

# Reflections

*International*

*Catholic Family Newsletter*

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## **Bringing Light Into a World of Darkness**

**Our Common Thread-Children of God**

**Sister Briege Mckenna Healing Ministry**

**Promises of Jesus for Saying The Divine Mercy Chaplet**

**Proof of the Resurrection**

### **Blessing to All:**

We all suffer illnesses, body pains, family problems and a host of things that impact our lives in a negative way. These human conditions are brought about by our fallen nature through the first sin. We must also understand that a common thread unites all of us... "we are all children of God."

As His children, we are in union with our Creator. Scripture tells us in Matthew 5:45 that we are God's children. The good and the bad. "So that you may be children of your Father in heaven; for he makes his sun rise on the evil and on the good and sends rain on the righteous and on the unrighteous."

Yes, we are all in this together. His love, for all of us and the teaching of Jesus, to love one another, is our common thread. Mankind has been torn apart by sin. A host of sufferings have fallen on all the world, through wars forced upon societies, to political powers who rule out God in all things, and church leaders who shy away from speaking the truth of the gospel. These are the things that evil lives on...pride; hatred; false teachings; passing laws that approve the killing of children by two-faced politicians who smile while their insides are of dead people, and church leaders who don't defend the faith.

We have to pray for others, to fight off the evil that enters into every aspect of our society. Yes... pray for others, even people you do not know. This is our weapon of choice. Many saints will attest through their lives, that

prayers are powerful. Don't give up on your prayers...please...The world needs our prayers.

We should always pray for our family each day. Prayers said in earnest are always heard by Jesus. It doesn't matter if it is a rosary, or one Our Father. It is the prayer of the heart asking for help and protection for our family members that touches the very heart of Jesus.

Jesus came to give us an example of serving each other and providing us with the importance of spiritual prayer. When He gave us the Our Father prayer, He was giving us the words to use to thank God and to ask for things that we need. Use that prayer daily and lift up your intentions before you pray. Don't beat around the bush with God...tell him what you are praying for. And keep at it. Remember what Jesus said about persistent prayer? In Luke 18:1-8 here is the parable that persistent prayer will work..." **And he**



**told them a parable to the effect that they ought always to pray and not lose heart. He said, "In a certain city there was a judge who neither feared God nor respected man. And there was a widow in that city who kept coming to him and saying, 'Give me justice against my adversary.' For a while he refused, but afterward he said to**

**himself, 'Though I neither fear God nor respect man, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will give her justice, so that she will not beat me down by her continual coming.'" And the Lord said, "Hear what the unrighteous judge says. And will not God give justice to his elect, who cry to him day and night? Will he delay long over them? I tell you, he will give justice to them speedily. Nevertheless, when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"**



Group prayer is very powerful, and Jesus is in the midst of those in group prayer. Remember the words of Jesus, when He said, "It is not the healthy who need a doctor, but the sick. I have not come to call the righteous, but sinners." (Mark 2:17). Be a part of Jesus' ministry of saving souls by your prayers.

Through your prayers, souls "will" be saved. You are a powerful instrument for good against evil. Use the power God gave you to protect others by your prayers and examples of good works.



Little things can make a big difference in the lives of others. A smile, says Mother Theresa, can do so much good to the one who you smile at.

If you are a parent, the last thing before you put your children to bed, should be a smile and "I love you." A small thing but

with deep meaning. If your child is afraid of the dark, as most children are, leave a small light on. One day, they will not need the light, but for now, it gives them comfort. Let them know, that you are "surrounding them with prayers, and their guardian angel is always there to watch over them."



Each of us have an important role in God's plan for the salvation of souls. In a message to the world, Our Lady of Medjugorje, on January 25, 1987, said "Dear children! Behold, also today I want to call you to start living a new life as of today. Dear children, **I want you to comprehend that God has chosen each one of you, in order to use you in His great plan for the salvation of mankind.** You are not able to comprehend how great your role is in God's design. Therefore, dear children, pray so that in prayer you may be able to comprehend what God's plan is in your regard. I am with you in

order that you may be able to bring it about in all its fullness. Thank you for having responded to my call.”

**PLEASE PRAY...PRAY...PRAY**



**I NEED YOUR PRAYERS TO SAVE SOULS...PLEASE  
AS YOUR MOTHER, I LOVE ALL OF MY CHILDREN.  
STOP SATAN WITH YOUR PRAYERS. HE WANTS TO  
DESTROY FAMILIES AND CAUSE WARS AND HATE AMONG  
ALL OF GOD'S CHILDREN. I ALWAYS WATCH OVER YOU  
DEAR CHILDREN. HELP ME BY YOUR PRAYERS.**



## **My Witness of God's Healing through the Eucharist - With Sister Briega McKenna**



**EVERYTHING is possible to God we say - Sister Briega McKenna knows that God can do the impossible. Some believe in the theory of miracles, Sr. Briega believes in the reality of miracles because she sees them happen.**

Sr. Briega has seen God intervene in the most remarkable ways since she was healed of crippling arthritis in 1970. Her own healing set her on a path that would take her to the ends of the earth - from huge rallies in Latin America to retreats in remote parts of Korea.

Briega McKenna was born in a remote part of Co. Armagh, Northern Ireland, on Pentecost Sunday in 1946. Briega lost her mother when she was only 13. She remembers it well, "As I cried that night, I heard a voice say, 'don't worry, I'll take care of you'. The next morning, I knew I wanted to be a nun," she says.

Briega went on to enter the Congregation of the Sisters of Saint Clare in her hometown. She remembers her first vows vividly, "As I knelt in the chapel, waiting to be called up, I saw Jesus dressed as the Good Shepherd coming to me to take my hand, saying 'come with me'."

Briege had several assignments in different convents but was heartbroken in 1965 when she learned that she had developed rheumatoid arthritis. She went to Florida in 1967 but her condition gradually deteriorated, "I cried with the pain, the doctor said that there was no hope for me and that before long I would be confined to a wheelchair".

Meanwhile Sr. Briege also began to experience immense spiritual pain and dryness. "I even began to ask myself whether I really believed in Jesus," she revealed. What happened next began a remarkable chapter in the life of this extraordinary woman.



Sr. Briege explains: "I attended a retreat in December 1970. I listened to talks on the power of prayer and the power of the Holy Spirit. During the retreat I remember looking at the clock as I closed my eyes. It was 9:15am, December 9, 1970. The only prayer I said was 'Jesus, please help me'. At that moment, I felt a hand touch my head, I opened my eyes and no one was there, but there was a

power going through my body. I looked down. My fingers had been stiff, but not deformed like my feet. There had been sores on my elbows. I looked at myself. My fingers were limber, the sores were gone and I could see that my feet, in sandals, were no longer deformed. I jumped up screaming, 'Jesus! You're really here'."

Since that fateful day Sr. Briege has never had arthritis and carries out her ministry with a breathtaking energy and enthusiasm that would leave most people exhausted!

### **Approval**

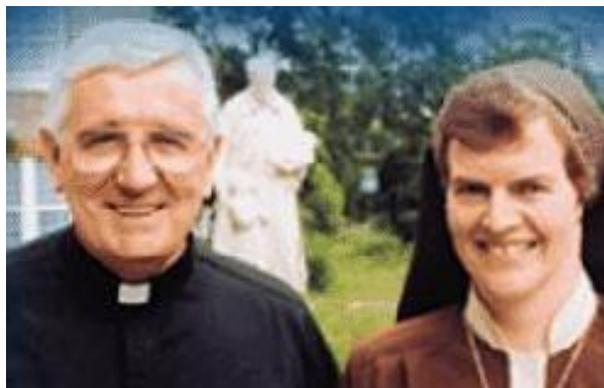
Doctors are baffled by her recover, but Sr. Briege needs no explanation. For her it is simply the power of the touch of the healing hand of God. Sr. Briege's miraculous recovery was just the beginning of a whole new life for her. Not only had she been healed herself, but she had also received the gift of healing, and a powerful gift of insight.

Sr. Briege was reluctant to take on a healing ministry, in fact she put the idea completely out of her head-but the Lord will not take no for an answer. She explains: "I was at a prayer meeting, I wasn't going to talk about

healing, but as I got up a lady jumped up and said, 'Excuse me, Sister, I want to say something. You have the gift of healing. You know about it, but you are more worried about the approval of people than you are about God's will'. I looked at her and said, 'I've never seen you in my life, who are you?'" The lady had been inspired by the Holy Spirit to reveal what was special about Sr. Briege.

Sr. Briege eventually embraced her gifts and God is doing wonderful things through her. It would be easy to get proud with such gifts, but Sr. Briege keeps her feet firmly on the ground. "I don't do anything" she says modestly, "it's all the healing power of Jesus. He's simply chosen me as an instrument."

Everywhere Sr. Briege goes she is met by countless people in need of healing. God is blessing people in a very special way through her ministry. Sr. Briege maintains a gruelling schedule criss-crossing the globe bringing the power of Jesus to whomever she meets. She is as comfortable addressing an intimate gathering of bishops in Rome as she is addressing thousands of people in football stadiums in Latin America.



In her ministry, Sr. Briege has a special focus on priests. "Because the priesthood is under such severe attack, it needs, perhaps more than ever before, our encouragement and support," she says.



A lot of Sr. Briege's work takes her to seminars and houses of formation for young men training to be priests. It is a ministry of comfort, a ministry of confirmation and a ministry of affirmation.

Everywhere she goes is the same; one seminarian described her as "an inspiring signpost pointing to the Lord".

Sr. Briege, while praying before the Blessed Sacrament had a vision about priesthood. "It was then that the Lord revealed to me that I couldn't just sit back and criticise the priesthood" she said. "Actually, in the sacrament of Holy Orders, the priest says yes to God so he can be a priest for me, for you, for everyone of us."

"Jesus led me into what seemed to be a sequence of images appearing over the tabernacle. There I saw the ordination of a priest-through the Lord's eyes. When we look at a tapestry hanging on a wall, we see only the finished results of the labour of the artist. We do not see all the labour and love that went into its making. However, on the reverse side, we see all the different threads and stitches and labour that went into the making of the beautiful work of art."

"So, too, when we look at a priest, we see the obvious strengths and weaknesses. But we do not see behind the scenes where the Lord has, with love and faithfulness, endowed the soul with a priestly vocation and guided him to ordination. I found myself weeping as I watched the unfolding of this powerful revelation of the priesthood and what it means to a man to be ordained."

"I had a sense that everyone in Heaven - Mary, the angels and all of the saints - were praising God's faithfulness to humanity in his call to men in every age to give them the power to make him present among his people."



"Through this experience, I got a new understanding of the priesthood. I got a new love and a deep reverence for the sacrament of Holy Orders. I came to understand that priests were in need of great prayers, and great consolation."

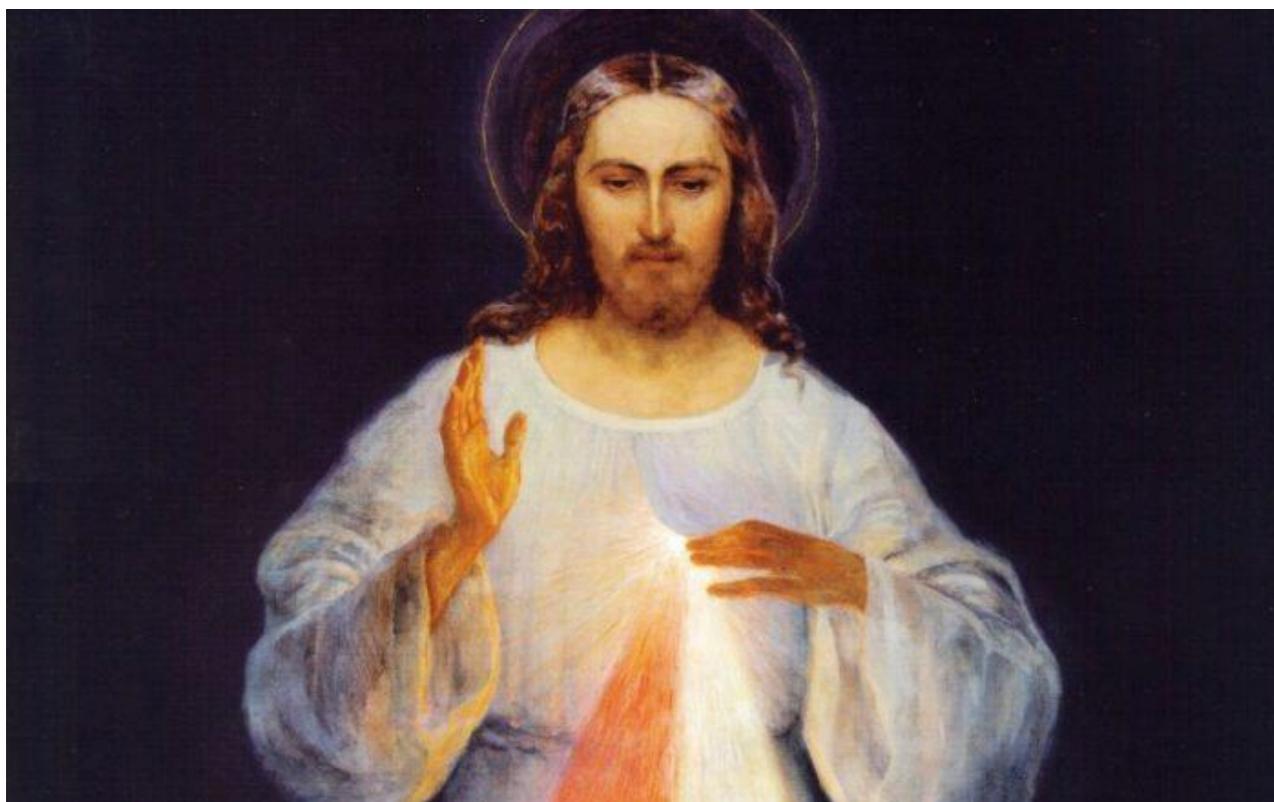
This started Sr. Briege on her mission to confirm priests in their vocation. "Too often priests get disheartened, they don't get enough support," she says. "Priests are human too, and weak, they need our constant help and support."

Sr. Briege McKenna is a remarkable woman; someone who puts Jesus first in her life, and her great gift is to bring others to Jesus. As she says in her own words: "I am convinced that no one can do more than become a signpost that points to Him, to help others discover Him in their own hearts and permit Him to give them great blessings."

## **PRAY FOR PRIESTS**



## 14 Amazing Promises Jesus Made to Those Who Pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet



The Divine Mercy Chaplet was presented to St. Faustina in 1935 during a private revelation. Jesus asks that we meditate upon His Passion at 3 o'clock. The Divine Mercy Chaplet is an especially powerful way to do so. Our Lord also made several promises to those who pray his Divine Mercy Chaplet. How amazing!

## **Here's 14 promises Jesus made to those who pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet:**

**1) "I promise that the soul that will venerate this image (of Divine Mercy) will not perish. I also promise victory over (its) enemies already here on earth, especially at the hour of death. I Myself will defend it as My own glory." (Diary of St. Faustina, 48)**

**2) "The two rays denote Blood and Water...These two rays issued from the very depths of My tender mercy when My agonized Heart was opened by a lance on the Cross. These rays shield souls from the wrath of My Father...I desire that the first Sunday after Easter be the Feast of Mercy...whoever approaches the Fount of Life on this day will be granted complete remission of sins and punishment. Mankind will not have peace until it turns with trust to My mercy."(Diary of St. Faustina, 299-300)**

**3) "I desire that the Feast of Mercy...be solemnly celebrated on the first Sunday after Easter...The soul that will go to Confession and receive Holy Communion (in a state of grace on this day) shall obtain complete forgiveness of sins and punishment." (Diary of St. Faustina, 699)**

**4) "Whoever will recite it will receive great mercy at the hour of death." (Diary of St. Faustina, 687)**

**5) "Priests will recommend it to sinners as their last hope of salvation. Even if there were a sinner most hardened, if he were to recite this chaplet only once, he would receive grace from My infinite mercy...I desire to grant unimaginable graces to those souls who trust in My mercy." (Diary of St. Faustina, 687)**

**6) "The souls that say this chaplet will be embraced by My mercy during their lifetime and especially at the hour of their death." (Diary of St. Faustina, 754)**

**7) "Souls who spread the honor of My mercy...at the hour of death I will not be a Judge for them, but the Merciful Savior." (Diary of St. Faustina, 1075)**

**8) "The prayer most pleasing to Me is prayer for the conversion for sinners. Know, my daughter, that this prayer is always heard and answered." (Diary of St. Faustina, 1397)**

**9) "My mercy is greater than your sins and those of the entire world." (Diary of St. Faustina, 1485)**

**10) "To priests who proclaim and extol My mercy, I will give wondrous power; I will anoint their words and touch the hearts of those to whom they will speak." (Diary of St. Faustina, 1521)**

**11) "Through this chaplet you will obtain everything, if what you ask for is compatible with My will." (Diary of St. Faustina, 1731)**

**12) "When hardened sinners say it, I will fill their souls with peace, and the hour of their death will be a happy one." (Diary of St. Faustina, 1541)**

**13) "When they say this chaplet in the presence of the dying, I will stand between My Father and the dying person, not as a just Judge but as a merciful Savior." (Diary of St. Faustina, 1541)**

**14) "At three o'clock, implore My mercy, especially for sinners; and, if only for a brief moment, immerse yourself in My Passion, particularly in My abandonment at the moment of agony...I will refuse nothing to the soul that makes a request of Me in virtue of My Passion." (Diary of St. Faustina, 1320)**

## **Proof of the Ressurrection of Jesus**

**By James Tour, PhD, Rice University, Houston, Tx.**

**His presentation starts at 2:23 of the video.**

**Hoover over link and hit Ctrl and click left mouse.**

**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gm4DWnD72TE&list=RDLVgm4DWnD72TE&index=1>**

**His home page is <http://www.drjamestour.com/>**

**Dr Tour has many great YouTube presentations about Jesus. He also welcomes you to contact him for a Chat or Zoom meeting if you don't know Jesus or in doubt. He will take your request and reply.**



**Dr James Tour**

**From the beginning of the Church, the Apostles believe that communion was the Body and Blood of Christ.**

**Ignatius of Antioch** (d. c. 110): “Take note of those who hold heterodox opinions on the grace of Jesus Christ which has come to us, and see how contrary their opinions are to the mind of God. . . . They abstain from the Eucharist and from prayer because they do not confess that the Eucharist is the flesh of our Savior Jesus Christ, flesh which suffered for our sins and which that Father, in his goodness, raised up again. They who deny the gift of God are perishing in their disputes” (*Letter to the Smyrnaeans* 6:2–7:1).



## **The International Catholic Family Newsletter Is Published Monthly**

**Our mission statement is to motivate people to pray and to be Christian examples in their work, home and with others, for those needing the Light in a world of Darkness.**

**<https://www.catholicfamilynewsletter.com>**

**I am watching over you. Pray my children,  
Pray, Pray, Pray, My Rosary For The Salvation of  
Sinners**

