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# FROM THE CHAPLAINCY

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## Dear Woodrose Parents

On August 15, 2015, the Woodrose school chapel was given the name the Chapel of Our Lady of the Rose during the Solemn Eucharistic celebration that included the liturgical coronation of the statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary in the chapel. The Marian title of Our Lady of the Rose was suggested by the former school director, Dr. Socorro Bautista, in honor of a Marian intervention in the life of St. Josemaria and the history of Opus Dei while he was crossing the Pyrenees during the Spanish civil war. This special Marian intervention involved a gilded wooden rose that St. Josemaria found among the ruins of the church in the forest of Rialph. For St. Josemaria, that gilded wooden rose that once adorned the altar piece of the church was a sign from the Blessed Mother that he should proceed with the established plan to cross over to France and that everything will be alright.

Below is one of the first photos taken of the Marian statue after it was installed in the chapel showing our Lady with a rose in her right hand.



What follows is a brief story of the statue Our Lady of the Rose in the Woodrose chapel.

## The Story of Our Lady of the Rose

In 1993, the statue of our Lady was installed in the new school chapel in the niche where she is now. Since then, this statue has watched our Woodrose with her motherly gaze. Then in 2014, cracks appeared on our Lady's face and chest. It

was as if she cried and her heart was broken. She appeared sad though her smile was still there. We could not help but ask ourselves, *What have we done to make her so sad?*

Below are two other photos showing the cracks on her face and on her chest.



The statue was taken down from the pedestal and was brought to a shop for repair. When the statue was brought back after several months, there was a big welcome from everyone. Parents,

teachers, students and the school staff brought flowers and spent time in prayer before the restored statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary.



The face of the restored statue of Mama Mary looks so sweet, lovely and youthful. She also has that serene joy so characteristic of her temperament and character. Her demeanor inspires trust and confidence and seems to invite everyone to come closer and spend time talking to her.



In the same Eucharistic celebration where the statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary was crowned under the title Our Lady of the Rose, the consecration of the Woodrose to the Immaculate Heart of Mary followed.

Below is the formula of the consecration that is renewed every August 15, Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

## Consecration of Woodrose to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

O Mary most holy, by having conceived Jesus in your virginal womb, you have become for us Mother of grace and of life, of mercy and pardon. Graciously accept the consecration of Woodrose that we now make to your Immaculate Heart.

Holy Mary, our hope, seat of wisdom, handmaid of the Lord, Mother of fair love: through your powerful intercession make this consecration pleasing to Jesus.

We consecrate to you our being and our life; everything that is ours: all that we love and all that we are. Our bodies, our hearts and our souls are for you; our failures, successes and struggles. We, our studies, our sports and fun, are yours. We want that everything, in us and around us, to belong to you and to share in your motherly blessings.

And to make this consecration truly effective and lasting, today at your feet, O Mary, we renew our love and the offering of our life to God.



Let us pray.

O Heart of Mary, Mother of God and our Mother; most sweet Heart, perfect image of the Heart of Jesus, listen to the petitions that, with filial piety, we address to you:

Set our poor hearts aflame so that we may love God the Father, God the Son and God the Holy Spirit with all our heart, mind, soul and strength. Raise us, O Mother, to a state of perfect love of God and lead us forward in life along the path you have prepared for us.

Inspire us with a deep love for the Church and the Pope, and make us live in full submission to all their teachings.

Give us a patriotic love for our nation so that we may champion the cause of the dignity of man and the well-being of society.

May we always maintain a loyal love for Woodrose, our alma mater. Help us to be appreciative of and docile to the personal and character formation we receive.

Give us an ardent zeal for learning which enables and allows each of us to improve and to become better Christians and citizens. Teach us to sanctify our studies and to love our work so as to be able to place Christ on top of all human activities. Help us to be respectful, responsible and deeply concerned about others.

Grant us the gift of fortitude to make us persevering in the struggle for personal improvement and the gift of piety which will teach us the meaning of being daughters of God and sisters of all mankind. May we always yield the fruit you expect of us.

We consecrate to you all the members of the Woodrose family: our parents, our teachers, our officers, our administrative staff, our students and our alumnae. May we all be models of virtue that you want us to be.

And since your prayer is all-powerful in the presence of God, allow us to choose you as special protector: so that after a holy life here on earth, we may have the happiness of praising the Blessed Trinity with you forever in heaven. Amen.

Immaculate Heart of Mary, prepare for us a sure way. (3x)