



## DIOCESE OF FAIRBANKS

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### OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

27 April 2020

Dear Brother and Sisters in Christ,

Every year, the Church seeks the special intercession of the Mother of God during the month of May. This year we seek the assistance of Our Lady all the more earnestly as we face together the effects of the global pandemic. In that spirit, Archbishop José H. Gomez of Los Angeles and president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops (USCCB) has announced that the U.S. bishops will join the Canadian Conference of Catholic Bishops on May 1 in renewing the consecrations of the two nations to the care of our Blessed Mother.

On that basis, I am pleased to invite you to join with me in spirit for the prayer of reconsecration of our nation to the protection of the Blessed Mother on May 1 at 11:00 am AKDT. If you would like to follow Archbishop Gomez during his service at 12pm PDT the link is <https://lacatholics.org/consecration>. The service will also be livestreamed via the USCCB's website at <http://www.usccb.org/consecration> at 3:00pm EDT.

The consecration on May 1 follows a similar action of the bishops' conference of Latin America and the Caribbean (CELAM) who consecrated their nations to Our Lady of Guadalupe on Easter Sunday. The renewal of consecration planned in this country for May 1 does not change the designation of Mary as the Patroness of the United States under the title of the Immaculate Conception. Rather, this prayer reaffirms and renews previous Marian entrustments, and unites us in solidarity with our Holy Father, who recently established the Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church, as a source of protection and strength.

The Order of Worship is attached in both English and Spanish.

Sincerely in Christ,

†Most Reverend Chad W. Zielinski  
Catholic Bishop of Northern Alaska  
Diocese of Fairbanks



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