



Canada and US bishops to reconsecrate their nations to Mary, Mother of God on Friday, May 1

Radio Maria will broadcast the service live at 2 pm CT /3 pm ET

VATICAN NEWS. On Friday, May 1, the bishops of Canada and the United States will be reconsecrating their respective nations to the care and protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary, in response to the coronavirus pandemic.

Radio Maria will broadcast the service live on Friday, May 1 at 2 p.m. CT/ 3 p.m. ET

Both Bishops' Conferences have announced that their countries will be reconsecrated to our Lady under the title "Mary, Mother of the Church".

Each year, during the month of May, the Church seeks the special interces-



sion of the Mother of God. The Pope highlighted this in a letter that he sent to all the faithful last Friday, calling for renewed Marian devotion.

In a letter to his brother Bishops, the President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB), Archbishop

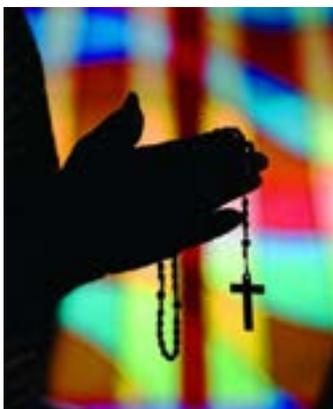
op Jose Gomez of Los Angeles, wrote that "this year, we seek the assistance of Our Lady all the more earnestly as we face together the effects of the global pandemic".

"This will give the Church the occasion to pray for Our Lady's continued protection of the

vulnerable, healing of the unwell, and wisdom for those who work to cure this terrible virus," said Archbishop Gomez.

The title "Mary, Mother of the Church" was given to the Blessed Mother by Pope St. Paul VI at the Second Vatican Council. In 2018, Pope Francis added the feast of "Mary, Mother of the Church" to the Church's liturgical calendar, with the rank of a memorial.

Italy will also be reconsecrating their country to the protection of the Virgin Mary, after having received over 300 letters asking them to do so.



Pope: Pray the Rosary daily in May; end with prayers he wrote to end corona virus

(CNS) Pope Francis is asking Catholics to make a special effort in May to pray the rosary, knowing that by doing so they will be united with believers around the world asking for Mary's intercession in stopping the coronavirus pandemic..

The month of May is traditionally devoted to Mary and many Catholics already are in the habit of praying the rosary at home during the month, he noted. "The restrictions of the pandemic have made us come to appreciate all the more this

'family' aspect, also from a spiritual point of view," he said.

Pope Francis composed two prayers to end the pandemic and is asking the faithful to recite one of the prayers after praying the Rosary.

See the two prayers on page 2



PRAYER I TO END THE CORONA VIRUS

O Mary, You shine continuously on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope. We entrust ourselves to you,
Health of the Sick,
who, at the foot of the cross, were united with Jesus' suffering, and persevered in your faith.
"Protectress of the Roman people," you know our needs, and we know that you will provide, so that, as at Cana in Galilee, joy and celebration may return after this time of trial.
Help us, **Mother of Divine Love,**
to conform ourselves to the Will of the Father and to do what Jesus tells us.
For he took upon himself our suffering, and burdened himself with our sorrows to bring us, through the cross, to the joy of the Resurrection.
We fly to your protection, **O Holy Mother of God;**
Do not despise our petitions in our necessities, but deliver us always from every danger, **O Glorious and Blessed Virgin.**
Amen.

PRAYER II TO END THE CORONA VIRUS

"We fly to your protection, O Holy Mother of God."

In the present tragic situation, when the whole world is prey to suffering and anxiety, we fly to you, Mother of God and our mother, and seek refuge under your protection.

Virgin Mary, turn your merciful eyes toward us amid this coronavirus pandemic. Comfort those who are distraught and mourn their loved ones who have died, and at times are buried in a way that grieves them deeply. Be close to those who are concerned for their loved ones who are sick and who, in order to prevent the spread of the disease, cannot be close to them. Fill with hope those who are troubled by the uncertainty of the future and the consequences for the economy and employment.

Mother of God and our Mother, pray for us to God, the father of mercies, that this great suffering may end and that hope and peace may dawn anew. Plead with your divine Son, as you did at Cana, so that the families of the sick and the victims be comforted, and their hearts be opened to confidence and trust.

Protect those doctors, nurses, health workers and volunteers who are on the frontline of this emergency, and are risking their lives to save others. Support their heroic effort and grant them strength, generosity and continued health.

Be close to those who assist the sick night and day, and to priests who, in their pastoral concern and fidelity to the Gospel, are trying to help and support everyone.

Blessed Virgin, illumine the minds of men and women engaged in scientific research, that they may find effective solutions to overcome this virus.

Support national leaders, that with wisdom, solicitude and generosity they may come to the aid of those lacking the basic necessities of life and may devise social and economic solutions inspired by farsightedness and solidarity.

Mary Most Holy, stir our consciences, so that the enormous funds invested in developing and stockpiling arms will instead be spent on promoting effective research on how to prevent similar tragedies from occurring in the future.

Beloved Mother, help us realize that we are all members of one great family and to recognize the bond that unites us, so that, in a spirit of fraternity and solidarity, we can help to alleviate countless situations of poverty and need. Make us strong in faith, persevering in service, constant in prayer.

Mary, Consolation of the Afflicted, embrace all your children in distress and pray that God will stretch out his all-powerful hand and free us from this terrible pandemic, so that life can serenely resume its normal course.

To you, who shine on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope, do we entrust ourselves, O Clement, O Loving, O Sweet Virgin Mary. Amen.

**Got Time?
... to Volunteer?**

Radio Maria is always in need of volunteers to do a variety of tasks around the studio or as an ambassador in your church parish. If you have time to volunteer, please give us a call and we will match your talents with our needs. Call:

888-408-0201 or email: development@radiomaria.us (in Houston)

'My true rest is in the service of my neighbor'

St. Faustina

Covid 19 has imprisoned many of us and it has changed our lives. We can't even receive the Eucharist... Whoever would have thought that could happen? Everything has changed in our lives, in a matter of weeks. One constant, though, will never change. It's here to stay!

That constant is Our Lord's Divine Mercy. Unfathomable and inexhaustible.

St. Faustina states in her Diary (page 78) that Jesus commanded that we must take that wonderful gift of Mercy we receive and share it with others in three ways: by acts, through words, and with prayer.

In view of all the sheltering in place, isolation, quarantining and social distancing, to share mercy with others has proven to be a challenge. That is, unless we dig deeper into our church traditions and teachings. Remember those corporal and spiritual works of mercy? Those are perfect

outlines with which to be creative in designing our own acts of mercy. I encourage you to Google the corporal and spiritual works of mercy (if you don't have them memorized) and see which you can deploy in order to "rest in the service of your neighbor." Here are some examples I've seen just from the last couple of weeks during this pandemic crisis:

BY ACTS. Of course, donating to various Catholic organizations will provide food, clothing and shelter to those who lost jobs or who contracted the virus. Although it's hard to personally visit those who are isolated, my own parish priests were requested to stand in the front yard of their rectory at St. John Vianney Parish here in Houston a couple of Sundays ago so that a caravan of 200 cars and trucks could drive by, all filled with excited, well-wishing parishioners. See if you can top that!

THROUGH WORDS.



Deacon Al Vacek

Yesterday, the phone rang. It was an 85-year-old parishioner who "just wanted to check in on her Deacon and his family." What a welcomed call! We visited, lamented over cancellation of daily Mass, and shared the sorrow we felt over the absence of the Eucharist. But then it happened: we began to encourage each other. Our conversation brightened. We shared our mutual trust in the Lord. All will be fine! As I hung up the phone, isolation anxiety and angst subsided. I felt refreshed. I was now excited to make my

own calls to others.

WITH PRAYER. Sometimes Zoom, Skype and even a phone call are not options. Perhaps we can't talk with a person. Why not pray for that person? Here's one example of a spiritual work of mercy. Prayer is one of the most powerful ways we can support others, entrusting them into God's care. St. Faustina said: "if I cannot show mercy by deeds, or words, I can always do so by prayers."

So, in closing, here is a "Coronavirus Challenge" for you: how can you mercifully reach out to others to be there with them in their suffering and to encourage them? Let me know what you come up with by emailing me at listener@radiomaria.us

Please remember that we are comforted by the words from the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, "Jesus, I trust in you." May God bless you and your family in these troubled times.

Quilt raffle drawing to be held May 20, 2020



\$10 per chance

Tickets are available by calling

888-408-0201

or by going online at

radiomaria.us

Drawing will be held May 20, 2020

Approved License E3855 by the State of Louisiana

May 25, 2020 marks 20th anniversary of Radio Maria

On May 25, 2000, the first broadcast of Radio Maria on KJMJ 580 AM was made from the small studio on Washington Street in Alexandria. Father Theophilus Herlong, from the Diocese of Lake Charles, La. was the first priest director for Radio Maria, and may have been the first to say "Welcome listeners to the first broadcast of Radio Maria -- a Christian Voice in Your Home!"

Father Herlong and others were instrumental in quickly securing frequencies in Lake Charles and Natchitoches, Louisiana and Beaumont,



Texas. Hundreds of men, women, teens and children in those areas stepped up as prayer leaders on the air, mailout volunteers, phone volunteers in the studio and during mariathons, computer data input volunteers, and as presenters. Those not actively volunteering were generously supporting the

station with donations.

In 2004, the position of priest director was taken over by Father Duane Stensel, a Franciscan priest who served from 2004 - 2011. It was under his direction, and national president Mary Pyper, that Radio Maria expanded its frequencies into four more loca-

tions, including New Iberia, Louisiana; D'Iberville, Mississippi; and Anna and Springfield, Ohio.

In 2005, after the death of Father Duane, another Franciscan priest, Father Robert Young, was named priest director. Under his leadership and national president Carlo DiMaggio, three more frequencies were added in Peshtigo, Wisc; and Hollidaysburg Pa.; and Dayton, Ohio. Since that first broadcast, Radio Maria has added a total of 11 frequencies in Louisiana, Texas, Mississippi, Ohio, Wisconsin, and Pennsylvania.

Spring Mariathon

Monday, May 11 - Friday, May 15

9:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m. (CT)

10:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m. (ET)

Saturday, May 16

9:00 a.m. - 1 p.m. (CT)

10:00 a.m. - 2 p.m. (ET)

To donate, go online at radiomaria.us
or call: 888-408-0201



May 13: Feast of Our Lady of Fatima

Join Radio Maria on the air
May 5 - May 13 at 3:20 pm CT/4:20 pm ET
for a Novena to Our Lady of Fatima

- Pray the Novena for the intentions of
- ending the corona virus pandemic
 - healing those fighting the virus
 - protecting the healthcare workers
 - opening up the churches safely

March 18, 2020: The end of Mirjana's monthly apparitions

On March 18, 2020, Our Lady appeared to Mirjana for her annual apparition, during which she told Mirjana that she would no longer appear on the 2nd of each month as she has been doing for many years.

Due to government restrictions regarding the coronavirus, Mirjana was in her room in Medjugorje when she experienced the March 18th apparition. After the apparition, Mirjana was incredibly sad and in shock with the realization that she would no longer see Our Lady on the 2nd of each month.

March 18, 2020

Message from Our Lady

Through her tears, Mirjana reported that Our Lady gave the following message:

“Dear children,

My Son, as God, always looked above time. I, as His mother, through Him, see in time. I see beautiful and sad things. But I see that there is still love, and that it needs doing for

it to be known.

My children, you cannot be happy if you do not love each other, if you do not have love in every situation and at every moment of your life.

Also, I, as a mother, am coming to you through love—to help you to come to know true love, to come to know my Son.

This is why I am calling you, always anew to thirst all the more for love, faith, and hope.

The only spring from which you can drink is trust in God, my Son.

My children, in moments of peacelessness and renunciation you just seek the face of my Son.

You just live His words and do not be afraid. Pray and love with sincere feelings, with good works; and help so that the world may change and that my heart may win.

Like my Son, I am also saying to you: love each other because without love there is no salvation.

Thank you my children.”

Timeline of Mirjana's Apparitions

June 24, 1981- Mirjana and Ivanka see Our Lady on the hill.

June 25, 1981- 6 local children see and talk to Our Lady on the hill. This is the official anniversary.

December 25, 1982 – Mirjana Soldo received the tenth secret. She would no longer have daily apparitions but Our Lady would appear to her once a year on March 18th for the rest of her life.

May 7, 1985 – Ivanka receives the last secret and has her final daily apparition. Our Lady would appear once a year to Ivanka on the anniversary of the apparitions, June 25th.

August 2, 1987- Our Lady starts appearing to Mirjana on the 2nd day of each month to pray with Mirjana for all unbelievers. Mirjana tells us that Our Lady defines “unbelievers” as those who have not yet felt God's love.

September 12, 1998 – Jakov received the last secret. Our Lady would appear to Jakov once a year on Christmas Day.

March 18, 2020 – During Mirjana's annual apparition, which she will have for the rest of her life, Our Lady informs Mirjana that she will no longer appear to her on the 2nd of the month.



Join Mirjana in prayer every 2nd of the month at 9 am

April 2, 2020, was the first time in many years that Mirjana Soldo of Medjugorje did not experience an apparition of Our Lady on the second of the month.

These “extraordinary apparitions” on the second of each month took place in addition to Mirjana’s annual apparitions which occur every year on March 18th.

Although Mirjana will continue to have the annual apparitions on March 18 for the rest of her life, the end of the second of the month apparitions means that she will only see Our Lady once each year instead of 13 times as in previous years.

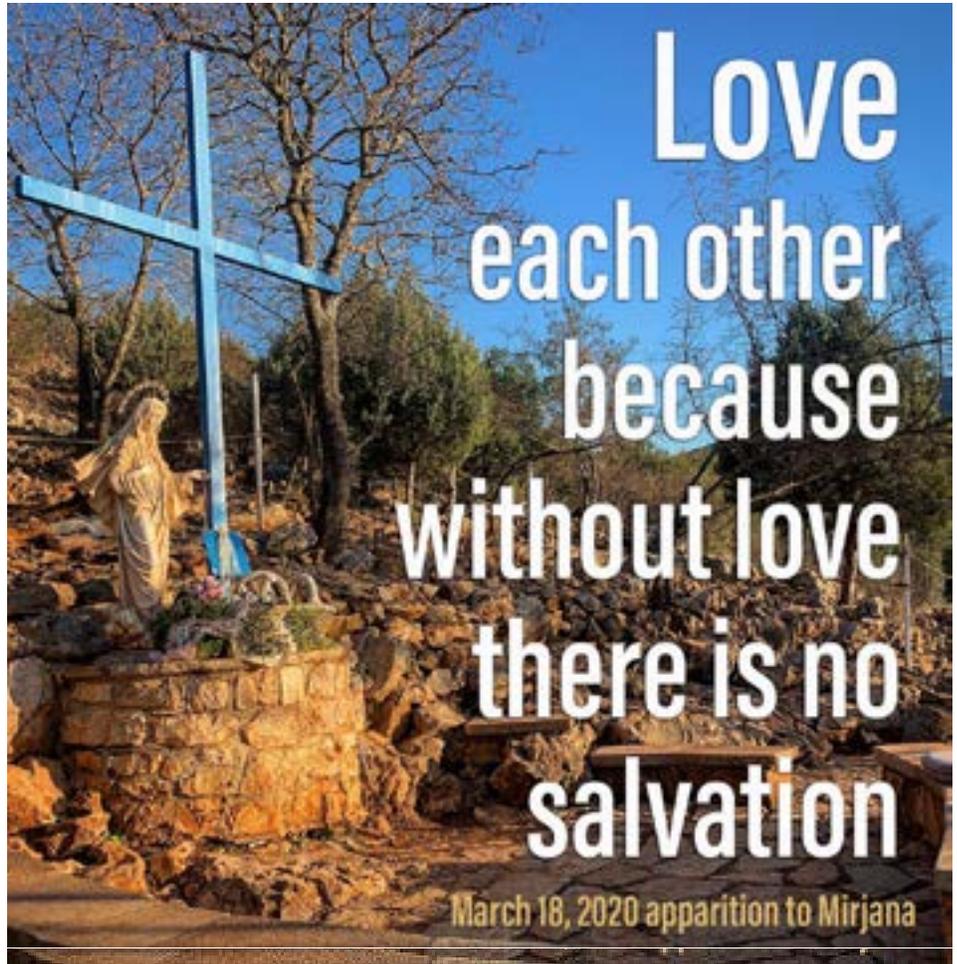
Our Lady’s stated intention for the second of the month apparitions was to pray for all those who do not yet know God’s love.

Each morning, and even the night before, thousands of people would crowd around the Blue Cross in anticipation of the miraculous event. The crowds consisted of almost every nationality, but the majority of the pilgrims who came to these apparitions were from Italy, which, now, is one of the countries suffering the most in the Coronavirus pandemic.

Each morning on the second of each month, Mirjana would leave her home in Medjugorje and walk to the Blue Cross, stopping along the way to warmly greet some of the waiting pilgrims. She would then kneel and pray until the moment Our Lady appeared. The expression on Mirjana’s face whenever the apparition began was alone enough to convince some of the hardest skeptics that she was experiencing something profound.

These apparitions continued all the way up until March 2, 2020.

As you may know, however, on March 18, 2020—during this year’s



annual apparition—Our Lady told Mirjana that she would no longer be appearing to her on the second of each month. Although Mirjana knew that this day would eventually come, she cried for days and has been praying intensely ever since then.

(Read the March 18, 2020 message from Our Lady on page 5.)

The second of the month apparitions may be over, but that doesn’t mean that Our Lady’s work is done, nor is Mirjana’s mission for unbelievers. On the contrary, the world needs our prayers now more than ever.

Although Mirjana remains sad that she will not be having these monthly apparitions any longer, she

has begun praying the rosary at 9 a.m. on the 2nd of every month.

Mirjana’s longtime translator and local pilgrimage guide Miki Musa—who was responsible for writing down and translating Our Lady’s messages when Mirjana recounted them after each apparition—proposed the idea of joining in prayer on the second of every month in honor of Our Lady’s mission for unbelievers.

We invite you and your loved ones to pray at 9 a.m. on May 2, whether that is 9 a.m. in your time zone, or when it’s 9 a.m. in Medjugorje (or both), and continue to do so on the 2nd of every month.

Also consider reading some of Our Lady’s last messages that she has given during these apparitions.



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91.3 FM - Peshtigo, WI

Radio Maria was born as a parish radio in 1983 in the Diocese of Milan, Italy. Its purpose was to keep parishioners informed and to help them through prayer, the daily Mass and the Rosary. But it quickly grew in popularity into other countries. Radio Maria began broadcasting from its first English-speaking station in the US on May 25, 2000 in Alexandria, La. It has since expanded to include 30 frequencies in five other states.



Please Like Us on Facebook!

February 25, 2020 Message to Marija

“Dear children!

In this time of grace, I desire to see your faces transformed in prayer. You are so flooded by earthly concerns, you do not even feel that spring is at the threshold. You are called, little children, to penance and prayer. As nature fights in silence for new life, also you are called to open yourselves in prayer to God, in Whom you will find peace and warmth of the spring sun in your hearts. Thank you for having responded to my call. ”

Note: These messages are not yet recognized by the Catholic Church as having a supernatural origin.



Programming

Vigilant Hearts

Hosted by Annie Karto and now
Fr. Michael Sliney
Every 3rd Monday of the month
6 pm (CST) 7 pm EST)

So many of you are faithful followers of one of our special and distinctive programs, *Vigilant Hearts*, hosted by Annie Karto, which airs Mondays at 6:00pm Central/7:00pm Eastern. Annie's program focuses on having our hearts ready to receive the Lord on a daily basis, and fine tuning our hearing for the Holy Spirit to guide us.

We are pleased to announce that Annie is bringing on Father Michael Sliney to assist her **every third Monday of the month**. Father Sliney is a Legionary of Christ. He was ordained a priest in Rome on December 24, 1998. He studied mechanical engineering at Michigan State University for two years before entering the Legion. Fr. Sliney spent 19 years of priestly ministry serving youth and families. He started The Leadership Train-



Fr, Michael Sliney

ing Program in the greater DC area in 1997, with the focus on forming men and women of both character and a deep Faith. Fr. Michael is a dynamic speaker and teacher who blogs at sliney.org. He has a deep devotion to the Eucharist and a great love for the Blessed Mother. He will be a great addition to Radio Maria and will be sharing the knowledge of his 22 years of priesthood and ministering to families. We ask all of you to tune in as we welcome Fr. Michael to the Radio Maria family!

Listen to Radio Maria 24/7

There are several ways to listen to Radio Maria throughout your day:

- **Listen online** at radiomaria.us
- **Download** on your Smart phone, the new Radio Maria USA free app at radiomaria.us
- **Call to listen** to Radio Maria. Dial 1- 641-793-3080 - in the U.S (For U.S. audience only. No extra cost, when using unlimited mobile minutes. Check your long distance plan if using a land-line).
- **On the Radio** (see list of frequencies on page 7)



Help Support Radio Maria

Radio Maria is 100% listener supported. It is through your prayers and donations that Radio Maria is able to bring orthodox Catholic programming to the world, day in and day out. Please prayerfully consider making a contribution to help keep Our Lady's radio on the air.

Radio Maria is a 501(c)3 non-profit organization. All donations are tax deductible.



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