

Discover 9 timeless devotions that promise, among many other generous rewards, the gift of salvation. This booklet includes: true stories, Saint quotes, beautiful images, appropriate prayers and explanations to help fulfill the conditions for the following powerful devotions:

The 15 Promises of the Holy Rosary

The Brown Scapular

Consecration to the Immaculate Heart

The Five First Saturdays

The Sacred Heart of Jesus

The Nine First Fridays

The Holy Face of Jesus

The 7 Sorrows of Mary

The Three Hail Marys

“Whosoever dies clothed in this Scapular shall not suffer eternal fire. It is the badge of salvation, a shield in time of danger, and a pledge of special peace and protection.”

- The Blessed Virgin’s promise to those who wear the Brown Scapular



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DEVOTIONS

THAT CAN

SAVE YOUR SOUL

**9 CHURCH-APPROVED DEVOTIONS
WHICH PROMISE SALVATION**

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

METHODS FOR OFFERING CONSOLATION AND GRATITUDE TO JESUS AND MARY 4

1. **15 Promises of the Holy Rosary** 7
2. **Brown Scapular** 11
STORY: The First Miracle 12
How to avoid time in Purgatory (Sabbatine Privilege). 16
3. **Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary** 19
STORY: Mary Protects Portugal 19
STORY: Mary Protects the Diocese of Seville, Spain . 20
STORY: Miraculously Spared from Instant Death . . . 21
STORY: Hermann Cohen Saves His Mother 23
A short form of Consecration 24
4. **Five First Saturdays** 27
5. **Sacred Heart of Jesus** 33
STORY: The Desperate Soldier 37
Consecration to the Sacred Heart of Jesus 39
6. **Nine First Fridays** 41
7. **Holy Face of Jesus** 43
The Golden Arrow Prayer 47
Litany of the Holy Face 48
Chaplet of the Holy Face 52
St. Thérèse's Prayer to the Holy Face 54
Other Short Prayers to the Holy Face. 54
8. **The 7 Sorrows of Mary** 57
Prayers in honor of the Sorrows of Mary 59
St. Bridget's prayer to Our Lady of Sorrows 61
STORY: Miraculously Saved from hell 62
STORY: The Horrible Consequences of Sin 65
Prayer: We Grieve for You, Jesus and Mary 67
9. **The Three Hail Marys** 69
STORY: Warning from the Abyss 71
Intention Prayer before three Hail Marys 74

INTRODUCTION

In these dark and troubled times, where we earnestly seek peace and protection for ourselves and for our loved ones, it is vitally important to remember that, above all, we must guard and defend our souls. Life on earth is brief - eternity never ends. In his war against humanity, the devil seeks to corrupt and destroy our Eternal Life far more than our earthly one. And if we ignore the reality of this battle we *will* certainly lose this war.

Salvation is a precious and priceless mission. It is also a dangerous and difficult one. While we could fill many pages with quotes from Saints, Popes, Fathers and Doctors of the Church on the great number of souls who are lost, we will limit ourselves to merely quoting God Himself, Who warns us:

"Enter in at the narrow gate: for wide is the gate, and broad is the way that leads to destruction, and many there are who go there. How narrow is the gate, and strait is the way that leads to life: and few there are that find it!"

(St. Matthew 7:13-14)

And again, ***"Then the king said to the waiters: Bind his hands and feet, and cast him into the exterior darkness: there shall be weeping and gnashing of teeth. For many are called, but few chosen."***

(St. Matthew 22:13-14)

But Heaven has not left us helpless in these dangerous times. They have mercifully given us simple, effective, and powerful devotions that **promise Eternal Salvation for those who perform them faithfully.**

WARNING: These devotions are not a license to sin. Anyone who performs these devotions and

then, presuming their salvation is secure, thinks that they are now free to sin, will be disappointed. God, in His Fatherly love and generosity, offers this extraordinary assistance freely to help us, and He reasonably expects a good will on our part. We should at least desire to amend our lives and strive as best we can to do so. We should avail ourselves of all the helps that Heaven gives us to conquer our sins and bad habits and grow in virtue and so become pleasing to God. These helps include prayer, the sacraments, spiritual reading, etc.

In faithfully following these precious devotions that promise to lead us safely Home, remember the words of the Apostle St. Paul, who encourages and assures us that: ***"Eye has not seen, nor ear heard, neither has it entered into the heart of man, what things God has prepared for them that love Him."*** (1 Cor. 2:9)

All of the devotions in this booklet have been fully approved by the Church. We have also included specific images and prayers to help fulfill the conditions for these devotions as well as true stories that clearly show the power and efficacy of these devotions. No one will ever equal, much less excel, Heaven in generosity.

Methods for offering consolation and gratitude to Jesus and Mary

It is very important to be grateful for all that Jesus and Mary suffer and sacrifice for our benefit. It is right and necessary to console Them as well. The following points will help you accomplish this effectively:

1) Give yourself and all that you do to Jesus and Mary and ask Them to unite all of it with Their infinite merits. In this way, all of your thoughts and words and

deeds become that little bit of bread and fish placed in the 'basket' of Mary's Immaculate Heart and are blessed by Jesus. Heaven can then feed countless sinners with all of the graces necessary to amend their lives and save their souls.

2) Offer everything with the desire to make full and complete reparation and atonement for every sin and offense ever, especially your own.

3) Desire to give to God, to Jesus, and to the Blessed Virgin Mary, all of the love and gratitude that They desire or deserve to be given for all of the good that They do for everyone and everything ever.

4) One of the greatest consolations that we can give to Jesus and Mary for all that They suffer, because of our sins and the sins of others, is to help Them convert, sanctify and save all poor sinners.

By offering everything to Jesus and Mary (including your prayers, sacrifices and sufferings) you help Them to convert, cleanse and amend souls and make them worthy of salvation and Heaven.

5) Frequently ask Jesus and Mary to fill all souls with all of Their virtues and all of God's gifts - so that we can be truly happy and perfectly pleasing to Them now and forever.

6) Start today on building a personal relationship with God and Jesus and Mary. The best way to do this is simply by talking to Them every day in your own words from the depths of your heart, especially at those times when you need Them most.

7) Remember, all the happiness that you now give to Jesus and Mary will permanently increase your happiness forever.



 **THE 15 PROMISES FOR** 
RECITING THE ROSARY

(Given by the Virgin Mary to St. Dominic
and Bl. Alan de la Roche)

1. Whoever shall faithfully serve me by the recitation of the Rosary, shall receive signal graces.
2. I promise my special protection and the greatest graces to all those who shall recite the Rosary.
3. The Rosary shall be a powerful armor against hell. It will destroy vice, decrease sin, and defeat heresies.
4. It will cause virtue and good works to flourish; it will obtain for souls the abundant mercy of God; it will withdraw the hearts of men from the love of the world and its vanities, and will lift them to the desire of eternal things. Oh, that souls would sanctify themselves by this means.
- 5. *The soul which recommends itself to me by the recitation of the Rosary, shall not perish.***
6. Whoever shall recite the Rosary devoutly, applying himself to the consideration of its sacred mysteries shall never be conquered by misfortune. **God will not chastise him in His Justice, he shall not perish by an unprovided death;** if he be just he shall remain in the grace of God, and become worthy of eternal life.
7. Whoever has a true devotion for the Rosary **shall not die without the sacraments of the Church.**
8. Those who are faithful to recite the Rosary shall have during their life and at their death the light

of God and the plenitude of His graces; **at the moment of death they shall participate in the merits of the Saints in Paradise.**

9. I shall deliver from Purgatory those who have been devoted to the Rosary.
10. The faithful children of the Rosary shall merit a high degree of glory in Heaven.
11. You shall obtain all you ask of me by the recitation of the Rosary.
12. All those who propagate the Holy Rosary shall be aided by me in their necessities.
13. I have obtained from my Divine Son that **all the advocates of the Rosary shall have for intercessors the entire celestial court during their life and at the hour of death.**
14. All who recite the Rosary are my children, and brothers and sisters of my only Son, Jesus Christ.
15. Devotion of my Rosary is a great sign of predestination.

DEVOTION TO THE ROSARY

"It was because Our Lady wanted to help us in the great task of working out our salvation that She ordered St. Dominic to teach the faithful to meditate upon the sacred mysteries of the life of Jesus Christ. She did this, not only that they might adore and glorify Him, but chiefly that they might pattern their lives and actions upon His virtues... But since people have neglected this gift from Heaven, all kinds of sin and disorder have spread far and wide."

- St. Louis de Montfort

"The Most Holy Virgin in these last times in which we live has given a new efficacy to the recitation of the Rosary to such an extent that there is no problem, no matter how difficult it is, whether temporal or above all spiritual, in the personal life of each one of us, of our families... that cannot be solved by the Rosary. There is no problem, I tell you, no matter how difficult it is, that we cannot resolve by the prayer of the Holy Rosary." - Sister Lucy, seer of Fatima

"The Rosary is the most beautiful and the most rich in graces of all prayers, it is the prayer that touches most the Heart of the Mother of God. If you wish peace to reign in your homes, recite the family Rosary." - Pope Pius X

"The Rosary is THE weapon... Love the Madonna and pray the Rosary, for Her Rosary is the weapon against the evils of the world today... Some people are so foolish that they think they can go through life without the help of the Blessed Mother." - Padre Pio

"Give me an army saying the Rosary and I will conquer the world." - Pope Pius IX

"We do not hesitate to affirm again publicly that we put great confidence in the Holy Rosary for the healing of evils which affect our times." - Pope Pius XII

St. Francis de Sales told St. Vincent de Paul that if he was not obliged to recite the Divine Office (because he was a priest), he would say no other prayer than the Rosary.



 **THE BROWN SCAPULAR** 

One hot summer day in 1251, St. Simon Stock, Superior General of the Carmelite Order, weighed down by his many cares and concerns, withdrew to their Monastery at Cambridge, England, to implore Heaven's help. He begged Our Lady, the Protectress of the Order, to pour out Her graces and benedictions upon the spiritually arid and floundering community.

Mary, in the boundless charity of Her most loving Mother's Heart, appeared to the Saint in a vision. Surrounded by multitudes of Holy Angels, She held in Her beautiful hands a brown religious scapular made of wool. Gazing upon St. Simon with eyes full of love and compassion, She placed the scapular in his hands with these words:

"Receive, my beloved son, this Scapular of thy Order; it is the special sign of my favor, which I have obtained for thee and for thy children of Mount Carmel. Whosoever dies clothed in this Scapular shall not suffer eternal fire. It is the badge of salvation, a shield in time of danger, and a pledge of special peace and protection."

After reassuring him of Her continued protection, and of the swift correction of the present difficulties plaguing the Carmelites, the Blessed Virgin departed, leaving St. Simon greatly consoled and encouraged.

This vision, in which Mary gave us Her garment of salvation, occurred on July 16, 1251. From that hour forward, the habit of the Carmelite Order was transformed by the Mother of God from its Arabian stripes (the order originated on Mount Carmel in the Holy Land) into the brown and cream habit that we know today.

THE FIRST MIRACLE

In fact, on the very day that St. Simon Stock received the Scapular, he was called by Lord Peter of Linton to the bedside of the nobleman's dying brother. The unfortunate sick man, after leading a life of sin and scandal, was now trapped in Satan's grasp, obstinately remaining in his sins and refusing the Last Sacraments. He was now possessed by the devil, blaspheming God, and on the edge of dying in despair.

The Saint's confessor, Fr. Peter Swanington, went with him to the possessed man. Father tells us that:

"We entered the house and he (the sick man) foamed with rage, was grinding his teeth and rolled his eyes like a furious animal. **St. Simon, seeing that he was about to expire and had already lost the use of his senses, made the Sign of the Cross and placed upon him the brand new Holy Scapular of Carmel.** Then, lifting his eyes to Heaven, he prayed to God to give the unfortunate man time for repentance, so that a soul, bought with the price of the Blood of Jesus Christ, might not become the prey of the demon. All at once the sick man regained his strength, recovered the use of his senses, and making the Sign of the Cross, cried against the demon, saying with tears, 'Alas, wretch that I am, how terrible is the fear of my damnation! My sins are more numerous than the sands of the sea! O my God, Thy Mercy is above Thy justice, have pity on me, and you, my Father, help me!'"

The poor sinner, having received this precious grace from Heaven's Queen, renounced his sinful past, went to Confession, and received the Last Sacraments. He died in the peace and friendship of God just a few hours later. That night, in a dream, Lord Peter saw a vision of his deceased brother, who told him that:

“I have been saved through the most powerful Queen and with the Habit of that man as a shield.”

This first miracle convincingly proved to everyone the extraordinary promises which Mary had given St. Simon Stock that very day. It also served to rapidly spread awareness of this most powerful gift from Heaven. And within the Carmelite Order itself, the blessings which Mary had promised were soon blossoming forth. The saintly Superior General lived to see the Carmelites flourish marvelously throughout all of Europe.

Over the centuries, our Holy Mother the Church has generously extended the powerful promise of the Scapular to those outside the Order who wish to avail themselves of it. **All that is necessary is to have oneself enrolled in the Confraternity of the Brown Scapular.** Any priest can do this enrollment.

Once enrolled by a priest, all that is left is to wear the Brown Scapular which he will bless. It must be worn around the neck, draped over the front and back of the chest. It should be made of wool. It is recommended that, unless *extraordinary* need requires its removal, it should be worn at all times. If it should ever *need* to be removed, restore it as soon as possible. Also, if your Scapular wears out, simply replace it with a new one – you do not need to be re-enrolled.

Certainly, the greatest consolation for those who are clothed in the Brown Scapular, as they are dying, is the promise of salvation which Our Lady has attached to it: **“Whosoever dies clothed in this Scapular shall not suffer eternal fire.”** Mary promises to obtain from God all of the graces necessary for the dying

person to save their soul. The devout will persevere in sanctifying grace, and sinners will convert and repent in time to make their peace with God.

Because of Her promise, Mary sometimes delays the death of sinners to give them more time for repentance. Tragically though, at times, obstinate sinners (abusing the Mercy of God and of His Blessed Mother) have, either by their own choice or neglect, perished without wearing their Scapular. Some have even attempted suicide without success, and could only accomplish their miserable plan after removing Mary's garment of protection.

The benefits derived from wearing the Brown Scapular are not limited solely to the hour of death. **All those who wear it** not only receive a share of the spiritual treasures of all the Carmelites throughout the world, but also they actually **participate in the fruit of the good done by the entire Catholic Church**, as was decreed by Pope Clement VII and Pope Clement X.

The Virgin Mary's promise of peace and protection is also not restrained to merely the deathbed. There are countless examples of protection and deliverance from all types of dangers, both physical and spiritual, to those faithfully clothed in Mary's Scapular. She regards them as Her special, privileged children. Those invested in the Scapular should realize this themselves, and strive to remember it and live it always. And absolutely anyone can be a special child of Mary. It is your choice!

The Brown Scapular is not a 'good luck charm', but a visible sign to ourselves, to others, and most especially to our Heavenly Mother, of *our* love for Her. She is ever ready to help us and assist us. Let our Scapular serve as an everyday reminder to call on Mary always, in all of our needs, doubts, struggles, sorrows, and trials.

Our Lady, Herself, has emphasized Her great desire for us to wear this precious garment of grace - especially in these modern times. When She appeared at Fatima, Portugal, on October 13, 1917, She appeared as Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, holding a Brown Scapular in Her hand. Lucy (the eldest of the three child seers) asked Our Lady the meaning of this, and then reported the answer: **"She wants everyone to wear the Scapular... because it is our sign of consecration to Her Immaculate Heart."**

Thus we see Our Lady's saving plan, as She urges us once more to consecrate ourselves to Her. For more information on the great importance of this practice, see 'Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary' (pg. 19).

In 1950, Pope Pius XII affirmed the clear and crucial message of our Blessed Mother, with this exhortation: "Let it [the Brown Scapular] be your sign of consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary, which we are particularly urging in these perilous times."

"One day, through the Rosary and the Scapular, I will save the world." - The Blessed Virgin Mary

"... We should not wait for an appeal to the world to come from Rome on the part of the Holy Father, to do penance. Nor should we wait for the call to penance to come from our bishops in our dioceses, nor from the religious congregations. No! Our Lord has already very often used these means, and the world has not paid attention. That is why now, it is necessary for each one of us to begin to reform himself spiritually. Each person must not only save his own soul but also the souls that God has placed on our path." - Sister Lucy
(during the 1957 interview with Fr. Fuentes)

HOW TO AVOID TIME IN PURGATORY

The Sabbatine Privilege

The name Sabbatine Privilege is taken from a document "Sacratissimo Uti Culmine" issued by Pope John XXII, March 3, 1322. In this document the Pope declares that the Mother of God appeared to him with urgent requests for the Carmelite Order and its Confraternity. The Blessed Virgin asked that he, as Christ's representative on earth, approve the indulgences which Christ had already granted in Heaven (which are: a plenary indulgence for the members of the Carmelite Order and a partial indulgence, remitting a third part of the temporal punishment due to their sins for members of this Confraternity).

She added that for all of those who honored Her by wearing Her Scapular in their lifetime, and fulfilled certain other conditions, She Herself would descend into Purgatory on the Saturday (Sabbat) after their death to release them and conduct them to Heaven.

The Sabbatine Privilege is an added promise and blessing attached to the Brown Scapular for those who wear it faithfully and strive to live by true Christian virtues. The privilege includes: 1) A plenary (total) indulgence given at death for members of the Carmelite Order; 2) For those enrolled in the Confraternity, our Mother Mary would descend into Purgatory on the Saturday after their death to bring them to Heaven. The Brown Scapular and its privileges have been confirmed and encouraged by many popes.

"Just as men take pride in having others wear their livery, so the most holy Mary is pleased when Her servants wear Her Brown Scapular as a mark that they have dedicated themselves to Her service, and are members of the family of the Mother of God. "

- St. Alphonsus Liguori
(Doctor of the Church)

HOW TO OBTAIN THE SABBATINE PRIVILEGE

1. Enroll in the Confraternity of the Brown Scapular.
2. Wear the Brown Scapular faithfully.
3. Observe chastity according to one's state in life, i.e. - celibacy unless one is in a valid sacramental marriage, and then fidelity to, and chastity with, your spouse is required.
4. Daily say the Little Office of the Blessed Virgin Mary - or a 5 Decade Rosary may be substituted with permission from those invested with the faculty to enroll members (any Catholic priest).







CONSECRATION TO THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY



In an age that grows darker and more dangerous with each passing day, with the threat of nuclear war, among so many other disasters, always hanging over us, we find ourselves worried for the future - both for ourselves, and those whom we love. Is there any safe and secure haven to which we can entrust ourselves? Is there any person, group, or organization that will shield us in every danger and protect us from every enemy? Yes, there is! Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary is the solution to this crisis. Those who do this - be they individuals, cities, or even whole nations - are preserved from countless dangers, no matter how grave, dire, or desperate the situation may be. But does proof exist that those who consecrate themselves are actually protected? The answer is yes, and it can be found even up to our own times.

MARY PROTECTS PORTUGAL

On May 13, 1931, in a solemn and public ceremony at Fatima, the bishops of Portugal consecrated their entire country to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. This consecration, at which 300,000 faithful attended, was done specifically to place Portugal formally under the protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary. What had Portugal to be concerned about in 1931? The diabolical scourge of Communism, which had spread from Russia into Europe and was ravaging all in its path, was practically on Portugal's doorstep. Only five years later, under the deceitful mask of a 'civil war' in Spain, this infernal and atheistic ideology wrought a devastation as horrific as any war. Everyone knew that it was only a matter of time before the Communist carnage in Spain would spread into the defenseless neighboring country of Portugal.

But in 1936, shortly after the outbreak of the war in Spain, the Portuguese bishops vowed to the Blessed Virgin, that if She would preserve their nation from the barbarities of the Communist invasion in Spain, then they would renew the national consecration as a public gesture of their gratitude. On May 13, 1938, they once again gathered publicly - this time to *renew* the consecration of Portugal to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. They kept their part of the agreement, for Mary had kept Hers.

In addition, Portugal would later be spared the horrors of an even larger conflict - World War II. In a letter written February 6, 1939, Sister Lucy of Fatima explained to Msgr. da Silva (her bishop) that: "*In this horrible war, Portugal would be spared because of the national consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary made by the bishops.*"

And in a letter to Pope Pius XII on December 2, 1940, she further explained that: "*Our Lord promises a special protection to our country in this war, due to the consecration of the nation, by the Portuguese prelates, to the Immaculate Heart of Mary; as proof of the graces **that would have been granted to other nations, had they also consecrated themselves to Her.***"

MARY PROTECTS THE DIOCESE OF SEVILLE, SPAIN

It should also be pointed out that, even in the heart of the gruesome Spanish 'civil war', Our Lady's power would still shine forth. Of the 1.5 million Catholic lives that were slaughtered in that vicious anti-Catholic invasion, **not a single death occurred within the Diocese of Seville - because the Archbishop of Seville had formally consecrated his diocese to Mary's Immaculate Heart.**

MIRACULOUSLY SPARED FROM INSTANT DEATH

In 1945, yet another example proves the powerful protection which our Heavenly Mother bestows on those who trustfully invoke Her protection. At 8:15 AM on August 6, 1945, the atom bomb was detonated above the city of Hiroshima, Japan. History has already recorded the unprecedented annihilation - hundreds of thousands of people killed *instantaneously*, and almost as many more would die from burns and radiation sickness.

And yet, only 8 blocks from the epicenter of the blast, the Jesuit rectory and church of Our Lady's Assumption, though damaged, remained standing. And in even greater defiance of the laws of science, the four Jesuit priests who were assigned to the church were still alive.

Not only did they miraculously survive the searing explosion, but they would live the rest of their lives without ever suffering any effects of the nuclear radiation. More than 200 scientists examined the survivors over time, and yet they were unable to explain *scientifically* why these Jesuits had not been hurt. The explanation comes to us in the words of one of the survivors, Fr. Hubert Shiffner:

"In that house, the Rosary was prayed every day. In that house, we were living the message of Fatima."

Praying the Rosary daily, and making acts of reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary are an integral part of living the message of Fatima.

These examples are all astounding miracles. In the case of Portugal, consider the magnitude of shielding an entire nation from two wars - both of which were

catastrophic in damage and death! And these are only a few of the countless proofs of the powerful protection that Our Heavenly Mother gives to those who entrust themselves to Her care.

The question now becomes, how can one consecrate oneself to Our Lady's Immaculate Heart? There are several formulas, and different practices, available to help us make our consecration. St. Louis de Montfort created the most popular and renowned method of both preparing for, and making, this consecration. If you have the time, his scheduled and prayerful preparation is a wonderful foundation for consecrating yourself to Our Lady. In his '*True Devotion to Mary*', St. Louis de Montfort spells out the various prayers and meditations that help make the consecration fruitful. Consecration to Mary does not require a priest to participate.

But while a thorough preparation is beneficial, it is not necessary - and **the key to consecrating yourself to our Blessed Mother Mary is your sincerity and intention. This can be accomplished with a long and beautiful prayer, or a simple fervent one.**

Once you give yourself to Mary, you become Her special child. It is important to renew this consecration with short, sincere and daily aspirations. The more often you remember that you are now Her child, the more and better you will live it. A helpful reminder is to display, in your home or workplace etc., a picture or statue of Our Lady. Or you might like to wear a medal of our Blessed Mother around your neck, or a simple chain around your wrist - anything that can frequently serve as a *visual* reminder that you have given yourself to our Heavenly Queen, and that you enjoy Her special intercession, protection and love.

HERMANN COHEN SAVES HIS MOTHER

One of the many examples of the **success of consecrating even others** to Mary's powerful and maternal Immaculate Heart comes from the life of Hermann Cohen - one of the most illustrious converts from Judaism to the Catholic Faith in the 19th century. As a Carmelite monk - Fr. Augustine Mary of the Blessed Sacrament - he was renowned for his great love and devotion for Jesus in the Holy Eucharist and for the Blessed Virgin Mary. Though he converted many in his family to the One True Church, his mother steadfastly refused. In his great love for his earthly mother, Fr. Augustine prayed constantly to the Mother of God for her conversion. But when she died on December 13, 1855, she had not become Catholic.

Later, Fr. Augustine confided to St. John Vianney his anxiety about his mother's death and eternal salvation. "Hope!" said the holy Curé of Ars, "Hope! You will one day, on the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, receive a letter which will be very consoling to you." These words were nearly forgotten when, on December 8, 1861 (six years after his mother's death), a letter was handed to him by a Jesuit priest. It had been recently written to Fr. Augustine by a mystic nun who had since died in the odor of sanctity. She had been shown the details of his mother's death and judgment.

As Madame Cohen was dying and Jesus about to pass sentence against her, the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared and exclaimed:

"Grace, mercy, O my Son, for this soul that is about to perish! Another moment and it will be lost - lost for all eternity! . . . The soul of his mother is what is dearest to him; a thousand times he has consecrated it to me; he has confided it to the

tenderness, to the solicitude of my Heart. Can I allow it to perish? This soul is mine; I want it, I claim it as a heritage, as the price of Thy Blood, and of my Sorrows at the foot of Thy Cross."

Instantly a strong and powerful grace burst forth from the Heart of Jesus and penetrated the woman's soul. At once the scales fell from her eyes. She clearly saw God's Truths and her own errors. Immediately, she repented, embraced the Catholic Faith, desired its Baptism and thus saved her soul. Our Lord then told the mystic:

"Make this known to Father Augustine; it is a consolation that I wish to grant to his long sufferings, in order that he may everywhere bless and cause to be blessed the goodness of My Mother's Heart and Her power over Mine."

A SHORT FORM OF CONSECRATION TO THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

I (*your name*), a faithless sinner - renew and ratify today in Thy hands, O Immaculate Mother, the vows of my Baptism; I renounce forever satan, his pomps and works; and I give myself entirely to Jesus Christ, the Incarnate Wisdom, to carry my cross after Him all the days of my life, and to be more faithful to Him than I have ever been before. In the presence of all the heavenly court, I choose Thee this day for my Mother and Queen. I deliver and consecrate to Thee, as Thy servant, my body and soul, my goods, both interior and exterior, and even the value of all my good actions, past, present, and future; leaving to Thee the entire and full right of disposing of me, and all that belongs to me, without exception, according to Thy good pleasure, for the greater glory of God, in time and in eternity. Amen.

THE SAINTS ON DEVOTION TO MARY

"Anyone dying in Mary's family will receive from Her at the hour of death either the grace of perseverance in the state of grace or the grace of final contrition."

- St. Robert Bellarmine (Doctor of the Church)

"Only after the Last Judgment will Mary get any rest; from now until then, She is much too busy with Her children."

- St. John Vianney

"All our perfection consists in being conformed, united, and consecrated to Jesus Christ. Now, Mary being the most conformed of all creatures to Jesus Christ, it follows that of all devotions, that which most consecrates and conforms the soul to Our Lord is devotion to His holy Mother, and that the more a soul is consecrated to Mary, the more it is consecrated to Jesus."

- St. Louis de Montfort

"He who is devout to the Virgin Mother will certainly never be lost."

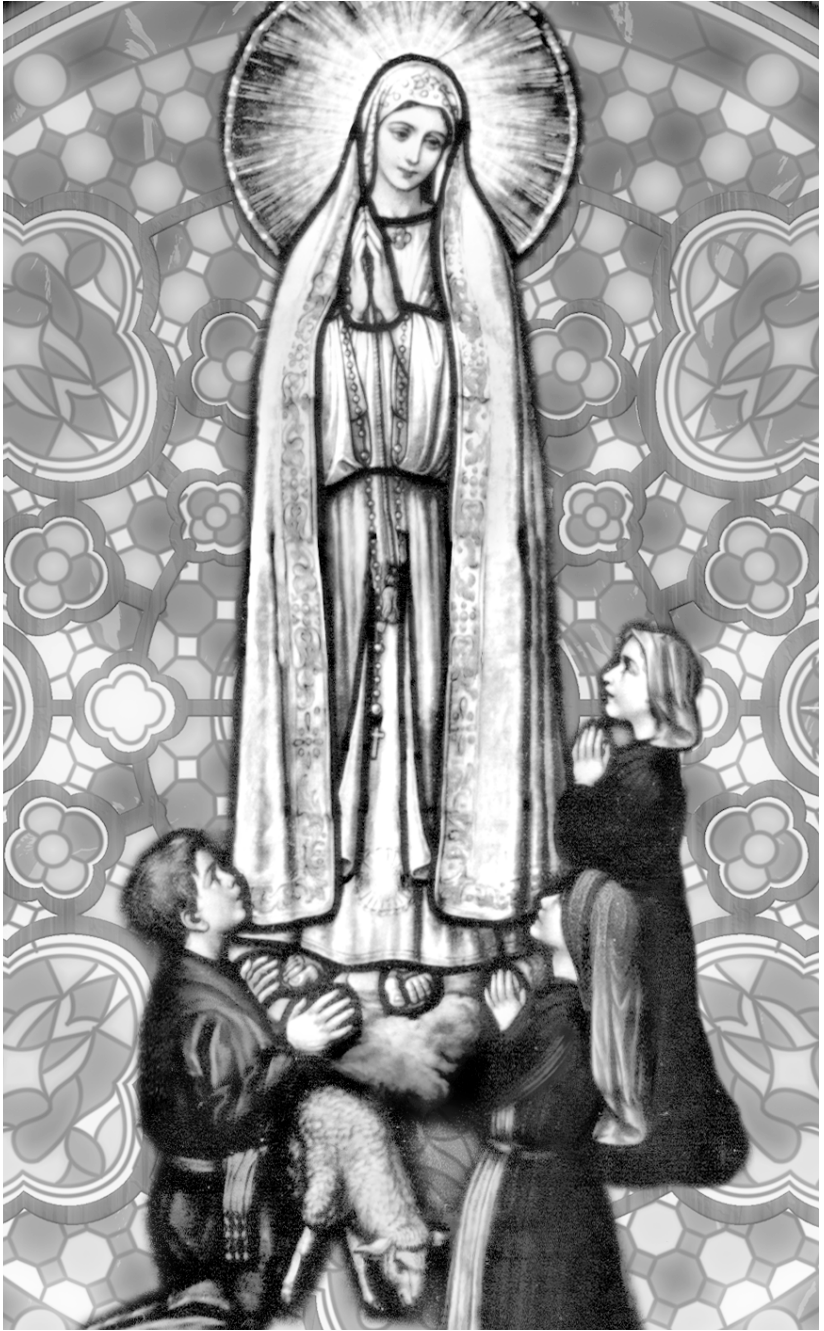
- St. Ignatius of Antioch
(Bishop, martyr and Father of the Church)

"In danger, in doubts, in difficulties, think of Mary, call upon Mary. Don't let Her Name depart from your lips; never allow it to leave your heart. And that you may more surely obtain the assistance of Her prayer, don't neglect to walk in Her footsteps (practice Her virtues)."

- St. Bernard of Clairvaux (Doctor of the Church)

"There is no sinner in the world, however much at enmity with God, who cannot recover God's grace by recourse to Mary, and by asking Her assistance."

- St. Bridget of Sweden





THE FIVE FIRST SATURDAYS



Our Lady appeared to Sr. Lucy (who at the time was the last remaining visionary of Fatima, Portugal) on December 10, 1925, to continue to ask for reparation to Her Immaculate Heart. ***"Look, my daughter, at my Heart, surrounded with thorns with which ungrateful men pierce me at every moment by their blasphemies and ingratitude. You, at least, try to console me and announce in my name that:***

I promise to assist, at the moment of death, with all the graces necessary for salvation, all those who, on the 1st Saturday of five consecutive months, with the intention of making reparation to me:

- ***go to Confession,***
- ***receive Holy Communion,***
- ***recite five decades of the Rosary,***
- ***and keep me company for fifteen minutes while meditating on the fifteen mysteries of the Rosary."***

The purpose of this devotion, then, is to give Our Blessed Mother comfort, consolation, and reparation for the overwhelming offenses that pierce Her Immaculate Heart. When we begin, we should form the intention of performing all of these conditions so as to make reparation to Her Immaculate Heart as She desires. A brief renewal of this intention at the time of fulfilling each obligation is best. However, if such an intention is made ahead of time, it will fulfill the requirements if the actual intention is forgotten when the duty is performed.

HOW TO FULFILL THIS DEVOTION

Our Lady told us that we must: **"...on the first Saturday of five consecutive months":**

1. **"Go to Confession"**– This Confession can be made during the eight days *before* the First Saturday or *afterward*. Holy Communion **must** be received in a state of grace. This means that if the person has reason to believe that their soul might be in a state of mortal (grave) sin then they **must** go to Confession **before** Holy Communion. If they cannot get to Confession beforehand, and therefore are not able to receive Holy Communion on the appointed day, then they must start over and fulfill the conditions on five new consecutive First Saturdays.
2. **"Receive Holy Communion"**– Before receiving Holy Communion on the First Saturday of the month, it is necessary to be in a state of grace and to offer it in reparation to Our Lady's Immaculate Heart. It is good to note that no one should ever receive Holy Communion if they are conscious of being in a state of mortal sin. To actually receive Holy Communion in this state is, itself, a sacrilege and a mortal sin.
3. **"Recite five decades of the Rosary"**– On each of the five consecutive First Saturdays, the five decades of the Rosary can be prayed anywhere at any time.
4. **"Keep me company for fifteen minutes while meditating on the fifteen mysteries of the Rosary"**– This is in *addition* to the recitation of the Rosary, and can take place anywhere at any time that day. Meditations made during the Rosary, which we are always encouraged to do, would not count. The meditation must be on one or more of the mysteries, according to your desire. It is not required to meditate

on all fifteen mysteries; one or two is sufficient. The fifteen minute meditations must be done on each of the five consecutive First Saturdays. This must be very dear to Mary, for She promised to be with us when She said "...those who *keep me company...*".

- 5. "...with the intention of making reparation to me"** - All of these four acts must be done with the desire or intention of making reparation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. Without this general intention/desire, to *console* Our Blessed Mother, all these external practices alone are not sufficient to make reparation and receive the Promise of this devotion. This is very important!

If one cannot fulfill all the conditions on a Saturday, can it be done on Sunday? Our Lord told Sr. Lucy that: "***The practice of this devotion will be equally acceptable on the Sunday following the First Saturday if and when My priests, for a just cause, allow it to souls.***" So, if work, school, sickness, or another just reason prevents the devotion of reparation on a first Saturday then, with a priest's permission, it may be done the next day instead.

PROMISES TO THOSE WHO COMPLETE THE FIVE FIRST SATURDAYS DEVOTION

- 1. The salvation of our own soul – To all those who fulfill all the conditions requested,** Mary promises: "***I promise to assist them at the hour of death with all the graces necessary for the salvation of their soul.***" This little devotion, practiced with a good heart, is enough to obtain for us the grace of final perseverance - of eternal salvation! And this promise is without any exclusion, limitation, or restriction. "To *all* who I promise." This means

that our Blessed Mother will actually be present at the hour of our death with all of the graces we need to save our soul. Heaven will be the reward for all eternity to those who faithfully follow Our Lady's plaintive requests for reparation and atonement to Her on Five First Saturdays.

2. **The salvation of sinners – “So numerous are the souls which the justice of God condemns for sins committed against me that I come to ask for reparation. Sacrifice yourself for this intention and pray.”** (Our Lady to Sr. Lucy, June 13, 1929.) “In consideration of this little devotion, They (Jesus and Mary) wish to give the grace of pardon to souls who have had the misfortune of offending the Immaculate Heart of Mary.” – Sr. Lucy, May, 1930.
3. **Peace in the World – “Whether the world has war or peace depends on the practice of this devotion,** along with the consecration of Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. This is why I desire its propagation so ardently, especially because this is also the will of our dear Mother in Heaven.”
– Sr. Lucy, March 19, 1939.

For more information on the crucial role of Our Lady of Fatima for true peace in the world, see ‘Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary’ (pg. 19).

WHY FIVE FIRST SATURDAYS?

Saturday has always been given to honor the Blessed Virgin because of Her constant faith in Jesus on that first Holy Saturday after His death and before His Resurrection. Why did Our Lady ask for *five* First Saturdays of reparation, instead of some other number? Our Lord, Himself, explained this when He appeared to Sr. Lucy on May 29, 1930.

"My daughter, the reason is simple. There are five types of offenses and blasphemies committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary:

- 1. Blasphemies against Her Immaculate Conception;**
- 2. Blasphemies against Her Perpetual Virginity;**
- 3. Blasphemies against Her Divine Maternity, or in refusing to recognize Her as the Mother of all mankind;**
- 4. The blasphemies of those who seek to sow in the hearts of children indifference, or contempt, or even hatred, of this Immaculate Mother;**
- 5. The offenses of those who outrage Her directly by scorning Her holy images. This is done by: simple rejection, showing a lack of proper respect, intentionally criticizing or insulting Her images, or, God forbid, by specifically desecrating, disfiguring or blaspheming Our Lady's holy images."**

After completing the Five First Saturdays, to console the Immaculate Heart of Mary, we greatly encourage you to continue this devotion. A tender love of our Blessed Mother will always lead us to do all that we can to atone for those sins which torment Her Immaculate Heart and which provoke the most just anger and wrath of Her Divine Son - Almighty God.

Making reparation for sins against the Mother of God is Heaven's greatest desire in our times. If we do not choose to obtain God's mercy, then we condemn the world to suffer His justice. And the great benefit to those who practice this devotion is that, as countless Saints confirm for us, a true and loving devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary is a sure sign that we will be saved!



 THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS 

This devotion and its promises were given by Our Lord to St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, a Visitation nun in Paray-le-Monial, France, in a series of revelations during 1673-1675. Jesus showed her His Heart, and how greatly He loves all mankind; and yet He receives only ingratitude and indifference in return. He sorrowfully complained, ***"I feel this more than all that I suffered in My Passion... The sole return that almost everyone makes for all of My eagerness to do them good, is to reject Me and treat Me with coldness."***

And again, ***"Behold this Heart, Which has loved men so much, that It has spared nothing, even to exhausting and consuming Itself in order to testify to them Its love; and in return I receive from the greater number of them nothing but ingratitude by reason of their irreverence and sacrileges, and by the coldness and contempt which they show Me in this Sacrament of Love [the Holy Eucharist]."***

St. Margaret Mary was given to understand the symbolism of the image of the Sacred Heart: the wound in the side, the cross on top, the crown of thorns encircling It, and the flame around and atop the Heart. This image expresses Our Lord's over-abundance of love for souls, as well as the tremendous grief and sorrow it causes Him to be unloved and rejected by them in return, especially in the Blessed Sacrament.

She describes in detail a vision of Our Lord's Sacred Heart as "on a throne of fire and flame, shedding rays on every side, brighter than the sun and transparent as crystal." Here again He spoke to her of the relationship

between His love and His sufferings. Jesus told her that our rejection of His infinite love for each of us was the source of all of His sufferings.

It was this great desire to be perfectly loved by all men which compelled Jesus to reveal the secrets of His Sacred Heart. He has given the whole world, for these latter times, this additional proof of His love: He has given to each of us this tender image of His most Sacred Heart - to help inspire us to love Him in return as He desires.

St. Margaret Mary tells us: **“He assured me that we must honor the Heart of God under the figure of this Heart of flesh, the picture of which He wished to be exposed, in order to touch the insensitive hearts of men... and that, wherever this picture would be exposed and singularly honored, it would draw down every sort of blessing.”**

PROMISES OF OUR LORD TO THOSE WHO LOVE AND HONOR HIS SACRED HEART

1. I will give them all the graces necessary for their state of life.
2. ***I will give peace in their families.***
3. I will console them in all their troubles.
4. ***I will be their refuge in life and especially in death.***
5. I will abundantly bless all their undertakings.
6. ***Sinners shall find in My Heart the source and infinite ocean of mercy.***
7. Tepid souls shall become fervent.
8. Fervent souls shall rise speedily to great perfection.

- 9. I will bless those places wherein the image of My Sacred Heart shall be exposed and venerated.**
10. I will give to priests the power to touch the most hardened hearts.
- 11. Persons who propagate this devotion shall have their names eternally written in My Heart.**
- 12. In the excess of the mercy of My Heart, I promise you that My all-powerful love will grant to all those who will receive Communion on the First Fridays, for nine consecutive months, the grace of final repentance:** they will not die in My displeasure, nor without receiving the Sacraments; and My Heart will be their secure refuge in that last hour.

WAYS TO OBTAIN THE PROMISES OF OUR LORD

- Publicly and privately display and honor, especially in your home, images of the Sacred Heart.
- **Develop a real love for and relationship with Jesus Christ.** Do this by thinking often about everything that He has done for your salvation and your true happiness now and forever. Consider especially the sufferings He has revealed to us in this image of His Sacred Heart. **Offer prayers of thanksgiving, love and reparation to console the Heart of God.**
- **Receive Holy Communion frequently in a spirit of love and reparation to Jesus** through His Sacred Heart for all the indifference, hatred and ingratitude He receives, especially in the Blessed Sacrament.

- Go to First Friday devotions: Attend Mass and receive Holy Communion on the first Friday of each month for nine consecutive months with the intention of offering reparation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. For more details see 'The Nine First Fridays' (pg. 41).
- Make Holy Hours of loving reparation and atonement to Jesus' Sacred Heart. For example, you could make a Eucharistic Adoration for one hour on Thursdays, in honor of His agony on Holy Thursday night, ("Could you not watch one hour with Me?"). Holy Hours can be made alone, or in a group, with or without formal prayers, in a home, church or chapel, etc.
- Consecrate yourself, your loved ones, even your parish Church and the whole world etc., to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Pope Pius XI composed a beautiful prayer in 1925 for everyone to say entitled: 'Consecration of the Human Race to the Sacred Heart of Jesus'.
- Celebrate the Feast of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.
- Make the Enthronement of the Sacred Heart in your home: This is a solemn act of formal recognition of the Kingship of Christ over your family and home. It is the official, ceremonial beginning of your family's commitment to live Christ's Kingship in every aspect of your lives. This Enthronement can be done with or without a priest. During the Enthronement ceremony, a blessed image of the Sacred Heart is hung in the most prominent place in the house and formal prayers are recited. Remember Christ's promise: **"I will give peace in their families"**.
- Spread awareness of, and encourage others to practice, this devotion. This will benefit them as well as Jesus, Who is so completely neglected, ignored and even despised in today's world.

THE DESPERATE SOLDIER

The following story is only one of so many examples that show how generous and faithful Jesus is in fulfilling His promises. It was personally witnessed and recorded by Bishop John Joseph Hornyold who, from 1752-1778, was Vicar Apostolic of the Midland District (what is now the Archdiocese of Birmingham) in England.

In the early spring of 1760, Bishop Hornyold had set out from Derby to Higfields, where he intended to make a brief episcopal visit. The route he was taking would pass through the city of Leicester. He was traveling alone on horseback, at an easy pace.

Twilight was falling as the good bishop approached a crossroad. Suddenly, his ordinarily docile horse sprinted forward and began racing down the road – but the wrong one! Instead of Leicester, the poor man was now heading for Wittelsford and nothing it seemed could steer the animal from its course. It was making for a nearby forest, and as they reached the trees, the horse came to a complete halt.

Finding himself in the middle of nowhere, the prelate tried to stir his horse to move on. But all his attempts were useless. And so, the bishop dismounted and tethered his steed to a nearby tree. As he searched around for a suitable spot to set up camp for the night, he became aware that someone was moaning nearby. Following the sound, he most distinctly heard the words: "Heart of Jesus, have mercy on me."

On the moonlit ground, he discovered an old man, pale and weak, and most certainly near death. Raising him up a little, the bishop attempted to revive the stranger by giving him a sip of wine from his flask. Upon opening his eyes, the dying man immediately cried out: "Get me a priest!"

Bishop Hornyold assured him that he was a priest, and proceeded to hear the man's confession. After that, he anointed the dying man and gave him the Blessed Sacrament; for, by the Providence of God, the bishop always carried the Holy Eucharist with him on all of his journeys.

After receiving the Last Sacraments, the old stranger whispered "O Sacred Heart of Jesus, I thank You." He continued to say this often, his eyes closed, and his soul ready for death. Finally, he opened his eyes for what would be the last time.

"In my youth," he told the bishop, "I was very pious, but as soon as I became a soldier, I went from bad to worse, and committed all kinds of sins. But in spite of my wickedness, I never forgot the promise I made to my mother in her dying moments to repeat daily, 'Heart of Jesus, have mercy on me'. And now the Lord has taken pity on me and sent me a priest. O Sacred Heart of Jesus, I thank You!"

With that, the old soldier breathed his last, and gave up his soul to God. Bishop Hornyold then understood why his horse had suddenly become so stubborn and carried him to this unfamiliar place.

As he continued once more on his journey, the bishop thanked our good Jesus profoundly for having been so generous to that irreligious soldier, who had invoked His Mercy through His Most Sacred Heart.

In the archives at the church in Leicester, where the event was recorded, Bishop Hornyold concluded his account with these words, "Heart of Jesus, Thou alone art good and sincere in consolation and in generosity."

ACT OF CONSECRATION TO THE SACRED HEART

Adorable Jesus! My Savior and my God! Humbly prostrate in Your presence, I consecrate myself to Your Sacred Heart, in thanksgiving for all the benefits that You have bestowed upon mankind, and particularly for the inestimable grace that You have given to us by dwelling among us in the Blessed Sacrament on our altars.

I consecrate myself, also, to Your adorable Heart, in order to repair as much as in my power the outrages that have been committed against You, or that will be committed to the end of the world. I desire in the future to perform all my actions in this spirit of gratitude and reparation.

Receive, O Sacred Heart, all my thoughts, my desires, my liberty, my memory, my will, my actions, my life! Receive my sufferings and my trials. I give myself to You now and forever. In this same spirit, I offer You everyone and everything ever to satisfy Your infinite love and desires!

Lord, every moment of my life belongs to You; all my actions are Yours. Permit not that anything should stain them that would make them unworthy of Your Heart, but grant that I may begin, continue, and finish them by Your grace, and solely with the view of pleasing and serving You by them.

For this end, Jesus, I unite all of my actions with Yours, and I desire to enter into the holy and divine intentions with which Your Sacred Heart is animated. O my Jesus! Reign over me completely. May I depend entirely on You, and may my sole care be to imitate Your adorable and loving Heart, in which I find a perfect model and source of all sanctity, my strength and my repose, my consolation and my hope. Amen.





THE NINE FIRST FRIDAYS



This is the 12th and final promise in the list of promises that Jesus gives to those who love and honor Him in His Sacred Heart. Known as the '*Great Promise*', it is for those who receive Holy Communion on the First Friday of nine consecutive months, with the intention of offering reparation and atonement to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Our Lord promises:

"In the excess of the mercy of My Heart, I promise you that My all-powerful love will grant... the grace of final repentance; they will not die in My displeasure, nor without receiving the Sacraments; and My Heart will be their secure refuge in that last hour."

By this, Jesus has promised us that we will save our souls if we faithfully fulfill His simple requests. Also, since the object of this devotion is to give love and reparation to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, then almost all of the other eleven promises of Our Lord (pg. 34) would be attained as well.

Life is filled with its many obligations, sufferings, trials and temptations. Trying to lead a truly good life requires vigilance at every moment. Jesus implicitly promises to those who practice this devotion abundant graces. These will enable them to carry out their daily obligations in a manner that will please Him and benefit their soul and help them persevere to the end.

It is very evident from the 12 generous promises that these devotions greatly please Our Lord. Knowing this, let us encourage all whom we know to make the Nine First Fridays, and to give our good Savior the immense consolation of loving Him and His Most Sacred Heart, as He so richly desires and deserves.



ACTUAL PHOTO OF THE HOLY SHROUD OF TURIN



THE HOLY FACE OF JESUS CHRIST



This powerful devotion traces its history back to Jesus' Passion, when His noble Face was the object of all scorn, mockery and hatred. It was then that the courageous woman Veronica - bravely ignoring the rabid enemies of Jesus - rushed out to console our condemned Lord on His Way of the Cross and offered her veil to wipe the blood, filth and tears from His Face. It was in this act of love and compassion that devotion to the Holy Face found both its beginning and its mission: *reparation*.

In 1843, the power of this devotion was revealed by Our Lord to Sr. Mary of St. Peter, a Carmelite nun in Tours, France. He stressed the great need for reparation in these modern days, and explained that devotion to His Face would atone especially for the sacrilege of blasphemy: **"My Name is everywhere blasphemed, even little children blaspheme It."** Jesus also told Sr. Mary that blasphemy was like a poisonous dagger, wounding Him deeper than any other sin. Jesus then gave her a prayer which wounds His Heart with joy, entreating those who love Him to console Him by offering Him this 'Golden Arrow' (pg. 47).

Yet how is it that we honor His Face by praising His most Holy Name? Why is *this* devotion so powerful in atoning for the sins of *blasphemy*? Sr. Mary tells us: "Our Lord caused me to see that the impious, by their blasphemies, attack His Adorable Face, and that faithful souls glorify It by the praises they address to His Name and to His Person. There is, in fact, something mysterious in the face of a man who is despised. Yes, I see that his name and his face have a special connection."

She then describes a man surrounded by his enemies who, without striking him, assault him with insults and treat his name with bitter hatred and scorn. Notice, she says, how his face becomes covered with shame and confusion - as if all the abusive words issuing from their wicked mouths fall upon him like so many blows. The ignominy and hatred cause him a torment more cruel than any physical torture, and in the man's face you see the agony in his soul. "Here then is a faint image of the Adorable Face of Our Lord, outraged by the blasphemies of the impious."

Then Sr. Mary describes what happens when this man's friends learn of the evil that has been done to him. Eager to console him, they treat him in a manner worthy of his dignity and do homage to his great name, by addressing to him all his honorable titles. "Do you not see how the face of that man reflects the sweetness of the praises addressed to him? This is what the friends of Jesus do by the work of reparation; the honor which they pay to His Name rests on His august Brow, and rejoices His most Holy Face."

Our Lord also revealed the great power in this devotion to repel and defeat the enemies of His One True Church. Hence, in the chaplet of the Holy Face, we find the Psalm-based prayer: "Arise, O Lord, and let Your enemies be scattered. And let those who hate You flee before Your Face!". And so, we have in this devotion a strength, a safeguard and a most powerful weapon against the enemies of God and humanity.

LEO DUPONT - THE GREATEST MIRACLE WORKER

Great mercies and blessings have also been promised and obtained by invoking the Holy Face. A most remarkable witness to this truth was Venerable Leo Dupont: the 'Holy Man of Tours.' A contemporary

of Sr. Mary, his private devotional chapel soon became a place of pilgrimage. Thousands were drawn to this simple layman who worked wonders through the intercession of the Holy Face. So astounding were these favors in type and quantity that the pope declared **Leo Dupont to be possibly the greatest miracle worker in the history of the Church.**

ST. THÉRÈSE OF LISIEUX

In 1885, shortly after Leo Dupont's death, his shrine was visited by none other than St. Thérèse of Lisieux. She later embraced this devotion with such fervor that she chose to add to her name in religion: 'Sr. Thérèse of the Child Jesus and of the Holy Face.' By her own admission, it was contemplating and consoling the Holy Face of Jesus that was the secret of the sanctity of "the greatest Saint of modern times," as Thérèse was so honorably titled by Pope St. Pius X. Her older sister Pauline (who was a 'second mother' to her and to whom Thérèse confided her many spiritual secrets) testified under oath that: **"However tender was the devotion which St. Thérèse had for the Child Jesus, it cannot be compared to the devotion she had for the Holy Face."**

Thus we find countless powerful examples of the great spiritual and temporal blessings Our Lord promises and bestows through this devotion. We will find the security of peace, happiness and even holiness and salvation if we devote ourselves to loving and honoring the humiliated, disfigured, rejected and even despised, Face of Love Itself.

"Oh, if you only knew what great merit you acquire by saying even once, 'Admirable is the Name of God,' in the spirit of reparation for blasphemy!" - Our Lord to Sr. Mary of St. Peter

PROMISES OF OUR LORD TO SR. MARY FOR THOSE WHO HONOR HIS HOLY FACE

1. All those who honor My Face in a spirit of reparation will, by doing so, perform the office of the pious Veronica. According to the care they take in making reparation to My Face, disfigured by blasphemers, so will I take care of their souls, which have been disfigured by sin. My Face is the Seal of the Divinity, which has the virtue of reproducing in souls the image of God.
2. ***Those who, by words, prayers or writing, defend My cause in this Work of Reparation, I will defend before My Father, and will give them My Kingdom.*** (This means eternal salvation.)
3. By offering My Face to My Eternal Father, nothing will be refused, and the conversion of many sinners will be obtained.
4. By My Holy Face, they will work wonders, appease the anger of God, and draw down mercy on sinners.
5. As in a country where people can procure all that is desired with a coin stamped with the king's image, so in the Kingdom of Heaven they will obtain all they desire with the precious coin of My Holy Face.
6. ***Those who on earth contemplate the wounds of My Face shall in Heaven behold It radiant with Glory.***
7. ***They will receive in their souls a bright and constant irradiation of My Divinity, that by their likeness to My Face they shall shine with particular splendor in Heaven.***

- 8. I will defend them, I will preserve them and I assure them of Final Perseverance.** (Again, this promises eternal salvation.)

WAYS TO HONOR JESUS' HOLY FACE

- Strive to develop in your heart a loving devotion for the Holy Face of Jesus, by contemplating the intense sufferings that afflict It and the incredible Love that shines from It.
- Keep in your home, room or possession an image of the Holy Face. If prominently exposed, it will serve as a beautiful reminder and loving testimony of your devotion.
- With the greatest fervor and possible frequency, offer prayers and acts of praise, love and reparation to the Holy Face of Jesus and to His Most Sacred Name.

THE GOLDEN ARROW PRAYER

(Dictated by Jesus Himself to heal the wounds of blasphemy.)

May the Most Holy, Most Sacred, Most Adorable, Most Incomprehensible and Ineffable Name of God, be forever praised, blessed, loved, adored and glorified, in Heaven, on Earth and in the hells, by all the creatures of God, and by the Most Sacred Heart of Our Lord Jesus Christ, in the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar. Amen.

After receiving this prayer, Sr. Mary of St. Peter was given a vision in which she saw the Sacred Heart of Jesus delightfully wounded by this 'Golden Arrow' as torrents of graces streamed from It for the conversion of sinners.

(This prayer can be said alone and also as part of the Holy Face Chaplet, pg. 52.)

LITANY OF THE HOLY FACE OF JESUS

V. Lord, have mercy on us,

R. Christ, have mercy on us,

V. Lord, have mercy on us, Christ, hear us,

R. Christ, graciously hear us,

V. Holy Virgin Mary, R. *Pray for us.*

(After all of the following "O adorable Face" invocations, respond: "Have mercy on us".)

O adorable Face, which was adored, with profound respect, by Mary and Joseph when they saw You for the first time, *Have mercy on us.*

O adorable Face, which in the stable of Bethlehem, did ravish with joy the Angels, the shepherds and the magi, *Have mercy on us.*

O adorable Face, which in the Temple did transpierce with a dart of love the saintly old man Simeon and the prophetess Anna,

O adorable Face, which was bathed in tears in Your Holy Infancy,

O adorable Face, which when You appeared in the Temple at twelve years of age, did fill with admiration the Doctors of the Law,

O adorable Face, white with purity and ruddy with charity,

O adorable Face, more beautiful than the sun, more lovely than the moon, more brilliant than the stars,

O adorable Face, fresher than the roses of spring,

O adorable Face, more precious than gold, silver, and diamonds,

O adorable Face, whose charms were so ravishing and whose grace was so attractive,

O adorable Face, whose every feature was marked with nobility,

O adorable Face, contemplated by the Angels,

O adorable Face, sweet delectation of the Saints,

O adorable Face, masterpiece of the Holy Ghost, in which the Eternal Father is well pleased,

O adorable Face, delight of Mary and of Joseph,

O adorable Face, ineffable mirror of the Divine Perfections,

O adorable Face, whose beauty is always ancient and always new,

O adorable Face, which appeases the wrath of God,

O adorable Face, which makes the devils tremble,

O adorable Face, treasure of graces and of blessings,

O adorable Face, exposed in the desert to the inclemencies of the weather,

O adorable Face, scorched with the heat of the sun, and bathed with sweat in Your journeys,

O adorable Face, whose expression was all Divine,

O adorable Face, whose modesty and sweetness attracted both the just and sinners,

O adorable Face, which gave a holy kiss to the little children, after having blessed them,

O adorable Face, troubled and weeping at the tomb of Lazarus,

O adorable Face, brilliant as the sun and radiant with glory on Mount Tabor,

O adorable Face, sorrowful at the sight of Jerusalem and shedding tears over that ungrateful city,

O adorable Face, bowed to the earth in the Garden of Olives, and covered with confusion for our sins,

O adorable Face, bathed in a bloody sweat,

O adorable Face, kissed by the traitor Judas,

O adorable Face, whose sanctity and majesty smote the soldiers with fear and cast them to the ground,

O adorable Face, struck by a vile servant, shamefully blindfolded, and profaned by the sacrilegious hands of Your enemies,

O adorable Face, defiled with spittle and bruised by so many buffets and blows,

O adorable Face, whose Divine look wounded the heart of Peter with a dart of sorrow and love,

O adorable Face, humbled for us at the tribunals of Jerusalem,

O adorable Face, which did preserve Your serenity when Pilate pronounced the fatal sentence,

O adorable Face, covered with sweat and blood, and falling in the mire under the heavy weight of the cross,

O adorable Face, worthy of all our respect, veneration, and worship,

O adorable Face, wiped with a veil by a pious woman, on the road to Calvary,

O adorable Face, raised on the instrument of most shameful punishment,

O adorable Face, whose brow was crowned with thorns,

O adorable Face, whose eyes were filled with tears of blood,

O adorable Face, whose mouth was drenched with gall and vinegar,

O adorable Face, whose hair and beard were plucked out by the executioners,

O adorable Face, which was made like to that of a leper,

O adorable Face, whose incomparable beauty was obscured under the dreadful cloud of the sins of the world,

O adorable Face, covered with the sad shades of death,

O adorable Face, washed and anointed by Mary and the holy women, and wrapped in a shroud,

O adorable Face, enclosed in the sepulcher,

O adorable Face, all resplendent with glory and beauty on the day of the Resurrection,

O adorable Face, all dazzling with light at the moment of Your Ascension,

O adorable Face, hidden in the Eucharist,

O adorable Face, which will appear at the end of time, in the clouds, with great power and majesty,

O adorable Face, which will cause the damned to tremble,

O adorable Face, which will fill the just with joy for all eternity,

V. Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,
R. Spare us, O Lord

V. Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,
R. Graciously hear us, O Lord

V. Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world,
R. Have mercy on us!

We salute You, We adore You and We love You, O Jesus, our Savior, outraged anew by blasphemers, and We offer You, in the Heart of Blessed Mary, as an incense and perfume of sweet odor, the homage of the Angels and of all the Saints, humbly beseeching You, by the virtue of Your Holy Face, to repair and renew in us and in all men Your image disfigured by sin. Amen.

We salute You, We adore You and We love You, O adorable Face of Jesus, our Beloved, noble Seal of the Divinity; We apply ourselves to You with all the powers of our souls, and We most humbly beseech You to imprint in us all the features of Your Divine likeness. Amen.

Our Father... , Hail Mary... , Glory Be...

CHAPLET OF THE HOLY FACE OF JESUS

"Our Lord inspired me at this time to compose certain prayers of reparation in the form of a Chaplet, or a small rosary." - Sr. Mary of St. Peter

She herself describes the chaplet as made up of 33 small beads, on which is recited the prayer, "Arise, O Lord, and let Your enemies be scattered, and let those that hate You flee before Your Face," and also six large beads on which are recited the ejaculation, "My Jesus, mercy," and one "Glory be to the Father, etc."

The Manual of the Archconfraternity of the Holy Face (1887) further explained the prayers, purpose and symbolism of the chaplet of the Holy Face. By this chaplet, among other things, we honor the five senses of Our Lord Jesus Christ, and entreat God for the triumph of His Church.

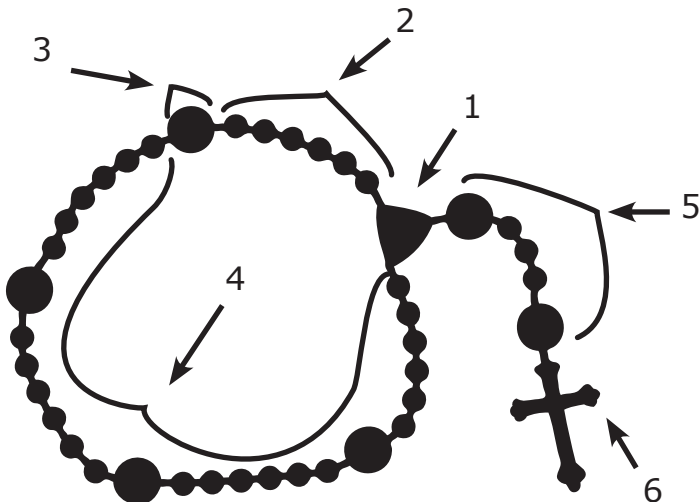
The 33 small beads represent the 33 years of the mortal life of Our Lord. The first 30 recall to mind the 30 years of His private life. They are divided into five groups of six with the intention of honoring the five senses of Jesus: His touch, hearing, sight, smell and taste, all of which are principally in His Holy Face. In this way, we also lovingly honor and atone for all the sufferings which Our Lord endured in His Face, through each one of these senses.

The three small beads recall to mind the public life of the Savior and are intended to honor specifically all the wounds of His adorable Face.

"I give you My Name to be your light in the darkness and your strength in battle. Know that, satan will do all in his power to crush this Work at its roots. But I assure you that the Holy Name of God will triumph." - Our Lord to Sr. Mary of St. Peter

HOW TO PRAY THE CHAPLET OF THE HOLY FACE

1. V. O God, come to my assistance
R. Lord make haste to help me!
V. Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit.
R. As it was in the beginning is now and ever shall be world without end. Amen.
2. V. Arise, O Lord, and let Your enemies be scattered,
R. And let those that hate You flee before Your Face.
3. My Jesus, mercy!
Glory be to the Father ...
4. Repeat step 2 (on small beads) and step 3 (on large beads).
5. Having finished the five 'decades', repeat steps 2 and 3 on the last five beads.
6. Conclude on the crucifix with the prayer:
God, our Protector, look on us, and cast Your eyes upon the Face of Your Christ!



ADDITIONAL DEVOTIONAL PRAYERS

ST. THÉRÈSE'S PRAYER TO THE HOLY FACE

O Jesus, Who in Thy bitter Passion did become "the most abject of men, a man of sorrows," I venerate Thy Sacred Face whereon there once did shine the beauty and sweetness of the Godhead... but now it has become for me as if it were the Face of a leper! Nevertheless, under those disfigured features, I recognize Thy Infinite Love and I am consumed with the desire to love Thee and make Thee loved by all men.

The tears which well up abundantly in Thy Sacred Eyes appear to me as so many precious pearls that I love to gather up, in order to purchase the souls of poor sinners by means of their infinite value. O Jesus, Whose adorable Face ravishes my heart, I implore Thee to fix deep within me Thy Divine Image and to set me on fire with Thy Love, that I may be found worthy to come to the contemplation of Thy glorious Face in Heaven. Amen.

ALL OF THE FOLLOWING PRAYERS CAN EASILY BE INCLUDED IN SAYING THE HOLY FACE CHAPLET (pg. 52).

OTHER SHORT PRAYERS OF REPARATION

Eternal Father, we offer You the cross of Our Lord Jesus Christ and all the other instruments of His Holy Passion, that You may put division in the camp of Your enemies; for as Your Beloved Son has said, "A kingdom divided against itself shall fall."

May God arise and let His enemies be scattered and let those who hate Him flee before His Face!

May the thrice Holy Name of God overthrow all their plans!

May the Holy Name of the Living God divide them by disagreements!

May the powerful Name of the God of Eternity stamp out all their godlessness!

Lord, we do not desire the death of the sinner, but that he be converted and live. "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do."

AN ASPIRATION TO THE ETERNAL FATHER

(to be frequently recited during the day)

Eternal Father, we offer You the Holy Face of Jesus, covered with blood, sweat, dust and spit, in reparation for the crimes of communists, blasphemers, and for the profaners of the Holy Name and of the Holy Day of Sunday.

PRAYER TO REPRODUCE THE IMAGE OF GOD IN OUR SOULS

I salute You, I adore You, and I love You, Oh adorable Face of my beloved Jesus, as the noble Stamp of the Divinity! Completely surrendering my soul to You, I most humbly beg You to stamp this seal upon us all, so that the image of God may once more be reproduced by its imprint in our souls. Amen.

"I place My Holy Face in your hands that you may offer it unceasingly to My Father for the salvation of your country. ...Through this Holy Face you will obtain the conversion of many sinners. Nothing that you ask in virtue of the Holy Face will be refused you. Oh, if you only knew how pleasing is the sight of My Face to My Father!"

- Our Lord to Sr. Mary of St. Peter





OUR LADY'S SEVEN SORROWS



1. The prophecy of Simeon at the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple.
2. The flight of the Holy Family into Egypt.
3. The loss of the Child Jesus in the Temple.
4. The meeting of Jesus and Mary on the Way of the Cross.
5. The Crucifixion of Jesus Christ.
6. The taking down of the Body of Jesus from the Cross, and placing Him in Mary's lap.
7. The burial of Jesus and the sealing up of His tomb.

FOUR SPECIAL GRACES PROMISED TO THOSE DEVOTED TO THE SORROWS OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Our Lord Jesus Christ revealed to Blessed Veronica of Binasco, that He is more pleased in seeing His Mother compassionated than Himself. He said to her: ***"My daughter, tears shed for My Passion are dear to Me; but as I loved My Mother Mary with an immense love, the meditation on the torments which She endured at My death is even more agreeable to Me."***

Our Lord revealed to St. Elizabeth of Hungary four special graces that are given to those who are devoted to the seven dolours (sorrows) of His Holy Mother.

1. ***That those who before death invoke the Blessed Mother in the name of Her Sorrows, should obtain true repentance for all of their sins.***

2. That Jesus would protect in their tribulations all who remember this devotion, and that **He would protect them especially at the hour of death.**
3. That Jesus should impress upon their minds the remembrance of His Passion, **and that they should have their reward for it in Heaven.**
4. That Jesus would commit such devout clients to the hands of Mary, so that She might obtain for these souls all of the graces She wanted to lavish upon them.

SEVEN PROMISES TO THOSE WHO MEDITATE ON OUR LADY'S TEARS AND SORROWS

There are also seven additional promises attached to the practice of daily praying seven Hail Mary's while meditating on Our Lady's Tears and Sorrows. These were revealed by Mary to St. Bridget of Sweden:

1. I will grant **peace to their families.**
2. They will be enlightened about the Divine Mysteries.
3. I will **console them in their pains** and I will also accompany them in their work.
4. I will give them as much as they ask for as long as it does not oppose the adorable will of my Divine Son or the sanctification of their souls.
5. I will defend them in their spiritual battles with the infernal enemy and I will **protect them at every instant of their lives.**
6. I will visibly help them **at the moment of their death - they will see the face of their Mother.**
7. I have obtained this grace from my Divine Son,

that ***those who propagate this devotion to my tears and sorrows will be taken directly from this earthly life to eternal happiness***, since all their sins will be forgiven and my Son will be their eternal consolation and joy. (They will not go to Purgatory.)

Our Lady lamented that very few people meditate on, and console Her in, Her Sorrows, and that the greater part of the world lived in forgetfulness of them: ***"I look around at all who are on earth, to see if by chance there are any who pity me, and meditate on my Sorrows; and I find that there are very few. Therefore, my daughter, though I am forgotten by many, you, at least do not forget me. Meditate on my Sorrows and share in my grief, as far as you can."***

All those, who compassionate Her Sorrows, show themselves to truly be Her children and give the sweetest consolation to Her afflicted Heart. Mary rewards all of these with Her most powerful blessings and grateful love.

PRAYERS IN HONOR OF OUR LADY'S SEVEN SORROWS

- V. O God, come to my assistance ...
- R. O Lord, make haste to help me
- V. Glory be to the Father, etc.
- R. As it was in the beginning, etc.
- 1. We grieve for You, O Mary most sorrowful, in the affliction of Your tender Heart at the prophecy of the holy and aged Simeon. Dear Mother, by Your Heart so afflicted, obtain for us, and for all men, the virtue

of humility and the gift of the Holy Fear of God.
Hail Mary, full of grace... etc.

2. We grieve for You, O Mary most sorrowful, in the anguish of Your most affectionate Heart during the flight into Egypt and Your sorrowful journey there. Dear Mother, by Your Heart so troubled, obtain for us, and for all men, the virtue of generosity, especially toward the poor, and the gift of Piety.
Hail Mary, etc.
3. We grieve for You, O Mary most sorrowful, in the anxieties which tried Your troubled Heart at the loss of your dear Jesus. Dear Mother, by Your Heart so full of anguish, obtain for us, and for all men, the virtue of chastity and the gift of Knowledge.
Hail Mary, etc.
4. We grieve for You, O Mary most sorrowful, in the consternation of Your Heart at meeting Jesus as He carried His Cross. Dear Mother, by Your Heart so troubled, obtain for us, and for all men, the virtue of patience and the gift of Fortitude. *Hail Mary, etc.*
5. We grieve for You, O Mary most sorrowful, in the martyrdom which Your generous Heart endured in standing near Jesus in His agony. Dear Mother, in Your agony, obtain for us, and for all men, the virtue of temperance and the gift of Counsel.
Hail Mary, etc.
6. We grieve for You, O Mary most sorrowful, in the wounding of Your compassionate Heart, when the side of Jesus was struck by the lance before His Body was removed from the Cross. Dear Mother, by Your Heart thus transfixed, obtain for us, and for all men, the virtue of fraternal charity and the gift of Understanding. *Hail Mary, etc.*

7. We grieve for You, O Mary most sorrowful, for the pangs that wrenched Your most loving Heart, at the burial of Jesus. Dear Mother, by Your Heart sunk in the bitterness of desolation, obtain for us, and for all men, the virtue of diligence and the gift of Wisdom. *Hail Mary, etc.*

LET US PRAY

Let intercession be made for us, we beseech You, O Lord Jesus Christ, now and at the hour of our death, before the throne of Your Mercy, by the Blessed Virgin Mary, Your Mother, whose most Holy Soul was pierced by a sword of sorrow in the hour of Your bitter Passion. Through You, O Jesus Christ, Savior of the world, Who with the Father and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns world without end. Amen.

PRAYER TO OUR LADY OF SORROWS

by St. Bridget

O Blessed Virgin Mary, Immaculate Mother of God, who endured a martyrdom of love and grief beholding the sufferings and sorrows of Jesus! You did cooperate in the benefit of my redemption by Your innumerable afflictions and by offering to the Eternal Father His only begotten Son as a holocaust and victim of propitiation for my sins. I thank You for the unspeakable love which led You to deprive Yourself of the Fruit of Your Womb, Jesus, true God and true Man, to save me, a sinner. O, make use of the unflinching intercession of Your sorrows with the Father and the Son, that I may steadfastly amend my life and never again crucify my loving Redeemer by new sins, and that, persevering until death in His grace, I may obtain Eternal Life through the merits of His Cross and Passion. Amen.

Mother of Love, of Sorrow and of Mercy, pray for us.

MIRACULOUSLY SAVED FROM HELL

Like any virtuous person, Mary is touched and deeply grateful for any compassion that is shown to Her. She never forgets, and She never fails to generously reward anything that is done in Her honor.

Sr. Dominica Clara of the Holy Cross, who died in the odor of sanctity in 1897, was many times privileged to receive apparitions of the Holy Souls from Purgatory. She tells us of a certain woman from Purgatory who had been saved in a truly merciful and touching way. While God's Mercy is involved in the salvation of every soul, in some cases it is shown so powerfully that it is truly remarkable. This woman had been saved entirely - and solely - through devotion to the Sorrows of Mary.

This woman from Purgatory explained that while she had been alive on earth, she had lived a life of wickedness. So wicked, she said, that, except for a powerful and special grace from God, there would have been no possibility of her salvation; and she would have most certainly gone to hell, which she justly deserved.

During her sinful life, though, the woman had felt a sincere sympathy and tenderness for Our Lady and the pain that Mary had suffered by Her Sorrows. Whenever she saw an image of our Sorrowful Mother, she would say seven Hail Marys in Mary's honor. This habit had been implanted in her heart since her childhood, by the fervent teachings of her devout mother. Throughout the woman's life, even though she led a very corrupt and disordered one, she was faithful to this practice, although more from habit than devotion.

It was a small sacrifice, easily overlooked; especially when it was so heavily overshadowed by the woman's otherwise wretched behavior. But Our Lady never forgets...

The sinner's life drifted on, until at length, death came for her. As she lay on her death bed, she had nothing to show for her sinful, wasted life. In justice, all hope was lost to her. Yet she was not alone. In gratitude for the small signs of respect and love that the sinner had shown to Mary in compassion for Her Sorrows, Our Blessed Mother had obtained for this woman an extraordinary and powerful grace...

In her dying moments, an image was vividly brought to the sinner's mind. It was an image of Our Lady of Sorrows. Filled with grief at the mere sight of Mary's horrible pains, the woman was suddenly struck with the heartrending truth that *her* sins had caused these sufferings.

In a flood of memories, all of her countless and wicked deeds came pouring into her mind. How horrible they were and what evil they had caused. What great pains had her merciful Jesus suffered to save her - and all because of those sins! The woman reflected on Our Sorrowful Mother weeping tears of agony while Her Heart broke with sorrow. This, this was what the poor woman's sins had accomplished. She could see clearly all of the terrible pain that her sins had caused such an innocent and loving Mother as Mary.

The last moments of her life had come, and her soul was overwhelmed with contrition. Full of remorse, and with Mary's merciful help, the woman felt a true, sincere sorrow for her countless crimes against God. And because of this perfect contrition - a grace which was obtained for her by her Heavenly Mother - the woman was forgiven all of her sins.

The sorrow she had for her sins was so great, that not only did it obtain forgiveness for all of her sins, but it expiated nearly all of the purifying punishments in Purgatory that she had deserved for them.

But as if this was not enough mercy on the part of the Blessed Virgin, another wonderful favor was given. While the soul was in Purgatory, the Mother of God *Herself* frequently came to console her. During the time that Our Lady was personally present, the reparative sufferings were completely stopped; and after each visit, the woman's degree of sufferings were lessened.

"Thousands and thousands of souls", the woman declared to Sr. Dominica, "who had not committed one twentieth as much evil as I did, were eternally lost. Ah! how lively are my feelings of gratitude when I consider what our dear Heavenly Mother did for me in the last moments of my life! Had it not been for Mary, I too should have shared the fate of the reprobates. For all eternity shall my tongue proclaim with love, the goodness, the solicitude of this sweet Virgin; unceasingly shall my voice glorify Her with canticles of praise and thanksgiving."

Sr. Dominica Clara of the Holy Cross also said that many souls who have a sincere devotion to Our Sorrowful Mother are not only saved by Mary's powerful intercession, but they are kept in Purgatory for just a little while, and scarcely at that. They are denied the joys of Heaven and the sight of God for only a short time, and far less than their sins deserved.

"No matter how numerous a person's sins may be, if he turns to me with a sincere purpose of amendment I am prepared forthwith to receive him graciously, for I do not regard the number of sins he has committed, but look only upon the dispositions with which he comes to me; for I feel no aversion in healing his wounds, because I am called and am in truth the Mother of Mercy."

- The Mother of God to St. Bridget

THE HORRIBLE CONSEQUENCES OF SIN

The following story is taken from *The Incarnation, Birth, and Infancy of Jesus Christ*, by the great Doctor of the Church, St. Alphonsus Liguori.

A certain soldier was very sinful; but he had a devout wife, who, not being able to change him for the better, recommended him to say at least one Hail Mary every day in front of some image of Our Lady.

One day, as he was on his way to commit a grave sin, he passed by a church, which, by chance, he entered; and seeing an image of Mary, holding the Child Jesus, he knelt down and said a Hail Mary. Suddenly, he was shocked to see the Infant Jesus all covered with bleeding wounds. The soldier cried out: "O God, what barbarian has thus ill-treated this Innocent Babe?"

"It is *you*, sinner," answered Mary; "it is you who thus attack my Son."

Then, full of contrition, the man begged Her to obtain pardon for him, calling Her 'Mother of Mercy'.

She replied: "You sinners call me 'Mother of Mercy', but you do not cease to make me *Mother of Sorrows and of Misery!*"

But the penitent did not lose courage, and continued to pray to Mary to intercede for him. The Blessed Virgin turned to Her Son, and asked Him to pardon this sinner. Jesus was reluctant to do so.

The Blessed Virgin, seeing Her Son's pained and justified response, gently placed Him in the niche. Then, to the soldier's great surprise and *embarrassment*, the Heavenly Queen prostrated Herself before Jesus, saying: "O my Son, I will not leave Your feet if You do not forgive this afflicted man, who has recommended himself to me."

Then Jesus said to Her: "O My Mother, I have never refused you anything; do you desire the pardon of this sinner? Let him be pardoned; and in token of the pardon which I grant him, I desire that he should come and kiss My wounds which he inflicted." Our Lady rose and stood beside Her Son, turning towards the soldier with a welcoming hand.

Choked with sobs, the penitent man made his way to the Divine Infant. Slowly, the soldier gently pressed his lips against each of Jesus' bloody wounds - one by one. By these acts of veneration the humbled sinner atoned for every bitter consequence of his cruel sins. And with every tearful kiss, the deep and painful wounds on the tender Child were lovingly and miraculously healed until none remained.

Then, as a further sign of His forgiveness, young Jesus reached out and embraced the soldier - filling his contrite heart with a consoling peace.

Immediately upon returning home, the soldier asked pardon of his wife. With mutual consent, they soon both quit their worldly lives and entered religious communities, ending their days with holy deaths.

"Love Mary! She is lovable, faithful and constant. She will never let Herself be outdone in love, but will ever remain supreme. If you are in danger, She will hasten to free you. If you are troubled, She will console you. If you are sick, She will bring you relief. If you are in need, She will help you. She does not look to see what kind of a person you have been. She simply comes to a heart that wants to love Her. She comes quickly and opens Her merciful Heart to you, embraces you and consoles and serves you. She will even be at hand to accompany you on your trip to eternity."

- St. Gabriel of Our Lady of Sorrows

WE GRIEVE FOR YOU, JESUS AND MARY

(The following prayer can be used to gratefully console Jesus and Mary in Their sorrows and sufferings.)

We grieve for You, O Mary, our most Sorrowful Mother, and for You, Jesus, our most Sorrowful Savior, in all of Your sufferings, sorrows and afflictions ever.

In the names of everyone - everywhere and ever - we give, O dearest Mother Mary, to You, and to Your Divine Son Jesus Christ, every good thing ever. All of this we place in Jesus and His most Sacred Heart and in You and Your most Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart, so that all that we are offering is fully perfected by both of You.

We then give all of this goodness, thus perfected, to You through Jesus, and to Jesus through You. In this way, we give to both of You the most perfect acts of love, reparation, consolation, compassion, and gratitude for all of the sorrows, pains and sufferings that either of You ever will, or ever have, experienced or endured.

By Your exceedingly tender Hearts so afflicted, obtain for me this favor that I ask (*mention your intention here*). Also, please instill within me, and everyone, all of Your virtues and all of God's gifts, so that we all can and will become every good thing that we were created to be. In this way, may we give to God and to both of You all of the Love, Honor, Glory, Praise and Joy that each and all of You could ever possibly desire or deserve. Amen.

"Mother Dear, lend me Your Heart. I look for it each day to pour my troubles into."

- St. Gemma Galgani





THE THREE HAIL MARYS



All of the Saints of the Church agree in assuring us that there is no path to Heaven as certain, as safe, as simple, as easy, or as secure, as a true and loving devotion to Mary, the Mother of God. The great Saint and Doctor of the Church, St. Alphonsus Liguori (among so many others), reminds us of this Heavenly Truth: "A devout servant of Mary shall never lose their soul!"

Of all of the Marian devotions approved by the Church which promise Our Blessed Mother's assistance at the hour of our death - and thereby help us to save our soul - what could be simpler or easier than to pray three Hail Marys each day in honor of the privileges given to Mary by the Adorable Trinity?

There are countless true stories which prove that this devotion is most pleasing to the Blessed Trinity and the Most Blessed Virgin Mary, and that it will bring down powerful graces and helps on those who faithfully pray these Three Hail Marys as the Mother of God has requested.

This practice was revealed to St. Mechtilde (a nun who lived in the 13th century) while she was begging Our Blessed Mother to assist her at the hour of her death. Our Lady appeared to her and said:

"I will do this, but I want you to pray three Hail Marys every day in honor of the fact that God has elevated me above all the rest of Creation, filling me with every gift and grace in its Divine fullness, especially:

"Offer the first Hail Mary in honor of the Power that God the Father has given to me, and **I will use that Power at the hour of your death to protect you from all the enemies of your soul and of your salvation;**

“Offer the second Hail Mary in honor of the Wisdom that God the Son has given to me, and **I will use that Wisdom at the hour of your death to penetrate your soul with the Light of Faith and knowledge, so that your faith cannot be tempted through ignorance or error.**

“Offer the third Hail Mary in honor of the Love that God the Holy Spirit has poured into me. It is the sweetness of His Own Love in its fullness. **And I will use that Love at the hour of your death to pour into your soul the sweetness of the Love of God, so that His Love may be so strong in you, that, because of it, all the pain and bitterness of death may be to you exceedingly sweet.**

“God has made me, after Himself, the most powerful, the wisest and the most gentle and loving being in all of Creation.”

REVEALED TO ST. GERTRUDE THE GREAT

We learn more of this devotion from St. Gertrude the Great, who lived with St. Mechtilde in the same Benedictine convent in Helfta in Thuringia (modern day Germany) and died in 1302 AD. She was one of the most amazing mystics in the history of the Church. She received almost uninterrupted visions and revelations from Heaven for many years. In her book of Revelations we find the following story:

“While St. Gertrude chanted the Hail Mary, during Matins on the great Feast of the Annunciation, she suddenly saw three streams which flowed with gentle but powerful fervor from the Heart of God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit. These three bright flames penetrated the Heart of the Holy Mother of God. Then St. Gertrude heard the following words:

'After the Power of the Father, the Wisdom of the Son, and the merciful Tenderness of the Holy Spirit, nothing approaches the Power, the Wisdom and the merciful Tenderness of Mary.'"

Our Blessed Mother also revealed to St. Gertrude the Great: "*To any soul who faithfully prays the Three Hail Marys, **I will appear to them at the hour of their death in a splendor so extraordinary that it will fill their soul with heavenly consolation.***"

If on any day you forget to say these prayers, do not be discouraged. With confident humility, tell your Heavenly Mother Mary of your weakness and ask for help to be more faithful. Then begin again with a stronger resolution to do all that She asks of you in this devotion. You should pray *to* Mary every day, but also do not forget to pray *with* Mary always!

Remember, to benefit by these powerful prayers you must say all three Hail Marys every day for these three intentions: to honor the unequalled Power, Wisdom and most tender Love of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary.

WARNING FROM THE ABYSS

The following story is a classic example among countless others that shows the incredible, powerful mercy that Mary bestows through this devotion. This story is related by a Franciscan friar, Richard of St. Anne, who was later martyred for the Faith. He himself was living in Brussels, in 1604, when the following incident took place.

Two students in the town had the habit of pursuing pleasures instead of their studies. One typical evening, they were indulging in their sins of drunkenness and impurity when one of them decided to head home.

It was late and he was tired, but before he went to bed, he tried to recite three Hail Marys in honor of the Blessed Virgin as was his night time habit. Struggling, he finally succeeded and then fell into his bed. A short time later, his deep, exhausted sleep was shattered by a sudden loud knocking at his door. Before he fully awoke, he was suddenly confronted by his sinful companion, who now appeared horribly disfigured and monstrous.

"Who are you?" the frightened young man demanded.

"What? Don't you know me?" replied the poor wretch.

"But how can it be you? What happened? You look like a devil!"

"Ah, pity me! There is a hell, and I am damned," the pitiful soul howled. "I left that accursed house tonight shortly after you. Almost immediately, some cursed devil took me by surprise and strangled me. Though my body lies still warm in the street, my soul has already been condemned forever - imprisoned in the eternal flames of hell. Moreover, this same fate is what you deserve, but the Holy Virgin preserved you from it thanks to your habit of honoring Her each day with a few Hail Marys. It is She who obtained my appearance here. Happy are you if you know how to profit from what you have been shown." The damned man then opened his garment, revealing the flames and serpents that had already begun their endless, unceasing torments. Then he vanished.

The horror of what he had just witnessed, together with the profound reality of the awful fate that he had so narrowly avoided, overwhelmed the young man who collapsed in tears on the floor. For the first time in his life, he truly prayed - prayed with a deep and

sincere gratitude to Our Lady for Her protection. As he prayed, he was inspired to join the nearby Franciscan community so that he could live a life of penance and make reparation. Early that morning, his initial attempt to enter was rejected because his immoral habits were so well known to them. At length, through tears, he recounted the events of the preceding night and begged to be received. Two religious were sent to verify the story and did in fact discover the blackened corpse of the miserable youth that had lost his soul. The community then relented and permitted entrance to the penitent, who began at once to sincerely pursue a life of penance; a life which edified the rest of the community.

But Our Lady's graces did not end there. These nightmarish facts filled many people in the surrounding areas with more than enough soul-gripping fright to change their own lives. It was, in fact, the very reason Richard entered into religious life and sought to pursue a life of mortification and virtue.

When one realizes that the way these two companions were living is all too common for those in the world and how terrifying and eternal are the consequences of such a life, it is easy to see why people would turn their backs on such lives and instead entrust themselves entirely to the Mother of God, begging Her to form them in the image of Her Son, and thereby securing their eternal salvation. Does a stark re-examination of these gruesome facts still hold the power of conversion today?

Our Lady is just as ready now as She was then, to assist all those who will turn to Her for help to change their lives and save their souls. Why not start today? Just three Hail Marys. The sacrifice of only a few minutes a day may just lead to an unending eternity of happiness!

"Never has any man composed anything more beautiful than the Hail Mary. No greeting could be dearer to my Heart than those beautiful and dignified words that God the Father addressed to me Himself."

- Our Lady to St. Gertrude

THE FOLLOWING PRAYER OF INTENTION
CAN BE SAID BEFORE PRAYING YOUR DAILY
THREE HAIL MARYS.

I offer these prayers to give honor to Almighty God for elevating the Blessed Virgin Mary above all the rest of Creation by filling Her with every gift and grace in its Divine fullness - especially: the Power of God the Father, the Wisdom of God the Son, and the Love of God the Holy Spirit. And I beg my Heavenly Mother Mary to form me into everything that God desires, and to bring me to Heaven when I die.

Hail Mary, full of grace; the Lord is with Thee; blessed art Thou among women, and blessed is the Fruit of Thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen. (3 times)

"I greet you, Lady, Holy Queen, Holy Mary, Mother of God, Virgin who became the Church, chosen by the most holy Father of Heaven; consecrated to holiness through His most holy and beloved Son and the Holy Spirit, the Comforter. In You was and is the whole fullness of grace and everything that is good."

- St. Francis of Assisi

"As sailors are guided by a star to the port, so Christians are guided to Heaven by Mary"

- St. Thomas Aquinas (Doctor of the Church)

EPILOGUE

We heartily encourage you to share these soul saving devotions with your family and friends. For more information and material on these and other devotions that can save your soul - including images, prayers, and free downloads, etc. just visit:

www.catholickingdom.com/saveyoursoul.html

THE CATHOLIC KINGDOM

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