

TOGETHER FOR MISSION

A NEWSLETTER FOR PARTNERS IN MISSION

REDEMPTORIST CONFERENCE OF NORTH AMERICA



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On June 27 we celebrate the Feast of Our Mother of Perpetual Help. This year, our traditional devotions, including novenas, will look very different than usual in many places. We will either gather respecting social distancing, or we will take our devotions to the internet, gathering people through digital means. For over 150 years, our Redemptorist family has promoted devotion to

Mary under the title of “Perpetual Help.” Now, in a time of pandemic, we look to the icon for that perpetual help, for solace, comfort and healing. In a time when the reality of systemic racism has come to the fore, we look to the icon as an icon of mission, calling us to look, listen, be aware, and accompany those people who are most in need, the voiceless, the abandoned.

The traditional practice around our novenas in honour of Our Mother of Perpetual Help is a wise, sound and insightful one; we place our petitions before Mary, our mother and first missionary disciple, and we give thanks for all the blessing and graces that flow into our lives. They are good in themselves, and they remind us that the redemption offered by her Son is both present and plentiful. And so, in this issue of *Together for Mission*, we pray together, distant, yet one. Here, we present some of the petitions and thanksgivings of members of our Redemptorist family. Please, use these in your novena, as you prepare prayerfully to celebrate the feast, and unite your prayers of petition and thanksgiving to those voiced here.



Thanks to all of you who so willingly offered your prayers, and thanks to Fr. Francis Gargani, CSsR, who guides our reflection by prayerfully focusing our attention first on the icon of Our Mother of Perpetual Help.



PRAYING WITH THE ICON OF OUR MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP ICON OF DEVOTION, ICON IMPELLING US TO MISSION

Knowing your exposed ear lobe of Perpetual Help manifests how you hear the cry of the countless numbers of sisters and brothers driven into abject poverty by the world-wide pandemic of Covid-19, we pray to you. . .



Gazing with your eyes of Perpetual Help upon each and every sister and brother wounded in our world from racism that attacks their God-given dignity, we pray to you...

Realizing that the sandal falling from the foot of your Son unites Him with all the vulnerable and abandoned people of our human family, we call to mind migrant people and refugees, whose feet carry them away from oppression and injustice, and we pray to you...



Trusting your hands of Perpetual Help will hold us as you hold the Christ Child who runs into your care, we overflow with gratitude for the manifold expressions of compassion and unity from our human family and first responders during the coronavirus pandemic, we pray to you. . .

Loving that your fingers of Perpetual Help point us toward the Christ, as you always lead us to Him, may we overcome the divisiveness and violence of your daughters and sons tearing at Your motherly heart, we pray to you. . .

Seeing the angels holding the implements of crucifixion, we trust that you are near to those who face fear, anxiety, stress and distress in these times of physical distancing and uncertainty, and we pray to you...



NOVENA PRAYER

Mother of Perpetual Help, with the greatest confidence we come before your holy picture to beseech your intercession.

We think of you, Mother, at the foot of the Cross. Your heart must have bled to see your Son in agony.

But your joy was great when He rose from the dead, victorious over the powers of evil.

Mother of Sorrows, pray for us in this time of trial. Help us not to lose heart.

Intercede for your people who are afflicted with Coronavirus. Comfort your people who are vulnerable and anxious. Protect healthcare workers who put their lives at risk. Inspire our leaders to make good decisions.

Change our hearts so that we may act responsibly. Teach us to trust in God's love and mercy and to share with you the joy of having courageously faced up to all the challenges of Life. Amen.

PETITIONS

Hear us Lord, through Mary Our Mother...

I pray especially for all the sick in the ICU and in nursing homes who are dying alone due to the pandemic. May they achieve peace. *Jeannie Pernal, Redemptorist Associate, Grande Prairie, AB*



Let us pray for all those suffering in anyway and those who care for them, may they find peace in God's love for them. *Pauline Brophy, Redemptorist Associate, St. John's, NL*

I pray for the health and safety of everyone impacted by this virus and the economic conditions it has created. *Kathleen Bartos, Redemptorist Partner in Mission, New Smyrna Beach, FL*

For those involved in receiving and providing long term care, we pray they will know your abundant generosity, love and healing. *Ray Biggs, Redemptorist Associate, Grande Prairie, AB*

Dearest Mother of Perpetual Help, please help us to be a voice of hope and the builders of a future filled with compassion and love as we embark on a new post-pandemic reality. *Lucy Burich McNamara, Redemptorist Partner in Mission, Bethpage, NY*

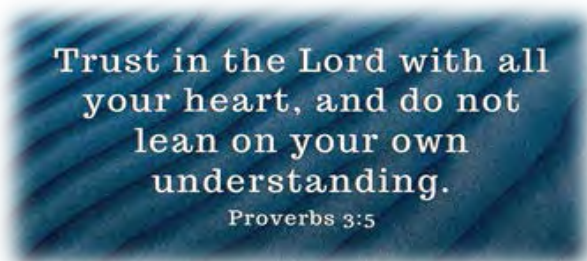


I'd like to pray for our MPH staff, especially those who lost their wages due to our shut down since mid March. *Mary Starkey, Redemptorist Partner in Mission, Houston TX*

Mother of Perpetual Help, as we gaze at our racially torn world with your eyes of tenderness, mercy, and compassion, help us to see clearly the best ways to transform turmoil into trust, tension into tenderness, and treat all persons with dignity and love. *Lynda Browning, Redemptorist Associate, Saskatoon, SK*

For just resolutions of conflict in our world, in our nations, in our streets, and in our homes. *Fr. Matt Allman, CSsR, Dominica*

For those seeking peace and justice especially those in the black community in the United States. *Fr Michael Smolinski, CSsR, Saskatoon, SK*



Please, God, forgive us. Help us to recognize the beautiful face of Your Son in every single person we meet, no matter what their race, religion, or ethnicity. *Diana Davenport, Redemptorist Associate, Tucson, AZ*

Lord, we ask for your guidance in a special way as the Redemptorists and lay collaborators discern the safest path to go in regard to restoring face to face ministry in our pastoral locations. *Fr. Jack Kingsbury, CSsR, Conference Coordinator, North America*
Loving Mother, help my family and those families around the world that are wounded and needing healing; spiritually, physically, mentally and emotionally, so that they may be able to find the courage and perseverance to live their lives worthy of God's mercy and love. *Margarette Almonte, Redemptorist Associate, Toronto, ON*

*Acquire the habit of speaking to
God as if you were alone with
Him, familiarly and with
confidence and love, as to the
dearest and most loving of friends
~ St. Alphonsus Liguori*

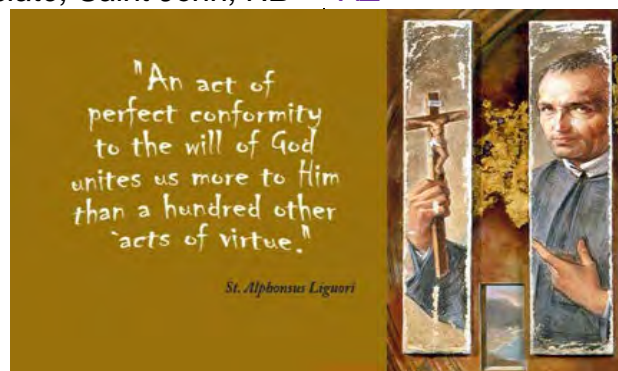
Mother of Perpetual Help, you who stood at the foot of the cross in sorrow and solitude as your son suffered alone and in pain; in your mercy and compassion give your support to those who are sick and dying in isolation and loneliness, because of COVID-19. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Barbara Galbraith, Redemptorist Associate, Toronto, ON*

We pray for our families, that we find ways to be supportive of one another, to better understand how each of us is impacted by change in routine and increased isolation, and to ensure we strive to be patient and giving during this time. *Michael Butler, Redemptorist Associate, Saint John, NB*

OLPH, please ask your son to open our hearts and receive the gifts of the Holy Spirit and the grace and wisdom to put those gifts into action, especially during these times of uncertainty, despair, anger and frustration. Using these gifts will help all of us to be more loving and to begin making progress to the reforms needed to help our broken world. *Micki O'Connor, Redemptorist Partner in Mission, Concord, NC*

Mother of Perpetual Help, I pray for your protective embrace and intercession for the needs of my family, community, society and the Church. I pray that we learn to peacefully respect one another as we embrace living our daily lives differently. *Lesia Sianchuk, Redemptorist Partner in Mission, Winnipeg, MB*

That we all be receptive to the strengthening grace of God in order to replace any racism, bigotry and prejudice with peace, justice and love - within ourselves, our families, our society and our Church communities. *Fr. Ed Vella, CSsR, Redemptorist Renewal Center, Tucson, AZ*



We implore Our Mother of Perpetual Help to intercede for God's grace upon the alcoholic, for the support their family needs and for healing the loving relationships damaged by addiction. *Janet Donohue, Redemptorist Associate, Saint John, NB*

For all the poor souls who have passed away during this pandemic, may they soon be in the company of Our Mother of Perpetual Help and all God's Holy Angels and Saints. *Kristine Pham and Peter Trung Nguyen, Redemptorist Partners in Mission, Long Beach, CA*

Our Lady of Perpetual Help, we pray to thee in this time of pandemic, as many struggle with darkness and uncertainty. Intercede for us to your Son Jesus, the Healer of healers as He places in his Gentle Hands the sick, the elderly, the vulnerable, the frail, the young families, the poor, the abandoned and the isolated. Lord, in your loving care, protect your healing warriors. Give them strength to console and comfort the dying. When tired, give them rest; when discouraged, send them hope. We thank you, Lord Jesus, for spreading the fires of Pentecost within us so that it has enflamed our hearts to Trust and Hope in you, our True anchor, our refuge, our beacon in the storm. Amen *Monique Martin, Redemptorist Partner in Mission, Baie Ste Anne, NB*

Help us to rescue the helpless and abandoned of the earth, and to love them as our brothers and sisters. *John Davenport, Redemptorist Associate, Tucson, AZ*



I pray that we might, as a society, permanently retain many of the gains we have made during the pandemic: in taking time for interior reflection and growing closer to God; in loving one another, particularly those who are alone or who are unable to cope easily with the many restrictions imposed by the pandemic, as well as those at home with us; and in sparing the earth through reduced travel and focus on sustainable lifestyles; and for the Church, that we might gently and humbly lead society to an awareness that these things should be retained.

Matthew Marquardt, Redemptorist Associate, Toronto, ON

"Yes, my gentle Redeemer, let me say it,
You are crazy with love!
Is it not foolish for you
to have wanted to die for me?
But if You, my God,
have become crazy with love for me,
how can I not become crazy with love for You?"

St. Alphonsus Liguori from
"The Passion and Death of Jesus Christ"

As we go through life, we tend to focus on doing what is necessary for us to make a living. In doing so we often don't realize that we are interconnected and that what we do affect others. I pray for the grace of awareness of our interconnectedness so that all our choices will involve considering others as well as ourselves. *Bro. Jeffrey Rolle, CSsR, General Councillor, Rome*



We pray for those who are mourning the loss of someone from a distance – those who have lost someone to Covid-19 and those who have lost someone during the time of the pandemic – that the mantle of Motherly care may be felt by them during this time of isolation, knowing she is with us, holding our hand just as she holds her Son's hand in the Icon. *Bro. Laurence Luhan, CSsR, Chicago, IL*

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary,
that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection,
implored your help, or sought your intercession
was left unaided.

Inspired with this confidence, we fly unto you,
O Virgin of virgins, our Mother.

To you do we come, before you we stand, sinful and sorrowful.
O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not our petitions,
but in your mercy hear and answer us.

Amen.



THANKSGIVINGS

We thank you Lord. through Mary our Mother...

I am grateful for the country that we live as we have peaceful leadership, economic wealth and health care for all. *Jeannie Pernal, Redemptorist Associate, Grande Prairie, AB*

In thanksgiving for the "hidden blessing" of this pandemic - teaching us the appreciation of health, human life, family, friends and faith, made possible by those heroes on the "front-lines" during the pandemic experience.
Ed Vella, CSsR, Redemptorist Renewal Center, Tucson, AZ

Mother of Perpetual Help, during this time of isolation and distancing, we have come to see how interconnected we are with one another, we thank you for deepening that realization. May it always guide our hearts as ministers of redemption. *Lynda Browning, Redemptorist Associate, Saskatoon, SK*



I am thankful that I have been gifted with the situation and tools to be able to work unaffected by quarantine and isolation and to provide the same for all of my employees. We are all truly blessed in this environment. *Kathleen Bartos, Redemptorist Partner in Mission, New Smyrna Beach, FL*

In thanksgiving for the beauty of the place where I live and for time shared with friends.
Fr. Michael Smolinski, CSsR, Saskatoon, SK

Living through this pandemic, I have come to realize there are people who are selfless in their commitment to serving others. I am thinking especially of the people on the frontlines who showed up willingly and devotedly in spite of the potential danger to themselves. I give thanks for them. *Bro. Jeffrey Rolle, CSsR, General Councillor, Rome*

I would like to thank God for the Church re-opening so we can again enjoy the gift of the Eucharist. I pray that the hunger we have felt will unite us with all who hunger and thirst for justice. *Mary Starkey, Redemptorist Partner in Mission, Houston TX*

I am grateful for all those people in our lives who gracefully manage to bring peace and healing wherever they go, even as they carry their own tremendous burdens. *Matt Allman, CSsR, Dominica*



Lord, I thank you for the deep reflections and sacred awakenings that are taking place as people contemplate their longing for both a personal and communal spiritual life in light of the pandemic social distancing.
Jack Kingsbury, CSsR, Conference Coordinator, North America

Thank you, Lord, for the closeness that can grow in a family when we are kept inside together by the dangers everywhere outside, and freed from the excess busyness that separates us from each other. *Diana Davenport, Redemptorist Associate, Tucson, AZ*

OLPH, I am thankful for your love and protection. I am especially thankful for the gift of increased tolerance during this time of Pandemic. You have helped me to see and value the opinions of others, and in so doing, I have become more loving. I am thankful that I am learning, through your son, to do or say nothing before considering if it will be pleasing to our Father and will serve a useful and good purpose. *Micki O'Connor, Redemptorist Partners in Mission, Concord, NC*

Thank you, Lord, for the opportunity to set aside our run-on-sentence lives so that we might rediscover the breathtaking beauty of a sunrise and the world it reveals anew each day. *John Davenport, Redemptorist Associate, Tucson, AZ*

Mother of Perpetual Help, in this time of pandemic, I find your loving presence in the core of my sleeplessness and anxiety, lifting me up and giving me hope as you've always done whenever I find myself in the midst of dark moments like this; my heart is filled with prayers in thanksgiving as you point me back in faith and love to your son, Jesus, my Lord and Redeemer. *Margarette Almonte, Redemptorist Associate, Toronto, ON*

Mother of Perpetual Help thank you for your unceasing intercession especially for the ability to understand the importance of the need to slow down and spend quiet time alone. Thank you for the gift of learning to present for the moment. *Lesia Sianchuk, Redemptorist Partner in Mission, Winnipeg, MB*

We thank you for the opportunity to spend time with our families, to take a break for the busyness of our lives, and to gather strength and peace from the newfound quiet we have been provided. *Michael Butler, Redemptorist Associate, Saint John, NB*



Heavenly Father, thank you for loving us and strengthening our belief in the true presence of the Most Holy Eucharist. *Kristine Pham and Peter Trung Nguyen, Redemptorist Partners in Mission, Long Beach, CA*



I pray in Thanksgiving for the bringing together of the world in care and love for one another. *Pauline Brophy, Redemptorist Associate, St. John's, NL*

Thankful that we are never alone, as God gives direction when we trust in Him. The simple message holds true: Life is fragile, handle with prayer. *Janet Donohue, Redemptorist Associate, Saint John, NB*



Let us give thanks for all the people who are putting the Gospel into action each day, touching our lives with their prayers, words and actions, and giving us hope and trust in God's constant presence among us on this pandemic journey. Thanks be to God. *Barbara Galbraith, Redemptorist Associate, Toronto, ON*

Thank you, Lord for a deepened appreciation of the many ways during this pandemic in which we identify with your incarnation - God with us. *Ray Biggs, Redemptorist Associate, Grande Prairie, AB*

We offer thanksgiving for the little experiences of Mary's tenderness that we experience, even in our distance from others – most especially the revelation of Her Son to us through moments of calm, peace and love experienced alone or through others and the joy we find when we gaze upon her Icon, knowing she knows our needs and presents them to her Son. *Bro Laurence Luhan, CSsR, Chicago, IL*

Dearest Mother of Perpetual Help, thank you for widening our hearts to trust without limit. This pandemic forced us to pause and reflect on how we define who our neighbors are and how now to love them from a position of isolation. We thank you for your unwavering witness of trust as we courageously adapted and effected new ways to love. Thank you for your intercession as you modeled that "I can do all things in God who gives me strength," even during a global pandemic.
Lucy Burich McNamara, Redemptorist Partner in Mission, Bethpage, NY

I pray in thanks for two great gifts which, for me, have increased my understanding of the loving greatness of God:

- The immediate and widespread adoption of St Alphonsus's Spiritual Act of Communion, which is now cropping up everywhere, and which fills a longstanding need anyone who is homebound, but particularly those who are indefinitely homebound; and
- the image shared in a recent homily by Cardinal Collins, of the Church as a guide charged by Christ with lovingly guiding the world to firm stepping stones of truth, in order to humbly lead the world across the chasm of worldly trouble to the life intended for us by God



*Matthew Marquardt, Redemptorist Associate,
Toronto, ON*

**Mother of Perpetual Help,
we, who call on your most powerful name,
thank you for the graces we have received through your intercession
and for hearing our prayers today, "for God, who is mighty, has done
great things through you, and God's mercy is from age to age,
on those who fear him." Amen.**

Closing Blessing

**May the Lord Jesus Christ, Son of Mary of Perpetual Help,
be with you to defend you, within you to sustain you,
before you to lead you, behind you to protect you
and above you to bless you all the days of your life.
In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**