



DIOCESE OF VENICE IN FLORIDA

OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

May 13, 2026

Dear Monsignor/Father,

On June 11, 2026, as part of the celebration of the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence, the U.S. bishops will consecrate the United States of America to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, recognizing and celebrating the contributions of Catholics and the impact of our faith on the history of this country.

Consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus signals to God that His goodness is not forgotten and that our country relies on God's providence for continued flourishing, bringing blessing and hope to a country suffering from wounds of division and an epidemic of loneliness. More about what consecrating the United States of American to the Sacred Heart of Jesus means and how it can bless our nation can be found [here](#).

As was previously shared (Mustard Seed, April 24, 2026), all Catholics are encouraged to join the United States bishops in praying for the unity and healing of our country. **Parishes nationwide, including here in the Diocese of Venice, are asked to join in this consecration.** Guidance for clergy in planning this celebration within a Mass can be found in the document attached, or online [here](#).

One opportunity for parishes and individuals to participate is by contributing to a collective **250 Hours of Adoration and 250 Works of Mercy**. Guidance for how to participate in both can be found [here](#).

Further, a **Novena to the Sacred Heart of Jesus** will begin on June 3, 2026. It is asked that all the faithful in the Diocese of Venice join the U.S. Church in praying this Novena, which draws its daily devotions from the **Litany of the Sacred Heart**. The Novena, which will conclude with the Consecration on June 11, can be found [here](#). A **Prayer** to the Sacred Heart of Jesus is attached in English and Spanish.

Additional resources from the USCCB regarding the 250th commemoration and celebration can be found [here](#). Your attention to this historic moment for the Church, the country, and the Diocese of Venice, is appreciated, and promises to make the country's semiquincentennial a sacred, holy time for Catholics, a time of healing.

Please be assured of my continued prayers for you, and your ministry.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

+ Frank J. Dewane
Bishop of the Diocese of
Venice in Florida

FJD/nml