



MARY'S HELPERS, INC.

News

No.37 Vol. 11-12 All About Jesus & Mary

Nov / Dec 2024

MEDJUGORJE
November 25, 2024
to Marija Pavlovic'

"Dear children! In this time of the grace of expectation, I desire to call you to prayer for Advent to be prayer of the family.

In a special way, little children whom I tenderly embrace, I encourage you to prayer for peace in the world; for peace to prevail over peacelessness and hatred.

Thank you for having responded to my call."

MEDJUGORJE
December 25, 2024
to Marija Pavlovic'

"Dear children! Pray, pray, pray that peace may begin to reign in every heart and prevail over every evil and peacelessness.

Thank you for having responded to my call.

MEDJUGORJE
December 25, 2024
Annual Apparition to Jakov

"Today, on this day of grace, in a special way I am calling you not to live a life striving for earthly goals and not to seek peace and joy in earthly things, because in this way darkness takes over your life and you do not see the meaning of your life. Little children, open the doors of your hearts to Jesus, permit Him to take over your entire life so that you may begin to live in God's love and mercy. My children, only with Jesus in your hearts will you come to know the true goal of your life and long for eternal salvation. I am blessing you with my motherly blessing."

(With Ecclesiastical approval)

**Meditation on the
November 25, 2024 Message**
by Fr. Al Bermudez, OSSM

*but first
Jesus*

Mary reminds us, you are in a time of Grace. It is a time to use our commitment to prayer and action in - witness to others involvement with expectation of her son Jesus's coming and the world's passing daily.

This advent is a time of hope and time to prepare ye the way of the Lord! Simplify, prioritize, prayer with family and others. Reach out to embrace the child in your heart and children in need. Tenderly embrace and be sensitive with children as Jesus was in all people.

Pray for peace, encourage others and be courageous for Peace. Do not hate, blame or cause division. Think about all the millions in campaign funds for hate and division. Campaign for Peace and, PRAY, PRAY, PRAY! Love, Fr. Al

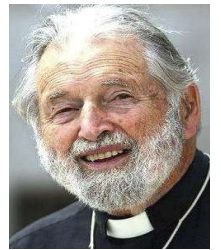
**Meditation on the
December 25, 2024 Message**
by Fr. Al Bermudez, OSSM

In the portion of the message commenting on Jakov Colo's daily apparition Our Lady came with little Jesus in her arms. Mary comes with the baby Jesus to give us the courage to carry out living the message!

Mary comes this Christmas, this day of grace and in a special way calling you not to strive for earthly goals. We are not to seek peace and joy in earthly things because in this way darkness takes over your life. Look around and see how many people are celebrating, drinking and joining with others without finding the meaning of Christmas or its message of Jesus the Prince of Peace!

Mary calls us to open the doors of our hearts to Jesus. Permit him to take over your entire life so that you may begin to live in God's love and mercy. My children, Mary reassures us only with her son Jesus in our hearts will you come to know the true goal of our life. Let us listen to Mary and her baby, Emanuel/God with us! Love Fr. Al

MAY PERPETUAL LIGHT SHINE UPON THEM



Fr. Peter Mary Rookey, OSM
Oct. 12, 1916 - Sept. 10, 2014
The Apostle of Compassion



Margaret M. Trosclair
June 19, 1933 - March 14, 2019



Gertrude Gayle Ponseti
Oct 14, 1937-Dec 10, 2019



**MaryGrace
Orsag**

**12/03/1940
- 10/25/2024**

MaryGrace Orsag Age 83 passed away peacefully on October 25, 2024. She was preceded in death by her late husband Adolf Orsag. She was active in many organizations including the Sorrowful Mother Rosary Group which she honored the rosary in her home for seventeen years. She was a good friend of Margaret, Gayle and Mary's Helpers. She served our Lord in many different ways and will be missed by her family and by many others. May perpetual light shine upon her and may she rest in peace. Pray for us MaryGrace.

**Mary's Helpers Gift
Shop Needs You**

We really need your help!! Our gift shop may have to close unless we have some volunteers help us in keeping it open. Can you spare a few hours once or twice a week? We need you for the next few months. Our hours are 9am to 2pm. Email or call us if you can help. See contact information at bottom of page 1.

**Always PRAY to have EYES that see the best in people
A HEART that forgives the worst
A MIND that forgets the bad
And a SOUL that never loses faith in GOD**



SPIRITUAL GROWTH

From when God planting us in our mother's womb, to the day of our birth... until today... EVERY MOMENT has made us who we are now. Think deeply about that..

EVERYTHING that has happened in our life is helping us grow spiritually. Good and bad. If we could only see God's plan for us, we would understand how this all fits together. God wants us to grow up and be spiritually mature. If everyday we listen and learn more about God and what he wants us to do for Him, we will grow up to be a light of God. The light of the world. We could change the world.. This is what God wants of us.

God gives us so many blessings in our life. All of our strengths in life were not given for **our** benefit but for us to help others. As we help and love others, we grow closer to Him.

What abilities has he given you and have you shared those with others to make them better?

*God is using you
for His special purpose-
to shine His light.
to share His love.
to shape His people.*



**George "Pop"
Vercher
1942-2024**

George Vercher passed away peacefully on Dec 4, 2024. He was the loving husband of one our our long time Mary's Helpers volunteer Valerie Vercher. Our sincere thoughts and prayers go out to Valerie and her family during this difficult time. May George rest in peace and may perpetual light shine upon him. I know he will be missed greatly. May God walk with you during these difficult days and console you and bring you comfort and peace..

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT.

**WE NEED YOUR HELP.
PLEASE CONSIDER SENDING
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THAT ONE DAY WE MAY
NOT BE ABLE TO CONTINUE
WITHOUT YOUR SUPPORT.**

**DID YOU KNOW YOU CAN
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www.MarysHelpers.ORG

**We really need your
prayers, time and talents TOO.**

Consider Volunteering



**MERRY
CHRISTMAS**

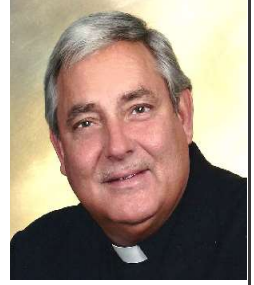
**We Wish you
a Happy & Blessed
New Year!**

Our SAVIOR is Born!





From the desk of **FATHER PAUL BERGERON**



I pray that each and every one of you had a great Thanksgiving and a Holy Christmas. As we continue towards The Epiphany, we all recognize that we still have much to accomplish in our Spiritual lives. It is so good to take the much needed precious time to examine our consciousness to determine what we need to get rid of all that is not of God in our lives-spring cleaning as it were so that we, like The Wise Men, can give what is most precious to Him. The greatest gift we can give is to love Him more and more. It's that simple for by turning over a new Spiritual leaf, we can allow him to work within us. He stands at the door knocking but there is only one side of the door knob and it's on the inside. Only we can open that door. Jesus waits patiently for us to open it and say welcome. Therefore, as we continue our Spiritual journey let us continue to pray to Him.

You know nine years ago when the doctors told me I was diagnosed with Fourth Stage Cancer, I immediately determined what was most important in this life and what wasn't. I realized that there were many things that took my attention away from God but when you get closer to your grave, you realize what you need to do. Yes, I am a Cancer survivor and proud of it because it took that Healing of God to dispel the blindness I had been living. The greatest thing I learned through my illness is that we walk by faith and not by sight! May God bless you all - Fr.Paul

The Healing of Cancer

Father Paul Bergeron's story of his Healing of Cancer at the Mass Site in Houma, LA on Sunday, August 28, 2016 on the MARY'S HELPERS NEWS PROGRAM WSHO 800 AM is available on CD in our gift shop for just \$5. To order a copy call our office at (504) 348-7729 or email your request to MARYSHELPERSi97@bellsouth.net

Man can create a million different laws. But until we follow the **TEN** God gave us. Nothing will change.

37th ANNIVERSARY OF MARY'S HELPERS
Please come help us celebrate at:
Visitation of Our Lady Catholic Church
3500 Ames Blvd, Marrero, LA
on
FEBRUARY 2, 2025 at NOON



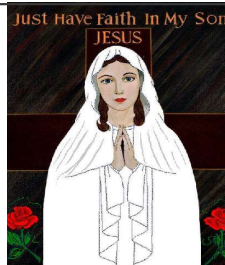
The most powerful antidote against the evils that threaten human society is prayer, especially collective prayer. **PRAY EVERY DAY FOR PEACE AND LOVE.**

DAYS TO REMEMBER

- Jan 1 - New Year's Day 2025
- Jan 4 - Upper Room Prayer Cenacle/Houma
- Jan 5 - Epiphany of Our Lord
- Jan 12 - Baptism of Our Lord
- Jan 17 - Houma Mass FRIDAY 4pm
- Jan 22-Prayer for Legal Protection of Unborn
- Feb 1- Upper Room Prayer Cenacle/Houma
- Feb 2 - Presentation of Our Lord
- Feb 2 - Mary's Helpers Anniversary Mass
- Feb 11-Our Lady of Lourdes Feast Day
- Feb 14-St Valentine Feast Day
- Feb 17-Houma Mass MONDAY 4pm
- Mar 1- Upper Room Prayer Cenacle/Houma
- Mar 4 - Holy Face of Jesus Feast Day
- Mar 5 - Ash Wednesday (Fast & Abstinence)

THE SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF COMPASSIONATE PROTECTION

JAN 17 FRIDAY & FEB 17 MONDAY
3PM CONFESSION & ROSARY ~ 4PM MASS
106 JIM BOWIE ROAD IN HOUMA, LA
CELEBRANT: FATHER PAUL BERGERON



UPPER ROOM PRAYER CENACLE First Saturday at 2pm-3:15pm

PLEASE CONSIDER SUPPORTING MARY'S HELPERS AND DONATE TODAY

PLEASE Fill Out The Form Below & Mail to Mary's Helpers, P.O. Box 1853, Marrero, LA 70073

OR DONATE ONLINE AT: www.MarysHelpers.ORG

NOV / DEC 2024

Thank You for keeping this ministry going!!!

THANK YOU AND GOD
BLESS YOU!!!

Please accept my donation to help defray monthly operating costs of Mary's Helpers and to continue to spread Our Lady's messages. (This NEWSletter is made possible through the generosity of your donations.)

\$25 \$35 \$45 \$55 \$75 \$100 Other _____

- * Please send me the monthly Mary's Helpers Newsletter...
- * I already receive the Newsletter...
- * I cannot donate at this time but I still want the Newsletter...
- * Send my Newsletter by Email...
- * I would like to volunteer to help in Mary's Helpers however I can, please contact me...

Name: _____

Address: _____ Apt: _____

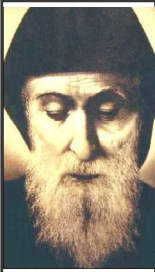
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Mail to: **Mary's Helpers, Inc. PO Box 1853 Marrero, LA 70073**

We at Mary's Helpers want to take this time to THANK YOU our loyal supporters for helping us continue this ministry. We couldn't do it without YOU! May God Bless each and every one of you!!

We wish you a Merry Christmas and the most blessed New Year!



St. Sharbel Makhlof

May 8, 1828 - December 24, 1898

SOURCE OF INSPIRATION

St. Sharbel is a great source of inspiration because of his humility, his uprightness, his just and strict conduct, the support he offers for the love of the Lord above all else, the devotion he showed to the Virgin Mary during his life, and his aspiration to rise higher and higher away from the worldly noise and temptations that separate him from God. I am inspired by the thread that lead him to be very close to God and in union with Him. I'm amazed by the hours and hours spent praying on his knees, sleeping on wood and adopting the means that bring about a desired penitence. St. Sharbel is a model to follow; for him, the way to heaven is to look upwards, not downwards. St. Sharbel is the heavenly physician who will heal the sick, whereas a traditional doctor will prescribe medicines. This is one reason why I advise people I meet to pray to him with confidence without hesitation, to visit him in a nearby shrine and to thank him when they obtain a grace

For more information, visit: www.familyofsaintsharbel.org

UPDATE: FROM A READER of Fr. Dwight Longenecker

In the mid 1970's, my wife and I lived in Jerusalem for two years as missionaries with the Southern Baptist Convention. One day we were at College des Freres high school when school was letting out. I was moderating the photo club so I was around the school a couple of times a week. Mary came over and we were going to walk around the Old City where the school is located. The headmaster Frere Noel saw my brother Ed, another friend and Mary and me and asked us to come into his office. It was probably January as he'd recently gone home to Lebanon for Christmas. He said that something special had happened shortly before he went home in a nearby village. A young crippled boy went to daily Mass with his mother. The father was no longer living. After every Mass, she would stay inside to pray and the boy would roll outside (a wheelchair or some device) and sit on the church steps with a cup for money. A man came up to him and asked him what tithe he and his mother had given that month. The boy told him that they had been unable to give anything. The man told him to stand up and go around the side of the church and get his tithe. The boy explained the obvious, that he couldn't get up. The man insisted and the boy managed to stand and take a step and another until, much to his surprise he was walking. He went around

Healing Testimony of Veronique Michel Fghali. Mrs. Veronique Michel Fghali, born in Bsous, Lebanon, is married to Mr. Pierre Boulos Charfan from Qartaba. She is a teacher residing in Bayyada, Metn, Lebanon. Here is her account of her husband's health condition, which his medical reports support: "Due to a family history of cancer, I noticed an unusual sign in my chest. After conducting the necessary tests, it was confirmed to be malignant. I underwent surgery to remove the tumor on December 19, 2016, and the doctor recommended 20 chemotherapy sessions. I was terrified of chemotherapy, and since it was near Christmas, I knelt before Baby Jesus, repeating, 'You said, take this cup away from me, but not my will, but Yours.' I was disheartened. A man named Sharbel, whom I didn't know, entered my home and handed me a gift. It was a belt of St. Sharbel. I immediately tied it around my waist and said, 'St. Sharbel, if chemotherapy is canceled, I will never remove this belt. I went to my doctor, who, after laboratory tests, called me with the good news that treatment was unnecessary. To be certain, he sent a test to the U.S. After 15 days, the results showed that the risk increase with treatment was 11%, and without treatment, it was 10%. The doctor was amazed and told me, 'You got away with it.' However, he insisted I undergo radiation therapy. When I went for my MRI appointment, I prayed to St. Sharbel, asking that the radiation machine malfunction if my healing was divine. On the scheduled day, the hospital staff called to cancel due to a malfunctioning machine. This happened several times, so I visited St. Sharbel and St. Rafqa, and afterward, I informed my doctor that I would not proceed with radiation therapy. Strangely, he did not object and asked me to follow up in six months. My tests have remained clean and excellent since. I came to thank St. Sharbel for hearing my prayers and interceding for me, and I registered the miracle on August 27, 2023, after seven years of healing. Thanks be to the heavenly doctor, St. Sharbel.

the church, not knowing what he was looking for when he saw a hill of construction sand. The church was building something but I don't remember that detail. He grabbed a handful of the sand and got back to the front of the church just as the pastor and his mother were coming out. (The man was gone.) Of course they were shocked and were all rejoicing as the boy quickly told what had happened. The boy then opened his hand and the priest asked him where he'd gotten a handful of incense. The boy took them around the church and the entire hill of builders sand was incense. The story spread and people came from all around to get a baggie of incense. At this point Frere Noel opened his top left drawer and took out a baggie, got a pinch of incense and put it in his ashtray and lit it for us to smell. He told us on another occasion (At least I think it was later but not sure) that the mother and the boy were going to a family friend's house and when they passed through the foyer the boy got very excited when he saw a picture on the wall. It was a picture of Saint Sharbel and the boy told his mother that was the man who'd told him to walk and where to get their tithe.

FREED BY THE SPIRIT

by Fr Joseph Juknialis

Fear can be a most powerful imprisoning force. Like the apostles who locked themselves behind closed doors after the resurrection for fear of the local leaders, there are times when our own fears lock us out of the future and into our past.

We find ourselves choosing not to be generous for fear that if we are, we will find ourselves empty-handed with no one to care for us because all our resources have been used up. And so, because of fear, we lock ourselves into our own selfishness. At other times, we hesitate to be kind for fear that our care will be misconstrued or, worse, will be taken advantage of and abused. And so, for fear of continual demands upon our kindness, we lock ourselves into indifference. At other times, we find ourselves too cautious to speak out in the face of injustice because of a misguided respect for "someone else's business" or because we are afraid anger or rejection will come down upon us. So, we lock ourselves into silence.

It is always the Spirit, however, that enables us to unlock those doors once locked by our fear. While that new power enables us to venture into a sometimes-shattering world, it does not promise we won't be shattered in the process. All that Jesus promised is that the Spirit would bring us peace. Such peace happens to us whenever we choose not to succumb to our fears. It is indeed a new creation taking place in us, even now.

(Has fear ever paralysed you, keeping you from making the sign of the cross in public?)

THOUGHTS TO PONDER ON

- You can change your life by changing your heart.
- Prayer is the rope that pulls God and man together. But, It doesn't pull God down to us: It pulls us up to Him.



St Sharbel Prayer for obtaining a special grace

O Lord, infinitely holy and glorified in your saints, you inspired the holy monk and hermit Sharbel to live and die in the way of Jesus Christ and gave him the strength to detach himself from the world in order to make the monastic virtues triumph in his hermitage.

We implore you to bestow upon us the grace to love you and to serve you by following his example.

God Almighty, who manifested the power of Saint Sharbel's intercession by numerous miracles and favors, grant us, through his intercession, this grace (State your prayer intention here). Amen.

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be

MARY'S HELPERS GIFT SHOP

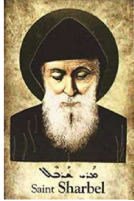
NOV/DEC 2024

STORE Hours are Mon-Fri from 9 am - 2:30 pm (Closed Wed)

Please remember to add shipping and sales tax where applicable.

To Order: Call Us (504) 348-7729 or Email us at: maryshelpersi97@bellsouth.net

St Sharbel Items

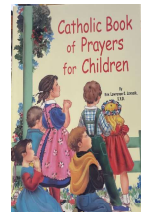


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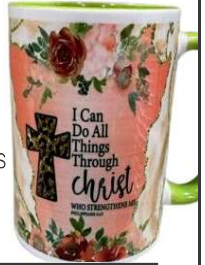


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I CAN DO ALL THINGS THROUGH CHRIST
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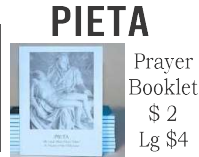
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Beautiful 3-Way Indulgence Pardon Crucifix
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PIETA

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LORD, Grant us your Graces thru the intercession of ST SHARBEL



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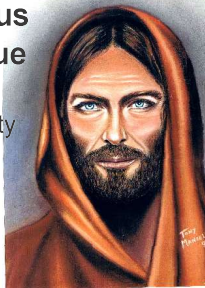
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Beautiful Pictures

My Jesus Has Blue Eyes
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ST MICHAEL the Archangel
Be our protection against the wickedness of the devil!



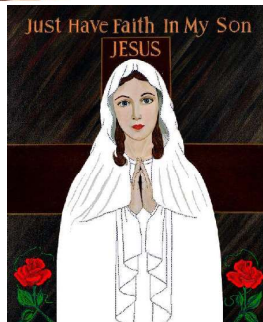
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Tony Manzella, Artist

OUR LADY OF COMPASSIONATE PROTECTION

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NOV / DEC 2024

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The last two remedies: the Holy Rosary and devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

By MichaelJournal.org May 1, 2024

Here are extracts from an interview Sister Lucia of Fatima (one of the three children to whom the Virgin Mary appeared in Portugal in 1917) gave to Father Augustin Fuentes in 1957:

“Father, the Blessed Virgin did not tell me that we are in the last times of the world, but I understood this for three reasons:

“The first is because she told me that the Devil is engaging in a battle with the Virgin, a decisive battle. It is a final battle where one party will be victorious and the other will suffer defeat. So, from now on, we are either with God or we are with the Devil; there is no middle ground.

“The second reason is because she told me, as well as my cousins, that God is giving two last remedies to the world: the Holy Rosary and devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. And, being the last remedies, that is to say, they are the final ones, means that there will be no others.

“And the third, because in the plans of the Divine Providence, when God is going to chastise the world, He always first exhausts all other remedies. When He sees that the world pays no attention whatsoever, then, as we say in our imperfect way of talking, with a certain fear He presents us the last means of salvation: His Blessed Mother.

“If we despise and reject this last means, Heaven will no longer pardon us, because we will have committed a sin that the Gospel calls a sin against the Holy Spirit. This sin consists in openly rejecting — with full knowledge and will — the salvation that is put in our hands.

“Also, since Our Lord is a very good Son, He will not permit that we offend and despise His Blessed Mother. We have, as obvious testimony, the history of different centuries where Our Lord has shown us, with terrible examples, how He has always defended the honor of His Blessed Mother.

“Prayer and sacrifice are the two means to save the world. As for the Holy Rosary, Father, in these last times in which we are living, the Blessed Virgin has given a new efficacy to the praying of the Holy Rosary. This in such a way that there is no problem that cannot be resolved by praying the Rosary, no matter how difficult it is—be it temporal or above all spiritual — in the spiritual life of each of us or the lives of our families, be they our families in the world or Religious Communities, or even in the lives of peoples and nations.

“I repeat, there is no problem, as difficult as it may be, that we cannot resolve at this time by praying the Holy Rosary. With the Holy Rosary, we will save ourselves, sanctify ourselves, console Our Lord, and obtain the salvation of many souls.

“Then, there is devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, our Most Holy Mother, holding her as the seat of mercy, goodness and pardon, and the sure door to enter Heaven.”

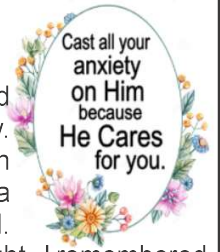


JUST REST IN ME

I fell into bed exhausted after an especially long day. My mind focused on an approaching deadline for a project I'd only half-finished. I won't think about that tonight. I remembered a couple of medical - related decisions that I'd been dreading. Can't put that off much longer... My mind switched to a difficult conversation I needed to initiate the next day. Suddenly, I sensed a still, small voice saying, "Just rest in Me." It took a moment for the message to sink in, but then I smiled and settled down, concentrating on the One who is truly in charge of my life as I drifted to sleep.

Every day we're bombarded by commercials, articles, and blog posts promoting something to help us relax and rest: supplements, prescriptions medicines, diffusers, bath products, special beds and mattresses, sound machines, and apps that promise to induce relaxation through music or spoken messages. Yet as a society, we seem to grow more restless and stressed.

Maybe our souls crave a deep rest that can only come from a relationship with Jesus. He loves us more than we can comprehend (John 3:16). Jesus wants to help when we feel stressed out or burned out (1 Peter 5:7). Once we learn to depend on His power, we can turn anything that weighs on our mind over to Him - and settle down in the restorative rest of His presence.



**Winter knows to hush,
still, listen,
so the soul can speak.**

Angie Weiland-Crosby



*Have I not commanded you
Be strong and courageous
Do not be afraid
Do not be discouraged
for the Lord your God
will be with you
wherever you go*

Joshua 1:9

Let's Laugh a Little ~ It's good for the soul

A married couple enjoyed their fishing boat, but it was always the husband who was behind the wheel. He was concerned about what might happen in an emergency. So one day out on the lake he said to his wife, "Honey, take the wheel... Pretend that I am having a heart attack. You must get the boat safely to shore and dock it." So she drove the boat to shore and docked it.

Later that evening, the wife walked into the living room. She sat down next to her husband picked up a newspaper, and said, "Honey, go into the kitchen. Pretend I'm having a heart attack; cook dinner and wash the dishes."

St. Peregrine Laziosi

krantz November 15, 2019
By Renae Kranz



CANCER

Is there a word that strikes greater fear than this one? I know for me, there are few things that terrify me more (except perhaps fire, but that's a story for another day). We've all been touched in some way, whether directly or indirectly, by this disease that sends even the strongest of us cowering in a corner.

Now imagine having cancer in the early 1300s. No treatments known. A nearly certain death sentence. That was the news St. Peregrine Laziosi faced midway through his life.

This saint's early life started out a bit rocky as well. Let's just say he didn't exactly feel the love early on for the Church that eventually made him a saint.

Peregrine Laziosi was born in Forli, Italy, in 1260. He was the only son to affluent parents. This was a turbulent time in Italy for the Catholic Church. Forli, which was in northern Italy, was part of the Papal States. Residents in these states chose sides, either the anti-papal faction or the pro-Church faction, sometimes switching sides when it suited them.

Peregrine's family chose the anti-papal side, and he became involved in the faction's activities as a young man. When Pope Martin IV placed the area under an interdict, closing the churches in an attempt to bring the people to their senses, the forces against him rose up all the more.

Attempting a different method with the faithful in Forli, the pope sent as his personal ambassador a future saint, Philip Benizi, to the town to try to bring the rebels back to obedience to the Church and the pope. Benizi would have an uphill climb to say the least.

While addressing a crowd one day, Benizi was attacked. The crowd heckled him, beat him with clubs, and threw rocks at him. Peregrine joined in the fray, punching Benizi in the face so hard he knocked the poor priest down. He immediately regretted it.

Can you picture a scene like this today? With our country so divided over politics, it's not hard to envision. We might not punch someone from the opposing side, but we often say things we later regret. Or maybe we are so sure we're in the right, the regret never comes.

As you can see, even future saints struggle with controlling their emotions and the desire to be on the right side of a fight. Usually being right is much less important than showing love and respect to others. It's even possible to be both right and respectful. With God's grace to help us, we can engage the opposition in a

manner that honors who we are as children of God.

After the blow he dealt Benizi, Peregrine threw himself at his feet and begged his forgiveness. The good priest smiled and forgave him without hesitation. It became a turning point in Peregrine's life.

He converted to Catholicism and took Benizi's suggestion to pray in the chapel at the cathedral. To his surprise, the Blessed Mother visited him in a vision, telling him to go to Siena and join the Order of the Servites there that Benizi had founded. He followed her directions and was later ordained to the priesthood.

Peregrine spent many years as a Servite devoted to the poor and sick. He offered such good advice to those who sought it from him that people called him "Angel of Good Counsel." He also is said to have performed a miracle of multiplying grain and wine during a serious shortage.

In those years, Servites were known for performing acts of physical penance as a devotional practice. Peregrine imposed on himself the penance of standing whenever it wasn't necessary to sit. He developed varicose veins in his legs after many years of standing. This led to one of his legs becoming ulcerated, gangrenous and malignant.

The doctor told Peregrine that to try to save his life, they would have to amputate his leg. In those days, surgery was often as dangerous as the problem it tried to fix. Peregrine knew his life was precariously balanced between two terrible options that would likely mean his death.

If you're like me, we often don't think about the real emotions of people who lived hundreds of years ago. We tend to see them as two dimensional. But Peregrine would have had the same emotions and fears we have now when a grim diagnosis is given.

I've had quite a few people close to me fight a heated battle against cancer. Some have beat it, others have not. Some are still in the process of fighting it. The suffering they experience is still a mystery to me and probably colors my vision when it comes to God. Anger and confusion as to why these things happen always break into my thoughts.

Peregrine surely felt all those things when his own life hung in the balance. Instead of staying angry with God, he turned to him for help.

The night before his surgery, Peregrine went to the chapter room of the Servite house where he lived and prayed before the fresco of the Crucified Christ. He was eventually so exhausted he fell asleep at the foot of the cross. While he slept, he dreamt that Jesus came down from the cross and touched his leg.

When he woke in the morning, the cancer was completely gone. His leg had been miraculously healed.

You might be wondering what exactly Peregrine prayed for at the foot of the cross. It is said he prayed for God to heal him, if it was his will. His surrender to the will of God was remarkable, even in the face of death.

Can we do that? It's a difficult task, but our Lord does ask us to surrender to his will, just as Jesus did in the Garden of Gethsemane. We can ask God for the grace to do this in our own lives. He is never stingy with His graces.

Even with these graces, sometimes the prayer we beg of the Lord is not answered the way we would like. Our limited human understanding of God's bigger picture keeps us from seeing how our circumstances fit into that picture. Don't let that lead you into despair.

Our role in the fight is not small, regardless of how our prayers are answered. We can help those fighting cancer to find grace and peace along the way. And we can find it for ourselves. God is waiting for us to ask him for it.

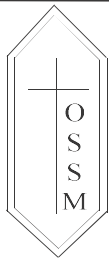
I have no magic bullet for the cancer and suffering question. I'm not even qualified to try to begin to answer it. All I know to do is pray like your life depends on it. Miracles still happen, and that's all we can hope for. But hope we will because we have a God who loves us.

The miraculous healing of Peregrine spread far and wide over the years. After many more years of serving the sick and poor, he died from a fever on May 1, 1345, at 85. St. Peregrine was declared blessed by Pope Paul V in 1609, and he was canonized by Pope Benedict XIII in 1726. He is the patron saint of those suffering with cancer, AIDS and other malignant diseases.

Mary's Helpers has St Peregrine Statues, Medals and Prayer Cards for you or your loved one. Call us to order at 504-348-7729



Heavenly Father, be the healer for those suffering from cancer. Lord, restore (my) health and bring comfort during this battle. In Your mercy, help (me) to regain (my) physical strength and bring (me) back to a state of renewed health. In Jesus' name, Amen.



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*And ONE Tiny Baby
 Changed the Whole World*

Prayer to Jesus
Oh my precious Jesus, embrace me in your arms and allow my head to rest upon your shoulders so that you can raise me up to your glorious Kingdom when the time is right. Allow your precious blood to flow over my heart that we can be united as one.

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 “¡Queridos hijos! En este tiempo de gracia de la espera, deseo invitarlos a la oración para que el Adviento sea la oración de la familia. De manera especial, hijitos, a quienes abrazo con ternura, los animo a la oración por la paz en el mundo, para que la paz prevalezca sobre la inquietud y el odio. Gracias por haber respondido a mi llamado. ”

Ultimo Mensaje, 25 de diciembre de 2024
 Queridos hijos! Oren, oren, oren para que la paz reine en cada corazón y prevalezca sobre todo mal e inquietud. Gracias por haber respondido a mi llamado. ”

Ultimo Mensaje, 25 de diciembre de 2024
Aparición anual a Jakov
 “Queridos hijos, hoy, en este día de gracia, de manera especial los invito a que no vivan la vida aspirando a metas terrenales, ni buscando paz y alegría en las cosas terrenales, porque así la oscuridad envuelve su vida y ustedes no ven el sentido de ella. Hijitos, abran las puertas de su corazón a Jesús, permítanle que se apodere de todo su ser para que puedan comenzar a vivir en el amor y en la misericordia de Dios. Hijos míos, sólo con Jesús en sus corazones conocerán el verdadero propósito de su vida y aspirarán a la salvación eterna. Los bendigo con mi bendición maternal. ”

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Breathe on me
Holy Spirit, come and bless me from my head down to my toes. Turn me round and upside down, inside out, my heart expose.
Breathe on me through sun and rain. Breathe on me through joy and pain. Breathe on me in every way. Live in me through this day.

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