



# ARCHDIOCESE OF PORTLAND

IN OREGON

*Office of the Archbishop*

May 29, 2014

My Dear Brother Priests:

*Laudetur Iesus Christus!*

Recent events in our state highlight the ongoing threat to the sanctity of marriage and family life in our society. These threats cannot be overcome by human effort alone, and we must turn with renewed confidence to our Lord and His Mother to seek spiritual help and protection.

To this end, and inspired by the example of Pope Francis, I recently announced my intention to consecrate anew the Archdiocese of Portland to the Blessed Mother under the title of the “Immaculate Heart of Our Lady of Fatima”. I will make the consecration following a special Mass on Saturday, June 28, 2014 at the Cathedral at 2 p.m. I invite you to join me for the Mass and consecration. June 28 is the Feast of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, and we will be blessed to have present at the Cathedral the new National Pilgrim Virgin Statue of the Immaculate Heart of Our Lady of Fatima which was blessed by Pope Francis last October.

I understand that many of you will not be able to come to the Cathedral due to responsibilities in the parish, but I ask all of you to participate by making the consecration in your own parishes during the Masses that same weekend. This consecration will be ever more effective with your participation, and it will be a sign of our spiritual unity. Attached is the prayer of consecration that I ask you to use in your parish. It is based upon the prayer of consecration made by Pope Francis last October, and it is a shortened version of the one that I will be using at the Cathedral to consecrate the Archdiocese. Please make the consecration after the Prayer After Communion at all of your weekend Masses on June 28 and 29. In leading up to the consecration, it would be helpful to for you to offer some catechesis to the Faithful about the act of consecration to the Blessed Mother.

Along with your help to offer this consecration, I humbly ask your assistance to promote and participate in a renewal of the First Saturdays Devotion. The First Saturdays Devotion originated from the Church-approved apparitions at Fatima, and by it the Faithful are asked to do the following:

On the first Saturday of the month for five consecutive months

- 1. Go to Confession** – within 8 days before or after the First Saturday
- 2. Receive Holy Communion** – in a state of grace
- 3. Recite the Rosary** – pray 5 decades of the Rosary (one set of mysteries)
- 4. Meditate for 15 Minutes** – On one of the mysteries of the Rosary

All of these actions should be offered for the intention of making reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. The Blessed Mother promised that if we do all of this on the first Saturday of five consecutive months, she will assist us at the hour of death with all the graces necessary for our salvation.

If your parish does not currently offer a Saturday morning Mass, would you consider adding one on the remaining first Saturdays of 2014 beginning this July? I know that for some of you this may not be possible, but please give it serious consideration. If you are unable to offer a Mass on first Saturdays, please let your people know what parishes in your area offer a first Saturday Mass. The Archdiocese will be working to promote the First Saturdays Devotion, especially on the five first Saturdays from July 5 through November 1, 2014 (July 5, August 2, Sept. 6, Oct. 4, Nov. 1).

The consecration and promotion of the First Saturdays Devotion are part of a larger spiritual effort to support and strengthen marriages and families in the Archdiocese of Portland. Resources and additional information on the consecration and the First Saturdays Devotion will be sent to you shortly, and these will also be posted on the diocesan website. Thank you for your assistance and generous service to the People of God in this great Archdiocese.

In troubling times, we must always look to Heaven for hope. It is helpful to remember what Our Lady said to the child Lucia at Fatima: *“I will never leave you; my Immaculate Heart will be your refuge and the way that will lead you to God.”*

Immaculate Heart of Mary, pray for us!

Fraternally yours in the Lord,

Most Rev. Alexander K. Sample  
Archbishop of Portland in Oregon

For use at Masses the weekend of June 28-29, 2014

**Parish Consecration Prayer**

Holy Mary Virgin of Fatima,  
with renewed gratitude for your maternal presence  
we join our voice to that of all the generations  
who call you blessed.

I, (priest), in communion with Archbishop Alexander K. Sample,  
Ask that you

Accept with the benevolence of a Mother  
this act of consecration of (Name) parish to your Immaculate Heart.

Hold our life in your arms:  
bless and strengthen every desire for good;  
revive and nourish faith;  
sustain and enlighten hope;  
awaken and animate charity;  
guide all of us along the path of holiness.

And bring us under your protection  
and entrust us to your beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus.

Amen.