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*"Blessed is she who believed  
that what was spoken to her by the Lord  
would be fulfilled" (Lk 1:45)*

March 1, 2019

My dear sisters and brothers in Christ,

The key to all spiritual growth is trust. Our Lenten journey is a day to day process of walking with Our Lord, listening to His voice and letting go of the things we are used to holding onto that claim what is rightfully His. It is all about "letting go and letting God."

It has been my joy and pleasure each year to recommend to you, your family, parishioners, and loved ones a wonderful path to renewed trust in God's mercy, which has touched my heart deeply: an Act of Consecration to the Divine Mercy of Jesus.

May I invite you to share this experience with me, which will culminate in a celebration of **Divine Mercy Sunday, April 28, 2019, at 5:00 PM in our Cathedral?** If you prefer, you could also lead the Consecration with those in your care at the weekend Masses.

Beginning on **Tuesday, March 26, 2019**, you and those who would be interested can enter into easy-to-follow daily prayer and reflection opportunities. It is called **33 Days to Merciful Love**. In this book, inspired by the writings of St. Thérèse of Lisieux, Fr. Michael E. Gaitley leads us step-by-step to the Consecration. For all of the resources you need, please visit [www.rcda.org/DivineMercyConsecration](http://www.rcda.org/DivineMercyConsecration).

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 of those with whom you share it daily, and animate the New Evangelization that we are engaged in throughout our Diocese.

With love and prayers,

*+Edward B. Scharfenberger*

Edward B. Scharfenberger, D.D.  
Bishop of Albany