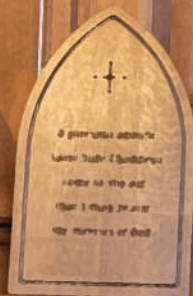




# THE SAINT JUDE MESSENGER

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE ROSARY SHRINE OF SAINT JUDE




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Most Holy Apostle, Saint Jude, patron saint of impossible causes, I place myself in your care. With fervent trust and confidence, I seek your heavenly intercession. Pray for me in my times of need. Help me realize each day that I am not alone when facing sickness, disease, suffering or sorrow.

Assist me now, dear Saint Jude, in petitioning Almighty God for strength when I am in distress, courage to overcome my anxieties, and the gift of a complete healing of mind and body. Ask our Loving Lord to deepen my faith and steadfast conviction in His healing power, and to bless me with the graces necessary to accept whatever may lie ahead for me and for my loved ones.

Thank you, O Holy Saint Jude, for the promise of hope you offer to all who believe.

Inspire me always to offer this gift of hope to others.

Amen.



# DIRECTOR'S LETTER

In his encyclical *Spe Salvi*, also known as *On Christian Hope*, Pope Benedict XVI teaches us that we are not saved alone. Salvation is actually a communal thing and, even though we live in a world that tells us to prioritize ourselves in everything, when it comes to our eternal souls it is not just our own salvation that should concern us. But it is the salvation of our family, our friends—those that the Lord has placed in our life—that should be our concern, as well as the salvation of our own soul.

In this month dedicated to the Holy Souls, we remember our loved ones who have died and we pray for them because they can no longer affect their own salvation. But we can hope. We, who are still on earth, can help. We can pray. We can offer sacrifices. We can help not only ourselves, but our loved ones, get to heaven!

There is no better way to help souls than to pray for them. In order to pray well, we need to develop a habit of prayer. A great way to build a habit of prayer is to sit at the feet of Our Lady, allowing her to teach us about the life of her Son, Jesus Christ, in the prayer of the Most Holy Rosary. And we can offer all of our prayers for others.

At the end of *Spe Salvi*, Pope Benedict likens our life here on earth as a pilgrimage and says that we are often given lights to guide us on our journey. He tells us that Mary, Star of the Sea, is one of the most important lights we have been given.

As I write this letter to you, the Dominican Friars are days away from leading thousands of Catholics on pilgrimage with Our Lady for the first national Dominican Rosary Pilgrimage in Washington, DC. The impetus for this Rosary pilgrimage was simple: we wanted to bring Catholics together with Our Lady to learn about her and about the Rosary. Simply, we want to pray. And we want to encourage that the prayer we pray is the Rosary, the prayer Our Lady handed to the Dominicans through our founder, St. Dominic. Our Lady continually teaches us that prayer is the means to turning many hearts toward God.

So, in thinking about this theme of Christian hope, the hope of the Dominican Friars is that by leading others to Jesus through devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Jude, many souls will be saved.

In Christ, Our Lady, and St. Jude,

Father John Paul Kern, O.P.  
Director, Rosary Shrine of Saint Jude



# Thank you, Saint Jude!

LETTERS FROM PATRONS OF THE ROSARY SHRINE OF SAINT JUDE

**Here are just a few of the many letters that we receive at The Rosary Shrine of Saint Jude thanking St. Jude for his miraculous intercession.**

Thank you St. Michael and St. Jude for a good outcome for Gary's surgery—everything went great for his heart surgery. I love Jesus and all my saints. Thanks be to God. What a blessing.

*-Anonymous*

I survived 6 years in the military and 20 years in corrections as a guard. I also survived a 7.5 hour by-pass heart surgery. I survived a roll over car crash. Thank you St. Jude, Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. Also St. Brendan.

*-John*



My brother's wife Laura went into a coma for one week and we prayed so hard, even received blessings from Pope Francis. After one month in the hospital, she is now home with my brother and it will take time to get really well, [but she is] so much better. He never left her side and is the greatest man. Thank you for all your prayers. We have a miracle. The power of prayer—believe.

*-Anonymous*

## *And Thank You, Infant of Prague*

My granddaughter had a successful palate surgery. My Infant of Prague helps this 77-year old be safe and healthy as I do my errands and drive my car.

*-Anonymous*

I pray to the miraculous Infant Jesus of Prague whenever my kids get sick, sometimes seriously and He brings healing. Thank you Baby Jesus!

*- Rose*



PHOTO BY FR. LAWRENCE LEW, O.P. USED WITH PERMISSION.

## WHY IT'S WORTH PRAYING

BY BR. JOHN HENRY PETERS, O.P.

In Matthew 7:7-11, Jesus teaches us about praying. In the first few lines of that passage, He describes what our experience of prayer is like—what we imagine prayer to consist of:

*“Ask, and it will be given you, Seek, and you will find, Knock, and it will be opened to you”  
(Matt 7:7).*

This is what people often think the phrase “God answers our prayers” means. I ask Him for something, and He gives it to me. And this is true, God does answer our prayers in this way. But Jesus teaches us a more important lesson about prayer later on in this passage. He poses some questions to his listeners:

*“What man of you, if his son asks him for bread, will give him a stone? Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a serpent?” (Matt 7:9-10).*

Here, Jesus is reminding us that we do have some sense of how to help one another. But His deeper purpose is to contrast the ways that we help one another with the way that God helps us:

*“If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask him!” (Matt 7:11).*

We humans are fallen, fallible creatures, and yet we know enough not to give a stone to someone who asks for bread. We know not to give someone something bad, when he’s asking for something good. God does this, and more. He knows us better than we know ourselves, and He loves us with a perfect father’s love. And because of this wisdom and love, He knows how to give us bread when we ask for stones. He knows how to give us something good, even when what we’re asking for

might actually be bad for us. We, imperfect human beings, know not to give someone a serpent when he asks for a fish. But God knows how to give us a fish when we ask for a serpent.

In the ancient Church, Christians used the Greek word *ichthys* as a symbol for Jesus. The word itself means “fish,” but the letters of the word stood for the phrase: “Jesus Christ, Son of God, Savior.” When Adam and Eve listened to the serpent in the Garden of Eden, God responded by giving us His Son as our savior. We asked for a serpent, and God gave us a fish. God showed His love for us in that, while we were yet sinners, He sent His only Son to die for us (Rom 5:8; cf. John 3:16).

God knows what we need, better than we ourselves know. And it is His desire to give us what we truly need, whether we recognize it at the moment or not. Sometimes we pray to God for something, and yet we don’t receive it. This tempts us to think that God has ignored our prayer. But our heavenly Father desires our true good, even more than we do. God is all-good, all-knowing, and all-loving. Because of this, He is trustworthy. That is certain. That’s why it’s worth praying.



## BECOME A MONTHLY DONOR

Your monthly offering to The Rosary Shrine of Saint Jude helps us spread Hope to a world in need.

Monthly supporters who set up a recurring gift of \$35 or more will receive a custom designed Saint Jude Relic Rosary, handmade in Italy by the Ghirelli family, maker of Rosaries for Pope Saint John Paul II.

Call (212) 535-3664, visit [rosaryshrineofstjude.org/monthly](http://rosaryshrineofstjude.org/monthly), or use the enclosed envelope and reply card to become a monthly donor.



# WHAT IS THE ROSARY CONFRATERNITY?

BY BR. FINBAR KANTOR, O.P.

*One of the tasks given to the Dominican Order is oversight of the Rosary Confraternity. Br. Finbar Kantor, O.P. explains what the Rosary Confraternity is and how you can join.*



A significant part of Christian piety in the late-Middle Ages were the various guilds and confraternities associated with different saints. These confraternities were made up of groups of parishioners who supported each other in their devotion to a particular saint. Members would gather for prayers, furnish an altar or decorations for an image of the saint, and pray for the intentions of all the members of the guild. The benefits of joining a confraternity extended even after death. Members would promise to pray for the deceased members of their confraternity and would endow a series of Masses to be said for the souls of any member who died. These groups were

not limited only to the rich or the learned. Pious confraternities were made up of both wealthy and poor, educated craftsmen and peasant farmers. Guilds formed the glue of parochial life and helped to connect the members of local society through their devotions.

One such group that came about in the middle of the fifteenth century was the Confraternity of the Rosary. Inspired by the preaching of the Dominican Alan de la Roche, the first confraternity dedicated to the Rosary was erected in Cologne in 1747. Soon, many similar confraternities were established and they were placed under the care of the Dominican Order. These confraternities are still active today with countless members around the world. Many Dominican saints and blessed, especially the martyrs of South East Asia, were active in promoting and participating in their local confraternities.



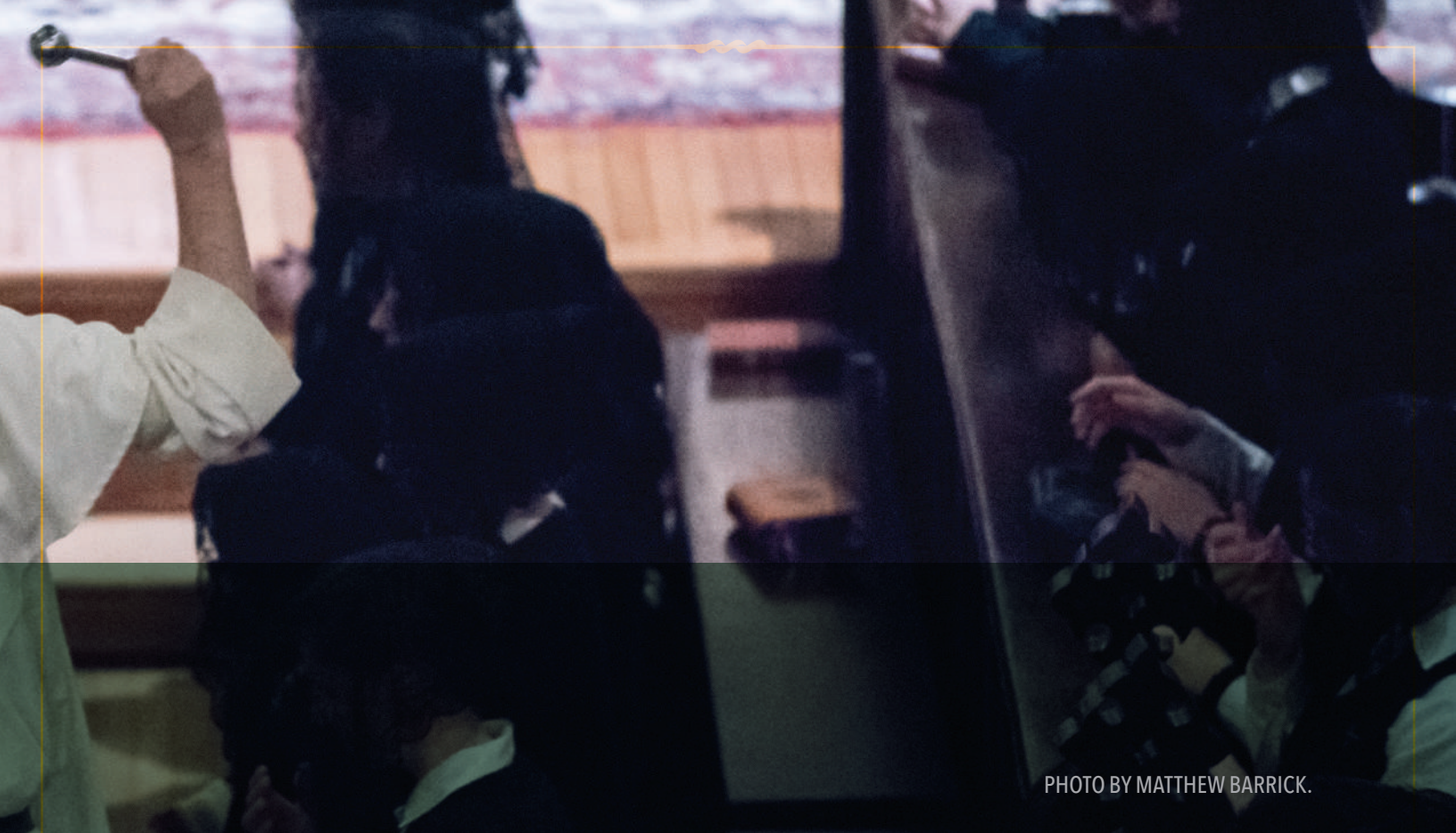


PHOTO BY MATTHEW BARRICK.

The Confraternity of the Holy Rosary is one of the most highly indulgenced pious associations of the faithful. Members of the Confraternity (called Rosarians) through the generosity of the Church, are offered great spiritual advantages including sharing in all the Masses, Divine Offices, and good works of the fathers, brothers, contemplative nuns, sisters, and laity of the whole Dominican Order. Additionally, plenary indulgences are made available to Confraternity members on the day of their enrollment, Christmas Day, Easter Sunday, the Assumption, the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, and the Immaculate Conception. A plenary indulgence is also available daily for those members who recite five decades of the Rosary at once.

Confraternity chapters at parishes will often pray the Rosary in common, but even when a Rosarian prays the Rosary alone he is united to all the members of the Confraternity praying the Rosary on behalf of the Church, in virtue of their

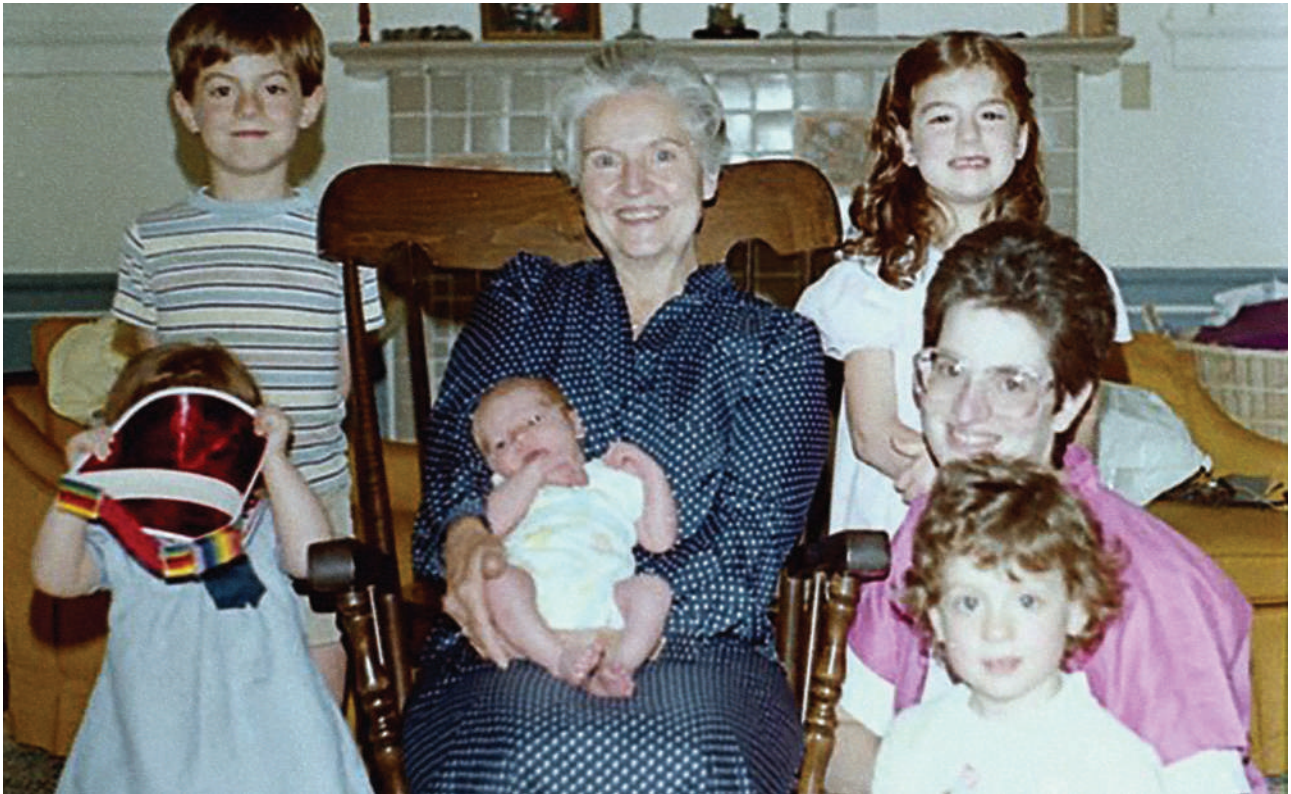
membership in the public association. Rosarians, when they pray the Rosary, pray for the intentions of the whole Confraternity, tapping into all the graces offered by the Church to the Confraternity and its members.

Surely all the lavish benefits of enrollment in the Confraternity must require some great labor or special standing on the part of the members of the Rosary Confraternity. But no. Members can enroll at [rosaryconfraternity.org](https://rosaryconfraternity.org) or through their local parish chapter, and, once enrolled, the only requirement is that members pray fifteen decades of the Rosary each week and include the other members and their intentions in their prayers—such great spiritual benefits for something many members would do even without the Confraternity.

You can learn more about the Confraternity of the Rosary at [rosaryconfraternity.org](https://rosaryconfraternity.org).

# COUNTING MEMORIES

BY FR. JOSEPH MARTIN HAGAN, O.P.



FR. JOSEPH MARTIN HAGAN, O.P. IN THE ARMS OF HIS GRANDMA. USED WITH PERMISSION.

My grandmother normally shies away from fantastic tales, but she shared with me one of her treasured stories.

She married my grandfather, Peter, when he was still in the service, and a few months after their wedding, they had to transfer from Fort Leonard Wood, Missouri to Fort Belvoir, Virginia, towing a 30-foot trailer home.

They made the drive on a rainy November day. As they drove through the Appalachians

in Pennsylvania, my grandfather thought something was wrong with one of the tires, and so he pulled to the side of the road to check. The tire turned out to be fine, but when he tried to pull back onto the highway, the trailer started slipping sideways in the mud.

Next to the road, there was a steep drop with no guard rail. So my grandfather put the car back in park. The trailer rested in an uneasy equilibrium, still threatening to take a serious tumble. Miles from any garage, there

was little hope of human assistance, and so my grandparents began to pray the Rosary.

After finishing two Rosaries, a truck pulled up, the driver offered his assistance, and he easily pulled their car and trailer back onto the highway. My grandfather went to pay the man, but he replied, “just do a good deed for someone else.” To this day, my grandmother is certain that “the good Lord was helping us out.”

My grandmother cautioned me though. We should not just pray when things go wrong. We need to pray on good days too! “Just tell God about your day and say thank you. Carry on a normal conversation with him.”

### **The Prayer of Memory and Hope**

Today, my grandmother’s favorite mystery is the Assumption. She imagines that when Mary got up to heaven, “Jesus threw a party for her.” Yet she wonders: “How did Mary see her relatives? Did they just appear? Are they always around? Or do they have jobs to get back to?”

She admitted that she thinks more and more about the Assumption as she gets older and approaches her end. She has similar questions for herself about heaven. “What’s

it going to be like? How many people will be up there? How am I going to find my mother and father and my husband? Will they just appear?”

This is a special grace of the Rosary. We look into Mary’s heart to contemplate Christ, but we find that Christ returns our gaze. He stirs our hearts to understand that these moments are not simply past events, but eternal realities that replay themselves in our own lives. This is my grandmother’s intuition.

The Assumption is both about Mary’s entrance into heaven and—God willing—my grandmother’s own entrance. That’s just part of having Mary as our mother. The boundary between her life and our life is blurred by boundless love. Her memories are our hope.

*This article is an excerpt of an article  
previously published  
in Dominicana and is used  
with permission.*



## UPCOMING NOVENAS

All of November: Poor Souls Mass Remembrance

December 17-25: Christmas Novena

January 2-10: St. Jude Novena in Honor of the New Year

January 14-22: Infant of Prague Novena

February 3-11: Our Lady of Lourdes Novena

February 14-March 27: Lenten Mass Remembrance

March 22-30: Easter Novena

## PRAYER FOR THE INTENTIONS OF THE 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 St. 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 The Rosary Shrine of Saint Jude, and on Fridays there is veneration of the first-class relic of St. Jude following mid-day Mass.



## LEAVE A LEGACY OF HOPE



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

To request more information, please complete the enclosed reply card or contact

[plannedgiving@dominicanfriars.org](mailto:plannedgiving@dominicanfriars.org)