

*Act of Consecration
to the Immaculate Heart of Mary*

*Basilica of Saint Peter
25 March 2022*

O Mary, Mother of God and our Mother,
in this time of trial we turn to you.
As our Mother,
you love us and know us:
no concern of our hearts is hidden from you.
Mother of mercy,
how often we have experienced
your watchful care
and your peaceful presence!
You never cease to guide us to Jesus,
the Prince of Peace.

Yet we have strayed from that path of peace.
We have forgotten the lesson learned
from the tragedies of the last century,
the sacrifice of the millions
who fell in two world wars.
We have disregarded the commitments we made
as a community of nations.
We have betrayed peoples' dreams of peace
and the hopes of the young.
We grew sick with greed,
we thought only
of our own nations and their interests,
we grew indifferent and caught up
in our selfish needs and concerns.
We chose to ignore God,
to be satisfied with our illusions,
to grow arrogant and aggressive,
to suppress innocent lives
and to stockpile weapons.
We stopped being our neighbor's keepers

and stewards of our common home.
We have ravaged the garden of the earth with war,
and by our sins
we have broken the heart of our heavenly Father,
who desires us to be brothers and sisters.
We grew indifferent to everyone and everything
except ourselves.
Now with shame we cry out: Forgive us, Lord!

Holy Mother, amid the misery of our sinfulness,
amid our struggles and weaknesses,
amid the mystery of iniquity that is evil and war,
you remind us that God never abandons us,
but continues to look upon us with love,
ever ready to forgive us
and raise us up to new life.

He has given you to us
and made your Immaculate Heart
a refuge for the Church
and for all humanity.
By God's gracious will,
you are ever with us;
even in the most troubled moments of our history,
you are there to guide us with tender love.

We now turn to you
and knock at the door of your heart.
We are your beloved children.
In every age you make yourself known to us,
calling us to conversion.
At this dark hour,
help us and grant us your comfort.
Say to us once more:
"Am I not here, I who am your Mother?"
You are able to untie the knots
of our hearts and of our times.
In you we place our trust.
We are confident that,
especially in moments of trial,

you will not be deaf to our supplication
and will come to our aid.

That is what you did at Cana in Galilee,
when you interceded with Jesus
and he worked the first of his signs.
To preserve the joy of the wedding feast,
you said to him: "They have no wine" (*Jn 2:3*).

Now, O Mother,
repeat those words and that prayer,
for in our own day
we have run out of the wine of hope,
joy has fled, fraternity has faded.
We have forgotten our humanity
and squandered the gift of peace.
We opened our hearts
to violence and destructiveness.
How greatly we need your maternal help!

Therefore, O Mother, hear our prayer.
Star of the Sea,
do not let us be shipwrecked
in the tempest of war.
Ark of the New Covenant,
inspire projects and paths of reconciliation.
Queen of Heaven,
restore God's peace to the world.
Eliminate hatred
and the thirst for revenge,
and teach us forgiveness.
Free us from war,
protect our world
from the menace of nuclear weapons.
Queen of the Rosary,
make us realize our need to pray and to love.
Queen of the Human Family,
show people the path of fraternity.
Queen of Peace,
obtain peace for our world.

O Mother,
 may your sorrowful plea stir our hardened hearts.
May the tears you shed for us make this valley,
 parched by our hatred, blossom anew.
Amid the thunder of weapons,
 may your prayer turn our thoughts to peace.
May your maternal touch
 soothe those who suffer
 and flee from the rain of bombs.
May your motherly embrace comfort those
 forced to leave their homes
 and their native land.
May your Sorrowful Heart
 move us to compassion
 and inspire us to open our doors
 and to care for our brothers and sisters
 who are injured and cast aside.

Holy Mother of God,
 as you stood beneath the cross,
 Jesus, seeing the disciple at your side, said:
 “Behold your son” (*Jn* 19:26).
In this way he entrusted each of us to you.
To the disciple, and to each of us, he said:
 “Behold, your Mother” (v. 27).
Mother Mary, we now desire
 to welcome you into our lives and our history.
At this hour, a weary and distraught humanity
 stands with you beneath the cross,
 needing to entrust itself to you
 and, through you, to consecrate itself to Christ.
The people of Ukraine and Russia,
 who venerate you with great love, now turn to you,
 even as your heart beats with compassion for them
 and for all those peoples
 decimated by war, hunger, injustice and poverty.

Therefore, Mother of God and our Mother,

to your Immaculate Heart
we solemnly entrust and consecrate ourselves,
the Church and all humanity,
especially Russia and Ukraine.

Accept this act

that we carry out with confidence and love.

Grant that war may end

and peace spread throughout the world.

The “Fiat” that arose from your heart

opened the doors of history
to the Prince of Peace.

We trust that, through your heart,

peace will dawn once more.

To you we consecrate

the future of the whole human family,
the needs and expectations of every people,
the anxieties and hopes of the world.

Through your intercession,

may God’s mercy be poured out on the earth
and the gentle rhythm of peace
return to mark our days.

Our Lady of the “Fiat”,

on whom the Holy Spirit descended,
restore among us the harmony
that comes from God.

May you, our “living fountain of hope”,

water the dryness of our hearts.

In your womb Jesus took flesh;

help us to foster the growth of communion.

You once trod the streets of our world;

lead us now on the paths of peace. Amen.