

THE COMMITMENT TO THE HOLY FAMILY



The following ceremony is said on the Solemnity of the Holy Family for those who wish to make or renew the Commitment to the Holy Family. If making this alone make an interior acceptance to the questions and affirmation of the statements.

Person Presiding: In the Name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit.

We will begin our yearly Commitment to the Novitiate of the Holy Family by saying together the consecrations to Our Lady and St. Joseph.

Kneel

Consecration to the Mother of the Hidden and Mystical Wounds.

Dear Mother of the Hidden and Mystical Wounds, Mother of Mercy, Queen of Heaven and Earth, refuge of sinners, we consecrate ourselves and our families to your Immaculate Heart.

Help us to live the Beatitudes and the full beauty of our Baptismal innocence.

Assist us to become true brothers and sisters of the Holy Child Jesus and fitting members of the Holy Family.

Obtain for us a deep love of the Holy Mass, Eucharistic Devotion, the Divine Office, and the holy Rosary.

Teach us to make reparation and do penance for our sins and the sins of the world.

Show us how best to amend our lives according to the Gospel, the Commandments, and the teaching of the Holy Catholic Church and to practise the Christian Virtues with joy and fidelity.

Dear Mother, protect and guide our Holy Father Pope N/..... Christ's Vicar on earth, successor of St. Peter on whom Our Lord founded His Church and promised that the gates of Hell will never prevail against Her. We pledge our love and obedience to our Holy Father and the Bishops and priests who are in union with him.

O Mary our gentle Queen and Mother, bride of the Holy Spirit, tend our wounds and the wounds we have caused. May we reach the joy of Heaven through the Sacred Wounds of Jesus, the intercession of your Hidden and Mystical Wounds and your tender motherly prayers.

Obtain for us holy and saintly vocations, Priests, Religious, single and family members of Divine Innocence willing to live the Novitiate of the Holy Family, for the spread of the Gospel and the good of the Church. Under your motherly care and the fatherly protection of St. Joseph, and in the company of Jesus, help us to become apostles of the way of childlike and Divine Innocence, for the glory of the Most Holy Trinity. Amen.

Act of Consecration of Our Lives to St Joseph.

St Joseph my father and Lord, husband of the Blessed Virgin Mother, we entrust ourselves to your special care and protection. You were the guardian and foster father of Jesus, exercising a father's rights over the Redeemer of all mankind.

St Joseph, silent and hidden in the Scriptures, hidden and silent in the love of God, we wish to place ourselves under your protection.

You cared for the Holy Family, leading them safely away from danger.

Your protection of the Holy Family now includes the Holy Church of God, where you exercise the same care and love for the safety of souls.

To be a member of this Holy Family under your watchful eye is a sure sign for the faithful, that they are safe from their deadly foe. St Joseph, we know too, that there are special graces which come to us through you when we place ourselves under your care. We know also that our faith grows stronger under your protection for we have given you the same place in our lives as Jesus gave during His earthly life.

Dear St Joseph, to entrust ourselves to your care is to live at all times like the Holy Family of Nazareth. Through you we are brought into closer union with Jesus and Our Holy Mother.

Even today you still exercise your protection and guardianship over this Holy Family. We know that our Act of Consecration which we make now will help us to live a perfect and full Christian life.

St Joseph pray for us. Let us wander only in the freedom of the Sons of God. Amen.

Stand

Intention to make the Commitment to The Holy Family

This is the first step for those who are preparing to make the Commitment to the Holy Family. It can be renewed each year until such time as they make their Commitment.

Candidate should come forward to state or renew their purpose to work towards entering fully the Novitiate of the Holy Family.

*Our Lady has indicated in the messages that by submitting your intention to make the Commitment to the Holy Family you submit yourself to their special training as you strive to put in place the various obligations¹ **'given to train your souls and bodies in this order of perfection'** (Jesus: message of 9th February 1996).*

Person Presiding: What do you ask of Our Lord, Our Blessed Lady and St. Joseph?

I ask for a deep desire to live the Novitiate of the Holy Family. Grace to establish the obligations as part of my daily life, to study diligently the Catholic faith and the spirituality of Divine Innocence and finally come to a lifelong Commitment to the ordered life of the Holy Family.

I understand I am taking the first step towards a lifelong formation that will help me reach perfection, I ask the prayers of Our Lady, St Joseph, our holy patrons and the Divine Innocence community to bring me to the final step of making the Commitment to Novitiate of the Holy Family.

Commitment

Those making the Commitment to the Holy Family for the first time come forward.

Person Presiding: Do you agree to undertake this solemn and lifelong commitment to the Novitiate of the Holy Family.

New Candidates: I do

Person Presiding: What do you request of Our Lord, Our Blessed Lady and St Joseph?

New Candidates: *(Say together)* The grace to serve the Novitiate of the Holy Family so as to become a fitting member of the Holy Family.

Person Presiding: Do you agree to strive in the obligations you are undertaking?

New Candidates: I do.

Person Presiding: Will you be committed to this training and formation within the Holy Family in keeping with the teachings of the Catholic Church.

New Candidates: I will.

Holy Family Scapular.

The Holy Family scapular available from the central foundation in Surbiton² is at present a private pious practise. It serves as an outward sign of the Commitment to the Holy Family. The new members come forward to receive the Holy Family Scapular presenting their signed Commitment Form showing the Saint's name they have chosen for their Commitment.

If you are making the Commitment on your own put on the scapular at this point.

Person Presiding:

The Candidate's Saint's name.....

Receive the Holy Family Scapular as an outward sign of your desire to live as a fitting member of the Holy Family.

Invocation of the Saints

The Candidate returns to his or her place. There is a moment's silence while we silently invoke the intercession of the Saints whose names we have chosen for the Commitment. We pray for all those around the world who are striving towards or within the Novitiate of the Holy Family especially those who are making their Commitment for the first time.

Person Presiding: We ask all these saints to intercede for us to obtain the graces we need to serve faithfully the Novitiate of the Holy Family.

New and established members of the Novitiate of the Holy Family

(say together)

I am committed to serve the Novitiate of the Holy Family, to follow Jesus in the Gospel, to be obedient to the teachings of the Catholic Church, and the Holy Father. I promise to study diligently the Catholic Faith and the spirituality of Divine Innocence.³ I will strive to understand and live out my role within the Holy Family. I will carry out the obligations which are part of my formation and given to train me in this order of perfection to live

as a fitting member of the Holy Family. I ask Our Lord, Our Blessed Mother and St Joseph, to bring me up in the Childhood of Christ.⁴ I ask the intercession of our Patron Saints, St Gertrude, St Francis, St Benedict and St Anthony of Padua.

Lord, may we live more perfectly each day the ordered life of the Holy Family, let the example of the Holy Family enlighten our minds and set our feet on the way of peace, for the glory of the Blessed Trinity

Foundation Prayer is now said.

Dear Lord, dear Blessed Mother, St Joseph, found the Order of Divine Innocence and the Novitiate of the Holy Family more and more perfectly in me every day, in all the perfection of the original design of the first Christian Order.

The Prayer of Perfection

O my God Father, Son and Holy Spirit, I desire that You bring my soul to the Perfection and full Glory that You intended for me when you created me, so You receive the greatest Glory and Praise possible. Do not allow my weakness, frailty and sins to impede the action of Your Love. Be fully Glorified in me, in Body, Mind and Spirit.

The Blessing below was given by the Holy Family, Christmas Day 1987. It is to be given on the Feast of the Holy Family to those who make the commitment for the first time or renew it.

Kneel.

May the Little Jesus act in all your actions, speak in all your words, reign in your heart, live in all your intentions and be triumphant in your vocation.⁵

May Our Blessed Lady give you a Motherly heart and be a mother to you. St Joseph protect and guide you.

Through your life and work, may the Crucified Victims of the world be triumphant in Holy Innocence.

May Almighty God Bless your commitment to the Holy Family, in the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

Endnotes

¹ 6th November 2009 1st Friday

Our Lady:.....Do not think of your obligations as rules and regulations but a ladder to help you reach the heights of perfection assisted by God's grace.

Novitiate of the Holy Family Obligations

- ♣ Daily Mass (Wherever possible & where distance to church and duties of life allow)
- ♣ Confession
- ♣ Daily Eucharistic Adoration – Time and attention given to the Eucharistic University, which is bringing what you are learning in particular Scripture and Catholic teaching to Our Lord's Real Presence in the Blessed Sacrament.
- ♣ Morning and Evening Prayer of the Divine Office
- ♣ Study the Faith, keeping in mind the following:
 - i) Catechism of the Catholic Church is the authoritative expression of Catholic faith
 - ii) Study of the Catholic Faith should be systematic (i.e. carried out in a methodical and organized manner)
 - iii) As much as possible link your study to the Eucharistic University
- ♣ Read and meditate on a passage of Scripture daily
- ♣ Rosary (at least five decades)
- ♣ Angelus, 12noon 6pm
- ♣ Study Rule of St Benedict complemented and in the light of the message of Divine Innocence.
- ♣ Read, study and meditate on the Messages of Divine Innocence.
- ♣ Wear the Eucharistic Medal openly
- ♣ Eucharist Chaplet (said before and after Mass)
- ♣ Crucified Innocence Chaplet (whenever possible said between 3pm- 6pm)
- ♣ Divine Innocence Prayers
- ♣ Spiritual and Temporal/Practical help to build up the Catholic Church

²The scapular has not yet received recognition from the Magisterium of the Catholic Church and is for your private devotion, a sign of your desire to live a religious way of life. The Holy Family Scapular is available from: Divine Innocence Trust *PO Box 676A, Surbiton, KT5 8WR. Email: admin@divineinnocence.org*

³ 2nd July 2004. First Friday. At the end of the Walk of Reparation. A 34

Patricia. I had been reading an earlier message dated 15th October 1993. I said to Our Lady: "Dear Mother, you say in this message that 'every home should become the home of Nazareth', but many people live in pagan surroundings and with people, who hardly practice their faith. What are we to do?"

Our Lady. Our Nazareth home was in pagan surroundings and we had to live in the midst of people who worshipped false gods. The Nazareth house itself was a safe haven and that is why God has given this place of safety and peace to you and to all who wish to live as committed members of the Holy Family. Nazareth Universal is not a pleasant spiritual idea, it is a living reality! You are safe here if you follow the house rules of 'God's own household' and learn to walk in my Son's Divine Innocence. What are these rules?

1. Bow to God's control over your life – He leads you with leading bands of love.
2. Obedience to the laws of God and the Catholic Church.

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3. Make your life Christ-centred.
 4. Obedience to the training that Jesus, your heavenly Mother, and St. Joseph have given you in this Way of Divine Innocence and Novitiate of the Holy Family.
 5. Deepen your knowledge of God. Study the Scriptures and your faith. Would you encourage your children to sit in a car with a driver who had little or no knowledge of driving, of the rules of the road and never took notice of where he or she was going – someone who closed their eyes while they drove and paid little or no attention to the destination or the safety of themselves or their passengers? Yet many people, many Catholics and Christian people who are not Catholics, journey through life like this. It is irresponsible and dangerous for your souls and the souls of others.

Those in your family who act like this need your prayers and good example. Seek first the Kingdom of God. Take up your journey's maps; the Bible, the catechism and teaching of the Catholic Church. Follow the example of those who have made this journey before you – the Saints. Read their lives.

Have a set programme of prayer (the Divine Office and devotions) and study. You do not know the day or the hour when your Lord will come and ask an account of your life. What will you say?

Some may think even after so much encouragement and so many warnings, "I will not listen to this advice, not even from the Mother of God. I am comfortable with my own programme, I will not strive to advance."

I do not encourage you to holy discipline for my sake but so you can enjoy a greater glory when your Lord comes. All can advance in the Way of Perfection. We will help you but you need to make the effort. Sloth is a deadly sin!

Those in charge of the children are the ones who should teach the right attitude towards the study of the faith to their children. Do not send them out into the world as reckless drivers!

Patricia. Dear Mother, there are so many wilful people in the world and in our families, who refuse to take instruction.

Our Lady. They cause the loss of souls, their own and others, or they suffer in proportion to their disobedience.

Thank the people for their Walk of Reparation. Ask them to walk in the reparation of the study of their faith and give joy to the Holy Family - your own family! My Blessing +.

⁴ **31st December 2000. Feast of the Holy Family. Nazareth House. New Commitments. Renewal of Commitments. Intention to make the Commitment. (Extract)**

Patricia. The Holy Family is here. In a spiritual sense, I kneel beside Our Lady close to Our Lord (the Child Jesus) and close to St. Joseph. Speaking for the Holy Family, Our Lady said:

Our Lady. We have come to receive with joy the new intentions, the new Commitments and the deeper commitments of those who have already taken their Commitment. Some of you must take your Commitment alone and some of you are able to join with other members, but to us, you are all as one dear family - our family, the Holy Family. No one is forgotten or forsaken. You have brothers and sisters in growing numbers in many countries. Little by little your numbers will grow into the Holy Catholic (Universal) Family within the original design. You will understand more and more clearly the dignity of being a member of God's own Household, the Holy Family itself. It is the destiny of mankind to belong to this original

Christian family. What joy will be yours when you are able to embrace your brothers and sisters of all races and peoples and truly know and live as true members of the Holy Family. The full beauty of the Trinitarian life of this original design is yours and has been so since the beginning. The perfection of your motherly and fatherly, male and female roles comes to perfection within the Holy Family in holy and childlike innocence through the Novitiate of the Holy Family. Do not be afraid of this training! We are with you to help you to walk in the Holy and Divine Innocence of Jesus by easy and gentle steps. Follow Him! He has shown you the gentle slopes and byways of green pastures. He is the Good Shepherd who leads you by still waters and the good pastures of holiness. There is no simpler way to reach perfection than the Way of Christ's Divine Innocence. Each year, with the renewal of your Commitment, He is born anew within you and your vocation. Do not be discouraged by your failures. They are to us falls that draws us quickly to your side (like parents who rush to pick up a child that has fallen), not to condemn, but to lift you up, bathe your wounds and set you upon the right road again.

Patricia. The Infant Jesus speaks:

Infant Jesus. Follow Me in Divine Innocence! Be My companions - I love you!

Patricia. St Joseph speaks:

St. Joseph. Each one of you is my special concern and under my protection!

Patricia. The Infant Jesus blesses us and our Lady and St. Joseph give us their motherly and fatherly blessing.

⁵ **The Rule of Love - Constitution of the Child Jesus**

Patricia. I was thinking about the Rules and Constitution for the Children of Divine Innocence and thought that they should be very simple. I asked the Infant Jesus.

Patricia. Little King, what are the Rules of this Community?

Infant Jesus. The first Rule is Love, the last Rule is Love and all the Rules in between are Love.

Patricia. What is the Constitution, Little King?

Infant Jesus. Your Constitution is My Constitution.

Infant Jesus. What is the Constitution of My Childhood? (Our Lord spoke about the physical and spiritual constitution of His Childhood.) The Constitution of a healthy, holy, little child, strong and joyful and full of happiness, who quickly recovers after a fall; naturally loving and kind; full of warmth and innocence; trusting and good; forgets wrongs quickly; affectionate and peaceable; bears the wounds inflicted by others with love and resignation.

Jesus: A Child of Divine Innocence:

- trusts and is trusted;
- loves its Heavenly Mother and its Mother the Church;
- is docile and obedient and shows loving fidelity to the Holy Father;
- is confident under the care of its Heavenly Mother and the guardianship of St Joseph;
- would never do anything that would grieve or shame the Holy Family;
- knows the faith of the One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church and studies it with diligence and love;
- keeps the commandments;
- loves silence, because it is in that silence that one hears the voice of God;
- loves the Song of Love and strives to sing it to perfection.

This is your Rule and Constitution; you follow the house rules of the Holy Family in Bethlehem and Nazareth. In a spiritual sense the child of Divine Innocence is born in Bethlehem and in Nazareth grows in stature and wisdom. Look to the example and virtues of your Heavenly Mother and St. Joseph, and the Child Jesus who is the perfection of the way of Divine and Christ like Innocence.

If you have decided to make the Commitment to the Holy Family please complete the following form as a first step.

Notice of Intended Commitment to the Holy Family

I (name).....wish to state my intention that after a suitable time of preparation I will make my Commitment to the Holy Family.

During this time I will strive to establish the obligations as part of my life.

I understand I am taking the first step towards a lifelong training in the Novitiate of the Holy Family that will help me reach perfection.

Signature:.....

Date:.....

Name (Print):.....

Address:.....

.....

Town:.....

County:.....

Postcode:.....

Email:.....

Phone No:.....

Please send the completed form to *The Family of Divine Innocence*. PO Box 676A, Surbiton, Surrey.KT5 8WR. or email it to admin@divineinnocence.org

Family Obligations

9th February 1996 Nazareth House.

P. Our Lord commented on the obligations of the Commitment of the Holy Family.

J. The obligations given to you to train your souls and bodies in this order of perfection, through a solemn Commitment to strive to live as fitting members of the Holy Family and the life of the Blessed Trinity, are a testimonial of ability and good habits.

6th November 2009 1st Friday.

Our Lady:.....Do not think of your obligations as rules and regulations but a ladder to help you reach the heights of perfection assisted by God's grace.

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This form is to be completed on the Feast of the Holy Family

Feast of the Holy Family Commitment to the Holy Family

I (name).....understand
the obligation that I undertake in making the Commitment to the
Holy Family. I freely agree to these obligations and promise to
strive to fulfil them faithfully.

I ask St.....(Saints name
chosen) to intercede for me and obtain the graces I need to
become a fitting member of the Holy Family.

Signed.

Date.....

Name (Print).....

Address:.....

.....

Town:.....

County:.....

Country:.....

Post Code:.....

E mail

Phone Number.....

**Please send the completed form to *The Family of Divine Innocence*
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