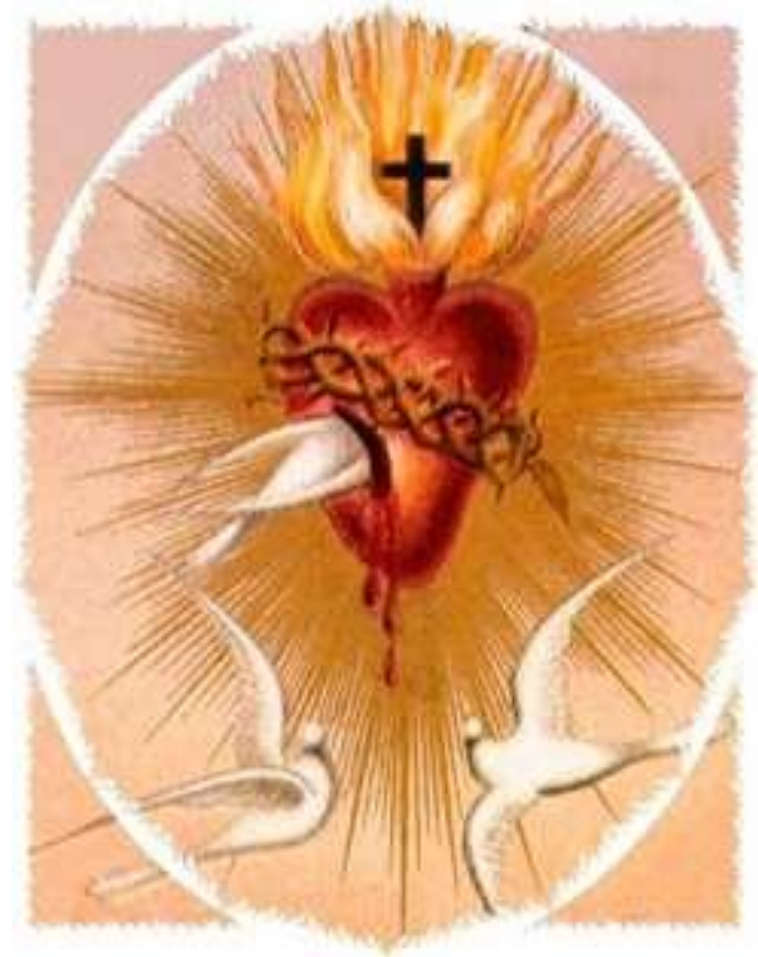
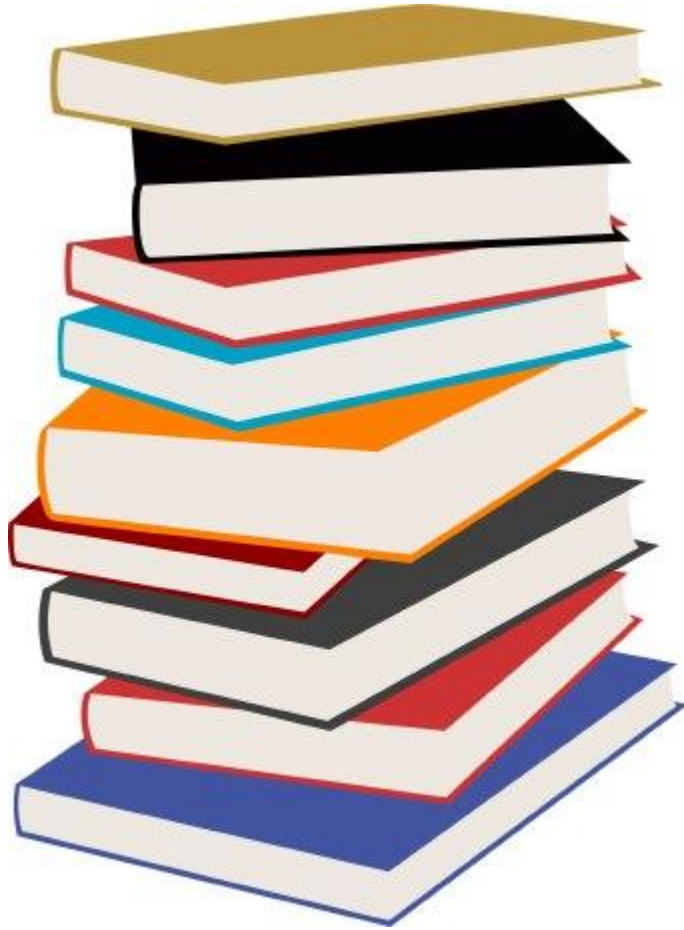
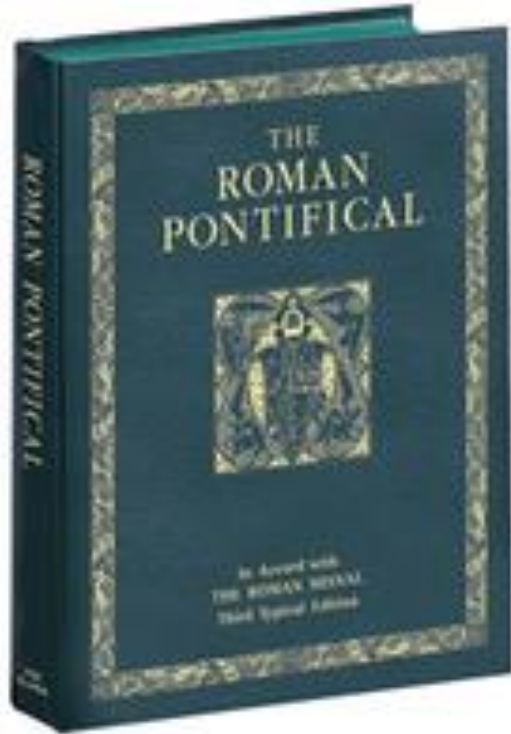


Welcome to
The Heart of the Bridegroom
Formation
Continuing Formation
Companion Workbook Program

It is an invitation to study not as a scholar ...
but as one who loves...



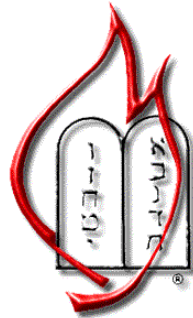
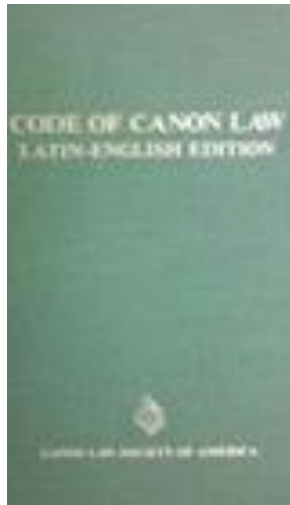
The Church provides the information about this consecration.



Recognized by the Church as an authentic form of consecrated life since Apostolic times, it not only has an official Rite found in the Roman Pontifical including a Homily and Prayer of Consecration *(the spirituality and charism of the consecration)*

but it is also found in...

The Code of Canon Law
Canon 604 § 1



The Catechism
of the Catholic Church
Numbers

922

923

924

The book

The Heart of the Bridegroom

has been written to establish the necessary foundation and basic understanding of the gift of a life of virginity consecrated to God for the sake of the Kingdom.

*"The life you seek to follow has its home in heaven.
God Himself is the source.
It is He who gives the grace of virginity."*

Roman Pontifical, Rite of Consecration, Homily

*"Learn from me for I am meek and
humble of Heart."*



What about the program?

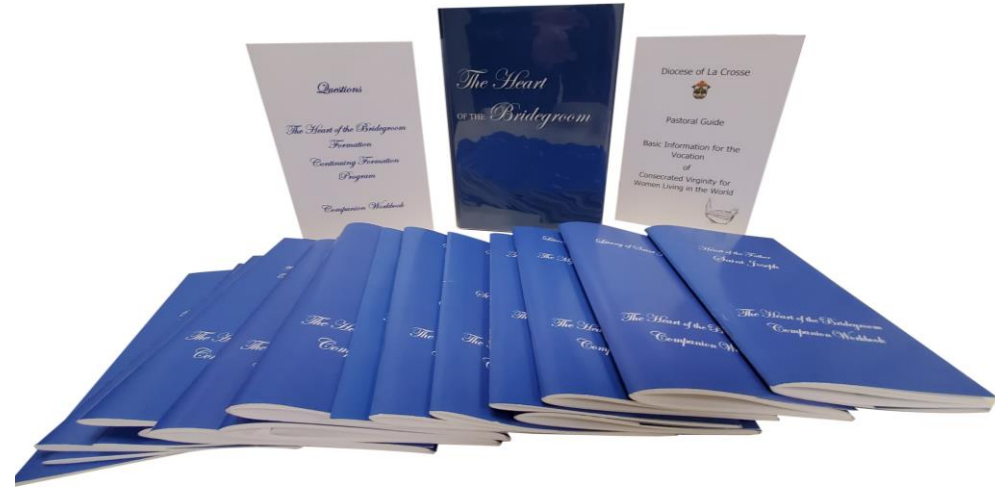
The companion workbook formation continuing formation program is based on the book

The Heart of The Bridegroom

Based on the Rite of Consecration the soul is invited to enter into the mystery of the Heart of Jesus.

The companion workbooks are designed with space so to be used not just at initial formation but continuing formation as directed by Pope Saint John Paul II in his exhortation Vita Consecrata.

A simple format for so great a gift.



"The rite for the consecration of virgins belongs to the treasures of Roman Liturgy."

Jesus Christ left holy virginity as a legacy to His bride, one of His most precious gifts."

Decree for Promulgation May 31, 1970

Companion Workbooks

The first companion workbook provides a tool for a soul searching for the will of the Father.

Three companion workbooks on the life of Saint Joseph are next.

The 8 chapters of the book provide the material for 8 of the companion workbooks.

The Litanies of Love chapter suggests 3 litanies. Each of the litanies have their own companion workbook.

Background Information Initial Discernment

Heart of the Father, Saint Joseph

Litany of St Joseph

Mysteries of the Rosary & Litany of Saint Joseph

Formal and Informal Introductions

Sacred Scripture, Old Testament

Sacred Scripture, New Testament

Gospel of Saint Matthew, Saint Mark

Saint Luke, Saint John

**Litanies of Love ♥ Sacred Heart
Divine Mercy ♥ To The Blessed Host**

**♥ Solemnity of the Sacred Heart ♥
Readings for Mass, Liturgy of the Hours**

Catechism of the Catholic Church
and the Sacred Heart

Vita Consecrata Formation Continuing Formation

Resources & Recommended Reading

Companion Workbook Format

The format of each Companion Workbook provides an actual workbook. The text for that particular chapter/topic for prayer/reflection /study is printed on the left side of the companion workbook.

The right side of the companion workbook and in some workbooks the blank spaces for personal notes, reflections, prayer, begin on the left and continues to the right. But the right side is free for initial formation and to be used in continuing formation.

Questions

Humbly understanding the Holy Spirit is the ultimate Formator,

this companion workbook contains suggested questions to assist not only the formator but also the virgin in her understanding the essence of the gift of virginity lived in the world consecrated to God for the sake of the Kingdom, so that on the day of her consecration she may place her hands into those of the Bishop and say...

"Father receive my resolution to follow Christ in a life of perfect chastity which, with God's help, I here profess before you and God's holy people."

from the renewal of Intention from the Rite of Consecration



Background Information and Initial Discernment

Included in the first “companion workbook” of this formation program,
the Homily and the Prayer of Consecration
of the Rite express the spirituality and the charism of the gift of virginity.

**Recognition of the gift is immediate
when the virgin, given the gift of virginity to be lived in the world,
reads this Homily and Prayer of Consecration.**

It answers all the questions in her heart and soul.

She knows she is not called to live in a religious community,
but still wants to give her life totally to Jesus.

Her life is Church-centered but lives in the world.

Her devotion to Our Lady and Our Eucharistic Lord are the main stay of her spiritual life.

After the Background Information Initial Discernment ... then comes Saint Joseph

The help of Saint Joseph
at the beginning of

The Heart of the Bridegroom Formation
Continuing Formation Companion Workbook
Program is key in embracing and understanding
the grace of receiving a gift from the heavenly
Father as did Saint Joseph.



Why Saint Joseph?

3 Companion Workbooks on St. Joseph

What does the Church tell us of Saint Joseph?

Liturgy of the Hours

Office of Readings 2nd Reading

- Solemnity of Saint Joseph, March 19th
 - Feast of the Holy Family

Apostolic Letter

- With a Father's Heart

Litany of Saint Joseph
Mysteries of the Rosary

These are two spiritual tools with which you are invited to unwrap the mysteries of Joseph's life.

Litany gives us the character of Joseph.

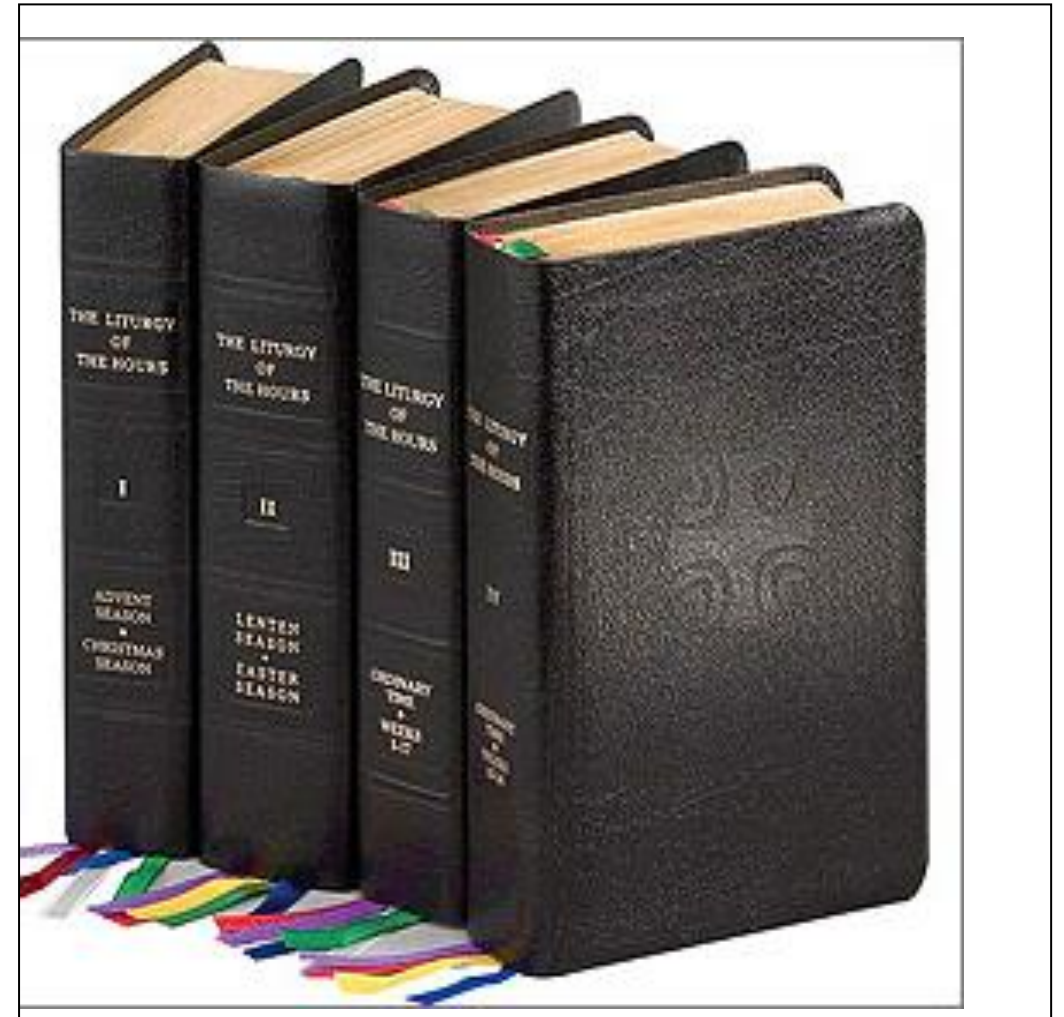
The Rosary invites us to look into the shadows to see where Joseph is present in person or spirit.

Liturgy of the Hours
Office of Readings 2nd Reading

March 19th Solemnity of Saint Joseph
The sermon by Saint Bernadine of Siena

“There is a general rule concerning all special graces granted to any human being. Whenever the divine favor chooses someone to receive a special grace, or to accept a lofty vocation, God adorns the person chosen with all the gifts of the Spirit needed to fulfill the task at hand.

This general rule is especially verified in the case of Saint Joseph....



Liturgy of the Hours
Office of Readings 2nd Reading
Feast of the Holy Family
Pope Paul VI, Address on Nazareth

Nazareth is a kind of school where we may begin to discover what Christ's life was like and even to understand his Gospel.

Here we can observe and ponder the simple appeal of the way God's Son came to be known, profound yet full of hidden meaning. And gradually we may even learn to imitate him.

Nazareth can teach us the value of study and preparation, of meditation, of a well-ordered personal spiritual life, and of silent prayer that is known only to God.

School of Nazareth



With a Father's heart: that is how Joseph loved Jesus...

In every situation, Joseph declared his own "fiat", like those of Mary at the Annunciation and Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane.

In his role as the head of a family, Joseph taught Jesus to be obedient to his parents (cf. *Lk* 2:51), in accordance with God's command (cf. *Ex* 20:12).

During the hidden years in Nazareth, Jesus learned at the school of Joseph to do the will of the Father. That will was to be his daily food (cf. *Jn* 4:34). Even at the most difficult moment of his life, in Gethsemane, Jesus chose to do the Father's will rather than his own, becoming "obedient unto death, even death on a cross" (*Phil* 2:8). The author of the Letter to the Hebrews thus concludes that Jesus "learned obedience through what he suffered" (5:8).

All this makes it clear that

"Saint Joseph was called by God to serve the person and mission of Jesus directly through the exercise of his fatherhood" and that in this way,

"he cooperated in the fullness of time in the great mystery of salvation and is truly a minister of salvation."

Litany of Saint Joseph

Mysteries of the Rosary & the Litany of Saint Joseph



The Litany of Saint Joseph
and the
Mysteries of the Rosary
prayed in the light of the virtues from the
Litany of Saint Joseph
allow us to enter into
the shadow of love which protected the
Holy Family.
It was the shadow of Saint Joseph called for
by the Father to care for
His two greatest treasures,
Jesus and Mary.
Ponder these virtues and mysteries.

Formal and Informal Introductions

Companion Workbook

The first chapter, of *The Heart of the Bridegroom*, pages 5-7, covering the topic of this companion workbook invites you to read the references listed from not only

The Code of Canon Law

but also

The Catechism of the Catholic Church.

These references will enrich your understanding of the various forms of consecrated life and the uniqueness of the consecration to a life of virginity for women living in the world.

Sacred Scripture *Old Testament*

This second chapter invites you to see in the Old Testament the lessons Joseph and Mary taught Jesus and teach us today.

"Build up your love of God by the study of Scripture."

Listed in this companion workbook are Old Testament passages that are considered as fulfillment of the prophecies.



New Testament Gospels

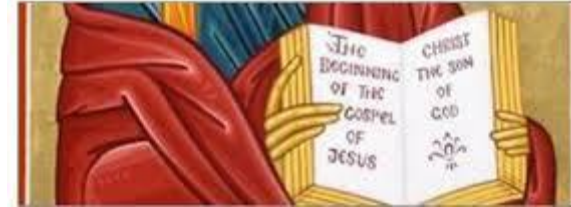
Saint Matthew

It is in the *Gospel of Saint Matthew* we find the Examples of humility.... *"Learn from me for I am meek and humble of heart."*

Examples of obedience

And we find the teaching on the gift of virginity for the sake of the Kingdom. For the virgin called to be the bride of Christ it is important for her to know what is important to Jesus the Bridegroom. Take time now with your Bible to ponder the passages Gospel of Matthew.

Saint Mark



Mark never forgot the divine side of Jesus. He begins his gospel with a declaration of faith, "The beginning of the gospel of Jesus Christ the Son of God." Again and again he speaks of the impact Jesus made on the mind and heart of those who heard him.



New Testament Gospels

Saint Luke

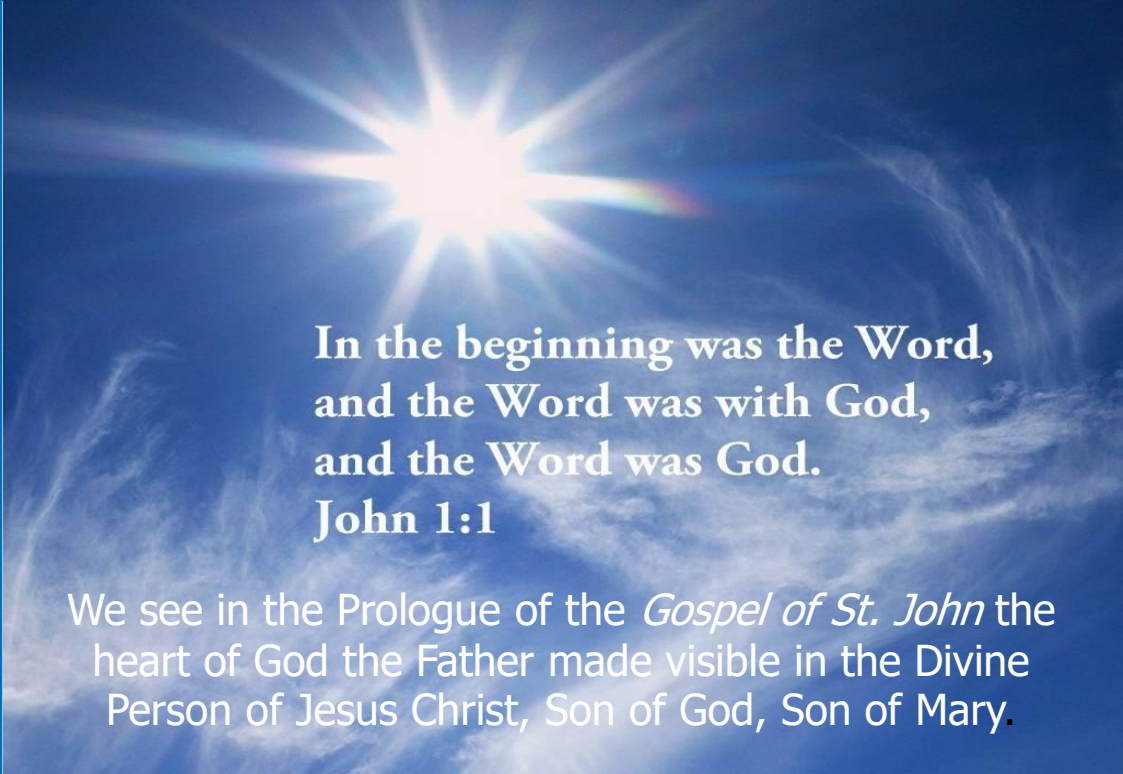
This brings us to Saint Luke's Gospel and the view from the heart of Mary.

Here we have the accounts of the mystery of the Annunciation and Incarnation.

These two events in the life of Jesus are foundational in the understanding of this vocation.

This companion workbook has many key elements for pray and interiorizing the beauty of these two mysteries in the life of the consecrated virgin.

Saint John



**In the beginning was the Word,
and the Word was with God,
and the Word was God.
John 1:1**

We see in the Prologue of the *Gospel of St. John* the heart of God the Father made visible in the Divine Person of Jesus Christ, Son of God, Son of Mary.



Litanies of Love

The next 3 companion workbooks will focus on litanies which bring out the attributes of the Heart of Jesus and His Eucharistic Presence. As virgins consecrated to Him we are called to be one with His Heart and so must make as our own and live these characteristics.

Litany of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

This companion workbook offers a blank page for each invocation.

Pondering the invocations of his Sacred Heart will be key in growing in the likeness of Jesus and his Sacred Heart and to be more fully His bride.

As you grow in your love and understanding of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the Solemn Blessing used in the Mass of Consecration will be a wellspring of graces.

“May the Lord Jesus, who unites to himself the hearts of sacred virgins in a nuptial covenant, make your hearts fruitful by the word that is God’s seed. ”

Rite of Consecration, Concluding Rite.



"You are apostles in the Church and in the world. In the things of the Spirit and in the things of the world." Homily, Rite of Consecration

Saint Faustina, Apostle of Mercy

Litany of Divine Mercy

In her diary, Saint Faustina, the Apostle of Mercy writes:

"The Love of God is the flower – Mercy the fruit. Let the doubting soul read these considerations on Divine Mercy and become trusting.

Divine Mercy, gushing forth from the bosom of the Father, I trust in you...."

She continues with 34 more invocations to the Divine Mercy.

Litany to the Blessed Host

It was 1934-1935, during a time of adoration at the end of one year and beginning of a new year she writes invocations to the Blessed Host.

"O Blessed Host, in whom is contained the testament of God's mercy for us, and especially for us sinners."

In the thirty invocations that follow we pray with her, find the fullness of God's presence in the Blessed Host, infinite mercy, hope in the midst of overwhelming trials, fire of purest love, and trust when all seems dark, that confident trust in the "sea of his mercy".

Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

Readings for Mass

This next section includes the proper readings for Mass for each of the three-year cycle of the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

The readings from both the Old and New Testaments will be familiar to you. They echo the mystery of love of the Word made flesh and splendor of the Father.

They echo the sacrifice to which Love is called and to which it continues to call.

As his bride, the virgin makes these readings part of her own way of life.

Integrating the call to fidelity along the way of the cross to the Kingdom of Heaven, who is Jesus.

(Pope Benedict, Jesus of Nazareth page 40)

Liturgy of the Hours

Along with the liturgical celebrations of the Solemnity of the Sacred Heart for Mass, the Church also provides the rich collection of antiphons, psalms, canticles and readings for this Solemnity for those who are called to pray the *Liturgy of the Hours*, which includes the consecrated virgin – “Receive the book of the *Liturgy of the Hours*, the prayer of the Church; may the praise of the heavenly Father be always on your lips; pray without ceasing for the salvation of the whole world.”

(From the Rite, Presentation of the Insignia # 28)

Catechism of the Catholic Church & The Sacred Heart of Jesus

The Church has a beautiful teaching on the Sacred Heart of Jesus rooted in the the Sacred Scriptures.

This companion workbook has included the passages, references and cross references of the Catechism.

478 "...He has loved us with a human heart.

For this reason, the Sacred Heart of Jesus, pierced by our sins and for our salvation, is quite rightly considered the chief sign and symbol of that... love with which the divine Redeemer continually loves the eternal Father and all human beings without exception...."

Vita Consecrata

Formation

The back cover of each of the companion workbooks have several quotations from the Apostolic Exhortation of Pope Saint John Paul II
Vita Consecrata

Continuing Formation

A frequent reminder of essence of formation and the importance of continuing formation will provide the reminder that formation encompasses ones whole life.

"Make your whole life reflect your vocation and your dignity."

Rite of Consecration, Homily

Resources and Recommended Reading

This list of works included in the book
The Heart of the Bridegroom
will provide additional material
if clarification or enrichment is needed or desired.



The Diocese of La Crosse Office for Consecrated Life has many resources available for this vocation.

Each priest and deacon from the Diocese of La Crosse has received a copy of the following two publications:

1. Pastoral Guide
2. Background Information Initial Discernment

Pastoral Guide for Priests

Basic Information for the vocation of Consecrated Virginity for Women Living in the World

The information you are receiving is to help in the understanding of some basics when offering spiritual guidance with discernment a virgin's desire to give her all to God but not feeling called to religious life in community.

You might call it:

[Consecrated Virginity Lived in the World 101](#)

Feel free to make copies of this information as you need it.

Information from:

***Code of Canon Law** Can. 604 §1

***Roman Pontifical**

Introduction

Nature & Value of Consecrated Virginity

Those who may be Consecrated

***Catechism of the Catholic Church**

nos. 922, 923, 924

***Resources Materials**

available from the Diocese of La Crosse
Office for Consecrated Life

Initial Discernment Background Information

This first companion workbook contains the very key to the gift of the vocation.

*Passage from 1970 Document on the Promulgation of the Rite of Consecration

*The Homily

*The Prayer of Consecration
from the Rite of Consecration found in the Roman Pontifical.

The spirituality and charism are expressed in these words given to us by Holy Mother Church.

Any virgin reading and praying with these will immediately find in them the answer to the deepest longing of her heart.



“The rite for the consecration of virgins belongs to the treasures of Roman liturgy. Jesus Christ left holy virginity as a legacy to His bride, one of His most precious gifts.”

From the Decree for Promulgation of the Rite of Consecration May 31, 1970

Resource Materials

In addition to the basic introduction to the vocation with The Heart of the Bridegroom Program, the Diocese of La Crosse has a set of resource materials all based on the Rite of Consecration to assist the virgin and those accompanying her on her spiritual journey. Here is an image of what is available for purchase by both the virgin and those working with her.



Those able "to receive it"
are those
"to whom it has been given."

Pope John Paul II
Theology of the Body

Virginity or Celibacy for the sake of the Kingdom
#72/ #4



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Given at La Crosse the Fifteenth of February
In the Year of Our Lord 2016

+Most Reverend William Patrick Callahan, OFM Conv
Bishop Of La Crosse, Wisconsin



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Memorial of Saint Agnes, Virgin and Martyr

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Copyright © permission from Libreria Editrice Vaticana: Sacred Congregation for Divine Worship, Decree promulgating the new rite for the consecration of a virgin, 31 May 1970 Pope John Paul II, *The Theology of the Body*, On Virginity for the Sake of the Kingdom

John Paul II, *Vita Consecrata*, March 25, 1996
Joseph Cardinal Ratzinger, Homily, Mass of Consecration 25 March 1988



*Thank you
for your time!*

I pray this presentation has helped you understand the
mysteries of this treasure of the Roman liturgy!
God's choicest blessings!

"The rite for the consecration of virgins belongs to the treasures of Roman Liturgy. Jesus Christ left holy virginity as a legacy to His bride, one of His most precious gifts."

Decree for Promulgation May 31, 1970