

Manual of Devotions



Our Lady of Prompt Succor

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NATIONAL SHRINE

OF

OUR LADY OF PROMPT SUCCOR

Our Lady of Prompt Succor
National Shrine
Ursuline Convent

URSULINE CONVENT

2635 State Street New Orleans 18, Louisiana

18440

Historical Sketch of the
Miraculous Statue of
Our Lady of Prompt Succor

The Ursuline Monastery of New Orleans was founded under the auspices of Louis XV, King of France, by a band of French Ursulines, who, on February 22, 1727, set sail on the "Gironde" from Lorient, a port of Brittany, and reached the Crescent City on the morning of August 7th of the same year.

Almost immediately after their arrival, the nuns began to teach the children of the colonists, to instruct the Indian and Negro races and to nurse the sick in the hospital placed under their care. As the years rolled by, reinforcements came from France to fill the voids occasioned by death; but in 1763, when Louisiana became a Spanish possession, the Ursuline community then had to recruit its subjects from that nation. In 1800, however, Louisiana having been retroceded to France, great excitement reigned among the Spanish nuns, who feared a repetition in the Colony of the recent horrors of the French Revolution. Therefore, on October 4, 1802, the superioress, Mother St. Monica Ramos, a native of Havana, addressed a petition to Charles IV, King of Spain, requesting the favor to retire with her community to her native city; and, without waiting for the royal answer, she, with fifteen

Nihil Obstat

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Archbishop of New Orleans

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Religious, left the Monastery of New Orleans on May 29, 1803.

Only seven Ursulines now remained; yet, full of confidence and zeal, they successfully maintained their boarding school, day school, and orphanage, as well as their courses of instruction for negresses. It was at this time that Mother St. André Madier felt inspired to appeal to a cousin of hers, an Ursuline in France, whom the Reign of Terror had driven from her monastery.

Agathe Francoise Gensoul, in religion, Mother St. Michel, was not only a person of culture and refinement, but was highly talented and remarkably pious. Although expelled from her Convent of Pont-Saint-Esprit, and compelled to conceal even her title of religious, she continued to cherish and foster the spirit of her holy vocation; and, at the first indication of religious toleration, she hastened to resume her apostolic labors with renewed ardor, endeavoring to repair the havoc wrought by the French Revolution. The task was not an easy one, as the guillotine, exile and untold privations had severed the earthly ties of nearly all her former Sisters in religion, and to try to reunite the few that remained was utterly impossible. Yet, remembering that as an Ursuline she was in duty bound to devote her life to the instruction of youth, she determined to open in Montpellier, conjointly with Miss Sophie Ricard, another Ursuline, a boarding-school for young girls. This flourishing academy was fully realizing all the hopes which the bishop of the diocese had placed in it, when Mother St. Michel received from Mother St. André Madier, her cousin in Louisiana,

the letter stating the shortage of subjects in the New Orleans convent, which impelled her to abandon her own works of zeal to go to the relief of her Sisters across the Atlantic.

Numerous and almost insuperable obstacles stood in the way to debar Mother Gensoul from responding to her cousin's appeal; but these difficulties merely served to show forth more conclusively the miraculous intervention of Our Lady of Prompt Succor, as the following facts prove.

France was just issuing from the Revolution; ruins lay on all sides. As there had been neither priest nor nun to teach the young, the rising generation was encompassed by the appalling gloom of religious ignorance, devastated monasteries, profaned churches and desecrated altars. A woman like Mother St. Michel was a treasure for her country, for she was a person of no ordinary ability; and as her work as a teacher had already been crowned with wonderful success, her bishop would not even think of dispensing with her services. When her spiritual director was consulted on the subject of her leaving for Louisiana, he would give no answer; and when Mother Gensoul applied directly to Bishop Fournier, the prelate gave expression to his surprise, grief and firm opposition in these forceful words: "THE POPE ALONE CAN GIVE THIS AUTHORIZATION." . . . "THE POPE ALONE!" These words were equivalent to a determined refusal, for the Pope was in Rome. The distance was great; means of communication then were not what they are today; and, moreover, Pius VII was a real captive at Rome, held in custody by Napoleon and awaiting to

be dragged to Fontainebleau. The jailers of the Pope had received strict injunctions to prevent all communication, even by letter with the Vicar of Christ; consequently, writing to the Pope and expecting an answer from him were, seemingly, acts of folly. Nevertheless, on December 15, 1808, Mother St. Michel wrote to the Sovereign Pontiff. Having set forth her motives for wishing to go to New Orleans, she concluded thus: "Most Holy Father, I appeal to your apostolic tribunal. I am ready to submit to your decision. Speak. Faith teaches me that you are the voice of the Lord. I await your orders. "GO" or "STAY," from Your Holiness, will be the same to me."

The letter had been written three months and no opportunity for sending it had yet presented itself, when, one day, as Mother St. Michel was praying before a statue of Mary, she felt inspired to address the Queen of Heaven in these words: "O Most Holy Virgin Mary, if you obtain a PROMPT and FAVORABLE answer to my letter, I promise to have you honored in New Orleans under the title of OUR LADY OF PROMPT SUCCOR." As an undeniable proof that Mother Gensoul's trustful prayer was pleasing to her, and that she really wished to be honored in New Orleans under this title, Mary quickly performed the two miracles laid down as conditions by Mother St. Michel; for the letter left Montpellier on March 19, 1809, and the answer is dated Rome, April 28, 1809. This first condition of a "prompt" reply is all the more miraculous owing to the above given reasons of the captivity of the Pope. The second con-

dition is no less marvelous, for we must bear in mind that Pius VII knew the state of affairs in France and the need of apostles like Mother St. Michel to regenerate it; and yet he does not hesitate to approve of her leaving for the New World, as the following extract from Cardinal Di Pietro's letter shows:

"Madame, I am charged by Our Holy Father, Pope Pius VII, to answer in his name. His Holiness cannot do otherwise than approve of the esteem and attachment you have fostered for the Religious state, and the spirit of the Institute of St. Ursula you have maintained. The Holy Father experienced the greatest consolation on learning that a Monastery of so useful an Order as that of the Ursulines, and which has rendered such signal services to the Church, is established in Louisiana, and that piety, peace and the most exact regularity reign therein. His Holiness approves of your placing yourself at the head of your religious aspirants, to serve as their guide during the long and difficult voyage you are about to undertake . . ."

The two conditions of a "prompt" and a "favorable" reply had been fulfilled by Mary. Bishop Fournier was so surprised at this truly miraculous issue that he acknowledged himself vanquished, and requested the privilege of blessing the statue of Our Lady which Mother Gensoul had ordered to be carved, according to her promise, and which was to be the protection of the pious missionaries on their voyage across the Atlantic. On their arrival in New Orleans, December 30, 1810, this precious statue was solemnly installed in the Convent Chapel, and from that time

the homage and veneration offered to Mary under the title of "OUR LADY OF PROMPT SUCCOR" has been constantly growing in our city and state and spreading far and wide all over the United States.

It does not come within the sphere of this brief sketch to relate all the favors, both spiritual and temporal, wrought through the intercession of Our Lady of Prompt Succor during the past one hundred years and more. The Chronicles of the Ursuline Monastery sum up these graces by saying: "Under this title, the Most Blessed Virgin has so often manifested her power and goodness, that the Religious have unbounded confidence in her."

Two historical facts are especially worthy of notice here: the fire in 1812, and the Battle of New Orleans in 1815. Devotion to Our Lady of Prompt Succor was only beginning to be known in New Orleans when, in 1812, a terrible fire ravaged the city. The wind rapidly drove the flames toward the Convent, and the danger being imminent, order was given to leave the cloister. Just then, Sr. Anthony, a lay sister, placed a small statue of Our Lady of Prompt Succor on a window sill facing the fire, and Mother St. Michel prayed aloud: "Our Lady of Prompt Succor, we are lost, unless you hasten to our help." Instantaneously, the wind changed, the Convent and environs were out of danger, and the flames extinguished. Witnesses of this prodigy cried out unanimously: "Our Lady of Prompt Succor has saved us!"

Jackson's glorious victory over the British in the battle of New Orleans, fought on the plains of

Chalmette, January 8, 1815, is another signal favor rightly attributed to the all-powerful intercession of Our Lady of Prompt Succor. Before the combat, in order to obtain God's blessing upon the American arms, the weeping, terror-stricken wives, mothers, daughters and sisters of Jackson's valiant little band spent the night of January the 7th in prayer before the statue of Our Lady of Prompt Succor, in the Ursuline Chapel. On the morning of January the 8th, Very Rev. William Dubourg, Vicar General, and later Bishop of New Orleans, offered the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass at the main altar above which the statue had been placed, and the Ursulines, through their Superiorress, Mother Ste. Marie Olivier de Vezin, made the vow to have a Mass of Thanksgiving sung annually should the Americans be victorious. At the moment of Communion, a courier rushed into the chapel, announcing the glad tidings of the enemy's defeat. After Mass Father Dubourg intoned the Te Deum, which was sung in enthusiastic accents of the liveliest gratitude; for no one could reasonably doubt of the miraculous intervention of Our Lady of Prompt Succor. Jackson himself did not hesitate to admit of a Divine interposition in his favor, and came in person to the Convent, accompanied by his staff, to thank the nuns for their prayers in his behalf. The vow made by the Ursulines has been faithfully kept throughout these long years.

Rome has officially approved "DEVOTION TO OUR LADY OF PROMPT SUCCOR." Most precious documents have, at different times, emanated from the

Holy See, placing the Seal of Holy Church on this devotion and conferring special privileges upon it. On September 27, 1851, His Holiness, Pius IX, graciously authorized the celebration of the feast of Our Lady of Prompt Succor and the singing of the yearly Mass of Thanksgiving on January the 8th. This Papal Decree was promulgated in his Diocese by Archbishop Antoine Blanc, on August 6, 1852.

On June 21, 1894, His Holiness, Leo XIII, enriched with numerous indulgences the Confraternity of Our Lady of Prompt Succor which Archbishop Francis Janssens canonically erected in the Ursuline Chapel of New Orleans on January 8, 1895. By a new Rescript of Leo XIII in 1897, this Confraternity was raised to the rank of an Archconfraternity.

Finally, a Decree of Leo XIII, dated from Rome, June 21, 1894, and issued from the Palace of the Sacred Congregation de Propaganda Fide, granted the signal favor of the "**Solemn Coronation of the Miraculous Statue of Our Lady of Prompt Succor, exposed to public veneration in the Chapel of the Ursuline Convent, New Orleans**" — this is the wording of the decree — and officially delegated Archbishop Janssens to crown the Miraculous Statue in the Pope's name. This imposing ceremony of the Coronation — **the very first of its kind in the United States** — took place on Sunday, November 10, 1895, and was marked by unusual pomp and all the magnificence of the Catholic Ritual. Each year, the anniversary of this glorious event is commemorated at the Ursuline Convent by a Mass of Thanksgiving and the chanting of the Te Deum.

On January 8, 1911, the Centenary of the arrival of the Miraculous Statue (December 30, 1810) was celebrated with a splendor recalling the grand ceremonies of the Solemn Coronation; and on Tuesday, January 8, 1924, the Blessing and Dedication by Archbishop John William Shaw of the new National Shrine of Our Lady of Prompt Succor — a superb monument of Christian art — rivaled in religious pomp, enthusiasm and wondrous beauty the magnificence of the preceding manifestations of love and loyalty to Louisiana's benign Queen, Our Lady of Prompt Succor.

The solemn Consecration of this new shrine took place on the sixth of January, 1928, and this grandiose ceremony formed a fitting opening of the celebration of the bi-centenary of the foundation of the Ursuline Convent.

At the request of Their Excellencies Most Reverend John William Shaw, Archbishop of New Orleans, Most Reverend Cornelius Van de Ven, Bishop of Alexandria, and Most Reverend Jules B. Jeanmarie, Bishop of Lafayette, in a decree rendered on the thirteenth day of June, 1928, by the Sacred Congregation of Rites, the Holy See approved and confirmed the choice of Our Lady of Prompt Succor as the Principal Patroness of the City of New Orleans and of the State of Louisiana, conceding at the same time each and all of the liturgical privileges proper to the principal patrons of places.

Accordingly, each year, the Patronal Feast shall be celebrated on the fifteenth day of January, with first class rank, and with proper Mass and Office duly ap-

proved; permission being granted to celebrate one Mass, solemn or sung, of the same Patronal Feast on the eighth day of January, the anniversary date of the battle of New Orleans.

On December 30, 1960, the Solemn Sesquicentennial of the arrival of Our Lady of Prompt Succor in Louisiana was observed. Representing Archbishop Joseph F. Rummel, who was hospitalized at the time due to an unfortunate fall, the Most Reverend Louis Abel Caillouet, auxiliary bishop of New Orleans offered the Solemn Pontifical Mass of Thanksgiving in the midst of all the Bishops of the State of Louisiana and a large number of the clergy and laity. The sermon was preached by the Most Reverend Alonso Escalante, D.D., national director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith for Mexico, and founder of the Mexican Foreign Mission Society.

May devotion to Mary under her hope-inspiring title of Our Lady of Prompt Succor spread far and wide! To invoke Our Lady under this title, is it not telling her that our needs are great and pressing, and that we hope and expect much from her? Her power equals her love; therefore, our confidence should know no bounds.

Our Lady of Prompt Succor, hasten to help us!

Novenas to Our Lady of Prompt Succor

A private novena to Our Lady of Prompt Succor may be made at any time during the year; and for any favor desired, either spiritual or temporal. The novena may be made at home by shut-ins unable to go to church. It may also be made in one's parish church by those unable to visit the National Shrine at 2635 State Street, New Orleans.

The solemn public novena for the feast of Our Lady of Prompt Succor is made annually before the miraculous Statue in the National Shrine from January 6th through the 15th.

Likewise, a perpetual novena Mass is offered at the National Shrine each Saturday afternoon throughout the year at 4:30 p.m., followed by novena prayers.

It is recommended that those making a novena prepare themselves by a worthy reception of the sacrament of Penance, and that, where possible, they attend daily Mass and receive Holy Communion devoutly during the time of the novena.

In addition to the solemn novena in January, it is very appropriate to make a novena to Our Lady of Prompt Succor during the nine days preceding the principal feasts which the Church celebrates in her honor.

OUR LADY'S APPARITION AT LOURDES

February 11th (begin February 2)

THE ANNUNCIATION

March 25th (begin March 16)

THE QUEENSHIP OF MARY

May 31st (begin May 22)

THE ASSUMPTION

August 15th (begin August 6)

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LADY

September 8th (begin August 30)

THE FEAST OF OUR LADY OF THE HOLY
ROSARY — October 7th (begin September 28)

THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

December 8th (begin November 29)

Novena Prayers

FIRST DAY

When we wish to obtain some special favor through the intercession of Our Blessed Lady, the first disposition to bring to prayer is the humble recognition of our unworthiness, for it is the prayer of the contrite and humble heart that penetrates the skies and rises to the very throne of God.

PRAYER

Our Lady of Prompt Succor, thou art after Jesus our only hope. O Most Holy Virgin, whose merits have raised thee high above angel choirs

to the very throne of the Eternal and whose foot crushed the head of the infernal serpent, thou art strong against the enemies of our salvation. O Mother of God, thou art our Mediatrix most kind and loving. Hasten, then, to our help, and as thou didst once save thy beloved City from ravaging flames and our Country from an alien foe, do thou now have pity on our misery, and obtain for us the graces we beg of Thee. Deliver us from the wiles of Satan, assist us in the many trials which beset our path in this valley of tears, and be thou to us truly **Our Lady of Prompt Succor** now and especially at the hour of our death. Amen.

Our Lady of Prompt Succor, hasten to help us. (Three times.)

The Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory be to the Father, may be added, with the prayer, "O Mary, Mother of God," and the Litany of Our Lady of Prompt Succor, p. 23.

SECOND DAY

Filial resignation to God's Holy Will is the second disposition required for the obtaining of special graces. This disposition is especially necessary when we ask for temporal favors, as we cannot be certain whether they are conducive to our salvation or not.

PRAYER

Our Lady of Prompt Succor, O Virgin most pure and Mother of the Word Incarnate, thou art the dispenser of all graces and the refuge of poor sinners. With lively faith and unbounded confidence we have recourse to thy maternal love and we beg of thee to obtain from thy Divine Son the favors we now implore . . . (Here name the special grace desired.) With filial trust we place our hearts under thy motherly care beseeching thee to obtain for us the all-important grace of perfect conformity to God's Will; and do thou, O Mary, show thyself to be OUR LADY OF PROMPT SUCCOR, especially at the hour of our death. Amen.

Our Lady of Prompt Succor, hasten to help us.
(Three times.)

Our Father, etc., as on first day.

THIRD DAY

A profound respect for the exalted dignity and sublime prerogatives of Mary is an excellent means to draw down upon us Heaven's choicest blessings.

PRAYER

Our Lady of Prompt Succor, O Mary Immaculate, thou art the model of all virtues, the

path by which we go to Jesus, the mysterious channel through which divine favors are imparted to us. O thou who hast such power over the Heart of Jesus, hasten to our assistance and obtain our earnest request . . . (Here name the favor desired.) In thee, O Mary, we put our trust, let it not be said that our hopes have been frustrated. O Mother most chaste, be thou our strength against temptation, our help in danger, our consolation in sorrow, but especially be thou OUR LADY OF PROMPT SUCCOR at the hour of death. Amen.

Our Lady of Prompt Succor, hasten to help us. (Three times.)

Our Father, etc., as on first day.

FOURTH DAY

A filial eagerness in striving to fathom the treasures of holiness contained in the heart of Mary, the most loving and lovable of mothers, is another means of obtaining Our Lady's special protection.

PRAYER

Our Lady of Prompt Succor, living temple of the Holy Spirit and Queen of Heaven and earth, behold us prostrate at thy feet to offer thee the

filial homage of our hearts, to thank thee for the innumerable favors thou hast obtained for us, and to implore, through thine all-powerful intercession, the graces we need, especially . . . (Here specify the favor desired.) O Mary, be thou truly to us "Mary," that is, our shield against the darts of temptation, our solace in the midst of trials and afflictions, our firm hope, sweet consolation and PROMPT SUCCOR at the hour of death. Amen.

Our Lady of Prompt Succor, hasten to help us. (Three times.)

Our Father, etc., as on first day.

FIFTH DAY

To acquire a special right to the protection of Mary, one of the surest means is to keep ourselves in the state of grace and endeavor to please her by imitating her virtues.

PRAYER

Our Lady of Prompt Succor, Virgin most powerful and Mirror of Justice, who didst offer thyself totally to God for the perfect accomplishment of His Holy Will, do thou make us generous in sacrifice. We have recourse to thee to obtain the graces we need, especially . . . (Here name the favor desired.) O Mary, Our Lady of

Prompt Succor, heavenly protectress of souls devoted to thy Divine Son, do thou deign to bless us each day of our mortal pilgrimage, cast upon us thine eyes of mercy, and after our exile, show unto us Jesus, thy Son and our Brother. Amen.

Our Lady of Prompt Succor, hasten to help us. (Three times.)

Our Father, etc., as on first day.

SIXTH DAY

A tender love for Mary is another efficacious means of obtaining her favors. Since love can be requited only by love, what should not be our sentiments of filial affection for so generous and loving a Mother?

PRAYER

O Mary, Our Lady of Prompt Succor, bright Star of the Sea shining upon life's stormy ocean, we raise and implore thy speedy help especially to obtain . . . (Here specify the desired favor.) Shining Star of our tempest-tossed souls, do thou benignly guide us amongst temptation's heaving billows and treacherous shoals, and lead us safely into eternity's peaceful harbor. O sweetest of mothers, we seek thy PROMPT SUCCOR now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Our Lady of Prompt Succor, hasten to help us. (Three times.)

Our Father, etc., as on first day.

SEVENTH DAY

Mary's love for us is tender and generous. Our love for her should have as characteristics: deep gratitude, filial confidence, and ardent zeal. We should endeavor, by good example and the spirit of sacrifice, to propagate devotion to her under her sweet title of PROMPT SUCCOR.

PRAYER

O Mary, Our Lady of Prompt Succor, thou whose protection is so powerful and whose help is so prompt and efficacious, we come to lay at thy feet all our cares and sorrows, to place into thy hands all our hopes, to entrust to thee all our interests both spiritual and temporal. Deign, O Most Holy Virgin, to assist us and obtain the graces we now ask, especially . . . (Here mention the favor desired.) O Mother of PROMPT SUCCOR, close not thine ears to our earnest supplications, but rather hasten to our help now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Our Lady of Prompt Succor, hasten to help us. (Three times.)

Our Father, etc., as on first day.

EIGHTH DAY

Confidence is an excellent and necessary means for obtaining Mary's protection. Our Lady of Prompt Succor will bestow favors upon us in proportion to our filial trust in her all-powerful intercession.

PRAYER

Our Lady of Prompt Succor, sanctuary of every virtue, thou who wast chosen amongst all women to be the Mother of our Redeemer, be thou our advocate and protectress. To thee do we raise our hearts and hands imploring thy powerful intercession to obtain the favors we ask, especially . . . (Here mention the grace desired.) Assist us by thy mediation, O Mary, that thy Divine Son may shower His blessings upon us now and at the moment of our death. Amen.

Our Lady of Prompt Succor, hasten to help us. (Three times.)

Our Father, etc., as on first day.

NINTH DAY

Mary became our Mother on Calvary's crest. We are the children of her tears and sorrows. On this last day of our novena, let us take the resolution ever to foster a true and tender devotion to our Immaculate Mother of Prompt Succor, to cast all our cares and anxieties into her maternal heart. Our confidence will not remain unrewarded.

PRAYER

Our Lady of Prompt Succor, Queen of the Universe and Sovereign full of benignity, thou art the advocate of sinners, a haven of safety to the shipwrecked, the health of the sick and infirm, the consolation of the afflicted, the refuge and salvation of all on earth. Do thou, O Mary, grant us, we beseech thee, the help of thy prayers to obtain the graces we implore, and in particular . . . (Here name the favor desired.) Let thy maternal heart be touched by our misery; hasten to our assistance and be to us, now and at the hour of our death, OUR LADY OF PROMPT SUCCOR. Amen.

Our Lady of Prompt Succor, hasten to help us.
(Three times.)

Our Father, etc., as on first day.

Litanies of

Our Lady of Prompt Succor

(For private recitation only)

Lord, have mercy on us.
Christ, have mercy on us.
Lord, have mercy on us.
Christ, hear us.
Christ, graciously hear us.
God, the Father of Heaven, have mercy on us.
God the Son, Redeemer of the world, have mercy on us.
God the Holy Spirit, have mercy on us.
Holy Trinity, one God, have mercy on us.
Holy Mary, pray for us.
Mother of the Infant Jesus, pray for us.
Our Lady of Prompt Succor, pray for us.
Our Lady of Prompt Succor of all who invoke thee with confidence, Pray for us —
Our Lady of Prompt Succor of all who are devout toward the infant Jesus,
Our Lady of Prompt Succor for obtaining a lively faith,

Our Lady of Prompt Succor for sustaining the hope of Christians,
Our Lady of Prompt Succor for obtaining and persevering in charity,
Our Lady of Prompt Succor for observing the law of God,
Our Lady of Prompt Succor for observing perseverance in virtue and good works,
Our Lady of Prompt Succor in every spiritual necessity,
Our Lady of Prompt Succor against the revolt of self-will,
Our Lady of Prompt Succor in the occasion of sin,
Our Lady of Prompt Succor in every temptation,
Our Lady of Prompt Succor against the evil spirit,
Our Lady of Prompt Succor for obtaining contrition,
Our Lady of Prompt Succor of those wishing to re-enter the path of salvation,
Our Lady of Prompt Succor for the conversion of sinners,
Our Lady of Prompt Succor in every temporal necessity,
Our Lady of Prompt Succor in every affliction,
Our Lady of Prompt Succor of afflicted families,
Our Lady of Prompt Succor of the sick and the poor,
Our Lady of Prompt Succor against contagious diseases and epidemics,

Our Lady of Prompt Succor in every accident,
Our Lady of Prompt Succor against conflagrations,
Our Lady of Prompt Succor against lightning and tempest,
Our Lady of Prompt Succor against inundations,
Our Lady of Prompt Succor of travelers,
Our Lady of Prompt Succor of navigators,
Our Lady of Prompt Succor of the ship-wrecked,
Our Lady of Prompt Succor against the enemies of our country,
Our Lady of Prompt Succor in time of war,
Our Lady of Prompt Succor of those aspiring to the Holy Priesthood and the religious life,
Our Lady of Prompt Succor of laborers in the Lord's Vineyard,
Our Lady of Prompt Succor of missionaries who spread the faith,
Our Lady of Prompt Succor of our Holy Father the Pope,
Our Lady of Prompt Succor for those searching for the faith,
Our Lady of Prompt Succor against the enemies of the Church,
Our Lady of Prompt Succor at the hour of death,
Our Lady of Prompt Succor for the deliverance of the souls in Purgatory,

Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world,
spare us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the
world, graciously hear us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the
world, have mercy on us.

V. Our Lady of Prompt Succor, pray for us.

R. That we may be made worthy of the promises
of Christ.

LET US PRAY

O Almighty and Eternal God! Who dost see us
surrounded by so many dangers and miseries, grant in
Thy infinite goodness, that the Blessed Virgin Mary,
Mother of thy Divine Son, may defend us from the
evil spirit and protect us against all adversities; that
always, and with PROMPT SUCCOR, she may deliver us
from every evil of soul and body, and safely guide
us to the kingdom of heaven; through the merits of
Our Lord Jesus Christ, thy Son, Who liveth and
reigneth with thee in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one
God, world without end. Amen.

Our Lady of Prompt Succor, hasten to help us. (200
days indulgence)

LET US PRAY

O most merciful Jesus, Who hast placed the riches
of Thy mercy in the heart of thy Mother Mary:
propitiously grant that through her patronage we may
be delivered from all evils of mind and body. Who
livest and reignest with God the Father in the unity of
the Holy Spirit God, world without end. Amen.

Our Lady of Prompt Succor, hasten to help us.
(200 days indulgence)

PRAYERS TO OUR LADY OF PROMPT SUCCOR

O, Mary, Mother of God, who amidst the tribu-
lations of the world, dost watch over us and over the
Church of thy Son, be to us and to the Church, truly
OUR LADY OF PROMPT SUCCOR, make haste
to help us in all our necessities, that in this fleeting
life thou mayst be our succor, and obtain for us
(**Here ask the particular favor you desire.**) Help us to
gain life everlasting through the merits of Jesus, thy
Son, our Lord and Redeemer. Amen. (100 days
indulgence)

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be to the Father.

Our Lady of Prompt Succor, hasten to help us.
(Three times.)

O Queen of the Universe, Our Lady of Prompt
Succor, sovereign full of kindness, thou art the
advocate of sinners, a haven of safety to the ship-
wrecked; thou art the resource of the world, the
ransom of captives, the health of the infirm, the
consolation of the afflicted, the refuge and salvation
of all on earth. We beseech thee to grant us the help
of thy prayers, which incline our Heavenly Father to
forgive our sins and grant our petitions in all the
necessities of this miserable life; prayers which obtain
for us an abundance of graces to receive the pardon of
our faults and arrive at the practice of virtue; prayers

which stay our enemies, confound their designs and triumph over their efforts. Amen. (100 days indulgence)

MOST EFFICACIOUS PRAYERS OF ST. ALPHONSE RODRIGUEZ TO OUR BLESSED LADY

O Mary, sweet Refuge of miserable sinners, my most sweet Mother, for the sake of the sorrow thou didst feel in witnessing the death of thy Son, hasten to assist me, in thy mercy and obtain for me . . . (Here ask for the particular favor you desire.) And when my soul shall have to depart from this world, succor me promptly; remove from me the infernal enemies and come to take my soul and present it to the Eternal Judge. My Queen, do not abandon me, thou after Jesus shalt be my comfort at that terrible moment. Ask thy Son to grant me in His goodness the grace to die at thy feet, and to breathe forth my soul in His Holy Wounds, saying: Jesus and Mary, to you I give my heart and my soul. Amen. (100 days indulgence)

THE MEMORARE OF ST. BERNARD

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, and sought thine intercession, was left unaided. Inspired with this confidence, I fly unto thee, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother, To thee I come; before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother

of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions but in thy mercy, hear and answer me. Amen.

We fly to thy patronage, O holy Mother of God, despise not our petitions in our necessities, but deliver us ever from all dangers, O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen.

HYMN TO OUR LADY OF PROMPT SUCCOR

1.

Hail Mary, Queen of Heaven!
Hail Mary, Mother dear.
In thee I find my Jesus,
Near thee I hold no fear.

CHORUS

Hail Mother of Prompt Succor!
Make haste, help me, thy child!
Hail Mother of Prompt Succor!
Make haste, help me, thy child,
Make haste, help me, thy child.

2.

Bright star, on life's vast ocean,
Thou whom the world admires
Hast freed our state and city
From sin, flood, war and fires.

3.

Our Lady of Prompt Succor,
Help me forevermore
Till I meet thee with my Jesus
Above, on Heaven's Shore.

MASS OF OUR LADY OF PROMPT SUCCOR

Introit

Let us all rejoice in the Lord, celebrating a festal day in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary, on whose solemn Feast the Angels rejoice, and give praise to the Son of God. Ps. 44,2. My heart hath uttered a good word: I speak my works to the King. V. Glory be to the Father, etc.

Prayer

O most merciful Jesus, Who hast placed the riches of Thy mercy in the heart of Thy Mother Mary: propitiously grant that through Her patronage we may be delivered from all evils of mind and body. Who livest and reignest, etc.

Epistle

ECCLUS xxiv. 23-31. As the vine I have brought forth a pleasant odor: and my flowers are the fruit of honor and riches. I am the mother of fair love, and of fear, and of knowledge, and of holy hope. In me is all hope of life and of virtue. Come over to me, all ye that desire me, and be filled with my fruits. For my spirit is sweet above honey, and my inheritance above honey and the honeycomb. My memory is unto everlasting generations. They that eat me shall yet hunger; and they that drink me shall yet thirst. He that hearkeneth to me shall not be confounded: and

they that work by me shall not sin. They that explain me shall have life everlasting.

GRADUAL. Cant. 6, 3, 9.

Thou art all lovely and sweet, O daughter of Sion, beautiful as the moon, elect as the sun, terrible as an army in battle array.

V. Judith, 13,22. The Lord hath blessed thee by His power, because by thee He hath brought to naught our enemies.

Alleluia, alleluia. V. Luke 1, 28. Hail, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee, blessed art thou among women. Alleluia.

Gospel

JOHN ii, I-II. At that time a wedding took place at Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Now Jesus too was invited to the marriage, and also His disciples. And the wine having run short, the mother of Jesus said to Him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "What wouldst thou have me do, woman? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the attendants, "Do whatever He tells you."

Now six stone water-jugs were placed there, after the Jewish manner of purification, each holding two or three measures. Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them to the brim. And Jesus said to them, "Draw out now, and take to the chief steward." And they took it to him.

Now when the chief steward had tasted the water after it had become wine, not knowing whence it was

(though the attendants who had drawn the water knew), the chief steward called the bridegroom, and said to him, "Every man at first sets forth the good wine, and when they have drunk freely, then that which is poorer. But thou hast kept the good wine until now."

This first of His signs Jesus worked at Cana of Galilee; and He manifested His glory, and His disciples believed in Him.

OFFERTORY. Jerem., 18,20.

O Virgin Mother, before God's face, remember to speak good things for us that He may turn away His indignation from us.

Secret

By thy mercy, O Lord, and through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin and Mother, may this oblation promote our eternal and present prosperity and peace. Through our Lord, etc.

Preface of our Blessed Lady

It is truly meet and just, right and helpful to salvation, always and everywhere to give thanks to Thee, Holy Lord, Father almighty, eternal God; and on the Festivity of the blessed Mary, ever virgin, to praise and bless and proclaim Thee. For she conceived Thine only-begotten Son by the overshadowing of the Holy Ghost; and losing not the glory of her virginity, gave to the world the everlasting light, Jesus Christ our Lord. Through whom the Angels praise Thy majesty, the Dominations worship it, the Powers are in awe.

The heavens and the heavenly Virtues, and the blessed Seraphim join together in celebrating their joy. With them, we pray Thee, join our own voices also, while we say with lowly praise:

Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God of Hosts.

Heaven and earth are full of Thy glory.

Hosanna in the highest. Blessed is He that cometh in the name of the Lord. Hosanna in the highest.

Communion

Most worthy Queen of the world, pray for our peace and for our salvation; thou who didst bring forth Christ the Lord, the Savior of all.

Post-Communion

May the revered intercession of Mary, Thy Immaculate Mother and ever Virgin, help us, we beseech Thee, O Lord; that we, who have been loaded with her continuous favors, may by her mercy, freed from all perils, be rendered of one mind. Who livest and reignest with God the Father, etc.

Archconfraternity of Our Lady of Prompt Succor

ARTICLE I

The Archconfraternity has for its aim:

1. To place its members under the special protection of Our Lady of Prompt Succor.
2. To spread devotion to the Blessed Virgin under this title, so providentially inspired, and which is so well suited to our times.
3. To inspire the associates to be Apostles in their families, and in society, by good example and pious counsel.

ARTICLE II

The conditions of admission into the Archconfraternity and of participation in its prayers and other advantages are:

1. To have one's name inscribed on the Register of the local Confraternity and on a Certificate of admission signed by the Director.
2. To say, every morning and evening, in time of temptation or danger, the following invocation: "Our Lady of Prompt Succor, hasten to help us!" (200 days indulgence.)

ARTICLE III

The special Feasts of the Archconfraternity are the following:

Feasts of Our Lady of Prompt Succor, January 8 and 15.

Feast of St. Joseph, March 19.

Feast of Our Lady Help of Christians, May 24.

Commemoration of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, July 16.

Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, September 8.

Feast of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin, November 21.

Feast of the Immaculate Conception, December 8.

ARTICLE IV

Members shall, as regularly as possible, attend the meetings of their Confraternity. These meetings should be held monthly and their program should consist of the recitation of the Beads and the Litany of the Blessed Virgin, a short instruction or reading, and at the end, Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

ARTICLE V

The seat of the Archconfraternity is established at the privileged Shrine of Our Lady of Prompt Succor, Ursuline Convent, New Orleans, whence diplomas bearing the seal of the Ursuline Convent, and the signature of the Director General of the Archcon-

fraternity, will be forwarded to priests and religious desirous of organizing the Confraternity of Our Lady of Prompt Succor in their parishes or communities.

The Director General of the Archconfraternity is appointed by the Most Reverend Archbishop of New Orleans.

ARTICLE VI

The voluntary offerings of the Associates are employed to defray the expenses of the Archconfraternity in propagating devotion to Our Lady of Prompt Succor.

Members share in the good works and prayers of the entire Archconfraternity and of the Ursuline Community; and also in the Holy Mass offered every Tuesday at the Shrine.

ARTICLE VII

Indulgences

A plenary Indulgence on the day of the admission into the Archconfraternity.

A Plenary Indulgence at the hour of death, by invoking, at least in desire, the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary.

A Plenary Indulgence can be gained by members visiting the Shrine in New Orleans; and outside of New Orleans, the church of their local Confraternity, on January 8, or any day during the octave; or on December 12, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe.

All these Indulgences are applicable to the Souls in Purgatory, and may be gained under the ordinary conditions.

18440

Additional copies of this booklet, as well as statues, medals, and pictures of Our Lady of Prompt Succor are available at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Prompt Succor, 2635 State Street, New Orleans 18, Louisiana. Mail orders will be promptly filled.