morning Glory Consecration Certificates if you want one to sign and renew yearly and another to hang in your home. However you decide to make your consecration day memorable, may it be truly blessed. And let us know what your group did to celebrate — we'd appreciate hearing from you!



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Praise for the 33 Days to Morning Glory Retreat Program

Discover what pastors and parishioners are saying about this new small-group parish program brought to you by Hearts Afire: Parish-based Programs from the Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception.

I don't think there's anything greater that anyone could do than to consecrate oneself to Jesus through Our Blessed Mother, Mary. Two weeks after members of our parish consecrated themselves to Our Lady, perpetual Adoration started, daily Mass attendance is up, and people are telling me stories of all the graces they have received.

— **FR. JEREMY LEATHERBY**

Pastor of Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Parish, Sacramento, California

I'm so grateful I was asked to do this program. It has been a beautiful and powerful moment of grace for me.

— **FR. STEVEN HOFFMAN**

Pastor of St. Luke's Parish, Clearwater, Minnesota

I love the meditations in the *33 Days to Morning Glory* book and *Retreat Companion*, especially the section on Mother Teresa.

— **MARC CARDARONELLA**

Diocesan Director of Evangelization, Peoria Diocese, Illinois

All of those involved in this HAPP Program are truly being moved to a new depth of relationship with their spiritual mother, Mary. She is becoming a real, tangible, and powerful reality in our prayer lives.

— **PATTI JANNUZZI**

Director of the New Evangelization Office, Immaculate Conception Parish, Somerville, New Jersey

This Hearts Afire program brought such joy to everyone at the meeting last night and we hope other parishes experience the same joy.

— **KATHY MCLEAN**

St. Luke's Parish, Clearwater, Minnesota

More than halfway through the 33-day preparation retreat, I already see so many fruits in my life. I am more aware of the spiritual blessings and graces I am receiving every day. I am trying to develop more spiritual sensitivity and the "attitude of gratitude" that was in our reading today. More than anything, I feel I am growing closer to Our Blessed Mother, which is a tremendous gift and blessing.

— **MARIA L. SYLVESTER**

St. Andrew's Parish, Columbus, Ohio



Carol R. Younger, Ed.D., is an adjunct professor in school counseling and psychology, a mother of three grown children, and a grandmother of six. She has taught the Catholic faith, Scripture, and catechesis at the college level, in both parish and diocesan teen and adult groups. Her writing and small-group approach are rooted in the Catholic spiritual tradition. She lives with her husband, Herb, on the West Coast.



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