



CONSECRATION TO MERCIFUL LOVE

To all Seton families interested in doing the *33 Days to Merciful Love* Consecration to Jesus through Mary:

33 Days to Merciful Love is a devotion established by Fr. Michael Gaitley in 2016 but it is based on a personal devotion of St. Therese of Lisieux. It is a follow-up to his *33 Days to Morning Glory* that was a modern day version of the *Total Consecration to Mary* of St. Louis Marie DeMontfort. Many in the Seton community have participated in the *Total Consecration to Mary* that Mr. Heisler has done with the students over the years, but the Merciful Love devotion is new and very exciting because it links Marian consecration, St. Therese's "Little Way" and the Divine Mercy revelations to St. Faustina.

We invite all families to make the Consecration to Merciful Love on the feast of Divine Mercy (Sunday, April 28th). The 33 day preparation, which would take place with your family in your own home, begins on March 26. The book can be purchased on Amazon, and it will walk you through the 33 "steps".

We are hoping to have a priest or deacon come to the Seton chapel on the feast day to be with us for the consecration and to bless the Divine Mercy pictures that will later be enthroned in the homes of the families making the consecration. Even if you already have the picture in your home, Fr. Gaitley has developed an enthronement prayer for the picture and a special consecration for families and groups. We would say both prayers as a group at Seton along with the chaplet of Divine Mercy.

Attached is a summary of the 33 Days to Merciful Love Consecration. We hope that you will decide to join other members of the Seton community in making this consecration.

WHAT IS 33 DAYS TO MERCIFUL LOVE?

INTRO: This is a devotion developed by Fr. Michael Gaitley in 2016 that beautifully combines Marian Consecration, the Divine Mercy revelations and St. Therese of Lisieux's "Little Way".

1. WHAT IS TRUST?

A. DISTRUST—Because we are “fallen man” we tend to distrust God just as Adam distrusted God to listen to the lies of the devil. What we need to do is to correct our distorted image of God and our Mother Mary can help in doing this.

B. BLESSING—We look at the tremendous trust of our Blessed Mother at the foot of the Cross to believe that all the promises to her about Him would still be fulfilled as she saw Him brutally murdered.

C. GRACE—It was at the same Cross that Jesus gave Mary to all of us as our Mother. It is essential that we make our dedication to Christ's Merciful Heart through His Immaculate Mother! It is through her that our Lord directs all grace to souls.

2. THE LITTLE WAY

A. RECOGNIZE—It is essential that we recognize the darkness of our littleness and brokenness. Then we must consent to remain poor and without strength of our own—a true poverty of spirit. If we do this Jesus will come and transform us in flames of love.

B. TRUST—We must learn to trust that God's infinite Mercy will encompass us, not because we are perfect, strong and without sin, but because we are imperfect, weak and sinful. St. Therese says herself: “My only treasure is the blind hope that I have in God's Mercy.” That treasure can be ours if we cling to God's Mercy with Trust.

C TRY—We must never stop striving to grow in holiness! Regular Mass (daily, if possible), regular Confession, always faithful to our daily prayers and doing every little thing with “Great Love”. It means always forgiving wrongs and always striving to weed out even little vices in our lives and making consistent examinations of conscience.

THE OFFERING

A. CONSOLE—Our objective is to console the Heart of Jesus by “letting” Him love us. St. Faustina was praised by our Lord for embracing the “grace” that was rejected by others who are indifferent to His abundant Mercy.

B. THE CATCH—We allow God's Merciful Love to heal our hardened hearts so they will be more compassionate and loving. We will be moved by the sufferings of others to “suffer with” them.

C. PURGATORY—This “offering” will prepare us for a “martyrdom of love”. Our souls will be purified by the beauty of Christ's love as we attempt to share His Merciful Love with others. St. Therese says: “When we finally die we will die of love.

4. THE DARKNESS

A. RELATE—Initially it seems hard to relate to St. Therese. She was from a sheltered family, she was a cloistered nun, she died at 24 and she probably never committed a mortal sin. But as we study her life we realize how similar her life is to most of us. She was a common girl, she wasn't famous till after she died, she did little things with “great love”, she saw herself as little and at the end of her life she had sincere doubts about the existence of God and Heaven.

B. SEE—We will see the reality of God's great love versus our almost inability to love anything like Him. We can't begin to compare to God but we don't have to. His love is so tremendous that He allows us to “borrow” His Love to complete our own. On earth the Mass is the closest we will get to God's Love.

C. SMILE—St. Therese will intercede for us. She will help you to accept the gift of the offering to Merciful Love. She smiled right before she died and she is smiling at each of us now. So prepare yourself to accept God's Merciful Love and don't forget to smile!