



THE ARCHDIOCESE OF AGANA

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NEWS RELEASE

Archdiocese to reconsecrate island to Blessed Virgin Mary in unity with Church in United States, Canada

Archbishop Michael Byrnes will reconsecrate our island to the Blessed Virgin Mary on Saturday, May 2, 2020 in line with the Catholic Church's efforts in the United States and Canada.

The reconsecration will take place during 5 a.m. Mass on Saturday which will be broadcast from the Dulce Nombre de Maria Cathedral-Basilica, Hagatna on KUAM TV Channel 8 as well as live-streamed on KUAM's Facebook site and the aganacathedral.org website.

Following the Mass, the historic statue of Santa Marian Kamalen will travel through island villages and pass all of Guam's Catholic churches. It will be the first time the image will be taken down from its niche at the Cathedral-Basilica for other than the annual celebration of the feast of the Immaculate Conception every Dec. 8.

Archbishop Byrnes asks all faithful to remain united in prayer and to look to the model of deep faith and devotion to our Savior, Jesus Christ that our loving patroness and Blessed Mother presents to us.

The faithful are encouraged to stand outside their respective homes in prayer or even by the roadsides and where applicable, wave should they see the passing vehicle carrying the statue of Santa Marian Kamalen. Everyone is kindly asked to strictly adhere to safety protocols related to COVID-19 and keep distances of at least six feet from one another.

The reconsecration will be done in unity with the Catholic Church in the United States which will reconsecrate itself to Mother Mary in response to the COVID-19 pandemic which has afflicted the U.S. and many parts of the world.

Archbishop Jose Gomez, president of the U.S. bishops' conference, invited all U.S. bishops to join him on May 1 (May 2 for Guam due to the time difference) in reconsecrating the U.S. to the Blessed Virgin Mary amid the difficulties of the global pandemic.

The consecration of Guam and the U.S. will take place at the same time the bishops of Canada will consecrate their country to our Blessed Mother.

In a letter to U.S. bishops, Archbishop Gomez, the Archbishop of Los Angeles, said, "Every year, the Church seeks the special intercession of the Mother of God during the month of May. This year, we seek the assistance of Our Lady all the more earnestly as we face together the effects of the global pandemic."

Italy's bishops said they would also be consecrating their country to Mother Mary.

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