

May 2017

I am the gate for the sheep ... Whoever enters through me will be saved. (John 10: 1-10)

Whoever has seen me , has seen the Father. (John 14: 1-12)

If you love me, you will keep my commandments. (John 14: 15-21)

Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations. (Matthew 28: 16-20)

I pray for..the ones you have given me, because they are yours ...

I have been glorified in them. (John 17:1-11)

My most pure Mother, my soul so poor, all stained with wretchedness and sin cries out to your maternal heart. In your goodness deign, I beseech you, to pour out on me at least a little of the grace that flowed into you with such infinite profusion from the Heart of God. Strengthened and supported by this grace, may I succeed in better loving and serving Almighty God Who filled your heart completely, and Who created the temple of your body from the moment of your Immaculate Conception.

(Prayer of Padre Pio to Mary Immaculate)

1

Our justification is such a tremendous miracle that Sacred Scripture compares it to the Resurrection.

2

It can be said that God revealed His power more fully in our justification than in drawing heaven and earth from nothing.

3

By our own malice we have rendered ourselves incapable of receiving these secrets (of God's loving grace).

4

The first movement of our hearts is a movement towards God.

5

Sacred Scripture speaks of charity as the bond of perfect harmony.

6

Charity has its close relatives joy and peace.

7

From the moment at which the soul knows God, it is naturally led to love Him.

8

By loving God the soul is certain of possessing Him.

9

If joy is to be true and perfect it must be accompanied by the peace which pervades us ...

10

As long as we are wayfarers on this earth we can never enjoy perfect peace.

11

To stand up to harsh trials the soul needs patience which enables us to bear all adversity without giving in.

12

Those who strive for perfection must attribute great importance to this virtue (patience) ...

13

It is this virtue (patience) which maintains order in one's interior life.

14

Love, joy and peace are virtues which perfect the soul with regard to what it possesses, while patience perfects it to what it endures.

15

Forbearance...leads one never to desist from one's efforts to help others.

16

Cultivate meekness, which makes us stifle our anger, even when we see our efforts repaid with ingratitude, insults and offenses.

17

All the fine virtues are not sufficient if we do not add to them the virtue of faithfulness.

18

Three virtues perfect the person with regard to control of the senses: modesty, continence, and chastity.

19

If we are to allow the Holy Spirit freedom to act in our souls, we must mount guard over the spirit of self ...

20

We must be careful to subdue vainglory, irascibility and envy ... these three are extremely opposed to the Spirit of the Lord.

21

I pray ... that the Lord may multiply His mercies upon you and make you more and more dear to Him.

22

It is the love of Jesus Christ which presses me and the keenest desire for your sanctification.

23

Be fully aware of your dignity (as a child of God gifted with His Holy Spirit)

24

Keep yourself unsullied in body and mind, to proceed in simple faith.

25

Observe the loving manner of this good Father (God)...He never left you for a moment

26

(The Father) is always close to you, He rules and protects and sustains you so that your will may not be overcome by your foes.

27

Open your heart to trust in God, to recognize the divine benefits bestowed on you by the grace of Jesus.

28

Thank the heavenly Father for His mercy.

29

To be inordinately attached to your own opinion is invariably a source and beginning of discord.

30

Be on your guard against vainglory, a vice to be found in devout persons.

31

May Mary be the star which shines on your path and may she show you the safe way to reach the heavenly Father.

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
(Assist me, that I may open my heart
to God's Word, and, like you,
open my life to Christ,
that I may live with, in and for Jesus,
as you did.)
Despise not my request,
but in your clemency, hear and answer me.
Amen.

Gospel selections referring to Mary

(Select a passage each day and read it all or part of it, reflect on how it refers to Mary and to you. Then pray a pray from your heart to live the message that Mary's example offers in that Scripture passage.)

Matthew 1: 1-17 (Genealogy of Jesus)

Matthew 1: 18-23 (Birth of Jesus the Messiah)
Matthew 2: 1-12 (Visit of the Wise Men)
Matthew 2: 13-23 (Flight into Egypt / Innocents)
Matthew 12: 46-50 (Family of Jesus Father's Will)
Matthew 13: 54-58 (Mary known at Nazareth)
Mark 3: 31-35 (Who does Father's Will is family)
Mark 6: 1-6 (Jesus known as Mary's Son)
Luke 1: 26-38 (Annunciation of Angel to Mary)
Luke 1: 39-56 (Visit of Mary to Elizabeth)
Luke 2: 1-14 (Mary gives birth to Jesus)
Luke 2: 15-19 (Shepherds visit / Mary ponders)
Luke 2: 27-35 (Simeon+Anna praise Infant Jesus)
Luke 2: 41-52 (Jesus lost and found in Temple)
Luke 8: 19-21 (Brethren of Jesus do Father's Will)
John 2: 1-11 (Wedding at Cana in Galilee)
John 19: 25-27 (Mary at the Cross)
Acts 1: 12-14 (Mary and the Church at Prayer)
Revelation 12: 1-6 (Great Sign in the Heavens)

Litany of Our Lady

adapted

At the sign (*) the response will be: pray for us (*)

Holy Mary, *
Mother of God, Virgin of virgins, Mother of Christ, Mother of divine grace, *
Mother most pure, chaste, undefiled, amiable, admirable, *
Mother of good counsel, of our Creator, of our Savior, *
Virgin most prudent, venerable, renowned, powerful, merciful, faithful, *
Mirror of justice, Seat of wisdom, Cause of our joy, *
Spiritual vessel, Vessel of honor, Singular vessel of devotion, *
Mystical rose, Tower of David, Tower of ivory, House of gold, Ark of the Covenant, Gate of
Heaven, *
Morning Star, Health of the Sick, Refuge of sinners,
Comforter of the afflicted, Help of Christians, *
Queen of Angels, Patriarchs, Prophets, *
Queen of Apostles, Martyrs, Confessors, Virgins, *
Queen of all Saints, conceived without original sin, of the most holy Rosary, of Peace, *

Thanksgiving to God for the gift of Mary

Father, all-powerful and ever-living God, we do well always and everywhere to give you thanks; we especially praise you and proclaim your glory for the gift you gave us in the Blessed Virgin Mary.

She received your Word in the purity of her heart, and, conceiving in her virgin womb, gave birth to our Savior and so nurtured the Church at its beginning.

She accepted God's parting gift of love as she stood at the foot of the cross and so became the mother of all those who were brought to life through the death of her only Son.

She joined her prayers with those of the apostles, as together they awaited the coming of your Spirit, and so became the perfect pattern of the church at prayer.

Raised to the glory of heaven, she cares for the pilgrim Church with a mother's love, following its progress homeward until the day of the Lord dawns in splendor.

And so we thank you eternal and ever-living

Father, Son, and Holy Spirit for Mary our Mother, through whose almighty intercession we find our way more easily to you, who live forever. 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 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.
