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**DIOCESE OF
ROCKFORD**

MONDAY, APRIL 27, 2020

COMMUNICATION UPDATE

Bishop Malloy Asks All Catholics to Join U.S. and Canada in Re-consecration of Nations to Mary, May 1

LETTER FROM BISHOP DAVID J. MALLOY

Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

This Friday is May Day, May 1st. So begins the traditional month dedicated to Mary as our Mother.

As a mother, both of Jesus and of all of us, Mary carries out that special maternal role entrusted to her by Jesus on the cross. At this exceptional moment of the outbreak of the coronavirus, here and throughout the world we feel the great need for Mary's protection and her intercession for us in our bodily and our spiritual needs.

This Friday, May 1st, at 2:00 p.m., a special ceremony is going to take place. At that time Archbishop José Gomez, Archbishop of Los Angeles and President of the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops will lead a brief liturgy with the prayer of re-consecration of our nation to our Blessed Mother under her title of Mary, Mother of the Church.

I strongly encourage all of us, if at all possible, to join in that prayer raising our hearts and minds to heaven asking for Mary's intercession for us. In particular, Archbishop Gomez has stated that he will lead us to pray for Mary's "continued protection of the vulnerable, health of the unwell, and wisdom for those who work to cure this terrible virus." We remember as well all of those families and individuals suffering from the lack of employment and income as a result of the numerous closures.

The necessary information including links on social media and the Order of Worship are available on the website of the Diocese of Rockford. Let's join together to pray to Mary as the Mother of the Sick and Mother of the Church, asking her to guide our way in this moment.

Sincerely,
Bishop David J. Malloy

The links to join in this ceremony are
www.rockforddiocese.org
<https://www.facebook.com/usccb/>
<https://twitter.com/USCCB>
<https://www.instagram.com/usccb/>

Attached to this email in a separate document, is a copy of the liturgical ceremony to provide to your parishioners so they may follow along. Please make every effort to use your websites and social media platforms to provide this opportunity for prayer and solidarity to your parishioners.

Established in 1908, the Diocese of Rockford is comprised of 105 parishes in Boone, Carroll, DeKalb, JoDaviess, Kane, Lee, McHenry, Ogle, Stephenson, Whiteside and Winnebago Counties in Northern Illinois serving a Catholic population of more than 300,000. For more about the Catholic Diocese of Rockford visit www.rockforddiocese.org.