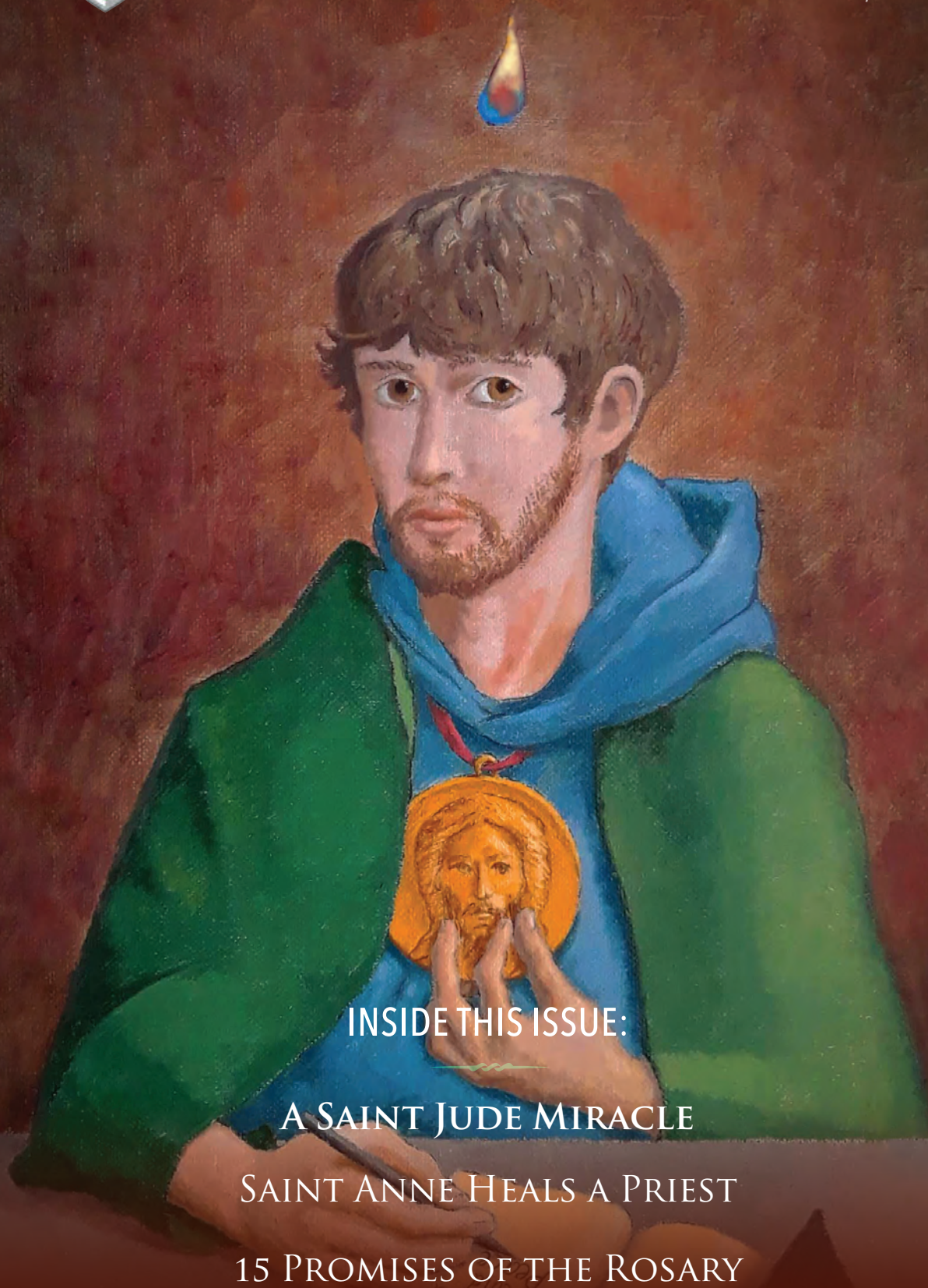




# SAINT JUDE MESSENGER

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ROSARY SHRINE OF SAINT JUDE

VOLUME VII, ISSUE I



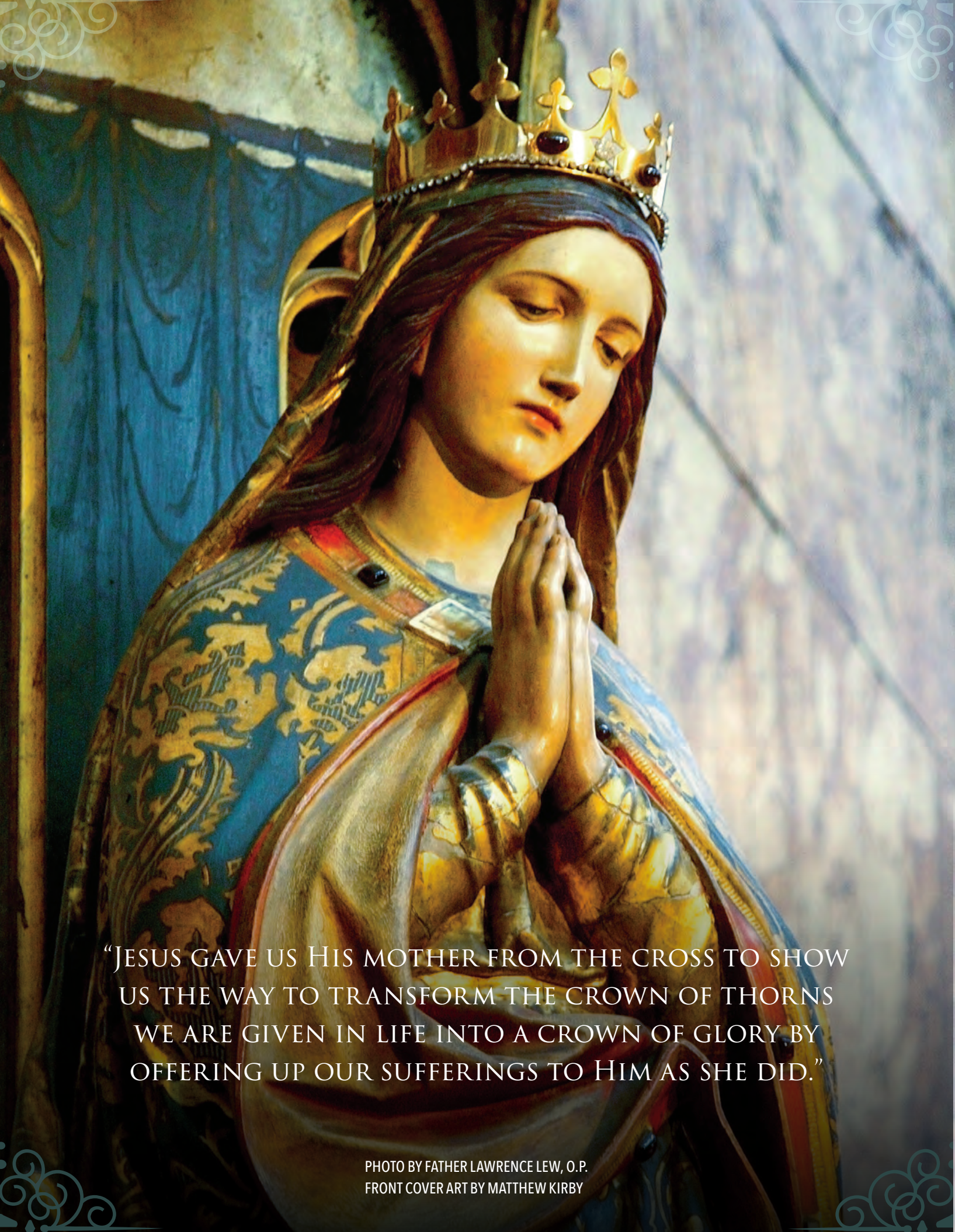
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“JESUS GAVE US HIS MOTHER FROM THE CROSS TO SHOW US THE WAY TO TRANSFORM THE CROWN OF THORNS WE ARE GIVEN IN LIFE INTO A CROWN OF GLORY BY OFFERING UP OUR SUFFERINGS TO HIM AS SHE DID.”

PHOTO BY FATHER LAWRENCE LEW, O.P.  
FRONT COVER ART BY MATTHEW KIRBY





# DIRECTOR'S LETTER

Dear Friend of Saint Jude,

In this beautiful medieval hymn, attributed to Saint Bernard of Clairvaux, the word "crown" is written as "*corona*" in the original Latin:

*O sacred Head surrounded  
By crown of piercing thorn!  
O bleeding Head, so wounded,  
Reviled and put to scorn!  
The pow'r of death comes o'er You,  
The glow of life decays,  
Yet angel hosts adore You  
And tremble as they gaze.*

Because the virus causing the current pandemic has a series of crown-like spikes on its surface, it was given the same Latin name, "*Corona*." This connection is providential, because Jesus shows us how to transform our own "crown of thorns," our sufferings, into a crown of glory.

The May crowning of Mary is a wonderful sign of this hope that, as sons and daughters of our heavenly Father, we too will receive a royal coronation. Yet before Mary was crowned Queen of Heaven and Earth, she, like her divine Son, felt the thorns of sorrow.

As Saint Bernard exclaimed, "O Blessed Mother, a sword has truly pierced your soul! ... So deeply has the violence of pain pierced your soul, that we may rightly call you more than a martyr, for, in you, participation in the passion of the Son by far surpasses in intensity the physical sufferings of martyrdom."

Jesus gave us His mother from the cross to show us the way to transform the crown of thorns we are given in life into a crown of glory by offering up our sufferings to Him as she did. "In danger, in distress, in uncertainty," Saint Bernard says, "think of Mary, call upon Mary. She never leaves your lips, she never departs from your heart; and so that you may obtain the help of her prayers, never forget the example of her life. If you follow her, you cannot falter; if you pray to her, you cannot despair; if you think of her, you cannot err. If she sustains you, you will not stumble; if she protects you, you have nothing to fear; if she guides you, you will never flag; if she is favorable to you, you will attain your goal."

In other words, the saint of Clairvaux points out the surest way of reaching our goal: "*per Mariam ad Iesum*", through Mary we are led to Jesus. In this issue of the *Saint Jude Messenger*, you will read about ordinary Catholics who called upon the saints, crowned in glory, to help them through difficult times. May we too never fear a crown of thorns placed upon us but see in it a weight of eternal glory.

*Father Gabriel*

Father Gabriel Gillen, O.P.  
Director, Rosary Shrine of Saint Jude

# THANK YOU, SAINT JUDE!

LETTERS FROM PATRONS OF THE ROSARY SHRINE OF SAINT JUDE

*For generations, Catholics have publicly thanked Saint Jude for favors received through his intercession. In these pages, patrons of the Rosary Shrine of Saint Jude carry on the tradition!*

## SAINT JUDE AND COVID-19

My son was on life support for nine days with Covid and wasn't given much hope, but prayers to Saint Jude brought him back. I will never forget the miracle bestowed on our family.

-Richard

My daughter, who has asthma, got Covid. She was very sick for two weeks. I prayed to Saint Jude, and she is better now. I'm so grateful to Saint Jude and the other saints that I prayed to!

-Guiomar

My father caught Covid in December. Since he is diabetic, his condition got worse in a matter of days, and both his lungs appeared white on chest x-rays. I religiously prayed a Novena to Saint Jude, and my father was discharged on Christmas day. The doctor said that my father is his success story, given his age and condition. Thank you, Saint Jude; thank you, Mama Mary; and thank you Jesus.

-Kathleen

A dear friend's father was in the ICU on a ventilator being treated for Covid. If a final attempt at an experimental treatment didn't help, the family would face difficult end-of-life decisions. My friend asked me to pray for her dad, who, at that point, really needed a miracle.

The time arrived to see if a lung scan showed any improvement from the last possible treatment. Though a person of prayer, I had never prayed to Saint Jude. Out of the blue, as I prepared for prayer

that evening, Saint Jude popped into my mind: I felt that I must appeal to the patron saint of hopeless cases, the saint of the (seemingly) impossible.

I searched online to learn the proper prayers, and discovered the Rosary Shrine of Saint Jude. I prayed each of your prayers, followed by a Rosary for my friend's father. The next day, we received the wonderful news: his lung scans showed improvement! He was responding to the treatments. He is now moving out of the ICU after two and a half months.

-Virginia



Saint Jude saved my son. He was on life support for nine days with Covid. The doctor said he didn't have much hope. I prayed my heart out. My son pulled through and the doctor said it was a miracle.

-Sofia

Last April, the hospital called to let me know my mother was very sick with Covid (she had been transferred to the hospital from an assisted care residence three days prior) and would need 24-hour care upon being released. She would be sent to a nursing home.

I did not want my mother sent to a nursing home, where, due to the pandemic, I would not be allowed to visit or advocate for her. She was incapable of advocating for herself.

I was extremely upset at the news and prayed so hard to Saint Jude that night, asking that the Lord take my mother home, if it was His will, rather than let her go to a nursing home.

Early the next morning the phone rang and the doctor told me my mother had taken a turn for the worse. They would allow me to come to the hospital to see her, but once I left the hospital I could not go back. I immediately went to the hospital, was able to say goodbye, and a priest gave her last rites. My mother passed away the next day, Easter Sunday.

I am so grateful to Saint Jude that my prayers were answered.

*-Anonymous*



### A PILOT'S PRAYER

Thank you, Saint Jude, for answering my prayers and interceding with God for me. The Lord allowed me to pass an "impossible" test and for me to be put back on flying status. What I thought was hopeless and impossible for me by myself was granted me by God through your intercession. Saint Jude, you continue to prove your special favor with the Lord. Along with your previous miracles, such as bringing mom back from her heart attack and coma, you also answer my small requests and never fail to act as my special patron and heavenly helper. I will continue to teach my boys about your incredible power and will encourage devotion to you for the rest of my life.

*-Tom*

### CHOOSING LIFE WITH OUR LADY AND SAINT JUDE

I was three months pregnant when I found out I was infected with a deadly illness. The doctors wanted me to abort the baby because there was a 50 percent chance she would be born with the disease, but I prayed to Our Lady and Saint Jude. I was not going to abort and make a decision that only God rightfully could. No one understood why I kept the pregnancy, but I had great faith. She was born healthy and her name is "Angelica" after the Holy Angels. She is now 32.

*-Joann*

### SAINT JUDE'S MEDALLION

Almost nineteen years ago, my older sister's husband punched me straight in the heart. I had difficulty breathing from that day on. Recently, I received a Saint Jude medallion and placed it on my chest, right where I was punched. Thanks to Saint Jude, I can breathe freely again!

*-Pericles*

I have always prayed to Saint Jude and carried his medallion. Recently, I was faced with financial problems if I didn't liquidate my closely held stock. Saint Jude responded to all my prayers and facilitated my transaction. Every time the process would stall, Saint Jude was there to move it forward. Saint Jude watches over my family too. My devotion to him will never end, and I will continue to encourage devotion to Saint Jude.

*-Jim*

**Gary** I prayed to Saint Jude for my wife's rheumatoid arthritis. My prayers were answered, and I'm very grateful for the help. ❤️ 🙏

In 1982, I needed help with a special request and prayed to Saint Jude for something that seemed



impossible. He answered my prayer, and I started a 30 year career, met my wife, and started a family. Saint Jude is truly a miracle worker!

*-John*

### A BEAUTIFUL SOUL

I want to give praise and thanks—to God first and then to Our Holy Mother and Saint Jude for their intercession. My mom gave birth to my little sister after she had a hemorrhage. My sister weighed four pounds and had to be placed in an incubator. She was born with cerebral palsy and we didn't know if she was going to make it. She needed help breathing and had to be fed through a tube. I prayed Novenas to Saint Jude and prayed the Rosary. Today my sister is such a beautiful soul and is healthy and thriving.

*-Maria*

### SAINT JUDE FINDS A FOUR-LEGGED FRIEND

During a trip to Mesquite Nevada, my little chihuahua squeezed through a gate and ran off. My sister and my daughter ran all over the neighborhood in search of him. I am 80 years old and couldn't join the chase.

A good samaritan found him at a nearby golf course and took him to the pound. My brother-in-law called the

pound, and we were able to pick him up.

During this trying time, I prayed and prayed to Saint Jude. I have been praying in thanksgiving ever since.

*-Karen*

### A LIFETIME OF DEVOTION

My husband passed away on May 24, 2020 into the arms of the Lord. James and I had been praying to Saint Jude for 62 years. It started in August of 1958 when we both asked for a favor to be granted, not knowing that we were praying for the same favor: permission to be married in

the Catholic Church. Our request was granted. We were married October 18, 1958. We have been together through thick and thin. James spent over 20 years in the United States Marine Corps. We raised seven children, have 37 grandchildren, and 32 great grandchildren. Through it all, Saint Jude has not been forgotten, nor will he be. When I need help now that James is gone, I pray to Saint Jude; he is still answering.

*-Patricia*



My father prayed to Saint Jude on a daily basis, asking for his intervention regarding his death. Specifically, he requested that God allow him to die in his home, in his bed, with my mother present, and without pain. On the afternoon that he passed, he walked up to my mother and said that she should call for an ambulance because he was about to die. He then went into his bedroom, got into bed, and—absent pain—he died. Clearly, his prayers for intervention were heard by Saint Jude and answered by our Lord.

*-John*

Share your Saint Jude story by using  
the reply envelope attached  
to this issue, emailing  
[rssj@dominicanfriars.org](mailto:rssj@dominicanfriars.org),  
or contacting us on Facebook at  
[facebook.com/rosarysaintjude](https://facebook.com/rosarysaintjude).

# A SAINT JUDE MIRACLE

BY FATHER GABRIEL GILLEN, O.P.

Teresita J. Pedrozo was born in Trinidad, Cuba on June 17, 1932 to the late Lidia Cadalso and Calixto Noa. One of our friars prepared Teresita and her beloved Francisco Pedrozo for marriage shortly after they both immigrated to the U.S. in 1970. They raised their three sons together in Ohio: Jose (married to Vilma), Zoilo (married to Barbara), and Manuel (married to Jennifer.)

19 years ago, when Jennifer had to go to the hospital due to complications from Guillain-Barre syndrome, her mother-in-law, Teresita, stayed at their house and cared for their baby, Peter. Jenn was pregnant with her second son, Jude, and the doctors told her to abort him.

Teresita went to the Saint Jude Shrine and begged God and Saint Jude that little Jude would be born fine. Teresita even promised God she would wear only brown (I guess she didn't like that color) the rest of her life if Jude was okay. Little Jude was safely born and the mother had no health issues. Teresita kept her promise and only wore brown for 21 years.



Little Jude is not so little anymore, thanks to the prayers of Saint Jude. He now wears green as a starting freshman on the Michigan State Football team.

Teresita "Abuela" loved Saint Jude. A lady from our parish mailed her a picture

of Saint Jude, and Teresita was holding the picture on her chest when she died.

Jude's uncle told one of our friars after Mass that Saint Jude probably ran when he saw Teresita at the pearly gates because he knew she'd continue asking him for favors for her family!

Let's ask Teresita to run after Saint Jude with any of our special intentions. Especially for those in need of healing at this time.



JUDE PEDROZO IS A STARTING FRESHMAN ON THE MICHIGAN STATE FOOTBALL TEAM.





# A PILGRIMAGE TO NORTH AMERICA'S OLDEST SHRINE BRINGS HEALING

BY FATHER THOMAS PETRI, O.P.

"I SPECIFICALLY SAID TO THE LORD, 'LORD, YOU KNOW THAT I CAN ONLY HANDLE SO MUCH, AND I DON'T THINK THAT I CAN HANDLE CROHN'S DISEASE ALONG WITH A LOT OF RESPONSIBILITIES.'"

I was diagnosed with Crohn's Disease in the summer of 1998 when I was about to enter my junior year of college seminary. I was a student at the Pontifical College Josephinum in Columbus, Ohio, and I had spent that summer in Mexico. I was already having symptoms of Crohn's in Mexico, but it was the first time I had ever traveled out of the country for an extended period, so I simply assumed I was having traveler's issues. It wasn't until I returned home to Kentucky that I woke up one day in such pain that I couldn't even move.

I went to the emergency room, where they thought that I had appendicitis, which is a common misdiagnosis for Crohn's. When they went in to take my appendix out, they discovered I had Crohn's disease.

My large intestine was swollen three or four times the size of what it should be. Crohn's is an auto-immune disease, part of a whole family of auto-immune diseases from rheumatoid arthritis to lupus. With Crohn's disease, the immune system turns on the digestive system of the body. There's no known cure, and we don't know what causes it.

For many years, I had to be on steroids and specialized anti-inflammatories, but, thankfully, I've never had to have surgery. Some patients with Crohn's need to have surgery to have certain sections of their large intestine cut out, but this is not a cure. Eventually the immune system will just turn on the suture point where the two ends of the

removed section have been connected. I count myself blessed that I've never had nutritional problems to the extent that I've needed surgery or other more invasive management.

In the summer of 2012, I had been an ordained priest three years in the Dominican Province of Saint Joseph. It was then that a fellow Dominican Friar and I made a pilgrimage to the Saint Anne de Beaupré Shrine, in Quebec, Canada.

Saint Anne is the mother of Mary, and Saint Anne de Beaupré is essentially a Marian shrine: we know of Saint Anne because of her relationship to the

Blessed Mother. The shrine is the oldest Catholic pilgrimage site in North America and is known for miraculous healings.

At the time of my pilgrimage, word had gotten to me that I was being considered for increased responsibilities in the Province. I knew there was a very good chance that I would be asked



STATUE OF SAINT ANNE HOLDING THE CHILD MARY AT THE BASILICA OF SAINT ANNE DE BEAUPRÉ.  
PHOTO BY DENNIS JARVIS



to apply and possibly to be named Dean of the Pontifical Faculty of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC.

My brother friar and I celebrated a Mass at Saint Anne de Beaupré. The basilica has a pillar on top of which is a statue of Saint Anne holding the child Mary. It's a beautiful statue. Both of them are crowned and you can kneel before it and read a prayer for healing or for another special intention.

We prayed a holy hour there, and I knelt at the pillar before Saint Anne and the Blessed Mother. I specifically said to the Lord, "Lord, You know that I can only handle so much, and I don't think that I can handle Crohn's disease along with a lot of responsibilities. I can't do both." I was very frank with the Lord. I asked the Blessed Mother and Saint Anne to intercede, and I said again to the Lord, "Please choose one or the other: Crohn's disease or these increased responsibilities."

At the time of the pilgrimage, I had been undergoing treatments for Crohn's. Afterward, I found myself not needing them. It's been over eight years now since I made that pilgrimage and I have not been on any medication or needed any medical treatments for Crohn's disease since then. I'm in

complete unmedicated remission. I have had three colonoscopies in which my gastroenterologist, who is one of the best Crohn's disease researchers in the country, has noted that the disease is no longer active, although there are clearly scars where the disease was once active.

In the meantime, I have been able to carry out my duties as Dean of the Pontifical Faculty of the Immaculate Conception without any problems from Crohn's. 2022 will be the tenth anniversary of my healing, and I hope to return to Saint Anne de Beaupré and offer a Mass of thanksgiving.

If the Lord sees fit, when I don't have as many responsibilities, to bring the Crohn's back, I will, of course, accept that cross. But in a candid moment of prayer, and with the intercession of the Blessed Mother and Saint Anne, I was able to say to the Lord, "I can only do one of these things, so please take one away," and He did.



EXTERIOR OF THE BASILICA  
OF SAINT ANNE DE BEAUPRÉ.  
PHOTO BY PAUL GORBOULD



## LEAVE A LEGACY OF HOPE



Help us continue our mission of spreading devotion to Saint Jude through a gift in your will.

To request your **Free Brochure**, contact Diana Kilarjian, Director of Gift Planning:

**(646) 350-0108**

**[diana.kilarjian@dominicanfriars.org](mailto:diana.kilarjian@dominicanfriars.org)**

# A MYSTERIOUS GOOD SAMARITAN

BY DESI MARTINEZ

During the Coronavirus lockdown, one person with whom I had the chance to grow closer was my mother. She related to me the story of how our family found our patron saint.

My mother is now 72. She was the youngest of nine children, and her father was older than her mother. This is a story about her father, my grandfather. It happened before my mother was born when my grandfather was a young man in the very early part of the 20th century.

He was a police officer in Mexico at that time. One day he was on patrol, going from one town to another on horseback, as was still the practice in

“IN A DAZE, HE COULD ONLY  
RECALL THAT SOMEONE HAD  
PICKED HIM UP, CARRIED  
HIM HOME, AND LEFT HIM  
ON HIS BED.”

those days. Apparently, he had made enemies of a group of men. While traveling between towns, he was attacked by three of these men and beaten severely. They left him for dead on the side of the road with no one around.

In a daze, he could only recall that someone had picked him up, carried him home, and left him on his bed. He could also remember this person tending his wounds, and a feeling that everything was going to be fine.

No one in the house saw this person carry my grandfather home and no one knew how my grandfather got there. However, as this good Samaritan was leaving, my grandfather caught a glimpse of the man's face. It was Saint Jude. He recognized it from seeing Saint Jude's image in church and on religious artifacts.

My grandfather recovered fully from his wounds and lived a long life, marrying and having nine children and numerous grandchildren. Saint Jude has been the patron saint of our family ever since.



THE AUTHOR'S GRANDFATHER AND MOTHER



# THE 15 PROMISES OF THE ROSARY

The Holy Father, Pope Francis, urges us that “today, in this time of pandemic, it is necessary to hold the Rosary in our hands, praying for us, for our loved ones and for all people.” Patrons of the Rosary Shrine of Saint Jude are doing just that! Many readers of the Saint Jude Messenger have shared with us that devoutly praying the Rosary has brought them graces, healing, and the fulfillment of long desired prayer intentions.

The benefits of what Pope Saint John Paul II called “an exquisitely contemplative prayer” were enumerated in a special way by a 15th century Dominican friar. Alanus de Rupe received the following 15 promises to those who pray the Rosary devoutly from the Blessed Virgin Mary herself through a private revelation. We hope that they encourage you in meditating on the mysteries of Christ by praying the Holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

**1.** Those who 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.** The recitation of the Rosary 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.** Those who recite my Rosary devoutly, applying themselves to the consideration of its sacred mysteries, shall never be conquered by misfortune. In His justice, God will not chastise



them; nor shall they perish by an unprovided death, i.e., be unprepared for heaven. Sinners shall convert. The just shall persevere in grace and become worthy of eternal life.

**7.** Those who have a true devotion to the Rosary shall not die without the sacraments of the Church.

**8.** Those who faithfully 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.

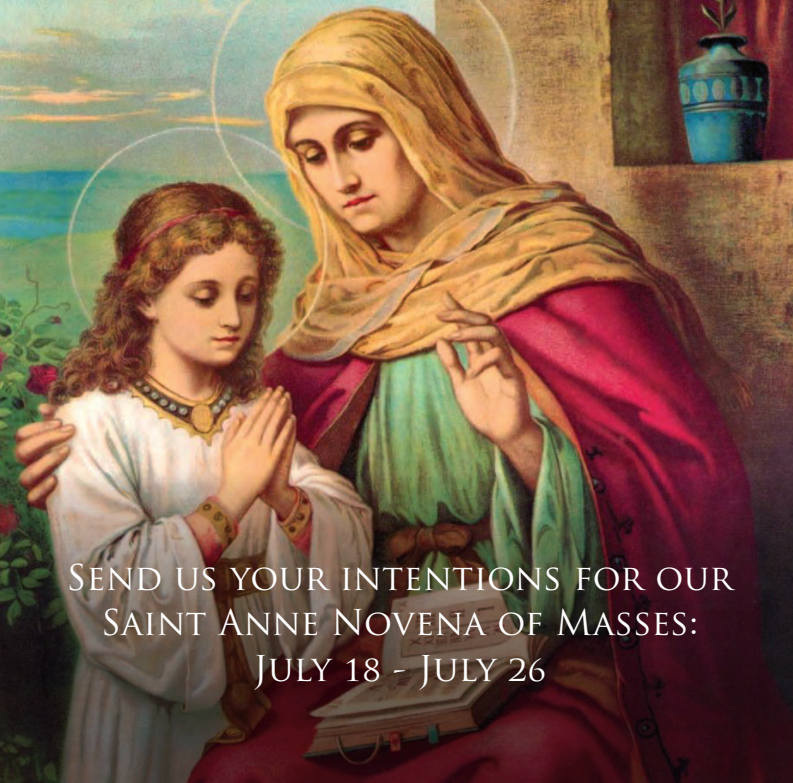
**11.** By the recitation of the Rosary you shall obtain all that you ask of me.

**12.** 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 their death.

**14.** All who recite the Rosary are my beloved children and the brothers and sisters of my only Son, Jesus Christ.

**15.** Devotion for my Rosary is a great sign of predestination.



SEND US YOUR INTENTIONS FOR OUR  
SAINT ANNE NOVENA OF MASSES:  
JULY 18 - JULY 26

## 2021 SUMMER/FALL NOVENAS

JUL 18 – 26: SAINTS ANNE & JOACHIM NOVENA

SEP 8 – 16: BLESSED MOTHER'S BIRTHDAY NOVENA

SEP 29 – OCT 7: HOLY ROSARY NOVENA

OCT 20 – 28: SAINT JUDE FEAST DAY NOVENA

MONTH OF NOVEMBER: POOR SOULS MASS  
REMEMBRANCE

DEC 17 – 25: CHRISTMAS NOVENA

## PRAYER FOR THE INTENTIONS OF ROSARY SHRINE OF SAINT JUDE PATRONS

*"For all the intentions entrusted to the intercession of Our Lady of the Rosary and Saint Jude the Apostle: that the Lord will ease the burden and suffering of those in difficult and desperate circumstances and give them grace and peace."*

This prayer is included at all weekend (Vigil/ Sunday) Masses at Saint Dominic's Church in Washington, DC, where the Rosary Shrine of Saint Jude is located.

The Rosary is also prayed daily for the intentions of patrons of the Rosary Shrine of Saint Jude, and on Fridays there is veneration of the first-class relic of Saint Jude following the midday Mass.



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