

May 2014

He was made known to them in the breaking of the bread. (Luke 24: 13-35)
I am the gate for the sheep ... whoever enters through me will be saved. (John 10: 1-10)
I am the way and the truth and the life. (John 14: 1-12)
Whoever has my commandments and observes them is the one who loves me. (John 14: 15-21)
Behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age. (Matthew 28: 16-20)

Eternal Love, Spirit of Light and Truth, make a way into my poor mind and allow me to penetrate as far as it is possible to a wretched creature like myself, into that abyss of grace, of purity and of holiness, that I may acquire a love of God that is continually renewed, a love of God Who, from all eternity planned the greatest of all masterpieces by His hands: the Immaculate Virgin Mary ... O my Mother, how ashamed I feel in your presence, weighed down as I am with faults! You are most pure and immaculate from the moment of your conception, indeed from the moment in eternity when you were conceived in the mind of God. Have pity on me! May one compassionate look of yours revive me, purify me and lift me up to God ... (words of Padre Pio)

1
The soul must be saddened by one thing alone, offending God, and even in this we must be very cautious.
2
We must be sorry, it is true, for our failures, but with a calm sorrow while we continue to trust in the divine mercy.
3
We should guard against certain reproaches and remorseful feelings in our own regard, for more often than not these come from the devil with a view to disturbing the peace we enjoy with God.
4
If reproaches and remorse serve to humble us and make us careful to act well, without depriving us of our trust in God, we may be sure they come from God.
5
If we keep our souls calm and peaceful in every difficult situation, we will gain much ground in the ways of God.
6
The Lord is with you, and there is no room for fear.
7
Jesus likes to give himself to simple souls.
8
We must make an effort to acquire this beautiful virtue of simplicity and to hold it in great esteem.
9
Let us empty our hearts and keep far from us all human prudence.
10
We must try to keep our thoughts pure, our ideas upright and honest, and our intentions holy.
11
We should also endeavor to have a will that seeks nothing but God and his glory.
12
My soul burns with the desire to be united to (God) by indissoluble bonds.
13
My soul goes on fire with the most keen desire to possess Jesus entirely.
14
I feel inflamed with such a lively and ardent desire to please God and am gripped by such a fear of falling into the slightest imperfection.
15
May the divine Spirit come down into your heart and fill it entirely with heavenly charisms.
16
How good our God is who lavished so many graces upon us and loves us so dearly although we do not deserve it.
17
May (God) be forever blessed by all creatures.
18
Let us draw near to the Child Jesus with hearts free from sin, that we may discover how sweet and delightful it is to love him.
19
Does it appear to you that God has hidden himself, that he has abandoned you?

20
Do not fear: Jesus is with you, and you are with him!
21
In darkness, tribulation, anxiety of spirit, Jesus is with you.
22
Have no fear ... and don't even ask where the Lord is, because in him and in his arms no misfortune of any kind can befall us.
23
The bitterness of love is still sweet and its weight suave,
24
Do not complain if you are still unable to definitively embrace the Supreme Good. The time will come when you possess it definitively and totally.
25
The enemies of God insult the cross and all those who are crucified upon it with the Son of God. For you this ought to be a source of gladness, as it is for many souls.
26
The Third Order of St. Francis has always been, and is still ... an important factor in seeing that humanity returns to the light of faith, to the healthy principles of Christian morals.
27
Let us ask our good Jesus for humility, trust, and faith.
28
Let us abandon ourselves to (Jesus), detaching ourselves from this lying world, where everything is folly and vanity.
29
Everything passes; only God remains for the soul, if it knows how to love him well.
30
Be consoled ... because your suffering is as God wills. If nature suffers and demands its rights, this is a condition of man's life as a wayfarer.
31
As long as we remain in this world we shall always feel a natural aversion for suffering.

(NB- The month of May honors Our Heavenly Mother Mary. The following suggested prayers, Memorare, Hymn of Praise to Our Lady with Hail Mary's, prayer to Padre Pio for greater devotion to Our Lady are all suggestions as a possible help in devotional your prayer life. The Scriptural passages refer to Mary and can also serve as points for meditation on Mary during the month. Any, all, or none of these suggested practices may be used during the month. These monthly devotional prayers and readings are offered to help if desired, and not impose upon, your prayer life.)

Prayers for the Month of Mary

Memorare

(adapted)

Remember,

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

Inspired with this confidence, I fly to you,
O virgin of virgins, my mother,
to you I come, before you I kneel,
sinful and sorrowful.
Mother of the Word Incarnate
Despise not my request,
but in your clemency, hear and answer me.
Amen.

The Hymn of Praise in honor of the Mother of God and Our Blessed Mother

(attributed to St. Bonaventure, slightly adapted)

We praise you, O Mother of God; we confess you, Mary, ever Virgin.
You are the Spouse of the Eternal Father; the whole earth venerates you.
You all angels and archangels, thrones and principalities serve.
You all powers and all virtues of Heaven, and all dominations obey.
Before you all the angelic choirs, the Cherubim and Seraphim exulting stand.
With unceasing voice every angelic creature proclaims you: Holy, holy, holy: Mary, Mother of God and Virgin !
(Hail Mary)

Full are the heavens and the earth of the majesty and glory of the fruit of your womb.
You the glorious choir of Apostles praises as the Mother of their Creator.
You the white-robed multitude of blessed martyrs glorify as the Mother of Christ.
You the glorious army of Confessors style the Temple of the Trinity.
You the amiable choir of holy virgins preaches as the example of virginity and humility.
You the whole heavenly court honors as Queen.
(Hail Mary)

The Church, invoking you, calls you throughout the whole world: Mother of the Divine Majesty.
Venerating you as the true Mother of the heavenly King: holy, sweet, and loving.
You are the Lady of Angels, you are the gate of Paradise.
You are the ladder of glory, and of the heavenly kingdom.
You are the bridal chamber, you are the ark of piety and grace.
You are the vein of mercy, you are the Spouse and the Mother of the Eternal King.
(Hail Mary)

You are the temple of the treasury of the Holy Spirit, you are the noble throne of the whole blessed Trinity.
You are the Mediatrix of God, and the lover of humanity, the heavenly Illuminatrix of human beings.
You are the inspirer of the warriors, the advocate of the poor, the compassionate refuge of sinners.
You are the distributrix of gifts, the barrier against demons and the proud, and their fear.
You are the Lady of the world, the Queen of Heaven, after God our only hope.
You are the salvation of all who call upon you, the harbor of the shipwrecked, the solace of the wretched, the refuge of those who perish.
(Hail Mary)

You are the Mother of all the blessed, full of joy after God, the comfort of all the dwellers in Heaven.
You are the promoter of the just, the one who gathers together those who stray, the promise of the patriarchs.
You are the truth of the prophets, the herald and teacher of the Apostles, the Mistress of the Evangelists.
You are the strength of martyrs, the example of confessors, the honor and the festivity of virgins.
You received into your womb the Son of God, to deliver the exiled human beings.
By you is driven out the ancient enemy, and the kingdoms of Heaven are opened to believers.
(Hail Mary)

You sit together with your Son, at the right hand of the Father.
Intercede for us, O Virgin Mary, with Him who we believe will come to judge us.
We beseech you, therefore, help us, your servants, who have been redeemed with the Precious Blood of Your Son.
Save your people, O Lady, that we may be partakers of the inheritance of Your Son.
And rule us, and keep us forever.
Day by day, O loving one, we salute you.
And we desire to praise you forever, with both mind and voice.
Deign, O sweet Mary, now and forever, to keep us without sin.
(Hail Mary)

Have mercy on us, O loving one, have mercy on us.
Let your great mercy be upon us, because we trust in you, O Virgin Mary.
In you, O sweet Mary, we hope, defend us forever.
Praise becomes you and empire is yours, to you be power and glory forever. Amen
(Hail Mary)

Easter Marian Anthem

Queen of heaven rejoice, alleluia! / For the Son Whom you bore, alleluia!
Has risen as He promised, alleluia! / Pray to God for us, alleluia!

Rejoice, and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia! / For the Lord is truly risen, alleluia!

O God, Who gave joy to the whole world through the Resurrection of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, grant we pray, that through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, His Mother, we may share in the same joys of eternal life. We ask this through Jesus Christ Your Son our Lord, Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever. Amen.

***To Padre Pio
for Childlike Trust in Mary's Intercession***

Padre Pio of Pietrelcina, pray for me, that with your childlike confidence in Our Lady, I can say with you: thank you, Mary, my Mother, for the many graces I obtain through your almighty intercession. Pray for me, O Holy Mother, that I may always have strength sufficient to accept whatever burdens I am asked to bear each day. May I bear them hopefully with a joyful heart, knowing that you, Mother, are with me, encouraging and leading me ever closer to Jesus Your Son, in Whose Name I pray, and Who lives with the Father and the Holy Spirit forever. Amen.

