

Dear Padre,

How will it happen that Jesus will come again and lead us “through the gates”?

We have it from the best of authorities that the date of the world’s end is hidden. Jesus said, “But of that day and hour no one knows... but the Father alone” (Matthew 24:36). In spite of Christ’s admonition that the day of his Second Coming is known but to God, there have been countless false prophets who have confidently but incorrectly predicted a date for the end of the world. Most of these foolish forecasters based their claims on misinterpretations of the Book of Revelation.

The main purpose of the Book of Revelation is to assure us that God’s power will prevail. In the ongoing struggle between good and evil, there are times when evil seems to have the upper hand. No matter. Evil will be conquered and God’s rule will extend over all creation.

The world might end tomorrow, or next year, or in five billion years. Jesus tells us we can’t know for sure. We are sure, however, that this world will pass away. And for each one of us the world will end at the moment of death. What matters is that we should always be ready to meet Christ.

And we shall be ready if we follow Christ, our Shepherd, whom we meet in today’s Gospel. Jesus leads us safely through this life by his teaching, his example, and his grace.

—Fr. Oscar Lukefahr, CM
Sundaybulletin@Liguori.org



MUBATAART/SHUTTERSTOCK



A WORD FROM Pope Francis

We should never forget: the Church is not a static reality, inert, an end in herself, but is on a continual journey through history, towards that ultimate and marvelous end that is the kingdom of heaven, of which the Church on earth is the seed and the beginning.

—GENERAL AUDIENCE, NOVEMBER 26, 2014

Calendar

Monday
MAY 4
Easter Weekday
Acts 11:1–18
Jn 10:11–18

Tuesday
MAY 5
Easter Weekday
Acts 11:19–26
Jn 10:22–30

Wednesday
MAY 6
Easter Weekday
Acts 12:24–13:5a
Jn 12:44–50

Thursday
MAY 7
Easter Weekday
Acts 13:13–25
Jn 13:16–20

Friday
MAY 8
Easter Weekday
Acts 13:26–33
Jn 14:1–6

Saturday
MAY 9
Easter Weekday
Acts 13:44–52
Jn 14:7–14

Sunday
MAY 10
Fifth Sunday of Easter
Acts 6:1–7
1 Pt 2:4–9
Jn 14:1–12

Our Parish COMMUNITY

May 3, 2020

Fourth Sunday of Easter (A)

Acts 2:14a, 36–41

1 Pt 2:20b–25

Jn 10:1–10



SEPTENIA/SHUTTERSTOCK

The sheep hear his voice, as he calls his own sheep by name and leads them out.

JOHN 10:3

Matters of Life and Death

Sheep are a lot smarter than some people think. They recognize the voice of their particular shepherd and follow that voice alone. However, that is not the point of Jesus’ teaching today. Because most of us don’t raise sheep or know much about them, we don’t realize that the situation described in the Gospel passage is a matter of life and death.

It’s similar to the relationship between a military squad leader and the troops he leads, another life-and-death matter. In both, unquestioning obedience is required, and absolute trust in the other is presumed.

That’s what Jesus is describing. He’s suggesting: “Listen to me. Follow my lead. Trust in me. I want only what is good for you, so I will be your sure protection.”

It sounds so easy, as parables and metaphors usually do. What does it mean to follow this Shepherd? In the first reading, Peter announces the answer in one word: “Repent!” There is that challenging word—the word

we might associate with Lent, not with Easter. If we do so, we miss the point of following the Shepherd, for to follow him means to be like him. It means: “Repent! Stop taking advantage of other people. Open your minds and hearts to newcomers. Respect those who observe different religious traditions. Help those less fortunate than you.” All of this is captured in the final words of the Gospel reading: do what you can so that all “might have life and have it more abundantly” (John 10:10). Clearly, that’s smart.

—Sr. Dianne Bergant, CSA

FOR Reflection

- ★ On what path might the Shepherd be leading you?
- ★ In what area is he calling you to repent?

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***SUNDAY, May 3, 2020 ***

Even though all public celebrations of the Holy Mass are cancelled until further notice, daily Masses are still offered by Fr. Peter. When you watch the livestreamed Mass, please remember to pray for the following Intentions. Let's joyfully celebrate the most important mystery of our faith: the Suffering, Death, and the Resurrection of Jesus Christ. ALLELUIA—HE IS RISEN! ALLELUIA

Sunday, May 03 St. Raphael's Women & Men, for the People

Monday, May 04 Neal Cahoj

Tuesday, May 05 For the Country

Wednesday, May 06 St. Raphael's Women & Men

Thursday, May 07 Mary Perez

Friday, May 08 For the Country

Saturday, May 09 For The People, Clarence Knoll & Steven Burgardt

Sunday, May 10 Teresa Shimkel, Bernie Hugo

CONFESSIONS: Confessions will be heard on Saturday afternoon from 3:00 pm to 3:45 pm; and again on Sunday morning from 8:00 am to 8:45 am; or call for an appointment.

RUMMAGE SALE: We will be having it again this summer (not date has been set), but if you have items you would like to donate we will gladly accept them anytime. You may call any of the following people to bring items to the hall. Tressa Powers 355-6206; Jana Jenkinson 290-5201; Carolyn Robertson 290-5569; Jane Sullivan 355-7341, or Gwen Waechter 355-7203.

COLLECTION for April 26: Envelopes: \$750 ; Online Giving: \$188.17 ; Total \$938.17 ; Average Weekly Expense: \$1,989.55. Income over/under (1,051.38) Maintenance Fund: \$284.30

Thank you so much to our faithful stewards for supporting our parish, diocese, and worldwide Church.

VOCATION VIEW: Whose voice will you follow – the Good Shepherd's or a stranger's? Pray for a listening heart. (John 10:1-10). Do you hear Jesus' call to you? Act on it! If you think God is calling you to be a priest, contact Fr. Juan Salas at 620-227-1533 or vocations@dcdiocese.org.

STEWARDSHIP VIEW: Jesus says, "I came that they may have life, and have it to the full." Good stewards are grateful for the gift of life and joyfully share their abundance with others.

WORD OF LIFE: "Even the weakest and most vulnerable, the sick, the old, the unborn and the poor, are masterpieces of God's creation, made in his own image, destined to live forever, and deserving of the utmost reverence and respect." "Incluso los más débiles y vulnerables, los enfermos, los ancianos, los que están en el vientre y los pobres, son obras maestras de la creación de Dios, hechos a su imagen, destinados a vivir para siempre, y merecedores de la máxima reverencia y respeto."

Q. Do animals go to Heaven?

A. This is a commonly asked question by children and youth. It seems that the deep affection people have for their pets leads them to a strong desire for a "yes" to this question. So the answer is... "yes," "maybe," "not exactly," and "you can hope!" This is a difficult question that does not have a clear and absolute answer. Therefore, any of the answers above could be correct. However, let's offer some clarity and possibilities regarding the afterlife and animals.

First of all, when we humans die right now, that is, when we die in this age in history before Jesus returns to establish "The new Heavens and Earth," we believe that our body and soul separate. The body dies and is "laid to rest" until Jesus returns in all His glory and brings about the resurrection of the body. Until then, the body is dead. However, the spirit of humans lives on. Our spirit cannot die and, thus, Heaven (or Purgatory or Hell) await our spirits after earthly death. Only humans, angels and God have eternal spirits. Animals do not. Therefore, for now, when an animal dies it is dead and there is no spirit that lives on in Heaven.

But wait just a moment! There is hope that your pet, and all creatures, will rise again. How and why? The reason you can have this hope is because from the very beginning of time, in the original state of holiness (the Garden of Eden) it appears there were animals. So, even though animals do not have eternal spirits, they are physical and have what we may call an animal soul. An animal soul does die when the animal dies but there is no telling what may happen at the resurrection of the dead! When Jesus returns in all His glory and all humans rise from the dead will animals and all living creatures also rise? This is something you can hope for.

Furthermore, Isaiah 11:6 speaks prophetically about this new age to come. And in that passage it says, "Then the wolf shall be a guest of the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid; The calf and the young lion shall browse together, with a little child to guide them." So is this a literal statement? Is it proof that animals will rise? Or is it just symbolic and figurative? Hard to tell. However, for that reason it is worth having hope that animals will have some share in the new Heavens and Earth to come! (*Catholic Q&A*)

SUNDAY MEDITATION *The shepherd calls his own sheep by name. (John 10:3)* Good Shepherd Sunday often brings bucolic scenes to mind. Picture a well-groomed shepherd, crook in hand, seated peacefully in lush, green pastures, surrounded by docile sheep. It's beautiful, isn't it? But such an image falls short on two counts. First, shepherd and flock are often dirty and decidedly *not* peaceful. Second, Jesus called himself a "shepherd" as a rebuke to the Jewish leaders who had just rejected him and cast out a man he had cured of blindness. A true shepherd, Jesus told them, knows his sheep well and leads them with care. And Jesus, the *good* shepherd, goes so far that he "lays down his life for the sheep" (John 10:11).

We can read Jesus' words here as a course correction for his opponents, but we can learn something for ourselves as well. For we are all shepherds for God's people in one way or another. We are all called to care for his people by following in Jesus' footsteps. Our "flock" may include our children, our parents, or our catechism class. We may be quiet shepherds welcoming a new family at church or mentoring a coworker. But no matter who is in our flock, we need to remember that the sheep belong to Jesus and not to us. He treasures each one of them and wants us to reflect his own love and self-sacrifice.

So ask yourself, "How well do I know my sheep? Do I know the names of my coworkers or fellow parishioners? Do I know the challenges my loved ones are facing?" Sometimes we are so busy with our own affairs that we overlook the hurt, weariness, or fear in someone right next to us. But following Jesus' example, we can set aside our concerns, "call them by name," and listen to their needs. Perhaps we can even lead them to a place of peace. That's one small way to be a shepherd for God's sheep. "*Jesus, help me to lay down my life for your sheep today.*" (*WordAmongUs*)

Renewal of the Consecration of the United States of America to the Blessed Virgin Mary

May 1, 2020



This prayer of consecration will be offered on behalf of the entire country by the Most Reverend José H. Gomez, Archbishop of Los Angeles and President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops.

The prayer of consecration incorporates language used in consecrations of Popes Pius XII, John Paul II, and Francis, and also from prayers from Masses of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Use this text to pray along with Archbishop Gomez. Making the appropriate adaptations, other bishops can use it to renew the consecration of their dioceses, pastors their parishes, and families or individuals their own households.

When prayed in common, a leader might say the parts in bold, and others might read the Scripture passage and lead the decade of the Rosary. The prayer of consecration could be proclaimed by the leader alone or prayed together.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. R. Amen.

INTRODUCTION

When our Risen Lord appeared to his disciples on Easter Sunday he said: "Peace be with you." We can be confident that he desires this same peace for all the members of his body, the Church, and for the people of the entire world.

In this difficult time we turn to the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church and Queen of Peace, to ask that she intercede with her Son for all those who are affected in any way by this pandemic. As we renew the consecration of our country and of ourselves to the Mother of the God, we implore her maternal care for her children.

OPENING PRAYER

Let us pray.

O God, Father of mercies,
whose Only Begotten Son, as he hung upon the Cross,
chose the Blessed Virgin Mary, his Mother,
to be our Mother also,
grant, we pray, that with her loving help
your Church may be more fruitful day by day
and, exulting in the holiness of her children,
may draw to her embrace all the families of the peoples.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.

R. Amen.

SCRIPTURE READING

John 19:25-27

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John

Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there whom he loved, he said to his mother, "Woman, behold, your son." Then he said to the disciple, "Behold, your mother." And from that hour the disciple took her into his home.

The Gospel of the Lord. R. Thanks be to God.

[REFLECTION]

DECADE OF THE ROSARY

Recalling Jesus' words as he hung on the cross – "Behold, your mother" – we meditate on the fifth sorrowful mystery of the Rosary, *The Crucifixion and Death of Our Lord*.

Our Father
10 Hail Marys
Glory Be

O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell,
and lead all souls to Heaven, especially those in most need of Thy mercy.

PRAYER OF RENEWAL OF OUR CONSECRATION TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Let us now entrust our country and ourselves once again to the Virgin Mary's care:

Most Holy Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church,
you are the fairest fruit of God's redeeming love;
you sing of the Father's mercy
and accompany us with a mother's love.
In this time of pandemic we come to you,
our sign of sure hope and comfort.

Today we renew the act of consecration and entrustment carried out by those who
have gone before us.

Archbishop Gomez:

With the love of a Mother and Handmaid,
embrace our nation which we entrust and consecrate once again to you,
together with ourselves and our families.

A Bishop for his diocese:

With the love of a Mother and Handmaid,
embrace this diocese which we entrust and consecrate once again to you,
together with ourselves and our families.

A Pastor for his parish:

With the love of a Mother and Handmaid,
embrace this parish which we entrust and consecrate once again to you,
together with ourselves and our families.

Families, groups, or individuals:

With the love of a Mother and Handmaid,
embrace us as we renew our consecration to you,
together with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

In a special way we commend to you
those particularly in need of your maternal care.

Mary, Health of the Sick,
sign of health, of healing, and of divine hope for the sick,
we entrust to you all who are infected with the coronavirus.

Mary, Mother of Consolation,
who console with a mother's love all who turn to you,
we entrust to you all those who have lost loved ones in the pandemic.

Mary, Help of Christians,
who come to our rescue in every trial,
we entrust to your loving protection all caregivers.

Mary, Queen and Mother of Mercy,
who embrace all those who call upon your help in their distress,
we entrust to you all who are suffering in any way from the pandemic.

Mary, Seat of Wisdom,
who were so wonderfully filled with the light of truth,
we entrust to you all who are working to find a cure to this pandemic.

Mary, Mother of Good Counsel,
who gave yourself wholeheartedly to God's plan for the renewing of all things in Christ,
we entrust to you all leaders and policymakers.

Accept with the benevolence of a Mother
the act of consecration that we make today with confidence,
and help us to be your Son's instruments
for the healing and salvation of our country and the world.

Mary, Mother of the Church,
you are enthroned as queen at your Son's right hand:
we ask your intercession for the needs of our country,
that every desire for good may be blessed and strengthened,
that faith may be revived and nourished,
hope sustained and enlightened,
charity awakened and animated;
guide us, we pray, along the path of holiness.

Mary our Mother,
bring everyone under your protection
and entrust everyone to your beloved Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

CONCLUDING PRAYER

As we conclude this consecration, we ask the blessing of Almighty God:

Let us pray.
Bestow the grace of your kindness
upon your supplicant people, O Lord,
that, formed by you, their creator,
and restored by you, their sustainer,
through your constant action they may be saved.

R. Amen.

[Bishop or priest:

And may the blessing of almighty God,
the Father, and the Son, ✠ and the Holy Spirit,
come down on you and remain with you for ever. R. Amen.]

[Others:

May the Lord bless us,
protect us from all evil
and bring us to everlasting life. R. Amen.]

REGINA CAELI

As is customary, we conclude our prayer with a Marian hymn:

Regina caeli, laetare, alleluia.
Quia quem meruisti portare, alleluia.
Resurrexit sicut dixit, alleluia.
Ora pro nobis Deum, alleluia.

Queen of Heaven, rejoice, alleluia.
The Son whom you merited to bear, alleluia,
has risen as he said, alleluia.
Pray for us to God, alleluia.

REGINA CAELI, Simple Tone

VI

R E-gína cæ-li * lætá-re, alle-lú-ia: Qui- a quem me-

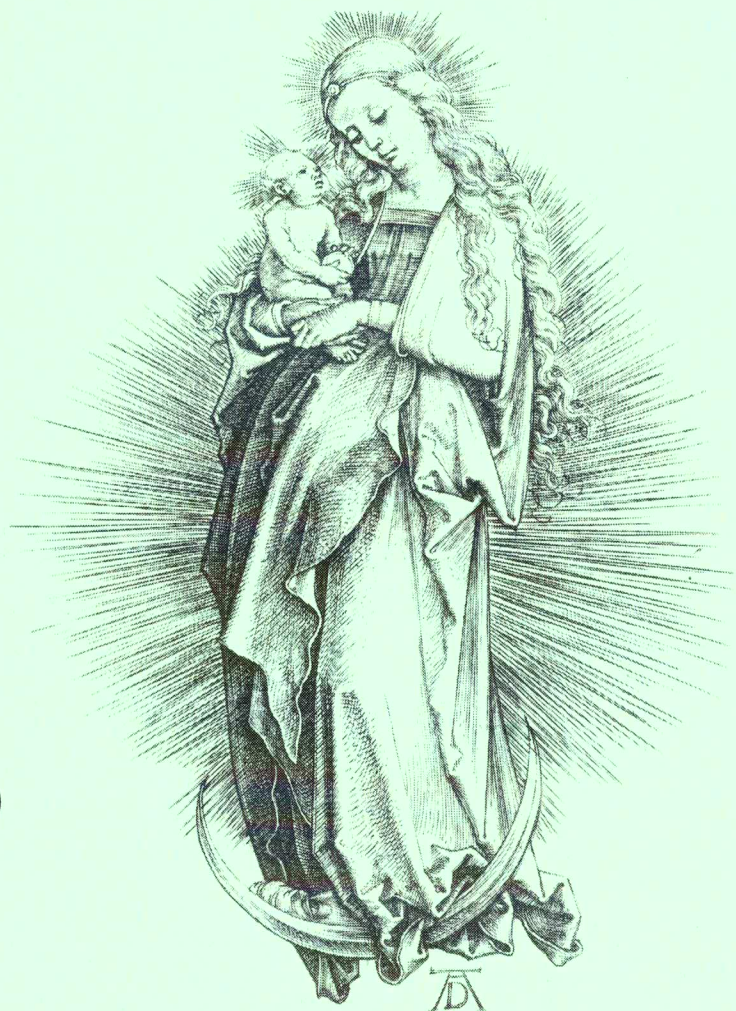
ru- ísti portá-re, alle-lú-ia: Re-surré-xit, sic-ut di-xit,

alle- lú-ia: O-ra pro no-bis De- um, alle-lú- ia.

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Renovación de la Consagración de los Estados Unidos a la Bienaventurada Virgen María

1º de mayo, 2020



*Esta oración de consagración será presentada en nombre de toda la nación
por el Reverendísimo José H. Gomez, Arzobispo de Los Angeles
y Presidente de la Conferencia de Obispos Católicos de los Estados Unidos.*

*La oración de consagración incorpora expresiones utilizadas en consagraciones hechas por los
papas Pío XII, Juan Pablo II, y Francisco,
así como oraciones de Misas de la Bienaventurada Virgen María.*

*Usen este texto para orar junto con el Arzobispo Gómez.
Haciendo las adaptaciones adecuadas, otros obispos lo pueden usar para renovar la
consagración de sus diócesis,
los párrocos de sus parroquias, y las familias o personas individuales de sus propios hogares.*

*Cuando se ore en común, un líder puede decir las partes en negrita,
mientras que otros pueden leer el pasaje de la Escritura y dirigir la década del Rosario.
La oración de consagración puede ser proclamada por el líder solo, o bien ser recitada en común.*

En el nombre del Padre, y del Hijo, y del Espíritu Santo. R. Amén.

INTRODUCCIÓN

Cuando nuestro Señor resucitado se apareció a sus discípulos en el Domingo de Pascua, dijo: “La paz sea con ustedes”. Podemos estar seguros de que Él desea esta misma paz para todos los miembros de su Cuerpo, la Iglesia, y para todos los pueblos de toda la tierra.

En estos tiempos difíciles, acudimos a la Bienaventurada Virgen María, Madre de la Iglesia, rogándole que interceda ante su Hijo por todos los afectados de alguna manera por esta pandemia. Al renovar la consagración de nuestro país y de nosotros mismos a la Madre de Dios, imploramos su cuidado maternal sobre sus hijos.

ORACIÓN INICIAL

Oremos.

Dios, Padre de misericordia,
cuyo Unigénito, clavado en la Cruz,
proclamó como Madre nuestra,
a su propia Madre, María santísima,
concédenos, por su cooperación amorosa
que tu Iglesia, siendo cada día más fecunda,
se alegre por la santidad de sus hijos
y atraiga a su seno a todas las familias de los pueblos.
Por nuestro Señor Jesucristo, tu Hijo,
que contigo vive y reina en la unidad del Espíritu Santo,
y es Dios, por los siglos de los siglos.

R. Amén.

LECTURA DE LA ESCRITURA

Juan 19:25-27

Lectura del santo Evangelio según san Juan

Junto a la cruz de Jesús estaban su madre, la hermana de su madre, María la de Cleofás, y María Magdalena. Al ver a su madre y junto a ella al discípulo que tanto quería, Jesús dijo a su madre: “Mujer, ahí está tu hijo”. Luego dijo al discípulo: “Ahí está tu madre”. Y desde aquella hora el discípulo se la llevó a vivir con él.

Palabra del Señor. R. Gloria a ti, Señor Jesús.

[REFLEXIÓN]

DÉCADA DEL ROSARIO

Recordando las palabras de Jesús clavado en la cruz—“Ahí está tu madre”— meditamos sobre el quinto misterio doloroso del Rosario, *La crucifixión y muerte del Señor*.

*Padre nuestro
Diez Avemarías
Gloria al Padre*

Oh, Jesús mío perdónanos, libranos del fuego del infierno. Lleva todas las almas al cielo, especialmente las más necesitadas.

ORACIÓN DE RENOVACIÓN DE NUESTRA CONSAGRACIÓN A LA BIENAVENTURADA VIRGEN MARÍA

Encomendemos de nuevo a nuestro país y a nosotros mismos a la protección de la Santísima Virgen:

Santísima Virgen María, Madre de la Iglesia,
fruto preciado del amor redentor de Dios
que cantas la misericordia del Padre
y nos acompañas con amor de madre:
en este tiempo de pandemia acudimos a ti,
que eres para nosotros signo seguro de esperanza y de consuelo.

Hoy renovamos la consagración y entrega que realizaron quienes nos precedieron.

Arzobispo Gómez:

Con amor de Madre y Sierva,
acoge a nuestra nación que hoy de nuevo te confiamos y consagramos,
junto con nosotros mismos y nuestras familias.

Un obispo para su diócesis:

Con amor de Madre y Sierva,
acoge a esta diócesis que hoy de nuevo te confiamos y consagramos,
junto con nosotros mismos y nuestras familias.

Un párroco para su parroquia:

Con amor de Madre y Sierva,
acoge a esta parroquia que hoy de nuevo te confiamos y consagramos,
junto con nosotros mismos y a nuestras familias.

Familias, grupos o personas individuales:

Con amor de Madre y Sierva,
acógenos al renovar hoy nuestra consagración a ti,
junto con nuestros hermanos y hermanas en Cristo.

De modo especial te encomendamos
a los más necesitados de tu protección maternal.

María, Salud de los enfermos,
signo de salud, de curación y de esperanza divina para los enfermos
te encomendamos a todos los que están contagiados del coronavirus.

María, Madre de la Consolación,
que consuelas con amor maternal a quienes recurren a ti,
te encomendamos a todos los que han perdido a seres queridos en la pandemia.

María, Auxilio de los cristianos,
que vienes en nuestra ayuda en toda prueba,
encomendamos a tu protección amorosa a todos los que cuidan de otros.

María, Reina y Madre de Misericordia,
que acoges a todos los que recurren a tu auxilio en su angustia,
te encomendamos a todos los que están sufriendo de alguna manera
a causa de la pandemia.

María, Trono de la Sabiduría,
admirablemente iluminada por el esplendor de la verdad,
te encomendamos a todos los que trabajan para encontrar un remedio
para esta pandemia.

María, Madre del Buen Consejo,
que te entregaste de todo corazón al plan de Dios
para la renovación de todas las cosas en Cristo,
te encomendamos a todos los líderes y legisladores.

Acepta con bondad maternal,
el acto de consagración que hoy hacemos confiadamente,
y haznos instrumentos de tu Hijo
para la curación y salvación de nuestra nación y del mundo.

María, Madre de la Iglesia,
coronada como reina a la diestra de tu Hijo,
rogamos tu intercesión por las necesidades de nuestra nación:
que todo deseo de bien quede bendecido y fortalecido,
la fe reavivada y alimentada,
la esperanza sostenida e iluminada,
la caridad suscitada y animada.
Y guíanos a todos por el camino de la santidad.

María, Madre nuestra,
atrae a todos bajo tu protección
y encomiéndalos a tu amado Hijo, Jesucristo, nuestro Señor.
Amén.

ORACIÓN FINAL

Para concluir esta consagración, invoquemos la bendición de Dios todopoderoso sobre su pueblo:

Oremos.
Dios nuestro
concede bondadoso tu gracia llena de amor
al pueblo que te lo suplica.
Y, puesto que tú mismo, habiéndolo creado
quisiste redimirlo,
haz que alcance la salvación gracias a tus cuidados incesantes.
Por Jesucristo, nuestro Señor.

R. Amén.

[Obispo o sacerdote:

**La bendición de Dios todopoderoso,
Padre, Hijo, ✠ y Espíritu Santo,
descienda sobre ustedes. R. Amén.]**

[Otros:

**Que el Señor nos bendiga,
nos guarde de todo mal
y nos lleve a la vida eterna. R. Amén.]**

REGINA CAELI

Como es costumbre, concluimos nuestra oración con un himno mariano:

Regina caeli, laetare, alleluia.
Quia quem meruisti portare, alleluia.
Resurrexit sicut dixit, alleluia.
Ora pro nobis Deum, alleluia.

Reina del Cielo, alégrate, aleluya.
Porque el que mereciste llevar, aleluya,
Resucitó, como había dicho, aleluya.
Ruega a Dios por nosotros, aleluya.

REGINA CAELI, Simple Tone

VI

R E-gí-na cæ-li * lætá-re, alle-lú-ia: Qui- a quem me-

ru- ísti portá-re, alle-lú-ia: Re-surré-xit, sic-ut di-xit,

alle- lú-ia: O-ra pro no-bis De- um, alle-lú- ia.

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