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HAPPY FEAST DAY FOR OUR LADY OF FATIMA!!!
CONSECRATION DAY!
SO PROUD OF EACH OF YOU!

Be Happy. Congratulations! You've made it to Consecration Day, the day you will offer yourself to Merciful Love, a day of great joy and happiness. As St. Therese put it, describing her own day of consecration, "Ah! Since the happy day, it seems to me that Love penetrates and surrounds me, that at each moment this Merciful Love renews me."

Now, my prayer for you is that you also will experience such joy on your consecration day. And why not be joyful? After all, by consecrating yourself to Divine Mercy, you'll be consoling Jesus and making him happy. You'll be receiving all the rejected Merciful Love that other people don't want. You'll be purified by love and, if you live the Little Way and the Offering, you "need have no fear of purgatory." Moreover, your heart will receive healing graces that will make it more sensitive and compassionate to the suffering of others. In other words, your heart will become more like Christ's. Finally, through the grace of such heart healing, you'll become an even more effective channel of God's mercy to others.

So, joy should abound this day! But if it doesn't, if you can't help feeling tired, anxious, or empty — that's perfect. Be happy! What? Let me explain.

The Little Way is not about taking away the dryness of everyday life. (After all, that's part of our "littleness.") Rather, it's about finding happiness amid such dryness. It's about discovering extraordinary joy, happiness, and peace in the midst of regular, ordinary, day-to-day existence. Truly, it's the secret to happiness in this life. And I myself can attest to that fact.

For most of my life, I wasn't a very happy person. Let's just say it didn't take much for me to get discouraged and depressed. Well, it was only after I discovered the Little Way and offered myself to Merciful Love more than 15 years ago that I began to experience true peace and joy — a peace and joy that remain with me even to this day. Of course, the joy hasn't always bubbled over, and sometimes I've wavered from the Little Way and lost my peace, but for the most part, it's been a deep and growing peace and joy for 15 years. So, for what it's worth, my own testimony is that the Offering to Merciful Love, the Little Way of mercy, the rediscovery of the Gospel that St. Therese shares with us truly is a formula for

happiness — even amid great darkness. But don't just take my word for it. Before her profession of religious vows, her "wedding day," Therese made a retreat. Now, one would think that, in anticipation of such a joyful day, her heart would have been filled with consolation. Instead, everything was dryness and desolation. But that didn't bother her — not in the least. In the following two paragraphs, she explains why and, in the process, reveals the secret of her happiness:

[The retreat] was far from bringing me any consolations since the most absolute aridity and almost total abandonment were my lot. Jesus was sleeping as usual in my little boat; ah! I see very well how rarely souls allow Him to sleep peacefully within them. Jesus is so fatigued with always having to take the initiative and to attend to others that He hastens to take advantage of the repose I offer to Him. He will undoubtedly awaken before my great eternal retreat, but instead of being troubled about it, this only gives me extreme pleasure.

Really, I am far from being a saint, and what I have just said is proof of this; instead of rejoicing, for example, at my aridity, I should attribute it to my little fervor and lack of fidelity; I should be desolate for having slept (for seven years) during my [Holy Hours] and my thanksgivings after Holy Communion; well, I am not desolate. I remember that

little children are as pleasing to their parents when they are asleep as well as when they are wide awake; I remember, too, that when they perform operations, doctors put their patients to sleep. Finally, I remember that: "The Lord knows our weakness so he is mindful that we are but dust and ashes."

So, as you prepare to consecrate yourself to Merciful Love, if you're feeling happy, then good — be happy! If you are feeling nothing, then good — be happy! Be happy like St. Therese, who said of her own dryness, "Instead of being troubled about it, this only gives me extreme pleasure." Be happy like Therese, who was "rejoicing" at her "aridity." Be happy like Therese, who knew that Jesus loves her, even when he's sleeping (and so, we don't have to constantly prod him for proofs of his love). Be happy like Therese, who believed that "He will undoubtedly awaken before my great eternal retreat." Be happy like Therese, who, despite feeling "far from being a saint," trusted that God would eventually make her into a great one. Be happy like Therese, who knew that good doctors, "when they perform operations, put their patients to sleep." In other words, be happy that if you keep living the Little Way, God will especially be working through you even in

the midst of your daily darkness and aridity. And, finally, be happy that despite your “little fervor and lack of fidelity,” “the Lord knows [your] weakness” and will eventually come down for you and raise you to the heights of his love.

But, of course, we can't just sit back, relax, and enjoy such happiness. We also have to keep trying to grow in holiness.

Alright, so let's now express our efforts, our “trying,” by getting ready to consecrate ourselves to Merciful Love.

Before Consecration. Okay, now get ready — actually, you already are ready. You've been faithfully preparing for this moment for the last 33 days. So here are just three things I recommend by way of final preparation: (1) If possible, make a good Confession. But if you don't have time to do so before the consecration, then from your heart, tell the Lord you're sorry for your sins, and make a resolution to go to Confession as soon as you reasonably can. (2) Write out or print up the Prayer of Consecration to Merciful Love or Therese's own text so you can sign it after you've recited it — if you'd like, you can visit ShopMercy.org for a certificate or prayer card with the Prayer of Consecration to Merciful Love. (3) Get a Divine Mercy Image to put up in your room as a reminder of your consecration — or at least get a small prayer card to put in your wallet or purse.

Again, these three things are recommendations. They're not essential to the consecration. Prayer of Consecration. Okay, so you're ready to make your consecration. Now you'll need the right prayer. As I mentioned yesterday, you have two choices (or three choices if you're making the consecration as a family — see Appendix Two (It's in yesterday's email). You can either use the Prayer of Consecration to Merciful Love, Therese's own Offering to Merciful Love, or both. Whichever you use, I recommend that you recite the prayer after attending Mass or even after receiving Holy Communion (if there's time).

If you can't get to Mass, you can still make the consecration. (Mass is highly recommended but not essential.) With or without Mass, after you recite your prayer of consecration, I suggest that you sign it, date it, and keep it in a safe place. (When I renew my consecration annually, I like to recite the prayer from the original copy and then sign and date it again.) Anyway, one more time, here are your two choices:

Prayer of Consecration to Merciful Love

Merciful Father, relying on the prayers and example of Abraham and Mary, my

father and mother in faith, and of St. Therese, my sister in the way of humble confidence, I, _____, choose, this day, with the help of your grace, to strive with all my heart to follow the Little Way. And so, I firmly intend to fight discouragement, do little things with great love, and be merciful to my neighbor in deed, word, and prayer.

I aim to keep before my eyes my poverty, weakness, brokenness, and sin, trusting that my littleness and contrite heart will attract your Merciful Love.

I choose to remain always little, not relying on my own merits but solely on yours, dear Lord, and those of the Blessed Mother.

Finally, I believe, my God, that you can and will make me into a saint, even if I won't see it, even if I have to struggle all my life against vice and sin, even if I have to wait until the very end. This blind hope in your mercy, O Lord, is my only treasure.

And now, to confirm my resolve and to console you for so much rejection of your mercy, I OFFER MYSELF, THROUGH THE HANDS OF MARY IMMACULATE, AS A VICTIM OF HOLOCAUST TO YOUR MERCIFUL LOVE, asking you to consume me incessantly, allowing the waves of infinite tenderness shut up within you to overflow into my soul, and that I may thus become a martyr of your love, O my God, and a gift of mercy to so many others. I ask all this in Jesus' name. Amen.

Offering to Merciful Love by St. Therese of Lisieux

O My God! Most Blessed Trinity, I desire to Love You and make You Loved, to work for the glory of Holy Church by saving souls on earth and liberating those suffering in purgatory. I desire to accomplish Your will perfectly and to reach the degree of glory You have prepared for me in Your Kingdom. I desire, in a word, to be a saint, but I feel my helplessness and I beg You, O my God! to be Yourself my Sanctity!

Since You loved me so much as to give me Your only Son as my Savior and my Spouse, the infinite treasures of His merits are mine. I offer them to You with gladness, begging You to look upon me only in the Face of Jesus and in His heart burning with Love.

I offer You, too, all the merits of the saints (in heaven and on earth), their acts of Love, and those of the holy angels. Finally, I offer You, O Blessed Trinity the Love and merits of the Blessed Virgin, my dear Mother. It is to her I abandon my offering, begging her to present it to You. Her Divine Son, my Beloved Spouse, told us in the days of His mortal life: "Whatsoever you ask the Father in my name

he will give it to you!" I am certain, then, that You will grant my desires; I know, O my God! that the more You want to give, the more You make us desire. I feel in my heart immense desires and it is with confidence I ask You to come and take possession of my soul. Ah! I cannot receive Holy Communion as often as I desire, but, Lord, are You not all-powerful? Remain in me as in a tabernacle and never separate Yourself from Your little victim.

I want to console You for the ingratitude of the wicked, and I beg of You to take away my freedom to displease You. If through weakness I sometimes fall, may Your Divine Glance cleanse my soul immediately, consuming all my imperfections like the fire that transforms everything into itself.

I thank You, O my God! for all the graces You have granted me, especially the grace of making me pass through the crucible of suffering. It is with joy I shall contemplate You on the Last Day carrying the scepter of Your Cross. Since You deigned to give me a share in this very precious Cross, I hope in heaven to resemble You and to see shining in my glorified body the sacred stigmata of Your Passion.

After earth's Exile, I hope to go and enjoy You in the Fatherland, but I do not want to lay up merits for heaven. I want to work for Your Love alone with the one purpose of pleasing You, consoling Your Sacred Heart, and saving souls who will love You eternally.

In the evening of this life, I shall appear before You with empty hands, for I do not ask You, Lord, to count my works. All our justice is stained in Your eyes. I wish, then, to be clothed in Your own Justice and to receive from Your Love the eternal possession of Yourself. I want no other Throne, no other Crown but You, my Beloved!

Time is nothing in Your eyes, and a single day is like a thousand years. You can, then, in one instant prepare me to appear before You.

In order to live in one single act of perfect Love, I OFFER MYSELF AS A VICTIM OF HOLOCAUST TO YOUR MERCIFUL LOVE, asking You to consume me incessantly, allowing the waves of infinite tenderness shut up within You to overflow into my soul, and that thus I may become a martyr of Your Love, O my God!

May this martyrdom, after having prepared me to appear before You, finally cause me to die and may my soul take its flight without any delay into the eternal embrace of Your Merciful Love.

I want, O my Beloved, at each beat of my heart to renew this offering to You an infinite number of times, until the shadows having disappeared I may be able to tell You of my Love in an Eternal Face to Face!

There are also two Consecrations to the Divine Will!

One:

Consecration to the Divine Will of God

O, adorable and Divine Will, behold me here before the immensity of your Light, that your eternal goodness may open to me the doors and make me enter into It to form my life all in You, Divine Will. Therefore, oh adorable Will, prostrate before your Light, I, the least of all creatures, put myself into the little group of the sons and daughters of your Supreme FIAT. Prostrate in my nothingness, I invoke your Light and beg that It clothe me and eclipse all that does not pertain to You, Divine Will. It will be my Life, the centre of my intelligence, the enrapturer of my heart and of my whole being. I do not want the human will to have life in this heart any longer. I will cast it away from me and thus form the new Eden of Peace, of happiness and of love. With It I shall be always happy. I shall have a singular strength and holiness that sanctifies all things and conducts them to God. Here prostrate, I invoke the help of the Most Holy Trinity, that They permit me to live in the cloister of the Divine Will and thus return in me the first order of creation, just as the creature was created.

Heavenly Mother, Sovereign and Queen of the Divine Fiat, take my hand and introduce me into the Light of the Divine Will. You will be my guide, my most tender Mother, and will teach me to live in and to maintain myself in the order and the bounds of the Divine Will. Heavenly Mother, I consecrate my whole being to your Immaculate Heart. You will teach me the doctrine of the Divine Will and I will listen most attentively to your lessons. You will cover me with your mantle so that the infernal serpent dare not penetrate into this sacred Eden to entice me and make me fall into the maze of the human will.

Heart of my greatest Good, Jesus, You will give me your flames that they may burn me, consume me, and feed me to form in me the Life of the Divine Will.

Saint Joseph, you will be my protector, the guardian of my heart, and will keep the keys of my will in your hands. You will keep my heart jealously and shall never give it to me again, that I may be sure of never leaving the Will of God.

My Guardian Angel, guard me; defend me; help me in everything so that my Eden may flourish and be the instrument that draws all men into the Kingdom of the Divine Will!

Two:

Consecration to Jesus Kings of the Universe

Oh Jesus, King of kings, God of Goodness, God of Love, God of Mercy, I adore, I love, I thank, I glorify your Most Holy Will emanating from your Omnipotence, guided by your Wisdom, accompanied by your Goodness and Love. Everywhere and in every time, be it either in joy or in pain, may your Most Holy Will, your Divine Love, be the star that I gaze at, the law that governs me, the air that I breathe, the heartbeat of my heart, the substance or, better, the Life of my life. To such an end, I unite all my prayers and actions to Yours, all my life to Yours, as well as to that of the Virgin Mother, of Saint Joseph and of all the Elect that have been, are now and shall ever be, with all good, past, present and future which is real and possible in Heaven and on earth.

I consecrate and give all myself, what I have, what I am, what pertains to me, what is dear to me, my life, my death, my eternity, all that which You have created and will create by your Supreme Will, by your infinite Love. And I pray You, oh infinite Wisdom, to inscribe me with indelible characters in your adorable Heart as the ardent and zealous child of your Divine Will, of your pure Love. I make this offering and donation in the Power of the Father, in the Wisdom of the Son, in the Virtue of the Holy Spirit, in my name, and in the name of all creatures to obtain the advent and the expansion of the Kingdom of the Divine Will, of your Divine Love upon the earth. For pity's sake, oh my Lord, grant that from every lip and from every heart there may continually be raised, as from a sacred altar, the prayer that You Yourself, as the first, addressed to the Father, "YOUR KINGDOM COME! YOUR WILL BE DONE ON EARTH AS IT IS IN HEAVEN" So be it.