

Journey Together

Completing a Marian Consecration with a Group

Step 1 Choose your group and set your date

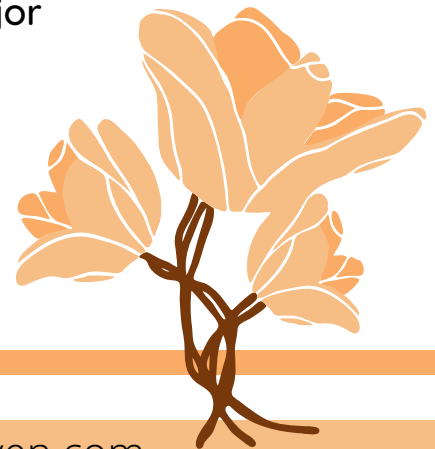
Your group size and location of your members will determine how you go about setting up your journey.

If you already have an existing group that meets regularly, you could decide to tie your consecration in and make it a part of the meetings that already happen. You can have group read the day's meditation out loud and complete the conversation starters together.

Is your group large? You may want to consider adding a Facebook group to stay connected (see below)

Does your group include members without children? Pair Marian Consecration for Families with Young Children with Fr. Michael Gaitley's 33 Days to Morning Glory or St. Louis de Montfort's Total Consecration to Mary. This can be a great way to bridge generational gaps, and is especially wonderful for allowing parish groups and extended families to come together.

When thinking about a date consider the time of year, which feast days are upcoming, and everyone's schedule (you want to avoid major conflicts as much as possible!)



Step 2 Decide on a location (virtual or otherwise)

Is your group going to meet in person or virtually?

If in person, where is your location going to be?

Some ideas to consider:

- a local playground
- meeting room at your parish
- rotating members homes

Make sure that you have room for everyone and their kids!

A “play and pray” format works great for Marian Consecration for Families with Young Children!

If you’re meeting virtually,

choose a service for your meeting and make sure that you have email addresses for everyone. You’ll want to be able to send them the links for the meets.

Note: Make sure that everyone knows which service is being used ahead of time so that they have time to download the app.

If you’re planning on a Facebook Group, keep reading, I’ll address that more in Step 4.



Step 3 Set the Schedule

Decide how often your group is going to meet.

This consecration is 33 days long, and is primarily designed to build the domestic church. It's not likely possible for any group (outside of a nuclear family) to meet every day of the preparation period.

Meeting weekly would give your group the opportunity to share experiences and hearts, while still allowing each family to grow as an individual unit.

Your meeting time will be dependent on the type of group you are:

- if meeting in person a weekend meeting would allow for whole families to be present
- if you're a virtual group, perhaps just the parents "meet" after the kids are in bed to share experiences and encouragement
- consider meeting over a shared meal to increase fellowship

Decide what the agenda will be and what meetings will look like.

Depending on how large your group is and how well you already know each other, you may want to consider some ice breaker questions at the beginning of your journey.

Many groups find a meeting that is part prayer, part discussion of the text, and part catching up to be most beneficial to them, but make sure your members know what to expect ahead of time.



Step 4 Add a Facebook Group

Are you going to have a Facebook Group?

(This can be incredibly helpful for larger groups.)

When starting a FB group, encourage sharing so that you as the administrator are not the only one posting.

Depending on how large your group will be, you may want to add another administrator to your group to share the job of monitoring posts and adding content.

Engagement makes the group come together! The best FB groups are those whose members regularly post insights or questions. You can include an encouragement for your members to post in your welcome post to the group. Consider pinning this post to the top of the page so that new members will see it as they join.

Set the expectations for what the group's rules will be. This will be important if you don't all know each other already or aren't members of an existing group together.

Something to think about:

Are you going to allow conversation on topics outside of the Marian Consecration?

If so, do you want to delineate those or make a list of topics that aren't acceptable for your group?



Step 4 Add a Facebook Group (Cont.)

How often are you going to post and what will your content be?

You don't have to have a hard and fast rule, but you might want to consider ahead of time what your vision is. Are you going to post every week? Every day? Twice a week?

Some ideas:

- Do a welcome/introduction post and encourage your members to share a little about themselves.
- Encourage members to share articles or sites they've come across that touch on topics in Marian Consecration.
- Share articles and content from the Marian Consecration Pinterest Board (<https://www.pinterest.com/cmpressprich/marian-consecration-extra-content/>).
- Ask questions:
 - What was your family's favorite illustration this week?
 - What conversation starter resonated most today?
 - What questions did your kids ask?
 - What have you learned as a parent so far?
 - What has surprised you?
- Add some graphics with an easy to use app like Canva to make your posts pop.



Step 4 Some Extras to Consider

What about book swag?

Would you like each member of your group to receive a signed bookplate or vinyl sticker with the consecration renewal prayer at the beginning of your journey?

Small quantities of book swag are available. Send an email to Colleen at cmpressprich@gmail.com for prices and ordering.

A giveaway is a great way to increase engagement!

You can offer a giveaway to members at various points, during the consecration prep period- it doesn't have to be large, just something to boost the engagement of your group.

Make sure to check out small Catholic artisans on Etsy and Instagram to find ideas.

Would you like a virtual or in person author visit?

Ideas for an author presentation:

- A Q & A about the consecration
- A presentation on one of the apparitions
- Personal testimony of how Marian consecration can be life changing

Contact Colleen at cmpressprich@gmail.com

