

December 7, 2020

On December 8, a special feast for the **United States** and Canada, we celebrate the feast of the **Immaculate Conception**. This feast centers on the belief that Jesus' mother, the Virgin Mary, was **conceived** without sin. It is **special** for us because:



In 1792 Bishop John Carroll, **consecrated our nation to Mary** under the title of the **Immaculate Conception**.

In 1846, the U.S. bishops unanimously **rededicated** the United States to the **Immaculate Conception** as **patroness of the nation**,

On **May 1, 2020**, during the **coronavirus pandemic**, **Archbishop Gregory**, (now **Cardinal Gregory**) rededicated our country to **Mary's protection** under the title of the **Immaculate Conception**. In renewing the consecration during the **COVID-19 pandemic**, the Archbishop invoked the **Blessed Mother** under her **various** titles:

“Mary, Health of the Sick ... we entrust to you all who are infected with the **coronavirus**.

“Mary, Mother of Consolation ... we entrust to you all those who have **lost** loved ones in the pandemic.

“Mary, Help of Christians ... we entrust to your loving protection all **caregivers**.

“Mary, Queen and Mother of Mercy ... we entrust to you all who are **suffering** in any way from the **pandemic**.

“Mary, Seat of Wisdom ... we entrust to you all who are working to find a **cure** to this pandemic.

“Mary, Mother of Good Counsel ... we entrust to you all **leaders** and **policymakers**.

Let us add our **“Amen”** to these prayers as we continue to pray for all who have Covid19, caregivers, unemployed, and those suffering in any way from this virus.