

of every courageous heart to compensate our august Sovereign for the revolt or indifference of her ungrateful subjects and to consecrate itself for ever to the service of Her Gracious Majesty, not only with the entire submission required by her rights, but also with the fervent love she deserves for her benefits, her virtues, her beauty and her affection for us.

And to honor at the same time St. Joseph formerly « the great governor of the very small King » as St. Francis de Sales says, why, dear readers, should you not renew your consecration to the Holy Family? If your house be not yet consecrated to that divine Family of Nazareth, make the ceremony still more solemn. Choose a feast of the Blessed Virgin, of the Holy Family or again the first day of January 1901, the first day of the twentieth century; place your image of the Holy Family on a small adorned and illuminated altar which your children will prepare in your own house; or proceed with your family before the altar of the Blessed Virgin in your parish church; then promise all together to say family prayers in the evening and to imitate the virtues of Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

To facilitate such renewal, we reproduce here the formula of consecration composed by His Holiness Leo XIII for the consecration of the Holy Family.

ACT OF CONSECRATION

« O Jesus, our most amiable Redeemer, who being sent from heaven to enlighten the world by Thy doctrine and examples, didst spend the greater portion of Thy mortal life in the humble dwelling of Nazareth, submissive to Mary and to Joseph, and consecrated that Family which was to serve as a model for all Christian families, kindly deign to accept our household which wholly devotes itself to Thee. Protect it, keep it, strengthen it in that holy fear, with the peace and concord of Christian charity, in order that it may become like unto the divine model of Thy family, and that all its members without exception, may participate in its eternal happiness.

O Mary, most loving mother of Jesus-Christ and our Mother also, obtain through Thine affection and clemency, that Jesus accept this our consecration and shower his benefits and blessings upon us.

« O Joseph, most holy guardian of Jesus and of Mary, assist us by thy prayers in all the necessities of our soul and body, in order that with thee and the Blessed Virgin Mary we may forever praise Jesus-Christ our divine Redeemer. Amen.