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*"They were all astounded and glorified God, saying,
'We have never seen anything like this'" (Mk 2:12)*

Thursday, October 4, 2018
Feast of St. Francis of Assisi

My dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

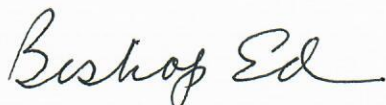
May I offer you a gift that you can share with your family, parishioners and loved ones, which has touched my heart deeply: an Act of Consecration or annual Consecration Renewal to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

On August 15, 2014, shortly after I began my encounter with you as pastor of our diocese, I experienced a life-changing grace through this Consecration first introduced by St. Louis de Montfort. The process I used was an updated version developed by Fr. Michael Gaitley, MIC. May I invite you to share this experience with me, which will culminate in a celebration of the **Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Saturday, December 8th, 2018 at 11:00 AM** in our Cathedral? If you prefer, you could also lead the Consecration with those in your care at the weekend Masses.

Beginning on **Monday, November 5, 2018**, you and those who would be interested can enter into an easy-to-follow daily prayer and reflection opportunities. It's called **33 Days to Morning Glory**. As a good retreat-master, Fr. Michael leads us step-by-step to the Consecration in his very personal and readable book. For all of the resources you need, please visit www.rcda.org/MarianConsecration our dedicated web page, or call Renée, our Coordinator of Parish Services & Respect Life Ministry, at (518) 453-6609.

I look forward to learning from your experience of this unique encounter with God's Mercy. My prayer is that this Consecration will deepen your own journey of faith, enrich the lives those with whom you share it daily, and animate the New Evangelization. Even when this consecration is culminated, Mary's open heart will remain forever our holy door to the heart of Jesus!

Lovingly,



+Edward B. Scharfenberger
Bishop of Albany