

May 2024

*It was not you who chose me, but I who chose you
and appointed you to go and bear fruit that will remain.*

This I command you: love one another. (John 15: 9-17)

Go into the whole world and proclaim the Gospel to every creature.

*The Lord worked with them and confirmed the Word
through accompanying signs.* (John 16: 15-20)

*Holy Father, keep them in your name that you have given me,
so that they may be one just as we are one.* (John 17: 11-19)

Let anyone who thirsts come to me and drink. As Scripture says:

'Rivers of living waters will flow from within him who believes in me'. ((John 7: 37-39)

*When the Advocate comes whom I will send you from the Father, the Spirit of truth that
proceeds from the Father,*

He will testify to me. He will declare to you the things that are coming.

He will glorify me, because he will take from me what is mine and declare it to you. (John 15:
26-27; 16: 12-15)

*Go, therefore, and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them
in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.*

And behold, I am with you always, until the end of the age. (Matthew 28: 16-20)

*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

For one who is inflamed with divine love, helping the neighbor in his needs is a fever that
consumes him by degrees.

2

May the Holy Family never withdraw its loving gaze from you and your family. Model
yourselves on it, and you will have peace and spiritual and temporal well-being.

3

When the soul grieves and is afraid of offending God, it does not offend him and is very far from
committing sin.

4

Divine grace is with you continually, and you are very dear to the Lord. Shadows and fears and convictions to the contrary are diabolical stratagems, which you should despise in the name of Jesus.

5

Cast away those fears, and dispel those shadows that the devil is increasing in your soul in order to torment you.

6

If we earnestly endeavor to love Jesus, this alone will drive all fear from our hearts, and the soul will find that instead of walking in the paths of the Lord, it is flying.

7

How consoling it is to know (that) one is always under the protection of a heavenly spirit (our guardian angels) who never abandons us, not even (what an admirable thing!) when we are actually offending God!

8

How delightful this great truth to the one who believes! Who is to be feared, then, by the devout soul who is trying to love Jesus, when accompanied by such an illustrious warrior?

9

Was he not one who joined with St. Michael to defend God's honor against Satan and all his rebellious angels? ... (Our guardian angel) is still powerful against Satan and his satellites. His love has not lessened, and he can never fail to defend us.

10

Make a habit of thinking of him (your guardian angel).

11

When it seems that you are alone and abandoned, do not complain that you are without a friend to whom you can open your heart and confide your woes. For goodness' sake, do not forget this invisible companion who is always there to listen to you, always ready to console you.

12

The finest grace that can be asked by and on behalf of those who aspire to the spiritual life (is) ... an increase of heavenly light.

13

(Heavenly light) cannot be acquired either by prolonged study or through human teaching, but which is directly infused by God.

14

When a righteous person obtains this (heavenly) light, it comes to know and love its God and eternal things in its meditations with extreme clarity and relish.

15

Although (heavenly) light is nothing but a light of faith, it is still sufficient to produce such spiritual consolation that the earth, in the first place, disappears from view, while all that this world can offer is seen to be worthless.

16

The most useful, fruitful, and also the most acceptable way to the Lord is precisely that: To ask Jesus to make us holy is neither presumption nor audacity, because it is the same as desiring to love him greatly.

17

The fears that arise, as to whether you spent your time in the presence of God well or otherwise, are without foundation. And dwelling on this is a true waste of time that could be used for holier and more fruitful matters.

18

If you want to become perfect, always keep present in your mind what God said to Abraham: Walk before me, and be blameless.

19

Let us refer all our actions to (God); let us raise our souls to him more often.

20

Let us carry our Christian actions more often along with short prayers. In short, let us refer everything to God, and let us act and live in him.

21

Live calmly, and do not worry excessively, because in order to work more freely in us, the Holy Spirit needs tranquility and calm.

22

Every anxious thought is a mistake. The Lord is working within you, and you must do nothing except leave the door to your heart wide open so that he might work as he pleases.

23

The desire to be in eternal peace is good and holy, but you must moderate this wish with complete resignation to divine will.

24

It is better to do the divine will on earth than to enjoy paradise.

25

To suffer and not to die was St. Teresa of Avila's motto. Purgatory is sweet when one suffers for love of God.

26

The trials to which the Lord is subjecting you at present and those to which he will subject you in the future are all countersigns of divine love and jewels for the soul.

27

(Spiritual) darkness (of the soul seeking to do God's will) is an indication of the closeness of God to your souls ... the Jewish people saw (God) in the form of a cloud, and he appeared in the temple as a cloud also.

28

God's hiding himself in the darkness means his making himself more clear to your gaze, and that from his being visible and intelligible he becomes transfigured into the purely divine.

29

The first virtue required by the person who is striving for perfection is charity.

30

In the supernatural sphere, the first movement of our hearts is a movement toward God, which is nothing more than loving our own true good.

31

With good reason Sacred Scripture speaks of charity as the bond of perfect harmony. Charity has as its close relatives joy and peace.

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.