

OUR LADY OF CHARITY



**Knights of Columbus
Marian Prayer Program**



MESSAGE FROM THE SUPREME KNIGHT

Dear Brother Knights and Friends:

Devotion to Our Lady of Charity dates to the early 1600s, when a statue of the Blessed Mother holding the Christ Child was found in Cuban waters by three young men.

As the story has been passed down, the three were rowing in search of salt to preserve meat for the copper miners of El Cobre. Halfway across the bay, the young men sought shelter from a storm and encamped for the night. In the morning, they saw a white bundle floating toward them. It was a statue attached to a board that was inscribed with the words: "I am the Virgin of Charity" ("Yo soy la Virgen de la Caridad"). A shrine was erected in her honor and devotion to Our Lady of Charity spread throughout Cuba.

Our Lady of Charity now comes to Knights of Columbus everywhere as we turn to her maternal intercession in our new Marian Prayer Program. Although the Virgin of Charity has her origins in Cuba, devotion to her is altogether appropriate for the Knights of Columbus due to our first principle of charity.

Our prayer program also gives us an opportunity to pray in solidarity with Pope Benedict XVI, whose first encyclical, *Deus Caritas Est*, was dedicated to the theme of charity. During each prayer service we will remember in a special way the pope and his worldwide ministry as the Vicar of Christ and shepherd of the Universal Church. At the conclusion of the yearlong prayer program, a "spiritual bouquet" will be presented to the pope, including a report on the total number of prayer services that were held and the approximate number of participants.

Our Lady of Charity also had a special place in the ministry of Pope Benedict's predecessor, Pope John Paul II of happy memory, who preached the Gospel with courage during his historic pastoral trip to Cuba in January 1998. In a solemn ceremony attended by thousands of Cuban Catholics, he crowned the statue of Our Lady of Charity, which was carried in procession through the streets.

This Marian Prayer Program with an image of Our Lady of Charity is a graced opportunity to reflect on the virtue of charity and to make more widely known the beautiful teaching of *Deus Caritas Est*, in which Pope Benedict XVI explores the true nature of charity, based on love of God and love of neighbor.

Following the pope's teaching, all of our charitable works for parishes, vocations, communities, schools and individuals must flow from Christian love supported by regular prayer and attendance at Mass, and be informed by the self-giving love of Jesus and the maternal heart of Mary. Charity, or love, is the virtue that must distinguish every Christian. Jesus said to his disciples during the Last Supper: "As I have loved you, so you also should love one another. This is how all will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another" (John 13:34-35).

May this Marian Prayer Program bring us all to a greater understanding of the virtue of charity and inspire us to carry Christ's love to the world around us.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Carl A. Anderson". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Carl A. Anderson
Supreme Knight

PRAYER SERVICE

Opening Hymn *Hail, Holy Queen Enthroned Above*



1. Hail, ho - ly Queen en - throned a - bove, O Ma -
2. The cause of joy to all be - low, O Ma -
3. O gen - tle, lov - ing, ho - ly one, O Ma -



ri - a. Hail, Queen of mer - cy and of love,
ri - a. The spring through which all grac - es flow,
ri - a. The God of light be - came your Son,



O Ma - ri - a. Tri - umph, all ye
O Ma - ri - a. An - gels, all your
O Ma - ri - a. Tri - umph, all ye



Cher - u - bim, Sing with us, ye Ser - a - phim,
prais - es bring, Earth and heav - en, with us sing,
Cher - u - bim, Sing with us, ye Ser - a - phim,



Heav'n and earth re - sound the hymn: Sal - ve,
All cre - a - tion ech - o - ing: Sal - ve,
Heav'n and earth re - sound the hymn: Sal - ve,



Sal - ve, Sal - ve, Re - gi - na.
Sal - ve, Sal - ve, Re - gi - na.
Sal - ve, Sal - ve, Re - gi - na.

Text: *Salve, Regina, mater misericordiae*, c. 1080; tr. *Roman Hymnal*, 1884; st. 2-3 adapt. by M. Owen Lee, CSB, b. 1930
Tune: SALVE REGINA COELITUM, 8 4 8 4 777 4 5; *Choralmelodien zum Heiligen Gesänge*, 1808; harm. by Healey Willan, 1880-1968

Greeting

Leader: In the name of the Father,
✠ and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.

All: **Amen.**

Leader: As we gather under the protection of Mary, recalling her title of Our Lady of Charity, let us ask that the virtue of charity be kindled anew in our hearts so that we may be true witnesses to the love of Jesus in the world.

Opening Prayer

Leader: God our Father, you gave the world the Blessed Virgin to serve as a model of love and to guide us along the road to heaven. As we honor her under the title of Our Lady of Charity, stir up in us the virtue of charity so that, with her help, we may love God with all our hearts and our neighbors as ourselves.

We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

All: **Amen.**

LITURGY OF THE WORD

Reading

1 John 4:11-16

A reading from the first Letter of Saint John

Beloved, if God so loved us, we also must love one another. No one has ever seen God. Yet if we love one another, God remains in us, and his love is brought to perfection in us.

This is how we know we remain in him and he in us, that he has given us of his Spirit. Moreover, we have seen and testify that the Father sent his Son as savior of the world. Whoever acknowledges that Jesus is the Son of God, God remains in him and he in God. We have come to know and to believe in the love God has for us.

God is love, and whoever remains in love remains in God and God in him.

The Word of the Lord.

R/ Thanks be to God.

Responsorial Psalm

Psalm 45

R/ The queen stands at your right hand, arrayed in gold.

The queen takes her place at your right hand
in gold of Ophir. **R/**

Hear, O daughter, and see; turn your ear,
forget your people and your father's house. **R/**

So shall the king desire your beauty;
for he is your lord. **R/**

They are borne in with gladness and joy;
they enter the palace of the king. **R/**

Gospel

John 15:7-17

A reading from the holy Gospel according to John
R/ Glory to you, Lord.

Jesus said to his disciples: "If you remain in me and my words remain in you, ask for whatever you want and it will be done for you. By this is my Father glorified, that you bear much fruit and become my disciples. As the Father loves me, so I also love you. Remain in my love. If you keep my commandments you will remain in my love, just as I have kept my Father's commandments and remain in his love.

"I have told you this so that my joy may be in you and your joy may be complete. This is my commandment: love one another as I love you. No one has greater love than this, to lay down one's life for one's friends. You are my friends if you do what I command you. I no longer call you slaves, because a slave does not know what his master is doing. I have called you friends, because I have told you everything I have heard from my Father. It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you and appointed you to go and bear much fruit that will remain, so that whatever you ask the Father in my name he may give you. This I command you: love one another."

The Gospel of the Lord.
R/ Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

Homily

If a bishop, priest or deacon is leading the prayer service, he may preach a homily. If a layman is leading, the following excerpts from Pope Benedict XVI's encyclical Deus Caritas Est should be read aloud.

"God is love, and he who abides in love abides in God, and God abides in him" (1 Jn 4:16). These words from the *First Letter of John* express with remarkable clarity the heart of the Christian faith: the Christian image of God and the resulting image of mankind and its destiny. In the same verse, Saint John also offers a kind of summary of the Christian life: "We have come to know and to believe in the love God has for us."

We have come to believe in God's love: in these words the Christian can express the fundamental decision of his life. Being Christian is not the result of an ethical choice or a lofty idea, but the encounter with an event, a person, which gives life a new horizon and a decisive direction. Saint John's Gospel describes that event in these words: "God so loved the world that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should ... have eternal life" (3:16). In acknowledging the centrality of love, Christian faith has retained the core of Israel's faith, while at the same time giving it new depth and breadth. ... Since God has first loved us (cf 1 Jn 4:10), love is now no longer a mere "command"; it is the response to the gift of love with which God draws near to us. (1)

"If you see charity, you see the Trinity," wrote Saint Augustine. (19) ... Love for widows and orphans, prisoners, and the sick and needy of every kind, is as essential to [the Church] as the ministry of the sacraments and the preaching of the Gospel. The Church cannot neglect the service of charity any more than she can neglect the sacraments and the Word. (22)

Period of Silent Reflection

Intercessions

Leader:

Let us pray that we all may become humble bearers of God's charity.

Petitioner:

For the Church, that the rays of Christ's charity may shine in the world, especially in those places beset by war, hostility, poverty and hunger. We pray to the Lord.

R/ Lord, hear our prayer.

For our Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI, that he will be strengthened by the Holy Spirit as he witnesses to the true nature of charity as laid out in his encyclical *Deus Caritas Est*. We pray to the Lord.

R/ Lord, hear our prayer.

For an increase in vocations to the priesthood and religious life, that young men and women may hear the call of God and respond with open hearts. We pray to the Lord.

R/ Lord, hear our prayer.

For Knights of Columbus throughout the world, that members may live up to the Order's first principle of charity through their prayers, programs and charitable works. We pray to the Lord.

R/ Lord, hear our prayer.

For the protection of human life from conception to natural death, that the efforts of the Knights of Columbus and all pro-life organizations may result in changed laws and hearts as we build a Culture of Life. We pray to the Lord.

R/ Lord, hear our prayer.

For the defense of marriage and family, that all governments will respect and protect these fundamental institutions in our society. We pray to the Lord.

R/ Lord, hear our prayer.

For the beatification the Servant of God Father Michael J. McGivney, that the founder of the Knights of Columbus may soon be raised to the honors of the altar. We pray to the Lord.

R/ Lord, hear our prayer.

For the private intentions we hold in the silence of our hearts. (*Pause*) We pray to the Lord.

R/ Lord, hear our prayer.

For the Knights of Columbus Marian Prayer Program, that devotion to Our Lady of Charity may bring persons of different backgrounds and nationalities closer together as they recognize one another as brothers and sisters created by the one God. We pray to the Lord.

R/ Lord, hear our prayer.

Leader:

Heavenly Father, look kindly upon your humble servants and grant the prayers we make through Christ our Lord.

R/ Amen.

THE MOST HOLY ROSARY

Sign of the Cross

All: In the name of the Father,
✠ and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Apostles' Creed

All: I believe in God, the Father almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.
I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son,
our Lord.
He was conceived by the power of the
Holy Spirit and born of the Virgin Mary.
He suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again.
He ascended into heaven,
and is seated at the right hand
of the Father.
He will come again to judge the living
and the dead.
I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic Church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.

Lord's Prayer

Leader: Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

**All: Give us this day our daily bread
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us,
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil. Amen.**

Hail Mary

Leader: Hail Mary, full of grace,
the Lord is with thee:
blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

**All: Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners, now,
and at the hour of our death. Amen.**

Repeat three times.

Glory Be

Leader: Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit.

**All: As it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.**

MYSTERIES OF THE ROSARY

Joyful Mysteries (*prayed on Mondays and Saturdays*)

1. The Annunciation of the Lord
2. The Visitation of Mary
3. The Nativity of the Lord
4. The Presentation of the Lord in the Temple
5. The Finding of the Lord in the Temple

Luminous Mysteries (*prayed on Thursdays*)

1. The Baptism of the Lord in the Jordan
2. The Manifestation of the Lord at the Wedding of Cana
3. The Proclamation of the Kingdom of God
4. The Transfiguration of the Lord
5. The Institution of the Eucharist

Sorrowful Mysteries (*prayed on Tuesdays and Fridays*)

1. The Agony of the Lord in the Garden
2. The Scourging of the Lord at the Pillar
3. The Crowning of the Lord with Thorns
4. The Lord's Carrying of the Cross
5. The Crucifixion of the Lord

Glorious Mysteries (*prayed on Sundays and Wednesdays*)

1. The Resurrection of the Lord
2. The Ascension of the Lord
3. The Descent of the Holy Spirit on the Apostles
4. The Assumption of Mary into Heaven
5. The Coronation of Mary as Queen of the Angels and the Saints

The leader announces the mystery on which to reflect during the next decade. After five decades, proceed to the Hail, Holy Queen.

Lord's Prayer

Leader: Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name,
thy kingdom come,
thy will be done,
on earth as it is in heaven.

**All: Give us this day our daily bread
and forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those who trespass against us,
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil. Amen.**

Hail Mary

Leader: Hail Mary, full of grace,
the Lord is with thee:
blessed art thou among women,
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

**All: Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners, now,
and at the hour of our death. Amen.**

Repeat ten times.

Glory Be

Leader: Glory be to the Father,
and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit.

**All: As it was in the beginning,
is now, and ever shall be,
world without end. Amen.**

Hail, Holy Queen

All: Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy,
our life, our sweetness and our hope!
To thee do we cry,
poor banished children of Eve.
To thee do we send up our sighs,
mourning and weeping
in this valley of tears.
Turn then, most gracious advocate,
thine eyes of mercy toward us
and after this our exile,
show unto us the blessed fruit
of thy womb, Jesus.
O clement, O loving,
O sweet Virgin Mary.

Prayer

Leader: Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

All: That we may be made worthy
of the promises of Christ.

Leader: Let us pray.

All: O God, whose only begotten Son,
by his life, death and resurrection,
has purchased for us the rewards of
eternal life; grant, we beseech thee,
that meditating on these mysteries
of the Most Holy Rosary
of the Blessed Virgin Mary,
we may imitate what they contain
and obtain what they promise.
Through the same Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Litany of Our Lady of Charity

Leader:

All:

Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.

**R/ Lord, have mercy.
Christ, have mercy.
Lord, have mercy.**

God, the Father in heaven.
God, the Son, Redeemer of
the world.
God, the Holy Spirit.
Holy Trinity, one God.

Have mercy on us.

Have mercy on us.

Have mercy on us.

Have mercy on us.

Our Lady of Charity.
Hail Mary, full of grace!
You are the beloved Daughter
of the Father.

Pray for us.

Pray for us.

Mother of Christ, our God.
Living Temple of the
Holy Spirit.

Pray for us.

Pray for us.

Virgin of Charity.
Your name evokes thoughts
of the God who is Love.

Pray for us.

Pray for us.

Your name recalls the new
commandment of Jesus.

Pray for us.

Pray for us.

Your name invokes the Holy Spirit.

Pray for us.

Your name invokes the fire of
charity sent on Pentecost.

Pray for us.

Your name invokes the gift of the
freedom of the children of God.

Pray for us.

Blessed are you among women.
Blessed is the fruit of your womb.
You came to visit your people.
You are a sign of hope and
fraternal communion.

Pray for us.

Pray for us.

Pray for us.

Pray for us.

Holy Mary, Mother of God and Mother of us all.	Pray for us.
Intercede for us with your maternal heart.	Pray for us.
Increase our faith.	Pray for us.
Enliven our hope.	Pray for us.
Augment and strengthen our love.	Pray for us.
Shelter our families.	Pray for us.
Protect young people and little children.	Pray for us.
Comfort the suffering.	Pray for us.
Mother of the Shepherds of the Church.	Pray for us.
Model and star of the new evangelization.	Pray for us.
Mother of reconciliation.	Pray for us.
Gather together your people scattered throughout the world.	Pray for us.
Make our nation a home of brothers and sisters.	Pray for us.
Protect all Knights of Columbus and their families.	Pray for us.
Open minds and hearts to Christ, the only Savior and Redeemer.	Pray for us.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world.	Spare us, O Lord.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world.	Graciously hear us, O Lord.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world.	Have mercy on us.

Closing Prayer

Leader:

Let us pray.

All:

**Most Holy Mother of Charity,
who came to us as a messenger of peace
across the sea, you are the Mother of all.**

**To you we come, Most Holy Mother of God,
to honor you with love as your children.
To your motherly heart we entrust our
desires and hopes, our work and our prayers.**

**We pray for our countries, that we may be able
to build nations based on peace and unity.**

**We pray for our families, that they may live
in fidelity and love.**

**We pray for our children, that they
may grow strong in spirit and in body.**

**We pray for our young people, that their faith may
increase, as well as their attachment to the truth.**

**We pray for the sick, the homeless, the lonely,
the exiled, and for all suffering souls.**

**We pray for the Catholic Church, for its mission,
for its clergy, religious and laity, and especially
for our Holy Father Pope Benedict XVI.**

Mother of Charity!

We place ourselves under your mantle of protection!

Blessed are you among women and

blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus!

To Him be the glory and the power, now and forever. Amen.

*The Litany and Closing Prayer were adapted from texts used by
Pope John Paul II for his pastoral visit to Cuba in 1998.*

Closing Hymn

Sing of Mary



1. Sing of Mar - y meek and low - ly, Vir - gin - moth - er
2. Sing of Je - sus, son of Mar - y, In the home at
3. Glo - ry be to God the Fa - ther; Glo - ry be to



pure and mild, Sing of God's own Son most ho - ly,
Naz - a - reth. Toil and la - bor can - not wea - ry
God the Son; Glo - ry be to God the Spir - it;



Who be - came her lit - tle child. Fair - est child of
Love en - dur - ing un - to death. Con - stant was the
Glo - ry to the Three in One. From the heart of



fair - est moth - er, God the Lord who came to earth,
love he gave her, Though he went forth from her side,
bless - ed Mar - y, From all saints the song as - cends,



Word made flesh, our ver - y broth - er,
Forth to preach, and heal, and suf - fer,
And the church the strain re - ech - oes



Takes our na - ture by his birth.
Till on Cal - va - ry he died.
Un - to earth's re - mot - est ends.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Cover Image: Our Lady of Charity, courtesy of the Temple of the Sagrario, Metropolitan Cathedral, Mexico City.

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PRAYER FOR THE CANONIZATION OF FATHER MICHAEL J. McGIVNEY

All: God, our Father, protector of the poor and defender of the widow and orphan, you called your priest, Father Michael J. McGivney, to be an apostle of Christian family life and to lead the young to the generous service of their neighbor. Through the example of his life and virtue may we follow your Son, Jesus Christ, more closely, fulfilling his commandment of charity and building up his Body which is the Church. Let the inspiration of your servant prompt us to greater confidence in your love so that we may continue his work of caring for the needy and the outcast. We humbly ask that you glorify your servant Father Michael J. McGivney on earth according to the design of your holy will. Through his intercession, grant the favor I now present (*here make your request*). Through Christ our Lord. Amen.