

Consecrating Our Lives to God

On the Feast of the Presentation of the Lord

Prepare:
Read Luke 2:22-40



Every year on February 2, we celebrate the formal presentation of the baby Jesus to God. His whole life, even his death, was consecrated to God for our sake. Have you consecrated your life to God?

You were baptized into the life, death and resurrection of Jesus, but have you consciously consecrated your life to him? This is a daily decision, even a moment-by-moment renewal of the decision. It means you fully belong to God, you really want to become like him in holiness, and you really are willing to do whatever he would do for the sake of others.

Okay, who of us really wants to be like Jesus? All the time? Even going to the cross? And giving up all the ways we sin? Oh well, that's why God mercifully provides Purgatory for us. As long as we truly desire to be like Jesus, even though we fail to purge ourselves from sin completely here on earth, we can finish the purification after we die. However, the purging is more painful there, because we will fully and painfully realize how holy and loving God is compared to how little we have loved.

So let's make it easier on ourselves and consecrate *every moment* to God *now*.

This means being in a constant state of prayer, no matter how busy we are. Even when our minds are distracted elsewhere, we're still praying in the spirit if we want God to be involved in everything.

It means putting God in charge of what we do and what we don't do, so that our activities are ordered according to his will and desire. It means identifying what we're attached to in this world, then reprioritizing so that we become attached to God alone.

It means continually asking ourselves, in each and every situation, "Am I sharing God's love right now? If not, what must I do to change?" Even when someone is difficult to love, we want to love and we choose to force ourselves to behave like Christ. And it means that when we are not loved by others like we should be, we let God love us in their place.

Here's a handy tool for getting into the habit of consecrating every moment to God: If you wear a watch that beeps at every hour on the hour, whenever it beeps, take a moment to give the next hour to Jesus. You can start with:

Lord Jesus, help me to live the consecrated life in each and every moment. Holy Spirit, make me aware of the times when I fail to do this and show me how to re-consecrate my life to You. Loving Father, accept my desire to be consecrated to You, and help me embrace Your generous love for me. Amen!