

Week 4 – St. John Paul II

A. PRAYER

1. + *Magnificat*

2. *Come, Holy Spirit, and be with us. We wish to contemplate the mysteries of Jesus and Mary in our lives, as we prepare for consecration to Jesus through Mary. Amen.* +

B. QUESTIONS FOR GROUP DISCUSSION

Which of the seven days of pondering, prayerful responses most interested you, most inspired your prayer, or moved you to meditation?

1. The first apparition at Fatima and the shooting of St. John Paul II in St. Peter's Square both occurred on May 13th at 5 p.m. John Paul II did not consider this a coincidence.

Do you believe, as John Paul II did, that "in the designs of Providence, there are no mere coincidences"? Have you experienced any coincidences ('God-incidences') in your life?

2. St. John Paul II chose "Totus Tuus" as his papal motto. Is there a phrase or prayer that you will use as a 'motto'/reminder of your consecration?

3. Who was the first person to entrust himself to Mary?

In his teaching on Marian entrustment, St. John Paul II explains "For it must be recognized that before anyone else it was God himself, the Eternal Father, who entrusted himself to the Virgin of Nazareth, giving her his own Son in the mystery of the Incarnation."

How does this teaching change your perspective on your own consecration (entrustment)?

4. We've learned to ask the Holy Spirit to remind us to ask for Mary's powerful intercession.

How do you remind yourself to run an errand, call someone, or mail a letter? Whom do you ask to help you to remember ordinary, daily things? Why choose those people or things like calendars, alarms, lists to remind us?

Why do you need to ask the Holy Spirit to remind you to ask for Mary's help? What reminders can you use until this becomes a regular practice in your daily life?

5. The gospel of St. John says "[H]e took her to his own home". How will you take Mary into your home – into your physical home and the "inner" home of your heart and soul and prayer?

How will it affect how you dress, speak and act towards others?

What is your favorite statue or image depicting Mary? How does it express her mercy and God's mercy?

C. QUESTIONS FOR PRIVATE REFLECTION

1. Jesus wants Mary and all Christians to share in his mediation through "obedience, faith, hope, and burning charity" (Lumen Gentium, 61). These four will be made easier and secure through Marian consecration.

Which of the four is most difficult for you now? Which is easiest now?

For whom or for what circumstances in your life are these virtues of mediation most important?

2. Our recourse to Mary as Mother and Mediatrix will be made easier and more secure in our personal consecration to Jesus through her, which is only days away now.

What signs have you had in prayer or insights or events that may have confirmed for you that God desires your consecration to Jesus through Mary?

Are you experiencing joy and anticipation at the idea of entering more deeply into the Lord's mercy through the loving hands of Mary?
