



DIRECTOR'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

A little more than 100 years ago, the Blessed Mother made the first of six appearances to three poor shepherd children—Lucia, Francisco, and Jacinta—in Fatima, Portugal. On May 13, 1917, as the children tended their sheep in the Cova da Iria, they saw a light coming toward them. Lucia describes the scene as they descended a slope and saw a flash of lightning.

"We had only gone a few steps further when, there before us on a small holmoak [tree], we beheld a Lady all dressed in white. She was more brilliant than the sun and radiated a light more clear and intense than a crystal glass filled with sparkling water, when the rays of the burning sun shine through it. We stopped, astounded, before the Apparition. We were so close, just a few feet from her, that we were bathed in the light which surrounded her, or rather, which radiated from her."

What strikes me about this first apparition of Our Lady to the children at Fatima is how close the children were to Mary. So close, in fact, that they were bathed in the light that emanated from her!

Lucia asked the lady where she was from and she responded, "I am from heaven." Lucia then asked, "Will I go to heaven?" And Our Lady responded, "Yes, you will." She asked if Jacinta will go to heaven and Our Lady said, "She will go also." Finally, she asked about Francisco. Our Lady said, "He will go there too, but he must say many Rosaries."

The Rosary is central to the life of the Dominican Friars. After all, it was to St. Dominic

that Our Lady gave the Rosary as a means to save souls. She asked him to preach her Rosary and the Dominican Friars have been praying and preaching her Rosary since it was given to us over 800 years ago. The Rosary Shrine of St. Jude combines this Dominican devotion to Our Lady and the Holy Rosary with our devotion to St. Jude.

I would also like to invite you to join the Dominican Friars and Sisters and thousands of pilgrims at the upcoming national Dominican Rosary Pilgrimage. This exciting full-day event dedicated to the Holy Rosary will be held at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC on September 28, 2024. You can find more information at www. rosarypilgrimage.org. I've also enclosed a special novena prayer card for the 2024 Dominican Rosary Pilgrimage. I hope that you will pray with us, join us for the pilgrimage in DC, and invite your family and friends!

Most of all, stay close to the Blessed Virgin Mary this month of May by praying many Rosaries. Your prayers help lead others to Jesus through devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Jude. And like the children at Fatima, you, and many souls, will be led to heaven.

In Christ, Our Lady, and St. Jude,

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

MARY'S ROSES: FOR THE FAMILY, FOR PEACE

By Fr. Josemaría Guzmán-Domínguez, O.P.

I learned to pray the Rosary as many Catholic children through the centuries have done, sitting with and listening to the (striving-to-be) holy matriarchs of my family. My mamá and my abuelas taught me about the love of the Holy Mother of God, who is our Mom too. In their motherliness toward me, they were even icons of Mother Mary. And looking back on my childhood, I recognize how their devotion to the Holy Rosary was an essential part of their communication to me of Mary's immense love.

In my family's particular stylistic permutation of this most wonderful prayer, we always concluded by reciting the Litany of Loreto. The litany entreats Mary by her varied titles, asking her to pray for us. Recently the last three titles caught my eyes: Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, Queen of Families, and Queen of Peace. Their apparent oddity as a triplet struck me and led me to wonder how they fit together.

Happily, I found Pope St. John Paul II already made some of these connections in his Rosary encyclical by calling the devotion a prayer for the family and a prayer for peace. He calls on the Church of the third millennium to recognize how much families are attacked by the culture of death and how much suffering they undergo. He also stresses the horror of continuing violence, terrorism, and war, and how fragile and inaccessible peace can seem. [He] exhorts us to turn to the Rosary, the school of Mary, so that with her we might contemplate her Son who is the Prince of Peace and the Heart of the Holy Family, the Church.



I found these insights present in the preaching of yet another great and recent apostle of the Rosary. The Servant of God Fr. Patrick Peyton, the "Rosary Priest" and founder of the Family Rosary Crusade, has two famous and memorable phrases that cut to the chase. First, he famously said that "the family that prays together, stays together." Now, both Fr. Peyton and St. John Paul knew how deeply the pains of family life cut. They would warn against thinking of the Rosary as an easy incantation to dispel all troubles. However, in promoting the Rosary they sought to communicate their unshakeable confidence in Iesus and His Blessed Mother. For the Lord and the Queen of Families watch over us, protect us, and accompany us through the mysteries of our life. Through their loving presence they heal and unite the prayerful family.

"A world at prayer is a world at peace" is Fr. Peyton's second and less well-known phrase. He used this especially in the international Rosary

Rallies that he organized for many decades. Both our Rosary Pope and Rosary Priest lived through the bloody 20th century, seeing the destruction brought about by war. They recognized that the horrors of the age stemmed from a profound spiritual crisis, from rebellion against or despair of God. The call of these two men for a return to prayer thus came as a remedy for this grave ill. Hoping in the Lord's promise of mercy, they counseled people to implore the Mother of Mercy for peace. The world can only come to true peace if we seek our refuge under her mantle.

So mothers, aunts, grandmothers—teach little children to pray the Holy Rosary, share with them the love of Mary. Fathers, uncles, grandfathers, young people—join them! That way we all will learn how to contemplate and receive the love of God. It'll be a step toward the eternal peace of God's family reunion in Heaven.

This article was previously published in Dominicana and is used with permission.

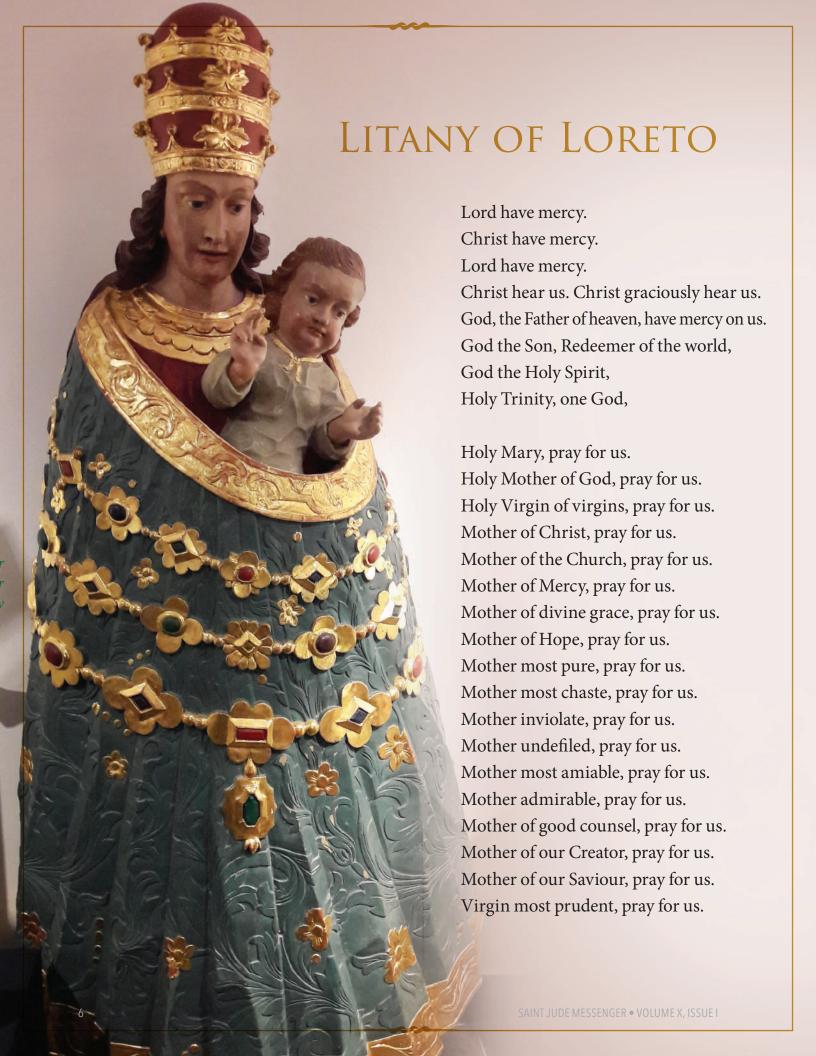


Prayer for the Intentions of the Rosary Shrine of Saint Jude Patrons

"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.



Virgin most venerable, pray for us.

Virgin most renowned, pray for us.

Virgin most powerful, pray for us

Virgin most merciful, pray for us.

Virgin most faithful, pray for us.

Mirror of justice, pray for us.

Seat of wisdom, pray for us.

Cause of our joy, pray for us.

Spiritual vessel, pray for us.

Vessel of honor, pray for us.

Singular vessel of devotion, pray for us.

Mystical rose, pray for us.

Tower of David, pray for us.

Tower of ivory, pray for us.

House of gold, pray for us.

Ark of the covenant, pray for us.

Gate of heaven, pray for us.

Morning star, pray for us.

Health of the sick, pray for us.

Refuge of sinners, pray for us.

Solace of Migrants, pray for us.

Comfort of the afflicted, pray for us.

Help of Christians, pray for us.

Queen of Angels, pray for us.

Queen of Patriarchs, pray for us.

Queen of Prophets, pray for us.

Queen of Apostles, pray for us.

Queen of Martyrs, pray for us.

Queen of Confessors, pray for us.

Queen of Virgins, pray for us.

Queen of all Saints, pray for us.

Queen conceived without original sin,

pray for us.

Queen assumed into heaven, pray for us.

Queen of the most holy Rosary, pray for us.

Queen of families, pray for us.

Queen of peace, pray for us.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins

of the world,

spare us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins

of the world,

graciously hear us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins

of the world,

have mercy on us.

Pray for us, O holy Mother of God. That

we may be made worthy of the promises

of Christ.

Let us pray.

Grant, we beseech thee, O Lord God,

that we, your servants, may enjoy perpetual

health of mind and body;

and by the glorious intercession of the

Blessed Mary, ever Virgin,

may be delivered from present sorrow,

and obtain eternal joy.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.



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.

Although it was bitterly cold and snow filled the night air, along with the night nurse canceling, St. Jude was with mom and I as she spoke very softly, telling me she was dying. We prayed the Rosary together and I said very powerful prayers for her soul. Mom called out, "St. Jude, save me" several times and died clutching her St. Jude Rosary tightly in her hands. I felt sure that St. Jude went with her to meet Jesus

-Anonymous

Last year, I said the St. Jude Novena with 3 intentions...and 3 prayers were answered. My niece was listed as high risk with her first

pregnancy. On the CT scan, it was confirmed her unborn baby had a tumor growing on his adrenal gland. He would need surgery immediately after birth. He was born 5 weeks early, but CT scan imaging did not show any tumor! I then asked St. Jude to help my brother find a job. He's been working in a grocery store and not earning enough money for his family. (He's retired from the police force.) He found a new job in law enforcement and is now able to contribute to the support of his family. Lastly, I prayed to St. Jude to help my nephew. He started having seizures which resulted in a car accident. He and his family were unhurt but very shaken up. He has had several seizures since, however,

he has found a physician that has been integral to controlling the seizures. He is now seizurefree for the past 6 months! Thank you St. Jude for prayers answered!

-Cathy

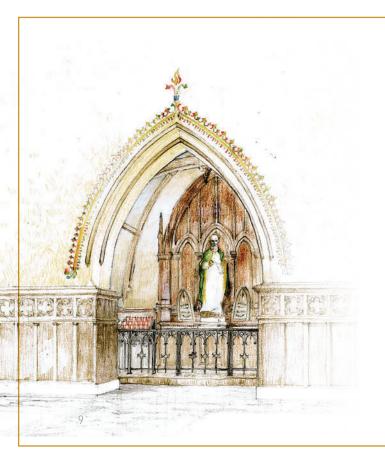
[When I was 15], I was a baton twirler and the baton smacked my left flank when I tossed it in the air and it ruptured my left kidney when it slammed into my back as I missed catching it. I was in the hospital for two weeks while the doctors decided what to do. They planned to remove the kidney but decided to look at the kidney one more time. In the interim, a young nurse talked a lot to me about wonderful St. Jude, who was known as the patron of hopeless cases. I developed a devotion to him because I was so afraid to lose the kidney. This would

change my life forever. I prayed fervently and often to him. I promised I would name my first son after him and tell everyone about him. When they did the surgery to look at the kidney, it began to function again. To shorten the story, we named our first son, Richard Jude. My devotion to him continues to this day.

-Betsy

I was so excited to receive your card with your beautiful note. It came on a day when my pain was so unbearable, it sometimes makes me lose my faith, but your note reminded me that St. Jude does love. I found St. Jude when I was 15 and now I am 74 and I pray every day to my saint that I love so much.

-Mary Lou



UPCOMING NOVENAS

& SPECIAL EVENTS

May 4 – 12: Mother's Day Novena

June 8 – 16: Father's Day Novena

July 18 - 26: Saint Anne's Feast Day Novena

September 8 - 16: Blessed Mother's Birthday Novena

September 28: 2024 Dominican Rosary Pilgrimage

September 29 - October 7: Holy Rosary Novena

October 20 - 28: Saint Jude Feast Day Novena



Intercessory Prayer, Now and Eternally

By Br. Luke Neitzke, O.P.

Interceding on behalf of others is something that has been part of the Christian tradition since the beginning. St. Peter restored Tabitha to life, a woman who served the poor in Joppa, and St. Paul raised to life a man who fell out of a window while Paul was preaching because he fell asleep (something that all preachers should

remember). These two men were restored to their physical life, but there is a better life that we can be restored to.

St. Therese of Lisieux heard of a murderer who was to be executed in Paris, he was unrepentant and she feared that his soul

would be lost for all eternity. So she prayed for him and had Mass said for him, and knowing that the Father loves His children with an infinite love, trusted that the Father would soften this murderer's heart to repentance, which happened immediately before he was executed—as he was standing on the scaffolding he kissed the cross. St. Catherine of Siena had a similar experience. She saw two men about to be executed, who were blaspheming God. She also turned in prayer, knowing that she would be heard. And with her as well, between the cart the criminals were being carried in and the executioner's block, their hearts were converted and they too repented.

With stories like this, it is easy to ask the question, "Why doesn't God answer my prayers like He answered theirs?" To which there is no easy answer. In the words of St. Therese of Lisieux and St. Paul "God will have mercy on whom He will have mercy, and have pity on who He will have pity." (Romans 9:15) The thing is, "God delivered all to disobedience, that he might have mercy upon all." The real question is "When will God show His mercy to all?"

God withheld the mercy and grace of conversion of the men who were being

executed until the last moments of their life. He knew that they were not lost yet, and through the intercession of two great saints, they were saved. The conversion or healing that we pray for, especially when we are praying for the sake of others, may not come when we expect it, it may be long delayed. But this does not mean that it is not coming. It may even be delayed until after our own death.

When St. Dominic was on his own death bed, his brothers stood around him and lamented that their father and the head of the young order was passing from this life. They wanted him to stay with them, to lead and guide them. However, St. Dominic, with supernatural prudence simply said, "Do not weep, my children; I shall be more useful to you where I am now going, than I have ever been in this life."

Those we love and pray for very well may outlive us in this life, but our prayers and love for them will not stop with the beating of our hearts. The love that God has for them is greater than the love we have for them. When this life has come to a close, and we are standing before the throne of God, we too will be even more useful for the ones we love.



September 28, 2024

Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, DC

Visit rosarypilgrimage.org and follow us @dominicanrosary













Hear great preaching by Dominican Friars, spend time in Eucharistic Adoration, make a good confession, pray the Rosary, and end the day with Vigil Mass. Pick up your Rosary and join us for the second annual Dominican Rosary Pilgrimage on September 28, 2024 at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, DC.

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