GOD
OUR
FATHER



CONSECRATION AND FEAST DAY

FOR

THE FATHER OF ALL MANKIND

DEDICATION

To God Our Father

We pray that through *The Holy Octave of Consecration* and it's solemn eighth day, *The Feast of the Father of All Mankind*, He may be known, loved, served and honored by all His children.

Dearest God Our Father, we love You; we adore You; we worship You!

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FOREWARD

GOD THE FATHER

by Fr. Michael O'Carroll C.S.SP.

The Holy Trinity is the center of our faith: three Persons in one God. How do we express our belief in public worship and in private prayer? How do we initiate and continue a spiritual attitude towards each divine Person? In the western, that is the Latin, church there has been a very great emphasis on Christo-centric spirituality. If that is designed to eliminate devotions which put others too heavily in focus, one saint or another, it is laudable. If it has the effect of minimizing our attention to the other two divine Persons it needs radical correction. At the end of the third session of the Second Vatican Council an Orthodox theologian Nikos Nissiotis, published an article in *The Ecumenical Review* of which he was editor, which said, in effect, that if the Council Documents did not say more about the Holy Spirit they would have little impact in the Orthodox Church.

Whether this article had any influence on things or not, there is much about the Holy Spirit in the conciliar texts which issued during the fourth session. Then Pope Paul VI publicly urged Catholic teachers and pastors to add to the theology of the Church and that of Our Lady that had come from the Council, a theology of the Holy Spirit. He led the way splendidly as Fr. Edward O'Connor has shown in his book, *Pope Paul VI and the Holy Spirit.* But no one has answered this appeal as fully as his successor in the See of Peter. John Paul II has, in public discourses and writings, taught more on the Holy Spirit than all his predecessors together. He is the first Pope to declare a Year of the Holy Spirit.

This leads logically to the question: What of God the Father? Here to, we have lived to witness an awakening of consciousness, and of conscience, in regard to His Person. For the first time in history churches have been built in His honour and a special feast is envisaged to God the Father.

Will this serve to diminish attention to God the Son incarnate? On the contrary it will enable us to come closer to the mystery of His Sonship. Anyone who doubts this will gain reassurance from the words of Jesus Himself: His first words recorded were "Did you not know that I must be in My Father's House?" (Lk 2:49); the last from His lips were "Father, into thy Hands I commit My Spirit" (Lk 23:46). All Jesus' prayers were directed to the Father; His words when near death, "My God, my God, why hast thou forsaken Me" were from a psalm (22:1), intended, some scholars think, as an invitation to His faithful friends to recite the psalm, which ends on a note of triumph.

The reader must especially ponder St. John's gospel, chapters 14 to 17, delaying on the sensational assertion "He who has seen Me, has seen the Father; how can you say "Show us the Father"? Do you not believe that l am in the Father and the Father is in Me?" (Jn 14:9.10). Such reflection will enable us to appreciate why the only formal prayer given to us by Jesus is the "Our Father".

Thus Jesus, the mediator and sum-total of all revelation" (Vatican II) fulfilled the promise inherent in certain inspired intuitions of the Old Testament. As with the Spirit of God we have not therein an explicit theology of a divine Person and of relationship with the others. The Father is mentioned fourteen times, spoken of as creator, as a merciful One. As to relationship with humanity it is to Israel that his fatherhood shows itself: "I am a Father to Israel and Ephraim is My first born" (Jer.31:9;cp. Deut. 14:2; Ex 4:22). In this context the great Lutheran biblical scholar, Joachim Jeremias, has convincingly maintained that the momentous innovation of prayer addressed to the Father by an individual was the achievement of Jesus. This is one more reason why a

spirituality oriented to the Father enhances, amplifies, deepens intimacy with Jesus. We lose nothing by reflecting on the great 'find' of recent times: His Jewishness, with all that this connotes, for example in regard to the theology of the Heart.

There were three great civilizations around the ancient Mediterranean, Roman, based on law, Greek, based on the intellect, and the greatest, Jewish, based on the heart, as the statement of the living person: the word occurs 850 times in the sacred writings of this people, our spiritual ancestors. Their greatest gift to us was Jesus, the supreme Jew, Son of the Eternal Father, whom He disclosed to us and to whom He interceded with His very life for our salvation.

Once convinced of this consoling reality we may ask what means may we best employ to strengthen our faith and satisfy our need for meaningful prayer? The answer, an enlightened, highly acceptable one to this question is given in this book which I am recommending, *The Holy Consecration to God Our Father and its Feast day*. I do not have to remind the reader that 1999 has been declared the Year of the Father by John Paul II. This explains the petition to the Pope for a feast which readers are invited to support. They may expect a favourable response, for John Paul II has emphasized his Trinitarian attitude in three Encyclicals: the Father in *Dives in Misericordia,* the Son in *Redemptor Hominis,* the Holy Spirit in *Dominum et Vivificantem.*

I shall not enter into the detail of this solidly constructed work. *The Holy Octave of Consecration to God our Father* is convincingly expounded; biblical reference is abundant. Note for interest how often the "eight" is significant in crucial saving events, modeled on the great revelation in the Bible. Here there is much that is profoundly theological and yet totally accessible. To those interested I say: Read, ponder, pray and benefit.

Michael O'Carroll, C.S.Sp.

8 May, 1998

Feast of the Apparition of St. Michael

[Editor's note: Fr. Michael O'Carroll, C.S.Sp. Is an Irish theologian and author of over 35 books. He lectures at Blackrock College in Dublin.]

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A son honors his father, and a servant his master. If then I am a father, where is my honor?

-Mal 1:6

But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for such the Father seeks to worship him. God is spirit, and those who worship him must worship in spirit and truth.

-Jn 4:23-24

And for their sake I consecrate myself, that they also may be consecrated in truth.

-Jn 17:19

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INTRODUCTION

Returning to the House of God Our Father

The Catholic Church teaches us that God Our Father sent His Son Jesus to bring us back home to Him and that the Holy Spirit was sent to lead us on that journey. This is reflected in Pope John Paul II's preparation for the Jubilee 2000-1997, the Year of Jesus; 1998, the Year of the Holy Spirit; and 1999, the Year of the Father. Our spiritual journey, then, is intended to move us always in the direction of God Our Father. As Jesus tells us:

> ***I came down from heaven, not to do my own will, but the will of him that sent me. Now this is the will of the Father who sent me: that of all that he hath given me, I should lose nothing; but should raise it up again in the last day. (Jn 6:38-39 DV)***
>
> ***In my Father's house there are many mansions. If not, I would have told you: because I go to prepare a place for you. And if I shall go, and prepare a place for you, I will come again; and will take you to myself, that where I am, you also may be. 1 am the way, and the truth, and the life. No man cometh to the Father but by me. (Jn 14:2-3,6 DV)***

Our Holy Father John Paul II writes in *Tertio Millenio Adveniente [As the Third Millennium Draws Near]* that "the whole of the Christian life is like a great pilgrimage to the house of the Father, whose unconditional love for every human creature, and in particular for the 'prodigal son' (Lk 15: 11-32), we discover anew each day." In this same apostolic letter he also reminds us that during this time, Mary, our Mother, will be lovingly and urgently inviting "all the children of God so that they will return to the house of the Father when they hear Her maternal voice: **"Do whatever Christ tells you"** (Jn 2:5).

Our return to the house of our Father, then, is ordained by God as a "process." It is a process that begins with our Mother Mary who lovingly guides us to Her Son. Jesus then mercifully lifts us up on His Cross to our Father. While comforting us on this journey home, the Holy Spirit purifies and refines us so God Our Father can come and dwell in us as living temples, and we, in turn, can dwell in Him. To do this, we must, unlike our first parents, Adam and Eve, offer our unconditional "Yes" to our Father's Will. For it was in saying "No" that mankind was exiled from Paradise and the intimate presence of God Our Father.

As children of God, we have been provided with a beautiful means to return to God Our Father, a progressive process that is described by St. Louis DeMontfort in *The Secret* of *Mary:* "If the falsely enlightened, whom the devil has so miserably illusioned, even in prayer, had known how to find Mary, and through her to find Jesus, and through Jesus, God the Father, they would not have had such terrible falls. The saints tell us that when we have once found Mary, and through Mary, Jesus, and through Jesus, God the Father, we have found all good. He who says all, excepts nothing: all grace and all friendship with God, all safety from God's enemies, all truth to crush falsehoods, all facility to overcome difficulties in the way of salvation, all comfort and all joy amidst the bitterness of life" (21). Our spiritual journey, then, is a dynamic process which takes us through Mary to Jesus in union with the Holy Spirit back home to God Our Father. That is the reason for our existence.

If we could climb to the top of a mountain and look down on the panorama of Man's Salvation History, we would see that mankind was created solely for the purpose of returning to its Creator--God Our Father.

The Triumph of Our Mother Mary's Immaculate Heart

In these times, as the Millennium draws near, **Mary's greatest Triumph will be Her cooperative role in leading us back home and restoring us to God Our Father.**

The first child of God to offer her "Yes" to our Father, Mary brought Jesus, our Savior, into the world. In this, and by guiding all Her children to offer their "Yes," She truly "crushes the head" of the serpent-the serpent who seduced mankind into disobedience and exile (Gen 3:15 DV). Because of this "woman," the children of God Our Father will once again--as it was in the beginning--dwell with Him in the Paradise of His Divine Will. She is, indeed, the Mother of All Mankind--cooperating with God's Plan for our redemption, reconciling and uniting us with our Father, and acting as an intercessory helper for the children of God.

Like His mother, Jesus also offered His "fiat." In saying "Yes" to the Will of His Father, Jesus offered Himself for each and every one of us. His Passion, Death, and Resurrection defeated the sin and death which resulted from Adam and Eve's free-will choice to say "No" to our Father's Will. Through the "Yes" of Jesus and His mother Mary, we are no longer exiled. Jesus is the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Both He and His mother wait patiently to lead us back home to God Our Father. They wait for our "Yes!"

After the "fiats" of Mary and Jesus, the Holy Spirit was sent by our Father, at the request of Jesus, so that we would not be left as orphans. He comforts, guides, and purifies us on our journey back home to the Father. With our "Yes," He prepares us so that we can become consecrated temples of the Living God.

With God truly living "in" us, we, the exiled, prodigal children, will finally be restored to God Our Father. Our Mother Mary's Immaculate Heart will have triumphed--our Father's Kingdom will have truly come!

Knowing, Loving, and Honoring God Our Father

The Roman Catholic Church defines God as the three Persons of the Holy Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. However, since the earliest beginnings of the Church, there has been a tendency to focus primarily on the Second Person of the Holy Trinity--Jesus, the Son of God. And to a lesser extent, there has been renewed interest in the Holy Spirit in the latter half of the 20th century. But what of the Father?

True, the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is offered up to God Our Father and the "Our Father Prayer" is directed to Him. But do we "know" the Father? Do we believe that when Jesus came to earth as the Incarnation of God, that we no longer needed to know, love, serve, or honor the Father? Do we think that Jesus replaced the Father? Do we feel that God Our Father belongs to the Old Testament era and Jesus belongs to New Testament times? Do we perceive God Our Father as an ancient, mythic figure that is stern, aged, and unapproachable? Do we truly know Him? Love Him? Serve Him? Honor Him? The response to these questions by most Catholics would indicate that, indeed, something is seriously lacking in our perception and relationship with God Our Father.

Think for a moment. Do we typically see statues or paintings of the Father in our Catholic churches? Are any of our churches named in honor of Him? Does the Catholic Church have any special feasts that specifically honor Him? The answer unfortunately is no.

The Holy Octave of Consecration to God Our Father- and The Feast of the Father of All Mankind

Why don't we honor our Creator, our Father--especially with a feast?

This is an unsettling question and a disturbing revelation, but it is also something we can easily remedy. As children of God Our Father, we can work towards establishing a feast for Him. The time has come to know, love, serve, and honor God Our Father through a special feast of consecration, a feast that would provide us with an opportunity to offer our fiat. Holy Scripture provides us with a blueprint for such a feast as was foreshadowed in the Feasts of Tabernacles [Booths] and Dedication (Lev 23:33-43; 2 Chron 7:1-9; 1 Mac 4:59; 2 Mac 2:1-18). Both eight-day feasts involved seven days of preparation and a solemn eighth day of prayer and assembly.

This proposed feast would involve **honoring** and **consecrating** ourselves to God Our Father over an eightday period, or "octave." It would be, then, a **Holy Octave of Consecration to God Our Father** with its solemn eighth day celebrated as **The Feast Day of the Father of All Mankind.**

The Holy Octave of Consecration to God Our Father and its *Feast of the Father of All Mankind* would integrate the purpose and meaning of both the previous Old Testament feasts in its focus on knowing, loving, serving, and honoring God our Father. Because of this, it would involve a commemoration of what God has done for His children and what we need to do for our Father. With this feast, God would not only be present as He was in the Ark of the Covenant, in a stone temple, or in the tabernacle of a church--He would be housed and present in those souls who were purified and dedicated to Him through consecration.

What exactly is *The Holy Octave of Consecration to God Our Father* and its *Feast of the Father of All Mankind?*

Its greatest significance in these times is that it provides us with an opportunity (1)to honor God Our Father, (2) to offer Him our “fiat“, and (3) to consecrate ourselves to Him.
In this way, we are truly cooperating with our Mother Mary in the Triumph of Her Immaculate Heart. We are returning to our Father; we are offering Him our unconditional "fiat" as Mary and Jesus did; and we are consecrating ourselves to Him--totally. As He so richly deserves, we are finally knowing, loving, serving, and honoring Him as God Our Father--The Father of All Mankind.

Consecrating Ourselves to God Our Father

The most compelling precedent for consecrating ourselves to God Our Father over an eight-day feast, or octave, is found In John 10:22-39. This passage describes how Jesus, during the eight-day Feast of Dedication, revealed that He was consecrated to God Our Father.

Jesus further explains that He consecrated Himself to our Father so we, too, could be consecrated in truth (In 17: 19-21). The concept of "Consecration to God Our Father" is crucial because, as Jesus tells us, "the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth, for such the Father seeks to worship him. God is a spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth" (In 4:23-24). If we follow Jesus, if we model ourselves after Him, shouldn't we also consecrate ourselves to God Our Father during an eight-day feast, so that we, too, can adore Him "in spirit and in truth?"

If we choose to consecrate ourselves to God Our Father, how should this be done? The concept of an "octave," or 8-day feast, has been significant in our relationship with God since the beginning of our Salvation History. It is not by coincidence that Jesus chose to reveal His consecration to God Our Father on the eight-day Feast of Dedication. Clearly, the octave symbolizes a designated period of time when God's children grow and God's relationship with them changes or is transformed.

Unlike other feasts and consecration methods, *The Holy Octave of Consecration to God Our Father* views the "big picture" of our Salvation History. It involves the entire process of our spiritual journey which includes Mary, our Mother; Jesus, our God and our Savior; and the Holy Spirit, our God and our Sanctifierwith progression always toward God Our Father.

God's Word in both the Old and New Testaments provides us with extensive Scriptural Support for an eight-day, or "octave," format. From the Book of Genesis to the Gospels and Epistles, the number "eight" is used to signify salvation, covenant, purification, and dedication. Perhaps, more importantly, it is used to indicate the end of one era and the beginning of another in which God is revealed, manifested, and present to His children in a new way.

The Holy Octave of Consecration to God Our Father, in its most powerful form, is intended as a formal eight-day feast for God Our Father culminating on the first Sunday of the "eighth" month, God Our Father's Month--August. The solemn eighth day of *The Holy Octave of Consecration of God Our Father* would be celebrated under the title of *The Feast of the Father of All Mankind.* However, consecration to God our Father using the eight-day formula of *The Holy Octave of Consecration to God Our Father* can be done informally at any time during the year.

A Period of Transformation

As we approach the Jubilee year 2000, wouldn't it be appropriate to consecrate ourselves and the world to the One we were created to return to-God Our Father? Wouldn't it be, equally appropriate to recite this consecration publicly and to renew it annually on a feast specifically celebrated for God Our Father--"The Father of All Mankind"? Isn't it time to cleanse, purify, and re-dedicate the Temple of God Our Father-individually and as the Body of Christ?

Are we entering a new period of transformation? Does the chaos, confusion, and darkness of our culture signal the need for change in our relationship with God Our Father? Does it signal the Mercy of God's Justice, So that in these times we are truly feeling the consequences and effects of our sins, our turning away from God, our refusal to do God's Will?

Instead of punishment, is the misery of our times really God Our Father's Mercy? Is He allowing us to feel the full brunt of our bad choices, our sin, so that we might clearly see what it is like to live outside His Will? Is He allowing this so that we can better make the choice to return to Him--where we belong?

If so, Holy Scripture illustrates that in the past, these periods of transformation always involved a time of our turning away from God, a time of purification and cleansing, a time of re-dedication, and a time of regathering and renewal.

The octave or eight-day period is significant, then, in representing a divinely ordained process that involves a shifting from one period to the next. Often the process that propels us from one period into the next has involved seven days of praise, thanksgiving, offering, and repentance, followed by an eighth day of solemnity and assembly of God's children. This process can work on two levels to purify and dedicate us: individually and as a body. Therefore, *The Holy Octave of Consecration to God Our Father,* culminating in *The Feast of the Father of All Mankind* is necessary and much needed in these times-- for each of us individually and for the Church as a whole.

To place the need for a consecration feast to God Our Father in proper perspective for the times we live in, we should remember that at the turn of the last century, Pope Leo XIII dedicated the world to the Sacred Heart of

Jesus. Again in 1925, Pope Pius XI ordered a formal consecration of mankind to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, to be publicly recited and renewed annually on the Feast of Christ the King.

As we enter the next millennium, isn't it time that we know, love, and honor God Our Father through a formal feast day of consecration especially for Him?

If we say "yes" to God Our Father, cleanse and purify ourselves, consecrate and re-dedicate ourselves to Him, individually and collectively, what could possibly keep Him from coming to us--in a more powerful and glorious way than we could ever imagine!

"Thy Kingdom Come"

Like eight footlights guiding us home, like runway lights beckoning our Father to descend among us, *The Holy Octave of Consecration to God Our Father* would prepare us for His indwelling. And this indwelling represents one of the greatest gifts ever given to us--that God Our Father is with us always, actively and intimately.

With this in mind, we need to say "Yes," Father, and become lights to the world, signaling the change to come. For, surely, a new time is coming, a time of renewal and transformation, when Mary's Immaculate Heart will finally Triumph--the era when our Father's Kingdom comes and His Will is done "on earth as it is in heaven."

May we approach God Our Father through *The Holy Octave of Consecration and its eighth solemn day--the Feast of the Father of all Mankind*--with anticipation, love, and confidence. For He is not the old, stern, and distant man we imagined. Rather, He is Divine, and as such, cannot age, for age is a sign of corruption and decay of "life." No, He is a healthy, vital God. He is the Creator--Life itself! He "is" Love and Mercy. And He is close, even now, tracing the smiles and tears upon our faces with His divine finger, sharing our every joy, our every sorrow. He is our Father and we are His children. We belong to Him and to Him we were created to return--each and every one of us!

TIME LINE

OLD TESTAMENT

Eight people saved by God.	Noe's Ark (Gen 7:13)
Covenant sign eight days after birth.	Circumcision (Gen 17:12)
Eight-day period of Consecration and offering preceding the manifestation of God to His people.	Manifestation of God to Moses and His People (Lev 8:33-36; 9:1-24)
Eight-day feast requested by God.	Feast of Tabernacles [Booths] (Lev 23:33-43)
Offerings accepted by God for purification on the final eighth day.	Purification Rituals (Lev 14:10-11;15:14-15,29-30)
David, the eighth son of Jesse, brought the Ark of the Covenant into the City of David amidst praises sung for the octave upon harps.	The Ark of the Covenant is returned to the Hebrews (1 Sam 17:12-14) (1 Para 15:21 DV)
David's repentant cry played on an eight string harp.	(Ps 6 DV)
Solomon finishes building the House of the Lord in the eighth month of the year.	Solomon Completes the Temple (1 Kings 6:38)
Eight-day feast dedicating and preparing the Temple for God's presence.	Solomon's Feast of Dedication (2 Chron 7: 1-9)
Dimensions for the New Temple based on number eight.	The New Temple as envisioned by Ezechial (Ezek 40:8,30,34,37,41 [40:49 DV])
Eight-day feast for cleansing and re-dedicating the Temple.	Maccabee's Feast of Dedication (1 Mac 4:59; 2 Mac 2:1-18)

TIME LINE

NEW TESTAMENT

Covenant sign on the eighth day.	John the Baptist's Circumcision (Lk 1 :59)
Covenant sign on the eighth day.	Jesus' Circumcision (Lk 2:21)
Jesus reveals His union with God Our Father His consecration on this eight-day feast.	Jesus walks onSolomon's Porch at the Temple and on the Feast of Dedication (Jn 10:22-38)
Jesus prophesies His Transfiguration to the Apostles eight days before the actual event.	The Transfiguration of Jesus - The Apostles Peter, James and John hear the voice of God Our Father say, "This is my beloved Son; hear Him." (Lk 9:35)
Jesus rose from the dead on the eighth day of His Week of Redemptive Passion.	The Resurrection of Jesus (Mt 28:1-8; Mk 16:9; Lk 24:1-5; Jn 20:1-17)
Jesus shows His wounds to unbelieving Thomas eight days after His Resurrection.	Jesus appears to Thomas (Jn 20:26-29)

THE HOLY OCTAVE OF CONSECRATION TO GOD OUR FATHER

OVERVIEW

The Holy Octave of Consecration to God Our Father involves eight days of prayer, scripture readings, and meditation, as well as participation in the Holy Mass, the Eucharist, and the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The first seven days serve as preparatory steps leading to the final day of assembly and solemn consecration--*The Feast of the Father of All Mankind.*

A chaplet, medal, and litany have been specially designed for the octave approach of this consecration and feast day. All God's children are invited to use the following spiritual practices and format to consecrate themselves to God Our Father. Although the consecration can be done at any time by setting aside an eight-day period (preferably Sunday to Sunday), it is suggested that (1) it be renewed formally each year on the proposed date (an octave ending on the first Sunday of August) and that (2) it be renewed informally each day by praying the chaplet. In addition, the short prayer, "I love You, Father, and I give myself to You" can be prayed throughout the day to help us live our consecration more fully.

Two publications are available for *The Holy Octave* of *Consecration* to *God Our Father:* (1) *God Our Father--Consecration and Feast Day for the Father* of *All Mankind* (full-length book) and (2) *God Our Father--Consecration and Feast Day for the Father* of *All Mankind* (the booklet). Both publications contain an introduction the formal and daily chaplet, and litany. However, the full-length book contains sections that provide additional information and support for *The Holy Octave of Consecration to God Our Father: "*The Journey of God Our Father's Children" and "Scriptural Meditations on The Octave of God Our Father."

Daily Format: A relevant theme taken from Holy Scripture has been selected for each of the eight days of the consecration: praise, thanksgiving, offering, repentance, inheritance (acknowledging that God is truly our Father and we are truly His children), fiat (saying "Yes" unconditionally to God Our Father's Will), fidelity, and consecration. Therefore, general daily practice during this eight-day period involves meditation on the selected daily theme, scripture reading, and prayer. In addition, the chaplet and litany of the *Holy Octave of Consecration to God Our Father* are to be recited daily. Daily Mass and reception of the Holy Eucharist are recommended, as is the Sacrament of Reconciliation during this eight-day period.

The Chaplet: The chaplet is made up of the Medal of the *Holy Octave of Consecration to God Our Father* and 75 beads--11 gold and 64 red. The gold beads signify our precious goal, the Divine Treasure--God Our Father. The red beads signify the Blood of Jesus Christ which allows us to return to God Our Father.

To begin, *A Prayer Invoking the Presence of God Our Father* is recited. Then the Sign of the Cross and a preparatory prayer are said on the Holy Octave of Consecration Medal. Introductory prayers to Mary, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit are prayed on the three introductory gold beads that lead into the larger circle of beads.

The circle of beads is designed with major octaves (eight gold beads), each with its own minor octave (eight red beads). The eight main themes of our journey as prodigal children of God Our Father are meditated on the eight gold Major Octave beads. The eight daily themes of the consecration are recited on the eight red Minor Octave beads.

To finish the chaplet, the Holy Octave of Consecration Prayer to God the Father is then recited on the medal.

Both an extended version of the chaplet for formal consecration (with meditations) and a concise version for daily use (without meditations) are provided in this booklet.

The Medal: A special medal was designed to illustrate the process of this consecration (see book cover). Depicted on the front of the medal is the actual consecration process. God Our Father is seen in heaven reaching down to us on earth; man is seen on earth reaching up to God Our Father in heaven. The force of God's Love for us is shown in the rays that proceed down from His hand; the force of our love for Him is pictured in our "fiat" radiating up to Him. These rays intersect through the Cross of Jesus. This Cross is the bridge or link between God Our Father and His children. At one end, it is grounded in the earth through Mary, our Mother. It then proceeds up through the sanctifying power of the Holy Spirit into Heaven at the other end. Eight lights, signifying the Scripturally-supported Octave, are shown on the horizontal beam of the Cross. These eight lights serve to guide us on our journey back home to God Our Father.

The back of the medal displays the eight-stringed harp of David, as mentioned in Psalm 6. St. Augustine understood this mystically, as symbolizing the octave--seven days of this mortal life followed by the last resurrection and the world to come. And that during our mortal life, like David, we must also feel sorrow for our sins and repent of them while here on earth. On this eight-stringed harp we have placed the eight themes or steps of the *Holy Octave of Consecration to God Our Father*--praise, thanksgiving, offering, repentance, inheritance, fiat, fidelity, and consecration. Inside the bow of the harp are printed the words: "The rhythm and harmony of God's Will." This reminds us that when we pluck the eight strings or themes of this consecration to God Our Father, a beautiful music ascends to heaven--we are choosing to live in the rhythm and harmony of His Will.

The Scapular of God Our Father--"The Offering Cloth": Whereas the medal shows God Our Father's love for us (a roadmap back home to Him), the Offering Cloth shows our love for God Our Father (the total offering of ourselves). It is a small, white piece of linen embroidered around the edges for durability and worn by a cloth rope or pinned through two eyelets in the upper corners. Worn close to the heart (as a scapular), it is held in our open hand during our daily prayers of offering. This may occur during recitation of the chaplet or at anytime when we pray, "I love you, Father, and I give myself to You." Blessing of the Offering Cloth takes place during our formal consecration to God Our Father on the "Feast of the Father of All Mankind." However, it may be done by a priest at any time.

The Offering Cloth is a visual aid to remind us of what our souls should be like before God--clean and pure. Because of this, the Offering Cloth should be kept clean and may be laundered. It serves a concrete symbol of our souls given in offering to our Father. Not only does it remind us of the need to be purified, but it also helps us understand that purification is not a punishment, but rather a preparation for the indwelling Presence of God. When we offer ourselves to God Our Father, He purifies us so that He may come to dwell in us personally.

The Litany: This litany for God Our Father was composed specifically for the Holy Octave of Consecration. It lists all the major passages in Holy Scripture that cite the octave or number "eight." Each citation is followed by the phrase, "Have mercy on us, O Loving Father."

The Feast of the Father of All Mankind: This crowning feast day of the *Holy Octave of Consecration to God Our Father* serves to solemnly assemble the children of God, the ultimate purpose of which is to ***honor God Our Father*** (1) by recognizing that He is truly our Father and we are truly His children, (2) by offering Him our unconditional "fiat," and (3) by consecrating ourselves to Him totally. Having prepared for this solemn day and our consecration by exercising and offering the Holy Octave themes of praise, thanksgiving, offering, repentance, inheritance, fiat, and fidelity, we now ask Mary, our Mother; Jesus, our God and our Savior; and

The Holy Spirit, our God and our Sanctifier, to guide and prepare us so that through our total consecration, we can become living temples of the indwelling Presence of God.

We also ask God Our Father on this special day (1) to allow us to cultivate and maintain a close and intimate relationship with Him, (2) to have Mercy on all His children--past, present, and future, (3) to bring His peace to the world, (4) to gather all His children to Himself, and (5) and that His Kingdom comes and His Will is done on earth as it is in heaven.

Liturgically, this day should include a Holy Mass with Scripture readings and a homily that specifically honor God Our Father as "The Father of All Mankind." Blessed palms should also be provided for praising our Lord and Father.

After the Celebration of Holy Mass, medals, chaplets, and Offering Cloths may be blessed. The children of God should be invited to collectively pray the chaplet, litany, and the daily theme prayer for the eighth day of the consecration.

THE EIGHT DAYS OF THE HOLY OCTAVE OF CONSECRATION TO GOD OUR FATHER

DAY ONE

Suggested Daily Devotional Practices:

1. Holy Mass (Recommended)
2. The Formal *Holy Octave of Consecration to God Our Father* Chaplet (See p. 25)
3. The Litany of *The Holy Octave of Consecration to God Our Father* (See p. 31) 4. Daily Meditation on a Minor Octave Theme (See Below)

DAILY THEME: PRAISE

"I will praise the Lord as long as I live; I will sing praises to my God while I have being."--Ps 146:2

Glory to You, God my Father!

You, Who made the universe and all that is in it.

You, Who made the brightest star and the darkest ocean depth.

You, Who made the fiercest storm and the gentlest summer breeze.

You, Who made the heavenly angels, as well as the beasts, birds, and fishes of the earth.

You, Who made me, created in Your image.

I praise you, God my Father--now and forever! Amen.

[Meditate on the wonders God Our Father has created, and praise Him in your own thoughts and words.]

END OF DAY ONE DEVOTION

DAY TWO

Suggested Daily Devotional Practices:

1. Holy Mass (Recommended)
2. The Formal *Holy Octave of Consecration to God Our Father* Chaplet (See p. 25)
3. The Litany of *The Holy Octave of Consecration to God Our Father* (See p. 31)
4. Daily Meditation on a Minor Octave Theme (See Below)

DAILY THEME: THANKSGIVING

Bless the Lord, O my soul, and forget not all His benefits."--Ps 103:2

Thank You, my dearest Father, for loving me into existence.

Thank You for this body, mind, and soul that You fashioned specially for me.

Thank You for the people and circumstances of my life.

Thank You for opening my eyes, ears, and heart so that I may see, hear, and love You. Thank You for taking me by the hand and leading me back home through all the dangers and difficulties of my life.

Thank You for loving me. Amen.

[Meditate on all that God Our Father has given you. Thank Him in your own words.]

END OF DAY TWO DEVOTION

DAY THREE

Suggested Daily Devotional Practices:

1. Holy Mass (Recommended)
2. The Formal *Holy Octave of Consecration to God Our Father Chaplet* (See p. 25)
3. The Litany of *The Holy Octave of Consecration to God Our Father* (See p. 31)
4. Daily Meditation on a Minor Octave Theme (See Below)

DAILY THEME: OFFERING

"And like living stones be yourselves built into a spiritual house, to be a holy priesthood, to offer spiritual sacrifices acceptable to God through Jesus Christ."--1 Pet 2:5

You have given me everything, Father.

You have given me Yourself!

What can I possibly offer You?

Let me offer you the first fruits, the best fruits, of all I do or receive.

Let all Your children offer themselves as the fruit of Your Tree of Life,

Ripened on the sacrifices, sufferings, and crosses of their earthly journeys,

So that the worldwide effects of Your children's "No"--darkness, discord, and disorder-- May be

transformed and made new through Your Light and Love.

I raise my arms in offering to You, Father.

Receive all You have given me into Your Paternal Heart. Amen.

[Meditate on what you can offer up to God Our Father. Offer back to Him all that He has given you-- the blessings and the crosses--so that all may be transformed in His Love.]

END OF DAY THREE DEVOTION

DAY FOUR

Suggested Daily Devotional Practices:

1. Holy Mass (Recommended)
2. The Formal *Holy Octave of Consecration to God Our Father* Chaplet (See p. 25)
3. The Litany of *The Holy Octave of Consecration to God Our Father* (See p. 31)
4. Daily Meditation on a Minor Octave Theme (See Below)

DAILY THEME: REPENTANCE

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort."--2 Corinthians 1:3

My Good Father, You are all loving, But You are also Just.

How can Your children ever make reparation for all their sins?

How can they ever hope to balance Your Scales of Justice--especially in these times:

These times when so many of Your children say "No" to You,

These times when so many of Your children reject Your Will,

These times when so many of Your children no longer believe in You and have enthroned themselves as "gods,"

These times when so many of Your children embrace the fruit of the Tree of Knowledge of Good and Evil.

They have embraced the lie; they have embraced death.

Shower us with Your Grace and Mercy, Father. Cleanse us in your tears,

Allow us to be compassionate warriors of Your Mercy on earth,

So that Your Sword of Justice may be transformed into a loving means of Your Mercy. Amen.

[Meditate on all the many ways you have hurt or offended God Our Father. Ask for His forgiveness and mercy. Ask for the grace to know, love, serve, and honor Him and to do His Will in all things.]

END OF DAY FOUR DEVOTION

DAY FIVE

Suggested Daily Devotional Practices:

1. Holy Mass (Recommended)
2. The Formal *Holy Octave of Consecration to God Our Father* Chaplet (See P. 25)
3. The Litany of *The Holy Octave of Consecration to God Our Father* (See P. 31)
4. Daily Meditation on a Minor Octave Theme (See Below)

DAILY THEME: INHERITANCE

For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the spirit of sonship. When we cry, Abba! Father! it is the Spirit Himself bearing witness with our spirit that we are children of God, and if children, then heirs, heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with Him in order that we may also be glorified with Him."--Rom 8:14-17

Dearest God My Father:

With awe and wonder, I have learned to praise You and all Your creation,

With sincere gratefulness, I have learned to thank You for Your boundless generosity.

With humility and love, I have learned to offer up to You all that You have given me.

With a sorrowful but hopeful heart, I have learned to ask for Your forgiveness and tender mercy. And now that I can fully appreciate that You exist, that You are God, that You created this entire universe, that You created me,

I now learn, that in addition to these wonders, You are truly my Father and I am truly Your child.

How can my heart contain the excitement--I am not only Your creature, but I am actually Your child.

You created me in Your own image so that I could spend eternity with You. You loved me that much. But even though You have told me this in Holy Scripture and through the teachings of the Church, my ears have not heard the words, my heart was hardened.

I had wandered far away--from Your voice, Your Heart, Your Love for me.

But now the veil is lifted, the fog has cleared. I see, I hear, I understand--

You are truly my Father and I am truly Your child! I am Your prodigal child, running back to You, into Your waiting arms.

I am coming home, to You, my Father, where I belong. Please hold me tightly to Your Heart and never let me go--now and forever. Amen.

[Meditate on what it means to have God as your true Father and for you to be His true child. What does this legacy mean? Think about the tremendous joy and responsibilities that this involves.]

END OF DAY FIVE DEVOTION

DAILY THEME: FIAT
(SAYING "YES" TO GOD OUR FATHER)

"Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word."--Lk 1:38

"My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will but as thou wilt."--Mt 26:39

My Good and Loving Father:

Please allow me the privilege of saying my "Yes" to You! I say "Yes" to You, Father, in all things. Not a conditional "Yes" that involves doing only those things that are comfortable or easy. Not a conditional "Yes" that means doing only those things that benefit me. No, I give you my "Yes" in all things, Father, because I know You are pure Love and as pure Love You can transform all things. Doing Your Will can never hurt me. Doing Your Will can never harm another. Doing Your Will can never separate me from You. Doing Your Will can only bring about the rhythm and harmony of Your Will here on earth. Doing

Your Will can only spread Your Light and Love. Doing Your Will can only help bring me to You. Doing Your Will can only help me bring others to You. When I step inside Your Will, I am dancing with You in the order, rhythm, and harmony of Your Divine Will. When I step outside Your Will, I am stumbling alone in the chaos, disorder, and discord of darkness. Let me listen to Your gentle, loving voice beckoning me, inviting me into Your Divine Will. I am yours, Lord, do with me what You will. Because I know that Your Will is Love. Even when Your Will may seem painful or unfair, I know that Your ways are not always man's ways. Only You can see the grand scheme of things. Only You know the "whys" of my crosses. But despite what may sometimes appear to be unjust, I trust You totally. Why? Because You are my Father...and You love me. You want only what is good for me. You want me to come home--to You.

There's nothing in heaven or on earth that I want more. So I say "Yes," Father! I say "Yes" to You! I say "Yes" to the rhythm and harmony of Your Divine Will. Amen.

Meditate on what it means to give your fiat, your "Yes" to God Our Father. How will this change your life? How will this change your relationship with God, with others?

END OF DAY SIX DEVOTION

DAY SEVEN

Suggested Daily Devotional Practices:

1. Holy Mass (Recommended)
2. The Formal *Holy Octave of Consecration to God Our Father* Chaplet (See p. 25)
3. The Litany of *The Holy Octave of Consecration to God Our Father* (See p. 31)
4. Daily Meditation on a Minor Octave Theme (See Below)

DAILY THEME: FIDELITY

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith."--2 Tim 4:7

Dearest Father, my Love and my Life:

I pledge my faith, hope, and love,

As a precious gift, a promise, of my unconditional fidelity to You.

Know that I trust in Your love for me.

Give me the strength, courage, and perseverance to never doubt, never stray, never despair.

Please bless this vow and make of me a gentle warrior,

Battling the darkness with Your Sweet Sword of Love and Mercy.

As You will never abandon me, I pray I will never abandon You.

Please press me tenderly to Your heart, and never let me go.

In You, Father, I trust! Amen.

[Meditate on pledging your fidelity to God Our Father. What does it mean to be loyal and committed to God? Do you feel committed to returning to your Father? Do you want to help others return, too? What does it mean to be a "gentle warrior" of God Our Father's Love and Mercy here on earth? Like St. Paul, when you die, will you feel as though you've fought a good fight?]

END OF DAY SEVEN DEVOTION

DAY EIGHT

Suggested Daily Devotional Practices:

1. Holy Mass (Recommended)
2. The Formal *Holy Octave of Consecration to God Our Father* Chaplet (See p. 25)
3. The Litany of *The Holy Octave of Consecration to God Our Father* (See p. 31)
4. Daily Meditation on a Minor Octave Theme (See Below)

The Offering Cloth--held in an open hand during recitation of the Day Eight Daily Theme and, thereafter, during a prayer of daily offering: the chaplet or the short prayer, "I love you, Father, and I give myself to You." Ideally, Offering Cloths should be blessed before the formal consecration on "The Feast of the Father of All Mankind." However, this can be done by a priest at any time.

DAILY THEME: CONSECRATION

"For we are the temple of the living God; as God said, I will live in them and move among them, and I will be their God, and they shall be my people." --2 Cor.6:16

Dearest God My Father:

I call upon You to witness and participate in my solemn consecration to You. After seven days of preparation, I come to You now as one who is still learning how to know and love You, how to praise and thank You, how to offer up to You all the blessings and crosses You have given me, and how to ask for Your forgiveness and mercy. I also come to You as a warrior, strong in my resolve to serve and honor You. But most importantly, I come to You as a wide-eyed child, filled with awe and wonder in the knowledge that I am truly Your child and that You--Creator of the vast universe--are truly my Father. Although I have wandered far from You in my lifetime, I choose now to return, for I long to be with You in Your house forever.

In Your Divine Presence, with full knowledge and free will, I consecrate myself to You on this day. Like a small child, I approach You; I lay tenderly against Your Fatherly Heart, and I ask that You hold me tightly and never let me go.

Let me be a temple for You to dwell in, Father. And with the greatest love and tenderness, may I be Your gentle and loyal companion, carrying You within me all the days of my life. May I bring You to my family and friends, to strangers I have yet to meet, so that they might also see Your Light and feel Your tender Love.

When You dwell in us, there is a blessed connection between heaven and earth. May more and more of Your children consecrate themselves to You. As Jesus taught us to pray, may "Thy Kingdom come. Thy Will be done on earth as it is in heaven." Amen.

[Meditate on what it means to be "consecrated" to God Our Father. The word consecration means to "make holy" or "to give oneself for a holy purpose." How does this change your life? How does this change your relationship with God Our Father? How can you "live" your consecration everyday?]

END OF DAY EIGHT DEVOTION

THE FORMAL CHAPLET

EXTENDED VERSION WITH MEDITATIONS

A Preparatory Prayer Invoking the Presence of God Our Father:

Dearest Father--my Creator and my God:

You promised that in every place where we honor Your name, You would come to us and bless us.

O Father, arise and come to rest in us, Your children. Clothe us in Your Salvation and let us rejoice in Your goodness. Please do not turn away our faces from Your loving presence.

If we have found favor in Your sight, show us Your face so that we may know You and find grace before Your eyes. Please speak to us now as You spoke to Moses--as a man speaks to his friend.

Let it be known this day that You are the "Father of All Mankind" Who can turn all hearts back to Yourself, and that we are Your children who desire only to do Your Will in all things. Answer us, Lord; answer us-so all Your children may know that You are mankind's one true God and Father.

As Your prodigal children, we want only to return home to You. As we approach You, Father, please run to meet us. And in Your unconditional love and compassion, embrace and kiss us.

Like Mary, Your handmaid, and Jesus, Your Son, we love You, Father, and we give ourselves to You. Following those You sent to bring us back home, we now freely consecrate ourselves to You, saying:

(With Mary, our Mother)-- *"Be it done to* me *according to Your Will'."*
(Through Jesus, our God and Savior)-- "*Not as I will but as You will.*
(In the Holy Spirit, our God and Sanctifier)--*" Abba, Father!"*
Jesus promised, when two or three are gathered together in His name, He is in the midst of us. So as Jesus is in You and You in Jesus--and Jesus is the vine and we are the branches--be with us now, and through Your Holy Spirit, dwell in us always as Your living temples.

Bless us, Father, and walk among us, Your children. And may Your Glory descend upon us as the transforming fire of Your tender love and mercy--now and forever. Amen.

On the Medal of *The Holy Octave of Consecration to God Our Father:*

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Dearest God Our Father, I humbly ask that on my journey home to You, Your Holy Angels protect and guide me; that Your Blessed Saints in Heaven intercede for me; and that Your suffering souls in Purgatory pray for me, as I pray for them now. Amen.

On the three gold beads:

Bead 1--Hail Mary full of grace, the Lord is with Thee. Blessed art Thou among women and blessed is the Fruit of Thy Womb Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Bead 2--Jesus, my God and my Savior, You loved me so much, You died for me on the Cross, so that I, too, could return to our Father in Heaven. You are the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Through Your Holy Eucharist, please sustain me and be present with me always on my journey home. Amen.

Bead 3--Holy Spirit, my God and my Sanctifier, Jesus sent You to me for my journey back home to the Father. Please purify and refine me. Fill me with Your Divine Light and Love so that the Presence of God may dwell in me. Amen.

On the eight gold beads of the *MAJOR OCTAVE:*

FIRST MAJOR OCTAVE: (gold bead)
THE DISOBEDIENCE AND EXILE OF GOD OUR FATHER'S CHILDREN

Let us Meditate on (1) Adam and Eve's choice not to do God Our Father's Will, (2) their exile from the Paradise He created for them, and (3) Our Father's promise that "the woman" (Mary) would someday Triumph by "crushing the head" of the serpent that seduced them into disobedience.

God Our Father was with us at the beginning in the Paradise He created for us--the Paradise of His Divine Will. Seduced by Satan, Adam and Eve chose not to do the Will of God and were, therefore, expelled from this Paradise and denied God's intimate presence. However, Our Father promised that "the woman" would ultimately defeat the evil that had caused this separation--the evil of saying "No" to God's Will. (Gen 2:8-3:24)

Our Father Prayer (see p. 33)

Minor Octave (eight red beads):

Bead 1: In ***praise*** ~ I love You, Father, and I give myself to You!
Bead 2: In ***thanksgiving*** ~ I love You, Father, and I give myself to You!
Bead 3: In ***offering*** ~ I love You, Father, and I give myself to You!
Bead 4: In ***repentance*** ~ I love You, Father, and I give myself to You!
Bead 5: In my ***inheritance*** ~ I love You, Father, and I give myself to You!
Bead 6: In saying my ***"Yes"*** ~ I love You, Father, and I give myself to You!
Bead 7: In ***fidelity*** ~ I love You, Father, and I give myself to You!
Bead 8: In ***consecration*** ~ I love You, Father, and I give myself to You!

SECOND MAJOR OCTAVE: THE PRESENCE OF GOD OUR FATHER IN THE OLD TESTAMENT ERA

Let us meditate on God Our Father's Presence Among Us During the Old Testament era:

Although God's children were expelled from Paradise by their choice not to do God's Will, God never abandoned them. He was present with them from the beginning. In Old Testament times, He manifested His presence through His own voice, the words of His Prophets, in the burning bush, in a pillar of smoke, and in the Ark of the Covenant.

After God rescued His children from the bondage of Egypt, He requested that they celebrate the Feast of Tabernacles for eight days each year. He wanted them to remember that He loved them, He saved them, and He was present with them. Later when God was present in the Ark of the Covenant, Solomon built a magnificent Temple to house it. He then celebrated an eight-day Feast of Dedication in preparation for God's Presence in the Temple. And God responded by manifesting His Presence in a tangible and powerful way.

At the close of the Old Testament, the Maccabee's re-instituted this eight day feast to purify and re-dedicate the Temple that had been defiled through Pagan influence, so the Presence of God would dwell with them once more. (Lev 8:33-36-9:1-24; 23:33-43; 2 Chron 7:1-9; 2 Mac 2:1-12)

Our Father Prayer (see p.33)

Minor Octave (eight red beads):

Bead 1: In ***praise*** ~ l love You, Father, and I give myself to You!
Bead 2: In ***thanksgiving*** ~ I love You, Father, and I give myself to You!
Bead 3: In ***offering*** ~ l love You, Father, and I give myself to You!
Bead 4: In ***repentance*** ~ l love You, Father, and I give myself to You!
Bead 5: In my ***inheritance*** ~ l love You, Father, and I give myself to You!
Bead 6: In saying my ***"Yes"*** ~ l love You, Father, and I give myself to You!
Bead 7: In ***fidelity*** ~ l love You, Father, and I give myself to You!
Bead 8: In ***consecration*** ~ l love You, Father, and I give myself to You!

THIRD MAJOR OCTAVE: THE FIAT OF MARY, OUR MOTHER

Let us meditate on (1) Mary's "Triumphant" Fiat, Her "Yes" to God's Will, and (2) how She became the "New Ark," a living tabernacle for the newly manifested Presence of God: Jesus, the Second Person of the Holy Trinity--Savior of God Our Father's children:

Mary gave Her "Yes" when the angel Gabriel came to Her and asked Her to be the mother of the Son of God. The Holy Spirit came upon Her and the power of God Our Father overshadowed Her. In saying "Yes" to God's Will, Mary ("the woman") allowed God to be present with His children in a new way. She actually became the "New Ark," a living tabernacle of Jesus, the Second Person of the Holy Trinity-- mankind's Savior--Who with His Mother's cooperation, would restore the exiled children of God to their Father. (Lk 1:26-35)

Our Father Prayer (see p. 33)

Minor Octave (eight red beads):

Bead 1: In ***praise*** ~ l love You, Father, and I give myself to You!
Bead 2: In ***thanksgiving*** ~ I love You, Father, and I give myself to You!
Bead 3: In ***offering*** ~ l love You, Father, and I give myself to You!
Bead 4: In ***repentance*** ~ l love You, Father, and I give myself to You!
Bead 5: In my ***inheritance*** ~ l love You, Father, and I give myself to You!
Bead 6: In saying my ***"Yes"*** ~ l love You, Father, and I give myself to You!
Bead 7: In ***fidelity*** ~ l love You, Father, and I give myself to You!
Bead 8: In ***consecration*** ~ l love You, Father, and I give myself to You!

FOURTH MAJOR OCTAVE: THE FIAT OF JESUS, OUR SAVIOR- SON OF GOD, AND SECOND PERSON OF THE HOLY TRINITY

Let us meditate on (1) Jesus' Fiat, His "Yes" to God's Will, and (2) how God Our Father sent Jesus to save us and to bring us back home to Him:

Jesus offered His "fiat" to God Our Father during His Passion in the Garden of Gethsemane. "My Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as thou wilt" (Mt

26:39). Through His Passion, Death, and Resurrection, Jesus redeemed us, defeating the sin (saying "No" to God's Will) and death (separation and exile from God) which Satan introduced into the world. Through Jesus, His Church, and His Sacraments, we could now return to God Our Father and have eternal life.

Our Father Prayer (see p. 33)

Minor Octave (eight red beads):

Bead 1: In ***praise*** ~ I love You, Father, and I give myself to You!
Bead 2: In ***thanksgiving*** ~ I love You, Father, and I give myself to You!
Bead 3: In ***offering*** ~ I love You, Father, and I give myself to You!
Bead 4: In ***repentance*** ~ I love You, Father, and I give myself to You!
Bead 5: In my ***inheritance*** ~ I love You, Father, and I give myself to You!
Bead 6: In saying my ***"Yes"*** ~ I love You, Father, and I give myself to You!
Bead 7: In ***fidelity*** ~ I love You, Father, and I give myself to You!
Bead 8: In ***consecration*** ~ I love You, Father, and I give myself to You!

FIFTH MAJOR OCTAVE: THE SENDING OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, OUR SANCTIFIER--SPIRIT OF GOD AND THE THIRD PERSON OF THE HOLY TRINITY

Let us meditate on how Jesus, after completing His Mission for God Our Father, asked Him to send the Holy Spirit, a newly revealed manifestation of God--the Third Person of the Holy Trinity. The Holy Spirit was sent (1) to lead us on our journey back home to Our Father and (2) to purify and refine us so that we could become living tabernacles of the indwelling Presence of God:

Before ascending to His Father, Jesus promised that He would not leave us orphans. He asked God Our Father to send the Holy Spirit. In doing this, God could again be present with us in a new way. It was now "possible" for God, not only to be "with" us (as in Old Testament times), but "in" us (Jn 14:16-17).

Our Father Prayer (see p. 33)

Minor Octave (eight red beads):

Bead 1: In ***praise*** ~ I love You, Father, and I give myself to You!
Bead 2: In ***thanksgiving*** ~ I love You, Father, and I give myself to You!
Bead 3: In ***offering*** ~ I love You, Father, and I give myself to You!
Bead 4: In ***repentance*** ~ I love You, Father, and I give myself to You!
Bead 5: In my ***inheritance*** ~ I love You, Father, and I give myself to You!
Bead 6: In saying my ***"Yes"*** ~ I love You, Father, and I give myself to You!
Bead 7: In ***fidelity*** ~ I love You, Father, and I give myself to You!
Bead 8: In ***consecration*** ~ I love You, Father, and I give myself to You!

SIXTH MAJOR OCTAVE: THE CHOICE OF GOD'S PRODIGAL CHILDREN TO RETURN TO THEIR FATHER

Let us meditate on (1) how we are all prodigal children of God Our Father and (2) how He has provided every one of us with the opportunity to make a free-will choice to return to Him:

As prodigal children of God Our Father, we are given the opportunity (individually and collectively) to make a sincere, free-will decision to return to our Father's House. This means deciding to turn away from our own will, our own sinfulness, our own worldliness, and "convert" or turn back towards the Presence of God Our Father (Lk 15:11-24).

Our Father Prayer (see p. 33)

Minor Octave (eight red beads):

Bead 1: In ***praise*** ~ I love You, Father, and I give myself to You!
Bead 2: In ***thanksgiving*** ~ I love You, Father, and I give myself to You!
Bead 3: In ***offering*** ~ I love You, Father, and I give myself to You!
Bead 4: In ***repentance*** ~ I love You, Father, and I give myself to You!
Bead 5: In my ***inheritance*** ~ I love You, Father, and I give myself to You!
Bead 6: In saying my ***"Yes"*** ~ I love You, Father, and I give myself to You!
Bead 7: In ***fidelity*** ~ I love You, Father, and I give myself to You!
Bead 8: In ***consecration*** ~ I love You, Father, and I give myself to You!

SEVENTH MAJOR OCTAVE: THE FIAT OF GOD OUR FATHER'S CHILDREN--INDIVIDUALLY AND AS THE BODY OF CHRIST

Let us meditate on how, in consecrating ourselves to God Our Father and saying "Yes," unconditionally, to His Will, we find our way home to Him--we become living tabernacles of the indwelling Presence of God:

In giving our "Yes" to God Our Father, in agreeing to do His Will in all things, in giving ourselves completely to Him, He comes to dwell in us and we dwell in Him--we are home with our Father. We become temples of the Living God (2 Cor 6: 16). In a sense, heaven and earth are joined: "Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven" (Mt 6:10).

Our Father Prayer (see p. 33)

Minor Octave (eight red beads):

Bead 1: In ***praise*** ~ I love You, Father, and I give myself to You!
Bead 2: In ***thanksgiving*** ~ I love You, Father, and I give myself to You!
Bead 3: In ***offering*** ~ I love You, Father, and I give myself to You!
Bead 4: In ***repentance*** ~ I love You, Father, and I give myself to You!
Bead 5: In my ***inheritance*** ~ I love You, Father, and I give myself to You!
Bead 6: In saying my ***"Yes"*** ~ I love You, Father, and I give myself to You!
Bead 7: In ***fidelity*** ~ I love You, Father, and I give myself to You!
Bead 8: In ***consecration*** ~ I love You, Father, and I give myself to You!

EIGHTH MAJOR OCTAVE: THE COMING OF THE NEW JERUSALEM

Let us meditate on the eventual conclusion of our Salvation History--the New Jerusalem promised in the Book of Revelation-when heaven and earth will be transformed, when mankind will finally be fully restored to God Our Father, and when God will manifest His Presence and dwell with His children forever in a new way:

Then I saw a new heaven and a new earth; for the first heaven and the first earth had passed away, and the sea was no more.

And I saw the holy city, new Jerusalem, coming down out of heaven from God, prepared as a bride adorned for her husband; and I heard a great voice from the throne saying, "Behold, the dwelling of God is with men. He will dwell with them, and they shall be his people, and God himself will be with them; he will wipe away

every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more, neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain any more, for the former things have passed away."

And he who sat upon the throne said, "Behold, I make all things new." Also he said, "Write this, for these words are trustworthy and true." And he said to me, "It is done! I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. To the thirsty I will give water without price from the fountain of the water of life. He who conquers shall have this heritage, and I will be his God and he shall be my son. (Rev 21:1-7)

Our Father Prayer **(see p. 33)**
Minor Octave (eight red beads):

Bead 1: In ***praise*** ~ I love You, Father, and I give myself to You!
Bead 2: In ***thanksgiving*** ~ I love You, Father, and I give myself to You!
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Bead 7: In ***fidelity*** ~ I love You, Father, and I give myself to You!
Bead 8: In ***consecration*** ~ I love You, Father, and I give myself to You!

On the Medal of *The Holy Octave of Consecration to God Our Father:*

CONSECRATION PRAYER
OF *THE HOLY OCTAVE OF CONSECRATION TO GOD OUR FATHER*

My Dearest Father, please accept this offering* of *myself-my body, mind, and soul:

I ***praise*** You for Your Creation--all Your works and wonders.
I ***thank*** You for giving me life and for all that You have done for me.
I ***offer*** up to You all that You have so generously given me.
I am sincerely ***sorry*** for not knowing, loving, serving, and honoring You as I should.
I embrace my ***inheritance*** as Your child, both the joy and the responsibilities.
I give you my ***"Yes"*** so that I may be an instrument of Your Will.
I pledge my ***fidelity*** and I ask for the grace of steadfastness and perseverance in my Faith.

Most loving, caring, and merciful of Fathers, in Your Divine Presence, I sincerely proclaim my love for You; I give myself (and my family/community) to You; and I solemnly ***consecrate*** myself (and my family/community) to You--now and forever.

Dearest Father, as Your child, I ask--

That You send Mary to guide me to Jesus, and that Jesus sends me the Holy Spirit so that they may all bring me to You.
That You dwell with me and in me--a living temple prepared by Mary, dedicated by Jesus, and purified by Your Holy Spirit. And may I always be with You and in You.
That You permit me, as Your child, to be Your true and intimate friend--one who loves You above all things.
And that You come for me when I die, to bring me home to You.

I further ask You, Father: for the sake of all mankind:

To have mercy on all Your children--past, present, and future.

To bring peace to the world and to gather all Your children to Yourself.
And that Your Kingdom comes and Your Will is done on earth as it is in heaven. Amen.

[NOW PROCEED TO THE LITANY]

LITANY

The Holy Octave of Consecration to God Our Father

Lord, have mercy.	**Lord, have mercy**.
Christ, have mercy.	**Christ, have mercy.**
Lord, have mercy.	**Lord, have mercy.**
Christ, hear us.	**Christ, graciously hear us.**

God, the Father of Heaven.	**Have mercy on us**.
God, the Son, Redeemer of the World.	**Have mercy on us.**
God, the Holy Spirit.	**Have mercy on us.**
Holy Trinity, one God.	**Have mercy on us.**

God Our Father saved eight people on Noe's Ark.
--Have mercy on us, O Loving Father.

God Our Father decreed that all male babies be circumcised on the eighth day as a sign of His Covenant with us.
--Have mercy on us, 0 Loving Father.

God Our Father manifested Himself to Moses and His children after they completed an eight-day period of consecration and offering to Him.
--Have mercy on us, 0 Loving Father.

God Our Father instituted the eight-day Feast of Tabernacles to remind His children that He was with them, loved them, and brought them out of the bondage of Egypt.
--Have mercy on us, 0 Loving Father.

God Our Father accepted purification offerings from His children on the final eighth day of ritual cleansing. **--Have mercy on us, 0 Loving Father.**

God Our Father was glorified when David, the eighth son of Jesse, brought the Ark of the Covenant into the City of David amidst praises sung for the octave upon harps.
--Have mercy on us, 0 Loving Father.

God Our Father heard David's repentant cry played on an eight-stringed harp. **--Have mercy on us, 0 Loving Father.**

God Our Father was glorified when Solomon completed the House of the Lord in the eighth month of the year.
--Have mercy on us, 0 Loving Father.

God Our Father filled the Temple with His majesty and came to dwell with His children on the eighth day of Solomon's Feast of the Dedication.

--Have mercy on us, 0 Loving Father.

The Presence of God Our Father was to be approached by eight steps in the new Temple envisioned by His prophet Ezekial.
--Have mercy on us, O Loving Father.

God Our Father was glorified when His defiled Temple was purified and re-dedicated by the Maccabee's during the eight-day Feast of the Dedication. **--Have mercy on us, O Loving Father**.
God Our Father made a new covenant with His children, through Jesus, His Son, Who was circumcised on the eighth day.
--Have mercy on us, O Loving Father.

God Our Father revealed His Son Jesus during the Transfiguration, eight days after Jesus fed the multitudes.
--Have mercy on us, O Loving Father.

God Our Father was glorified when, from Solomon's Porch in the Temple, on the eight-day Feast of the Dedication, His Son, Jesus, revealed that He was consecrated to God Our Father and that He and the Father were one.
--Have mercy on us, O Loving Father.

God Our Father was glorified after His Son, Jesus, rose from the dead on the eighth day of His week of Passion and Redemption for our sins.
--Have mercy on us, O Loving Father.

God Our Father was glorified when Jesus showed His wounds to unbelieving Thomas eight days after His Resurrection.
--Have mercy on us, O Loving Father.

Let us pray:

Dearest God Our Father, let us know, love, and honor You through eight days of purification and dedication, as You willed it throughout our Salvation History. And may *The Holy Octave of Consecration to God Our Father* and its eighth solemn day, *The Feast of the Father of All Mankind,* serve to bring all Your children back home to You.

May this be granted through Your Love and the Love of Jesus, our God and Savior; the Holy Spirit, our God and Sanctifier; and Mary, our Mother. Amen.

[NOW PROCEED WITH THE DAILY THEME]

THE DAILY CHAPLET

FOR DAILY PRAYER AFTER FORMAL CONSECRATION

This concise version of the caplet is provided at the end of the booklet for easy reference. In contrast to the extended version which is provided for the formal eight-day consecration, this concise version is easily memorized and may conveniently be used on a daily basis-especially after completion of the formal eightday consecration. As was mentioned previously, we strongly recommend that the formal consecration be renewed yearly during *The Holy Octave of Consecration to God Our Father,* culminating on *The Feast of the Father of All Mankind,* and that the chaplet (either the formal or daily version) be prayed on a daily basis.

The Holy Octave of Consecration to God Our Father

On the Medal of *The Holy Octave of Consecration to God Our Father*

In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Dearest God our Father, I humbly ask that on my journey home to You, Your Holy Angels protect and guide me; that Your Blessed Saints in Heaven intercede for me, and that Your Suffering Souls in Purgatory pray for me, as I pray for them now. Amen.

On three gold beads:

Bead 1. --Hail Mary full of grace the Lord is with Thee. Blessed art Thou among all women and Blessed is the Fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now, and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Bead 2. --Jesus, my God and my Savior, You loved me so much, You died for me on the Cross, so that I, too, could return to our Father in Heaven. You are the Way, the Truth, and the Life. Through Your Holy Eucharist, please sustain me and be present with me on my journey home to You. Amen.

Bead 3. --Holy Spirit, my God and my Sanctifier, Jesus sent You to me for my journey back home to the Father. Please purify and refine me. Fill me with Your Divine Light and Love so that the Presence of God may dwell with me and in me. Amen.

Now continue with the Major Octaves on the following page

The Our Father Prayer

Our Father Who art in heaven, hollowed be Thy name, Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen

GOLD BEADS: Major Octaves	**RED BEADS:** Minor Octaves
1st MAJOR OCTAVE ***The Disobedience and Exile of God's Children*** Our Father Prayer Minor Octave	Bead 1: In ***Praise*** I love you Father and I give myself to You!
2nd MAJOR OCTAVE ***Presence of God Our Father in the Old Testament Era*** Our Father Prayer Minor Octave	Bead 2: In ***Thanksgiving The*** I love you Father and I give myself to You!
3rd MAJOR OCTAVE ***The Fiat of Mary, Our Mother*** Our Father Prayer Minor Octave	Bead 3: In ***Offering*** I love you Father and I give myself to You!
4th MAJOR OCTAVE ***The Fiat of Jesus, Our Savior*** Our Father Prayer Minor Octave	Bead 4: In ***Repentance*** I love you Father and I give myself to You!
5th MAJOR OCTAVE ***The Sending of the Holy Spirit, Our Sanctifier*** Our Father Prayer Minor Octave	Bead 5: In ***Inheritance*** I love you Father and I give myself to You!
6th MAJOR OCTAVE ***The Choice of God's Prodigal Children to Return to Their Father*** Our Father Prayer Minor Octave	Bead 6: In ***Saying My "Yes"*** I love you Father and I give myself to You!
7th MAJOR OCTAVE ***The Fiat of God Our Father's Children*** Our Father Prayer Minor Octave	Bead 7: In ***Fidelity*** I love you Father and I give myself to You!
8th MAJOR OCTAVE ***The Coming of the New Jerusalem*** Our Father Prayer Minor Octave	Bead 8: In ***Consecration*** I love you Father and I give myself to You!

MEDAL: CLOSING PRAYER

Dearest God Our Father, I love You; I adore You; I worship You! Amen

Advancing *THE FEAST OF THE FATHER OF ALL MANKIND*, the Eighth Solemn Day of *THE HOLY OCTAVE OF CONSECRATION TO GOD OUR FATHER*

If after reading this book, you support the institution of a yearly solemn feast for God Our Father to be celebrated on the first Sunday of August under the title of The ***Feast of the Father of All Mankind*,** please fill out and mail the following petition. Petitions will be collected and presented to the appropriate Church officials. While we await formal approval, you might also contact your local bishop and parish priest, asking them for permission to celebrate this beautiful consecration feast for God Our Father in your diocese and local churches.

The format for the seven days of preparation is outlined in this book and can easily be adapted for communal preparation in your diocese or local church. The eighth day of solemn consecration (*The Feast of the Father of All Mankind)* should be celebrated with a Mass and appropriate readings and homily. This would be followed by the litany, the formal chaplet, and by the meditative theme for the eighth day of consecration.

May the Grace of God Our Father be with us in our efforts to know, love, serve, and honor Him better—especially in the formal recognition and approval of this eight-day consecration and feast day.

To obtain additional petition forms, please write, call, or FAX the ***Feast of the Father of All Mankind Petition Center:***

St. Andrews Publications
6091 Steubenville Pike, Bldg. 1 Unit 7 McKees Rocks, PA 15136
Phone: 412-787-9735 Fax 412-787-5204

PETITION FOR

The Feast of the Father of All Mankind

Your Holiness:

With humility and love, we, the children of God, petition you, the Vicar of Christ, to approve a feast for God Our Father. We ask that this feast be entitled *The Feast of the Father of All Mankind,* the eighth solemn day of *The Holy Octave of Consecration to God Our Father,* and that it be celebrated annually on the first Sunday of August. We believe that it is our privilege and responsibility to know, love, serve, and honor God Our Father through such a yearly feast. We pray that Jesus, our God and Savior; The Holy Spirit, our God and Sanctifier; and Mary, our Mother, guide you in approving this consecration feast so that all mankind may offer their "fiat" to God Our Father: "Thy Kingdom come. Thy Will be done on Earth as it is in Heaven." Respectfully Submitted:

NAME **(Signature)**	**ADDRESS**
1._____	_____
2._____	_____
3._____	_____
4._____	_____
.5_____	_____
.6_____	_____
.7_____	_____
.8_____	_____

PLEASE COPY AND DISTRIBUTE THIS PETITION
Mail all petitions to the following address:

St. Andrews Production
6091 Steubenville Pike, Bldg. 1 Unit 7 McKees
Rocks, PA 15136

Phone: 412-787-9735 Fax 412-787-5204