

CONGREGATION OF THE
DAUGHTERS OF ST. MARY OF PROVIDENCE

PRAYERS OF THE
DAUGHTERS OF ST. MARY
OF PROVIDENCE



ROME 1986
CHICAGO 1995

CONVENTION OF THE
DAUGHTERS OF ST. MARY
OF PROVIDENCE
PRAYERS OF THE
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OF PROVIDENCE



CHICAGO 1928
ROME 1928

TO OUR BLESSED FOUNDER
BLESSED ALOYSIUS GUANELLA
AND
MOTHER MARCELLINA BOSATTA
MAY THEY HELP US BE FAITHFUL TO
“PRAY AND SUFFER”

ЧИСЛЕННОСТЬ
АЛГЕБРАИЧЕСКИХ
ФУНКЦИЙ
БЫСТРОМ
СЧИТАНИИ
ЧИСЛЕННОСТЬ
ПРИЧИНОВАНИЯ
СВОИХ
ПРИЧИНОВАНИЙ

“Be conscious, then, of the importance of prayer in your lives and learn to devote yourselves to it generously. Faithfulness to daily prayer always remains for each one of you a basic necessity. It must have a primary place in your Constitutions and in your lives” (ET n 45).

“You came to find the heavenly Father. Come, Come. Oh, how beautiful are your steps! And how Your Father will enjoy seeing that you have come to Him! Hurry, and cry like the baby sparrow to make yourself heard. Moan like the pitiful dove, so that Your Father will hasten to meet you” (Bl. A. G., Let us go to the Father, 1880, p. 7).

ABBREVIATIONS

The Old Testament

Ab = Habakkuk
Song = Song of Songs
Ex = Exodus
Ez = Ezekiel
Jb = Job
Jdt = Judith
Jer = Jeremiah
Gn = Genesis
Is = Isaiah
Lam = Lamentations
Lv = Leviticus
Hos = Hosea
Prv = Proverbs
Ps = Psalms
2 Sm = 2 Samuel
Wis = Wisdom
Sir = Sirach

The New Testament

Rv = Revelation
Acts = Acts of the Apostles
Col = Colossians
1 Cor = 1 Corinthians
Heb = Hebrews
Eph = Ephesians
Phil = Philippians
Gal = Galatians
Jn = John
Lk = Luke
Mk = Mark
Mt = Matthew
1 Pt = 1 Peter
Rom = Romans
1 Tm = 1 Timothy
1 Thes = 1 Thessalonians

Documents of Vatican Council II

LG = Dogmatic Constitution on the Church "Lumen Gentium"
PC = Decree on the Up-to-Date Renewal of Religious Life "Perfectae caritatis"
PO = Decree on the Ministry and life of Priest "Presbyterorum ordinis"
SC = The Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy "Sacrosanctum Concilium"
EM = Instruction on the Worship of the Eucharistic Mystery "Il culto del mistero eucaristico" (May 25, 1967)

ET = Apostolic Exhortation on The Renewal of Religious Life
of Paul VI "Rinnovamento della vita religiosa" (June 29,
1971)

Guanellian Documents and Writings

At the end of the literary extracts, passages from the writings of Blessed Aloysius Guanella (A.G.) or Guanellian literature you will find the complete title from the source, the year of the first edition; the pages if they refer to the original edition or the unpublished manuscript. In other instances for the sake of brevity, we have used the following abbreviations:

A.G., Metodo, 1889: Massime di spirito e metodo di azione, 1888-1889.

A.G., Stat, Crocine: Breve statuto delle Figlie del S. Cuore, chiamate Crocine in Como.

A.G., Norme, 1894: Norme principali per un regolamento interno nella Piccola Casa della divina Provvidenza, 1894.

A.G., Regol. F.S.C., 1899: Regolamento interno dei Figli del S. Cuore nella casa della divina Provvidenza, 1899.

A.G., Regol. S.d.C., 1905: Regolamento dei Servi della Carita', 1905.

A.G., Regol. S.d.C., 1910: Regolamento dei Servi della Carita', 1910.

A.G., Regol. F.S.M.P., 1911: Regolamento per le Figlie di S. Maria della divina Provvidenza, 1911.

A.G., Guide D.S.M.P., 1938-86: Guide for the Daughters of St. Mary of Providence. 1938-86.

L. Mazzucchi, La Vita..., 1920: La Vita lo Spirito e le Opere di Don Luigi Guanella, 1920.

L. Mazzucchi, The Life..., 1980: The Life, the Spirit and the Works of Father Louis Guanella, 1980.

The New American Bible
Catholic Book Publishing Co.
New York
St. Joseph Edition

The New Revised Standard
Version (Holy Bible)
Nashville

PRAYERS OF CHRISTIAN TRADITION

At the beginning of each new day, we make the Sign of the Cross, which reminds us of the love of the Father and our dignity as children of God.

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

We adore the Lord in spirit and in truth, and we offer Him ourselves and our actions.

I adore you my God, and I love you with all my heart. I thank you for having created me, made me a Christian, and preserved me during the night. I offer you my actions of this day, may they all be done according to your will and for your greater honor and glory. Preserve me from sin and all evil. May your grace be with me always and with all my loved ones. Amen.

In Christ we are all children of God. With Him we turn to the Father.

Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be Thy name;
thy kingdom come;
thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread;
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us;
and lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil. Amen.

*We greet the Blessed Virgin, asking her to present our
prayers to God.*

Hail Mary, full of grace;
the Lord is with thee;
blessed art thou among women
and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God,
pray for us sinners,
now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

We praise the Blessed Trinity.

Glory to the Father and to the Son,
and to the Holy Spirit,
as it was in the beginning, is now,
and will be forever. Amen.

We renew our profession of Faith.

I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth;
and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord;
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate,
was crucified, died, and was buried.
He descended into hell;
the third day He arose again from the dead;
He ascended into heaven,
sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty;
from thence He shall come to judge the living and
the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the Holy Catholic Church,
the communion of saints,

the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and life everlasting. Amen.

We look to Mary, a sign of secure hope and consolation for all men and women.

Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy.
Our life, our sweetness, and our hope!
To you do we cry, poor banished children of Eve!
To you do we send up our sighs; mourning and weeping in this vale of tears!
Turn then, most gracious Advocate,
Your eyes of mercy toward us;
and after this, our exile, show unto us
the blessed fruit of Your womb, Jesus!
O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary!

Let us ask our guardian angel to accompany us with his protection.

Angel of God, my Guardian dear, to whom God's love entrusts me here, ever this day be at my side, to light and guard, to rule and guide.

We pray for our faithful departed.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May they rest in peace. Amen.

We renew our faith in God, the source of our salvation.

O my God, I firmly believe that You are one God in three Divine Persons, Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; I believe that Your Divine Son became man and died for our sins, and that He will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe these and all the truths which the Holy Catholic Church teaches, because You revealed them, who can neither deceive nor be deceived.

We express our trust in God and in our salvation that through His gift we will one day reach fulfillment.

O my God, relying on Your infinite goodness and promises, I hope to obtain pardon of my sins, the help of Your grace, and life everlasting, through the merits of Jesus Christ, my Lord and Redeemer.

We pledge ourselves to live this day in love as an experience of salvation.

O my God, I love You above all things with my whole heart and soul, because You are all-good and worthy of my love. I love my neighbor as myself for the love of You. I forgive all who have injured me, and I ask pardon of all whom I have injured.

Everyday is an experience of our fragility. We ask God to pardon our sins.

O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended You, and I detest all my sins, because of Your just punishments, but most of all because they offend You, my God, who are all-good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve, with the help of Your grace, to sin no more and to avoid the near occasions of sin.

Merciful Jesus, have mercy on me.

In the evening we give thanks to the Lord and ask His pardon.

I adore you my God, and I love you with all my heart. I thank you for having created me, made me a Christian, and preserved me during this day. Pardon me for the sins

and failings I committed today, and accept the good I have accomplished. Protect me during my rest and deliver me from evil. May your grace be with me always and with all my loved ones. Amen.

PSALM 130

Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord.
Lord, hear my voice!
Let your ears be attentive
To the voice of my supplications!

If you, O Lord, should mark iniquities,
Lord, who could stand?
But there is forgiveness with you,
so that you may be revered.

I wait for the Lord,
my soul waits, and in his word I hope;
my soul waits for the Lord
more than those who watch for the morning.

For with the Lord there is steadfast love,
and with him is great power to redeem.
It is he who will redeem Israel
from all its iniquities.

Eternal rest give to them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May they rest in peace. Amen.

O my Jesus, inflamed with love for me, I wish I had never offended you and with the help of your grace, I wish never to offend you again. My Jesus, mercy, pardon me.

and I long I continue to today, and never the day I pass
sacredly, protect and guide the way, I have
left you and you are now with me in the world.

Yours, John

196.1 MAY

Out of this ship I call to you, O Ford

For thy power and voice

To avert curse or trouble

To give grace to man and woman

If thou, O Lord, should my number

Point, who could stand?

But there is no violence with you

so that you may be honored

I wait for the Lord

With soul waste and in this world I pass

more than those who wait for the number

For with the Lord there is no greatest love

and with him is greatest power to redress

It is he who will redress press

From all its difficulties.

Finally rest give to them, O Ford

and let beatitudes light shine upon them

May they rest in peace. Amen.

O my Jesus, infinitely dear you for us, I have never
offered you and my body to you before
than now. My Jesus, make a blessing of

WE PRAISE THE LORD DURING THE DAY

*Lord:
"Make me know the way I
should walk:
to you I lift up my soul.
(Ps 143:5)*





WE LAUGH THE DAY
DURING THE DAY

Lord:
"Make us known before I
spare not
to you I lift up my soul
(Ps 143:2)

RISING

"The grace of a vocation is tied to prayer, and the grace of prayer to that of rising. If we are faithful to this first action of the day, if we find ourselves together before the Lord as did the first Christians, He will give himself reciprocally to us. He will call us with his enlightenment and will himself accomplish in us and through us the good which we are obliged to carry out in His Church" (Letter of St. Vincent de Paul)

SUGGESTED OUTLINE

Let us praise the Lord with the following prayers or with other spontaneous prayers.

Let us praise the Lord. And give Him thanks.

"It is good to give thanks to the Lord, to make music to your name, O Most High, to proclaim your love in the morning and your truth in the watches of the night" (Ps 92: 1).

"My soul, give praise to the Lord, I will praise the Lord all my days, make music to my God while I live" (Ps 146: 1).

"In the morning, fill us with your love; we shall exult and rejoice all our days" (Ps 90: 8).

I give myself entirely to you.

My Queen, My Mother, I give myself entirely to you. To show my devotion to you I consecrate to you this day my eyes, my

ears, my mouth, my heart, my whole being without reserve. Therefore, good Mother, since I am your own, keep me and guard me as your property and possession. Amen.

RISING (P. Nicola Zucchi)

“God, the Holy Spirit, assist us with your divine power. Spirit of Truth, direct our steps. Spirit of Holy Love, who has given to many followers of the Gospel the grace to follow the Lord even to Calvary, console our hearts.”

My Holy Angel, keep me always in the presence of my God.
Angel of God . . .

Saint Michael, the Archangel, defend us in battle; be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do you, O prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan and the other evil spirits who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

St. Michael, the Archangel, enlighten us with your light.
St. Michael, the Archangel, protect us with your presence.
St. Michael, the Archangel, defend us with your strength.

Eternal rest . . .

Going to Church, we commend ourselves to the Angels and Saints, asking them to teach us how to speak to God in prayer.

Taking holy water we say: “Sprinkle me with hyssop and I shall be cleansed; Wash me, and I will be made whiter than snow.”

or

“Have mercy on me Lord, in your great kindness.”

COMMUNITY MORNING PRAYERS

Leader: Sign of the Cross

O Sacrament most Holy, O Sacrament Divine.

All: All praise and all thanksgiving be every moment
thine.

Leader: Our Father . . .

Hail Mary . . .

Glory . . .

Leader: Acts of Faith and Desire

A few moments of silence for a spiritual communion (this practice was greatly recommended by our Founder, it was his wish that it be used when we came together for community prayer).

- O God, you are my God, for you I long; for you my soul is thirsting. My body pines for you like a dry, weary land without water (Ps 63:1).
- My Jesus, I love you, I long for you in my heart.
- Mary Mother of Holy Love, prepare my heart to receive Jesus.
- How lovely is your dwelling place, Lord, God of Hosts. My soul is longing and yearning, is yearning for the courts of the Lord. My heart and my soul ring out their joy to God, the living God (Ps 84:1-2).
- Mary, I give you my heart so that you may make it like your own and render it worthy of your Son, who is coming to me.

My Jesus, I believe that you are truly present in the most blessed sacrament. I love you above all things, and I desire to possess you within my soul. Since I am unable now to receive you sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I

embrace you as if you were already there, and I unite myself wholly to you; never permit me to be separated from you.

(St. Alphonsus)

Come, O dear Jesus, into my heart, to dwell in it always, and do not leave it any more, but by your coming renew my entire being, so that I may love you always more, my dear Jesus.

Leader: My Daily Offering (Apostleship of Prayer)

All: O Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I offer you my prayers, works, joys and sufferings of this day in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass throughout the world. I offer them for all the intentions of your Sacred Heart; the salvation of souls, reparation for sin, the reunion of all Christians, I offer them for the intentions of our Bishops and of all Apostles of Prayer and in particular for those recommended by our Holy Father this month.

(Leaflet)

O St. Joseph, foster father of Jesus Christ, and true spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, pray for us and for the dying of this day.

Leader: St. Francis Xavier

All: Pray for us and for all unbelievers.

LET US GREET MARY

Leader: The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary,

All: And she conceived by the Holy Spirit.

Leader: Hail Mary . . .

All: Holy Mary . . .

Leader: Behold the handmaid of the Lord,
All: Be it done to me according to your word.

Leader: Hail Mary . . .
All: Holy Mary . . .

Leader: And the Word was made flesh,
All: And dwelt among us.

Leader: Hail Mary . . .
All: Holy Mary . . .

Leader: Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.
All: That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Leader: Let us pray: Pour forth, we beg you, O Lord, your grace into our hearts; that we to whom the Incarnation of Christ your Son, was made known by the message of an Angel, may by his Passion and Cross be brought to the glory of his Resurrection. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

Leader: Glory . . . (3 times)
Angel of God . . .
Eternal rest . . .

During the Easter Season the Regina Coeli replaces the Angelus.

Leader: Queen of heaven, rejoice, alleluia.
All: The Son whom it was your privilege to bear, alleluia.

Leader: Has risen as he said, alleluia.
All: Pray for us to God, alleluia.

Leader: Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia.
All: For the Lord has truly risen, alleluia.

Leader: Let us pray: O God, you were pleased to give joy to the world through the Resurrection of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ. Grant, we beseech You, that through the mediation of the Virgin Mary His Mother, we may come to possess the joys of life everlasting. Amen.

Leader: Glory . . . (3 times)

Angel of God . . .

Eternal rest . . .

At noon, after the recitation of the Angelus or the Regina Coeli, add the following prayer:

We adore, we praise, we thank you, O Most Holy Trinity, for the sublime gifts, and privileges granted to the Blessed Virgin Mary, our sweetest Mother, especially for her Immaculate Conception, her divine virginal maternity, and her triumphant Assumption into heaven.

Leader: Glory . . . (3 times)

Angel of God . . .

Eternal rest . . .

During the Easter Season the Regina Coeli is replaced by the

Leader: The Son now is more than conqueror, victorious, all-powerful.

Leader: He has risen as the sun, all-powerful.

Leader: Rejoice and be joyful, O Virgin Mary, all-powerful.

CELEBRATION OF MORNING PRAYER (LAUDS)

“The Divine Office, the public prayer of the Church is the source of piety and nourishment of personal prayer” (SC, n. 90).

For the Divine Office, follow the official text of the Church.

MENTAL PRAYER – MEDITATION

“In the first place, let them have the sacred scripture at hand daily, so that they might learn ‘the surpassing worth of knowing Jesus Christ’ (Phil. 3:8) by reading and meditating on the divine scripture” (PC, n. 6).

“Be eager for the word of God. This sacred hunger is a characteristic of the true religious of good spirit. The Word of God instructs the mind, strengthens the will, is an incentive to work, and stirs the heart to holiness” (A.G., Guide, D.S.M.P., 1938–86, p. 203).

“He who meditates well has learned to do all for God, and to receive all from God” (A.G., Guide, D.S.M.P., 1938–86, p. 212).

PRAYERS BEFORE MEDITATION

O Holy Spirit, soul of my soul, I adore you. Enlighten me, guide me, strengthen me, console me, teach me. Show me your ways, I promise to submit myself to everything that you desire of me and to accept everything that you let happen to me. (D. Mercier)

Leader: Come Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful and enkindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created.

All: And you shall renew the face of the earth.

Leader: O God, who did instruct the hearts of the faithful by the light of the Holy Spirit grant us by the same Holy Spirit to be truly wise and ever to rejoice in His consolation. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Seat of Wisdom,

All: Pray for us.

(Meditation)

CONCLUDING PRAYERS

Leader: Let us offer our resolution. (Pause)

All: We give You thanks, almighty God, for all your benefits. Who lives and reigns world without end. Amen.

St. Michael, the Archangel . . .

Leader: Offering of the day . . .

ALTERNATE CONCLUDING PRAYERS

Leader: Let the word of Christ, rich as it is, dwell in you (Col 3:16).

All: Let us give thanks to God.

Leader: A light for my feet and a lamp for my path (Ps 119).

All: So that we may walk according to the will of the Father to the glory of His name.

Leader: Lord, place your words in our heart.

All: That we may not offend you this day.

Leader: Lord, in your will is our joy.

All: May we never forget your word.

Leader: May the Lord bless us and preserve us in His Love and Peace.

All: Amen.

To strengthen the Spirit within us, reserve some time in the morning, and in the afternoon, for recollection and silence and by recalling the morning meditation.

EUCCHARISTIC LITURGY FOR A DAUGHTER OF ST. MARY OF PROVIDENCE

“The first nourishment of your piety must be the Eucharistic Liturgy, assisted with fervor and desire” (A.G., Guide, D.S.M.P., 1938–86, p. 209).

“Nourished by your piety you will become quick and strong in difficult labors, spiritualized in your various relationships and always ready to fulfill the will of God” (A.G., Guide, D.S.M.P., 1938–1986, p. 209).

TO THE ALMIGHTY GOD

Invoke the mercy of the Almighty God so that it may render us capable not only of listening to His Word, but also of practicing it. Let Him send into our souls, His grace, to destroy in us what you know should be destroyed, and to animate what should be animated, by means of Christ, Our Lord, and His Holy Spirit. To Him be glory forever and ever. Amen.

INTRODUCTION

“For in the most blessed Eucharist is contained the whole spiritual good of the Church, namely Christ himself our Pasch and the living bread which gives life to men and women through his flesh—that flesh which is given life and gives life

through the Holy Spirit. Thus men and women are invited and led to offer themselves, their works and all creation with Christ. For this reason the Eucharist appears as the source and the summit of all preaching of the Gospel: catechumens are gradually led up to participation in the Eucharist, while the faithful who have already been consecrated in baptism and confirmation are fully incorporated in the Body of Christ by the reception of the Eucharist" (PO, n. 5).

"The Lord's Supper or Mass gathers together the people of God, with a priest presiding in the person of Christ, to celebrate the memorial of the Lord or eucharistic sacrifice. For this reason the promise of Christ is particularly true to such a local congregation of the Church: "Where two or three are gathered in my name, there am I in their midst" (Matthew 18:20). In the celebration of Mass, which perpetuates the sacrifice of the cross, Christ is really present in the assembly itself, which is gathered in his name, in the person of the minister, in his word, and indeed substantially and unceasingly under the eucharistic species. (General Instruction of the Roman Missal, Chap. II, n. 7).

"Blessed be God, you are not satisfied to be with us in the Eucharist, you lead us to your sacrifice of self in Holy Mass and point out the way to heaven. Jesus is a father who loves his children so very much. An earthly father provides daily for his children at the cost of much sacrifice. Jesus, Son of God and of Mary sacrifices himself daily at Mass as He once did on the Altar of the cross" (L.G., Il fondamento, 1885, p. 143 s.).

"At Holy Mass he accompanies you as a victim who offers all to God. You will understand how good God is and how merciful he is in pardoning and in granting graces. Jesus Christ is the one who accompanies you to the Father at every

Mass, so as to receive every good. In assisting at Holy Mass every day, God will grant you abundant light to your mind and great zeal to your heart so that you may fulfill what God wishes" (Cfr. L.G., *Il fondamento*, 1885, pp. 47-48).

GENERAL STRUCTURE OF THE MASS

"Although the Mass is made up of the liturgy of the word and the liturgy of the Eucharist, the two parts are so closely connected as to form one act of worship. The table of God's word and of Christ's body is prepared and from it the faithful are instructed and nourished. In addition, the Mass has introductory and concluding rites" (General Instruction of the Roman Missal, Chap. 11, n. 8).

LITURGY OF THE WORD

"When the scriptures are read in the Church, God himself speaks to his people, and it is Christ, present in his word, who proclaims the Gospel . . . Readings from scripture and the chants between the readings form the main part of the liturgy of the word . . . In the readings the treasury of the Bible are opened to the people; this is the table of God's word . . . The liturgy teaches that the reading of the gospel should be done with great reverence; it is distinguished from the other readings by special marks of honor. The readings should be listened to with respect; they are a principle element of the liturgy. In the biblical readings God's word is addressed to all in every era and is understandable in itself, but a homily, as a living explanation of the word, increases its effectiveness and is an integral part of the service" (General Instruction of the Roman Missal, Chap. 11, nn. 9-33-34).

"The early Christians touched the Holy Gospels with respect before making the sign of the cross, and carried them on

their breast as relics, to give courage to their souls in face of dangers, and to become strong against the assaults of external and internal enemies. Be eager for the word of God. This sacred hunger is a characteristic of the true religious of good spirit. The word of God instructs the mind, strengthens the will, is an incentive to work, and stirs the heart to holiness" (A.G., Guide, D.S.M.P., 1938-86).

EUCCHARISTIC LITURGY

OFFERING OF THE GIFTS

"In the celebration of Mass the faithful form a holy people, a chosen race, a royal priesthood: they give thanks to the Father and offer the victim not only through the hands of the priest but also with him, and they learn to offer themselves. They should make this clear by their deep sense of religion and their charity to everyone who shares in the celebration. Any appearance of individualism or division among the faithful should be avoided, since they all are brothers and sisters in the sight of the one Father. They should become one body, hearing the word of God, joining in prayers and song, and offering sacrifice and sharing the Lord's table together" (General Instruction of the Roman Missal, Chap. III, n. 62).

"Jesus offered Himself to God the Father. Learn to offer to the Lord, and not to others the sweat of your brow. In presenting your gift invoke the glorious Virgin, or the Saints, so that, accompanied by them, God may look upon you with mercy and benevolence. The same Jesus who offered Himself on Calvary offers Himself on the altar, although in an unbloody manner. Faith. Faith, help me" (Cf. L.G., Il fondamento, 1885, p. 144 s!).

EUCARISTIC PRAYER

"The Eucharistic prayer, a prayer of thanksgiving and sanctification, is the center and high point of the entire celebration. In an introductory dialogue the priest invites the people to lift their hearts to God in prayer and thanks; he unites them with himself in the prayer he addresses in their name to the Father through Jesus Christ. The meaning of the prayer is that the whole congregation joins Christ in acknowledging the works of God and in offering the sacrifice" (General Instruction of the Roman Missal, Chapt. II, n. 54).

"At the Last Supper Christ instituted the paschal sacrifice and meal. In this meal the sacrifice of the cross is continually made present in the Church when the priest, representing Christ, carries out what the Lord did and handed over to his disciples to do in his memory. Christ took bread and the cup, gave thanks, broke, and gave to his disciples, saying: "Take and eat, this is my body. Take and drink, this is the cup of my blood. Do this in memory of me." The Church has arranged the celebration of the eucharistic liturgy to correspond to these words and actions of Christ" (General Instruction of the Roman Missal, Chapt. II, n. 48)

"A long separation is somber. Most somber is the moment when one leaves for eternity. Jesus Christ, having loved his own in the course of his mortal life, loved them even to the end. In pledge of his immense love he instituted the Sacrament of Love. By means of the most Holy Eucharist, Jesus is perpetually with his own. A pitiful pelican but always alive and glorious, with his own blood he feeds his own. He extends his right hand to his children and invites them saying: Come, I will accompany you to my Father, and I will beg and satisfy you. Only one thing I ask of you: remember that I love you and that I have suffered for you" (L.G., Il fondamento, 1885, p. 136 s.).

BREAKING OF BREAD

“Breaking of bread: this gesture of Christ at the Last Supper gave the entire Eucharist its name in apostolic times. In addition to its practical aspect, it signifies that in communion we who are many are made one body in the one bread of life which is Christ” (General Instruction the Roman Missal, Chapt. II, n. 56c).

“The breaking of the one bread is a sign of the unity of the faithful, and in communion they receive the body and blood of Christ as the Apostles did from his hands” (General Instruction of the Roman Missal, Chapt. H, n. 48/3).

“At the table of a joyful banquet, friends share their affections. At the Banquet of a heavenly meal, the heavenly father gives Himself to his friends as the Bread of the angels, the true life of men. As a consequence, through Holy Communion you receive Jesus into the house of your heart as Mary and Mary Magdalene welcomed our Divine Savior into their homes. Like the prophet Elisha, you too, set on your way to the mount of perfection without getting too tired” (L.G., Il fondamento, 1885, p. 137).

“The angels of heaven delight in singing hymns of praise to the Most High. Burst forth here on earth pining before Jesus who out of love for you pines so much and humbles Himself in the Sacrament of the Most Holy Eucharist. During the day, whenever hardships affect you, pray with lively faith: God is with me, and I am with him! Offer your suffering to Jesus, who has endured so much to come to meet you” (Cfr. L.G., Il fondamento, 1885, p. 139 s.).

AT THE END OF THE EUCHARISTIC CELEBRATION

I live, Lord.

I live, O Lord, but it is not I who live, it is You who live in me.

“Most holy soul of Jesus, my Savior, purify my soul.

Adorable Heart of Jesus, cleanse my heart.

Most holy body of my Redeemer, govern my body.

It is no longer I who live, but Jesus Christ who lives in me.

Angels of heaven, hasten, I beg you: you admire the mystery of Love! Saints of Paradise, whom the Lord has created and sanctified, come to me, Descend into the poor house of my heart” (L.G., *L'angelo del santuario*, 1883, p. 65 s.).

O Jesus, my father and master, the effect of your word and example remain forever in my heart, I want to be patient, I want to be humble of heart. This is the most I can do on this earth. This is the highest virtue that disposes me to the joy of Paradise. Eternal Father: I beg you through the incarnate Heart of Jesus, grant that I may always be gentle of heart and humble in affection until the end” (L.G., *Nel mese del fervor*, 1884, p. 77 s.).

GIVE ME LORD A GRATEFUL HEART

Lord Jesus Christ, King of kings, you have power over life and death. You know even things that are uncertain and obscure, and our very thoughts and feelings are not hidden from you. Cleanse me from my secret faults, for I have done wrong and you saw it. You know how weak I am, both in soul and in body. Give me strength, O Lord, in my frailty and sustain me in my sufferings. Grant me a prudent judgment, dear Lord, and let me always be mindful of your blessings. May the grace that has protected me until now protect me forever.

(St. Ephrem of Syria)

GIVING THANKS

I give you thanks, O holy Father, for your holy name which you have made to dwell in our hearts, and for knowledge, faith, and immortality that you have revealed to us through Jesus, Your Son. To You be glory forever. You, almighty Lord, have created everything for the glory of Your name: You have given to men food and drink for their enjoyment so that they may give you thanks. To us you have generously given spiritual food and drink and eternal life, by means of Your Son. Above all we give you thanks because you are powerful.

(From the "Didache")

YOU HAVE ALWAYS PREFERRED US TO YOURSELF

Lord, you have always preferred us to yourself, and you still do so every time you give yourself to us in the Eucharist, making yourself our food. You want us also to have great love for one another that we may always prefer our neighbor to ourselves. Grant then, O Lord, that my fraternal love may be so firm, gracious and solid that I never omit to do or to suffer anything for my neighbor. Make me prompt to spend my life for my brothers and sisters, to pledge myself for them without reserve. I pledge myself for others according to your will, for love, since you have taught us this, O Savior.

(St. Francis de Sales)

TO THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

Virgin Immaculate! What happiness to find oneself with God and with you. Make me understand that this is an anticipation of Heaven and that receiving the Eucharist here below is like opening oneself to heaven above this earth of ours. Blessed be God! May you be blessed by all, Mother of the

Divine Savior. (L.G., Un saluto all'Immacolata di Lourdes, 1887, p. 113).

Most Holy Virgin! I too want to listen to Jesus. I have so much need of being enlightened. If I can find the sure way to Paradise, I will pursue it speedily. I will follow it with delight until I reach the sight of Paradise. Beautiful Paradise, when will I see it, my Mother, when? (L.G., Nel mese dei fiori, 1884, p. 165.).

TO ST. JOSEPH

St. Joseph, friend of the Heart of Jesus, may I always enjoy your protection in life and in death. Keep me always united to Jesus and Mary, preserving me from every sin. Obtain for me the grace to serve God faithfully with the profession of the evangelical counsels and to live in the indissoluble bond of prayer, charity, and sacrifice. Amen.

TO OUR GUARDIAN ANGEL

O Angel of God, my guardian and my guide, keep me constantly in the presence of God and lead me to Jesus in the Eucharist until I reach the eternal possession of Him who on earth it is not given me to see and possess but is a mystery of faith. Amen.

THE DIVINE PRAISES

Blessed be God.

Blessed be his holy Name.

Blessed be Jesus Christ, true God and true Man.

Blessed be the Name of Jesus.

Blessed be his most sacred Heart.

Blessed be his most precious Blood.
Blessed be Jesus in the most holy sacrament of the altar. 381
Blessed be the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete.
Blessed be the great Mother of God, Mary most holy.
Blessed be her holy and immaculate conception.
Blessed be her glorious assumption.
Blessed be the name of Mary, Virgin and Mother.
Blessed by St. Joseph, her most chaste spouse.
Blessed by God in his angels and in his saints.

May the Heart of Jesus in the most Blessed Sacrament be praised, adored, and loved with grateful affection, at every moment, in all the tabernacles of the world even to the end of time. Amen.

PRAYER TO JESUS CHRIST CRUCIFIED

My good and dear Jesus,

I kneel before you,

asking you most earnestly

to engrave upon my heart

a deep and lively faith, hope, and charity,

with true repentance for my sins,

and a firm resolve to make amends.

As I reflect upon your five wounds,

and dwell upon them with deep compassion and grief,

I recall, good Jesus, the words the prophet David spoke long ago concerning yourself:

they have pierced my hands and my feet,

they have counted all my bones!

PRAYER TO OUR REDEEMER

Soul of Christ, make me holy,
Body of Christ, be my salvation.
Blood of Christ, let me drink your wine.
Water flowing from the side of Christ, wash me clean.
Passion of Christ, strengthen me.
Kind Jesus, hear my prayer;
hide me within your wounds
and keep me close to you.
Defend me from the evil enemy.
Call me at my death
to the fellowship of your saints,
that I may sing your praise with them
through all eternity. Amen.

PRAYER TO CHRIST THE KING

Christ Jesus, I acknowledge You as King of the Universe.
All that has been created has been made for You.
Make full use of Your rights over me.

I renew my baptismal promises, renouncing Satan and all his
pomps and works, and I promise to live a good Christian life,
and to do all in my power to bring about the triumph of the
rights of God and of Your Church.

Divine Heart of Jesus, I offer you my efforts so that all hearts
may acknowledge Your sacred Kingship and that thus the
Kingdom of Your Peace may be established in the whole
world. Amen.

EJACULATIONS THAT MAY BE USED TO CONCLUDE COMMUNITY PRAYERS

Leader: With the hand of Jesus,
All: Bless us always Virgin Mary.

Leader: Bless our congregation, O Virgin Mary,
All: Guard and defend her as your own. Amen.

Leader: Praised be Jesus Christ,
All: Now and forever. Amen.

Leader: May the God of peace accompany us wherever we go,

All: May the Virgin Mary bless us.

LIVING SILENCE IN THE PRESENCE OF GOD

"To the extent therefore that you carry on external activities, it is necessary that you should learn to pass from these activities to the life of recollection, in which the vigor of your soul is renewed" (ET, n. 35).

"Let the true characteristic of a Daughter of St. Mary of Providence be an upright intention, maintained constant by the presence of God, by continual ejaculatory prayer and by the habit of recalling the heart and mind to holy things every moment, according to the teachings of the Divine Master who says: Pray; pray without ceasing. Pray always!" (A.G., Guide, D.S.M.P., 1938-86, p. 16).

PRAYER

Jesus, eternal wisdom, you find joy in speaking to your children, remain with me during this time of recollection and silence; teach me to observe it holily. I offer it in union with the silence you observed during your life on earth, especially during your passion. I unite my silence also to that observed by your holy Mother and your saints during the course of their lives, according to your intentions and those you inspire for the glory of your Father. May this silence serve to cancel all the sins of my life especially those committed in speech. May I be united with you so as to work diligently and silently in your service. Amen.

Ejaculatory prayers used by Blessed Aloysius Guanella, Mother Marcellina, Blessed Clare, and our pioneer Sisters are suggested because they can be adapted for use as chaplets.

- Speak Lord, your servant is listening.
- Mary, make me docile and obedient, to the voice of the Lord.
- Sacred Heart of Jesus, Your kingdom come.
- My Jesus, Mercy.
- Sacred Heart of Jesus I implore, that I may ever love you more and more.
- My Mother, My Hope.
- Virgin Mary, Mother of Jesus, make us Saints.
- O Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to you.
- Blessed be the holy and Immaculate Conception, Mother of God.
- We pray you, O glorious patriarch St. Joseph, take under your patronage this cause.
- St. Joseph, patron of the interior life, pray for us.
- Eternal Father, I offer you the precious blood of Jesus, in satisfaction for my sins, for the needs of the Church and for the souls in Purgatory.

OFFERING OUR WORK

“Work and sacrifice are to be united to prayer. Offering our work to God with all the pains that accompany it constitutes continual adoration” (A.G., Guide, D.S.M.P., 1938-86 p. 234).

“We will begin the work of the day renewing individually or communally the offering of our work.” We suggest:

Direct, we beg you, O Lord, our actions by your holy inspirations, and carry them on by your gracious assistance, that every prayer and work of ours may begin always from you, and through you be happily ended. Through Christ, O Lord. Amen.

- My God, I offer you the work that I am about to begin, in a spirit of penance and obedience.
- Everything for you, my God, my greatest love, whatever I do, say, suffer, or think. In my every action and breath I intend, O my Lord, to give you my soul and consecrate to you my heart, and to inflame it always with your divine love.
- O Jesus, for the love with which you embraced suffering and work for our redemption, grant me your spirit to unite myself to the holy intentions that you had during the thirty years of your hidden, painful, and laborious life at Nazareth. Grant that I work holily and only for the glory of the Father as you have done, and in penance for my sins. I unite myself again to the intentions of your Mother in her daily and hidden sacrifice during her earthly life. I accept with love, as grace, the fatigue of this work and willingly offer it to you to cooperate with all my strength to your mysterious plans of love and salvation. Amen.

TRAVELING

“The Blessed Mother, your mother and patron, will save you from mishap and will guide you securely to your goal” (A.G., Guide, D.S.M.P., 1938-86, p. 237).

In your goodness, O Lord, bless our departures and returns. May St. Raphael preserve me from every danger and spread peace along the way. Through Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

Our Lady of Divine Providence, pray for us.

Hail Mary . . .

Angel of God . . .

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, accompany us on our way.

“For long trips undertaken by the Sisters, the community will accompany them by singing a Marian hymn.”

AT MEALS

“During meals it is good to nourish the mind with an edifying reading.”

BEFORE MEALS

Bless us, O Lord, and these your gifts which we are about to receive from your bounty through Christ our Lord. Amen. Glory . . .

AFTER MEALS

Lord God, you nourish us that we may participate in your work of salvation, we thank you for your blessings and ask that we may always labor for the salvation of our brothers and sisters and assist them in their needs. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Direct we beg you . . .

Eternal rest . . .

or

We give you thanks Almighty God, for all your blessings, Who live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.

On Solemnities a song may be used to bless and give thanks.

After breakfast on Saturday, we unite ourselves to our Sisters all over the world.

OFFERING OF THE ECUMENICAL HOUR

We offer You, O Lord, our Ecumenical hour, united intensely among ourselves present in any part of the world where our Congregation of the Daughters of St. Mary of Providence

works. Through the intercession of Mary, who together with our Blessed Founder, is looking down on us from Heaven, may our labors and prayers have value, as well as, every apostolic, educational, and corporal work of mercy, fulfilled in this hour in the unanimous "Guanellian spirit." Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

RECREATION

"Recreation is an effective means to maintain a family spirit, to assure the balance of life, and to refresh the spirit" (Mother Angela Cettini, Circular, 7-4-1969).

At the beginning: Lord, I offer your this time with my sisters, and I unite myself to the intentions which you had while on earth, as you conversed with your Mother, St. Joseph, the apostles and disciples; Grant me the grace to speak only what will be for your glory and the good of my neighbor.

Mary, cause of our joy, pray for us.

At the end: We give you thanks . . . Eternal rest . . .

SPIRITUAL READING

Each day, at least for a quarter of an hour, the Daughters of St. Mary of Providence, will make spiritual reading, in common. Our Founder exhorted us:

"Don't confuse your mind with reading many books; but rather endeavor to masticate, that is to study attentively those few that you read, so as to digest them well. The spirit doesn't gain from the great amount studied, but from a little taken and retained" (A.G., Guide, D.S.M.P., 1938-86 p. 203).

Before Spiritual Reading

Invocation to the Holy Spirit

Leader: Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of the faithful and
enkindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth
your spirit and they shall be created,

All: And you shall renew the face of the earth.

Leader: O God, who did instruct . . .
Seat of wisdom,

All: Pray for us.

Leader: Hail Mary . . .
Angel of God . . .

Eternal rest . . .

After Spiritual Reading

Leader: We give you thanks . . .
Eternal rest . . .

COMMUNITARIAN READING OF THE GOSPEL

“Give preference to the communitarian reading of the Gospel. This reading consists in a “living encounter with the living Jesus” to copy in ourselves the attitudes that we encounter in him by reading a certain excerpt. In listening to what each one has personally experienced will result in a mutual enrichment and witness of fraternal charity” (Mother Angela Cettini, Circular, 4-7-69).

Listen to the Word

Leader: Reads the Word slowly,
Pauses for a moment of silence.

Share the Word

Those who wish may select a verse or several verses
read, read it again and comment on its content.

Pause for a moment of silence to interiorize the reflections of the Sisters.

Pray the Word

The interiorized Word becomes a prayer.

Live the Word

Leader: The leader summarizes the evangelical message that has been revealed.

The Our Father may be prayed or sung or a simple ending . . . we give you thanks . . .

Communitarian reading of the Gospel, may take the form of (shared prayer) as above or the Gospel may be discussed. The leader will announce the method to be used at the beginning.

SHORT ADORATION OF THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

“From the tabernacle comes forth an aroma of purity, a profound lesson of humility, of untiring virtue, which prompts us never to allow an occasion of zeal for the glory of God and the salvation of souls to go by unexplored” (A.G., Guide, D.S.M.P., 1938-86 p. 193).

“When the faithful adore Christ present in the sacrament they should remember that this presence derives from the sacrifice and is directed towards both sacramental and spiritual communion. Dwelling with Christ our Lord, they enjoy his intimate friendship and pour out their hearts before him for themselves and their dear ones, and pray for peace and the salvation of the world” (EM, n. 50).

Leader: Sign of the Cross

O Sacrament most holy.

Our Father . . . Hail Mary . . . Glory . . .
Spiritual Communion – Particular Examine

PARTICULAR EXAMINE

In a few moments of silence a Daughter of St. Mary of Providence makes her particular examine, or, examines a specific aspect of her life that has the greatest need to be transformed by the Spirit of Jesus.

Leader: Heart of Jesus, All: Have pity on us.

Heart of Mary, All: Pray for us.

Glorious St. Joseph, All: Pray for us.

Seraphic St. Theresa, All: Pray for us.

Blessed Aloysiis Guanella, All: Pray for us.

Blessed Clare Bosatta, All: Pray for us.

Leader: For the sanctity of the Church; according to the intentions of the Holy Father:

All: Most holy providence of God, provide for us.

Leader: For the sanctity of our congregation, according to the expectations of the Heart of Jesus,

All: Most holy . . .

Leader: For the sanctity of all those we assist, according to their needs,

All: Most holy . . .

Leader: For the Servants of Charity, that they may be faithful to the spirit of the Founder, grow in number and in sanctity,

All: Most holy . . .

Leader: For the Guanellian Cooperators, that they may understand the beauty of the vocation to charity, and strive to correspond to it faithfully,

All: Most holy . . .

Other intercessions may be composed according to needs, such as:

That our Congregation, as a community, may be faithful to its mission, so as, to obtain from God, through prayer and unity of life numerous and holy vocations, most holy . . .

That our employees may live the spirit of our mission and take to heart the good of our suffering brothers and sisters with perseverance and love, most holy . . .

Leader: O God, You have made Blessed Aloysius glorious for his remarkable love toward the poor, grant us, we pray You, to serve You continually in the exercise of charity, and to receive through Your Paternal Providence, the inheritance of your children. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

DAYTIME PRAYER / EVENING PRAYER

We participate in the celebration of Daytime Prayer and Evening Prayer according to the practicability of each apostolic work.

For the Divine Office, follow the official text of the Church.

VIA CRUCIS

"Every day when you make the "Via Crucis" think of the road to Calvary . . . imagine that you are making the sorrowful journey on Good Friday with the "Ecce Homo" and you will make it profitably . . . If you make the "Via Crucis" in this manner, you can be dispensed from the half hour evening meditation" (A.G., Guide, D.S.M.P., 1938-86, p. 210).

THE WAY OF THE CROSS

By Richard Cardinal Cushing

Preparatory Prayer: O merciful Jesus! With a contrite heart and penitent spirit I undertake this devotion of The Way of the Cross in honor of Your bitter sufferings and death,

I give humble thanks for the boundless love which impelled You to carry the cross for me, an unworthy sinner, and to die for my redemption,

Make me worthy to gain all the spiritual benefits which are granted for this holy exercise.

I offer them to You in satisfaction for my sins, for which I am heartily sorry, for the consolation of the souls in purgatory and for the grace to persevere in the pathways of virtue.

Act of Contrition (Traditional)

The following is said before each station.

Leader: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise you.

All: Because by Your holy cross You have redeemed the world!

Pause briefly for silent reflection after reading the meditation on each station. Then the following may be said: Our Father,

Hail Mary, Glory and "Lamb of God you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on me."

1st Station JESUS BEFORE PILATE He was silent

Jesus bleeding from head to foot offers Himself to His enemies to be led to the most terrible death for me. Think of the love He has for my soul! How much value do I place on my own soul? God thought it worthy of the redeeming death of Christ.

2nd Station JESUS IS LADEN WITH THE CROSS He was resigned

Jesus gladly accepts the cross to which His hands and feet will be nailed. Do I accept willingly my heaviest cross? What is it? My God, I touch my cross to Your cross, Help me to carry it patiently. I am mindful that if anyone will follow You, he must be a cross-bearer.

3rd Station JESUS FALLS UNDER THE WEIGHT OF THE CROSS He is exhausted

Jesus willed that His human nature should fall under the weight of His cross. He wished to teach me that without His help I shall fall into sin. My Jesus, give strength to my weakness and save me from again committing my predominant sin of _____.

4th Station JESUS MEETS HIS BLESSED MOTHER He was sorrowful

Mary had always been close to her Divine Son. After a brief separation she risks her life to be with Him again. How much do I inconvenience myself to go to confession and Holy Communion after days of separation from Jesus? These sacraments keep me close to God.

5th Station SIMON OF CYRENE HELPS JESUS TO CARRY HIS CROSS He was grateful

Simon of Cyrene does his part to lessen the sufferings of Christ. Do I, by my good example and by prayer, try to prevent another from saying or doing wrong which would add to the sorrows of the Sacred Heart? My Savior, give me the grace to do my tiny share in lightening the burden of Your heavy cross.

6th Station A HOLY WOMAN WIPES THE FACE OF JESUS
He was compassionate

The woman whom we call Veronica fearlessly fought her way through the mob to the bleeding Savior in order to do Him service. What good turn do I do every day for Christ? Henceforth I shall be more thoughtful. I sow in this life; I reap in the next.

7th Station JESUS FALLS THE SECOND TIME He was destitute

Increasing weakness caused Jesus to fall the second time; but He also desires to teach me that I shall fall again and again unless I avoid temptation and seek strength in prayer and the sacraments. Although never tempted beyond my strength, I am a weakling without the support of God's grace.

8th Station JESUS CONSOLES THE WOMEN OF JERUSALEM He was sympathetic

How little Jesus thought of Himself in His sufferings! He is willing to endure agony without murmur if those for whom He suffers will only learn the lesson that their sins have caused that agony. He was bruised for our iniquities. He was wounded for our sins. What sin of mine has grieved Christ most?

9th Station JESUS FALLS THE THIRD TIME He was crushed

How many times have I taken resolutions to avoid my predominant sin, and to do some definite good work? How long have I kept my resolutions? Jesus falling for the third time, give me strength to rise above my weakness and to walk with You until the end.

10th Station JESUS IS STRIPPED OF HIS GARMENTS He was lonely

Jesus atones, in this station, for our sins of immodesty. In what way do I offend most against modesty-by the eye, the ear, the tongue, by action? Jesus offers up His body to repair the insults these sins offer to His Father. My Savior, help me to be always on guard so that my heart and soul may remain fitting abodes for Your presence.

11th Station JESUS IS NAILED TO THE CROSS He was slain

After a siege of the most terrible suffering, the Master is fastened by nails to His death-bed. Good Jesus, bless me with Your outstretched hands. Let but one drop of blood from Your wounded palms fall on my soul and cleanse it from every sin. Grant that my life hereafter may be free from the guilt of Your suffering.

12th Station JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS He was loyal

At the foot of Your cross, O dying Christ, I ask pardon for the part I have had in Your death. I am heartily sorry for all my sins. Be with me, Divine Redeemer, in my last moments. Forgive me as You forgave the penitent thief and receive my soul into paradise forever.

13th Station JESUS IS TAKEN DOWN FROM THE CROSS AND PLACED IN HIS MOTHER'S ARMS He was helpless

O Mary, Mother of Jesus and my Mother, let me kneel with you beside the lifeless body of your beloved Son. Obtain for me the grace to be loyal to Him by walking in the way of His commandments. Obtain for me especially the grace to receive Him worthily in Holy Communion until I am united with Him and with you for all eternity.

14th Station JESUS IS LAID IN THE TOMB AND ON THE THIRD DAY HE RISES AGAIN He was at rest

Jesus taught me how to live and how to die. He reminds me now that if I stay close to Him in life and in death, I shall rise from the tomb as He did, glorious and immortal, and share the happiness of heaven with Him for all eternity. Grant me the grace, good Master, so to live on earth that I may be worthy to share Your glory forever and ever.

Concluding Prayer: Almighty and eternal God, merciful Father, who has given Your only-begotten Son to the human race as an example of humility, obedience, and patience, and has ordained that He carry the cross and precede us on the way of life; grant, we beseech You, that inflamed by His infinite love we may take upon ourselves the sweet yoke of His Gospel and the mortification of the cross, following Him as His true disciples, so that we may one day gloriously rise with Him in the blessed eternity of the Kingdom of heaven.

One Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory, according to the Holy Father's intention.

VIA CRUCIS WITH MARY

Opening Prayer: O Sorrowful Virgin, accompany me on this sorrowful journey. Let me feel your experience as you travel together with Jesus. And you dear Jesus, make me share your compassion for the sorrows of Mary, that more than your own sorrows afflicted your heart.

Leader: Have mercy on us O Lord,

All: Have mercy on us

Leader: At the cross her station keeping,
Stood the mournful Mother weeping,
Close to Jesus to the last,

All: O Mary, Mother of Sorrows, pray for us.

Leader: We adore You, O Christ, and we praise You,

All: Because by Your holy cross You have redeemed the world!

1st Station Pilate condemns Jesus to death

O Sorrowful Virgin, by the sufferings of your motherly heart, in watching the Author of Life and Judge of the Living and the Dead, being judged and condemned to death, forgive me for I also have shouted, "Crucify Him" and pierced your heart. Grant me the grace to receive your mercy and never judge my neighbor.

Leader: Have mercy on us O Lord,

All: Have mercy on us.

Leader: Through her heart, his sorrow sharing,
All his bitter anguish bearing,
Now at length the sword has passed.

All: O Mary, Mother of Sorrows, pray for us.

Leader: We adore You, O Christ and we praise You,

All: Because by Your holy cross You have redeemed the world!

2nd Station Jesus accepts the cross

O Sorrowful Virgin, by the love with which Jesus embraced the longed for cross, so much feared by you, imprint the cross of Jesus in my heart with a tender devotion to His Passion and grant me the grace to accept the cross in my daily life for His Love.

Leader: Have mercy on us O Lord,

All: Have mercy on us.

Leader: Oh, how sad and sore distressed

Was that Mother highly blessed

Of the sole begotten One!

All: O Mary, Mother of Sorrows, pray for us.

Leader: We adore You, O Christ and we praise You,

All: Because by Your holy cross You have redeemed the world!

3rd Station Jesus falls the first time

O Sorrowful Virgin, by the agony of your motherly heart in not being able to lift Jesus in his first fall, assist me in rising from my falls into sin, and protect the innocent from the often disastrous and irreparable consequences of the first fall.

Leader: Have mercy on us O Lord,

All: Have mercy on us.

Leader: Christ above in torment hangs,

She beneath beholds the pangs

Of her dying, glorious Son.

All: O Mary, Mother of Sorrow, pray for us.

Leader: We adore You, O Christ and we praise you,

All: Because by your holy cross You have redeemed the world!

4th Station Jesus meets his mother

O Sorrowful Virgin, by the pain you suffered in meeting Jesus, in so pitiful a state, obtain for me the grace of meeting a merciful Jesus after my sins, and meeting you the consoler of the afflicted, as I ascend my Calvary.

Leader: Have mercy on us O Lord,

All: Have mercy on us.

Leader: Is there one who would not weep,
'Whelmed in miseries so deep,
Christ's dear Mother to behold?

All: O Mary, Mother of Sorrows, pray for us.

Leader: We adore You, O Christ and we praise You,

All: Because by Your holy cross You have redeemed the world!

5th Station Simon helps Jesus

O Sorrowful Virgin, by the comfort of your motherly heart in having obtained from the Father the help of the Cyrene for Jesus, and the grace of his continuing in love rather than by the initial force, help me to carry my cross in a spirit of expiation and reparation, not dragging it by force but accepting it.

Leader: Have mercy on us O Lord,

All: Have mercy on us.

Leader: Can the human heart refrain
From partaking in her pain,
In that mother's pain untold?

All: O Mary, Mother of Sorrows, pray for us.

Leader: We adore You, O Christ and we praise You,

All: Because by Your holy cross You have redeemed the
world!

6th Station Veronica wipes the face of Jesus

O Sorrowful Virgin, by the comfort you received by the
courageous act of Veronica, perhaps at your suggestion, and
for the gracious reward given by Jesus, print in my heart the
spiritual features of Jesus, so that I may be recognized as your
true daughter.

Leader: Have mercy on us O Lord,

All: Have mercy on us.

Leader: Bruised, derided, cursed, defiled,

She beheld her tender Child,

All with bloody scourges rent.

All: O Mary, Mother of Sorrows, pray for us.

Leader: We adore You, O Christ and we praise You.

All: Because by Your holy cross You have redeemed the
world!

7th Station Jesus falls a second time

O Sorrowful Virgin, by the sufferings of your motherly heart
at the second fall of Jesus, grant me an understanding of sin,
patience in contradictions, and compassion toward sinners.

Leader: Have mercy on us O Lord,

All: Have mercy on us.

Leader: For the sins of his own nation
Saw him hang in desolation
Till his spirit forth he sent.

All: O Mary, Mother of Sorrows, pray for us.

Leader: We adore You, O Christ and we praise You.

All: Because by Your holy cross You have redeemed the world!

8th Station Jesus consoles the women of Jerusalem

O Sorrowful Virgin, by the comfort you experienced by the compassion of the Women of Jerusalem, grant me the grace to weep for the sorrows of Jesus, after weeping for my sins, and like Him forget my sufferings to console my neighbor.

Leader: Have mercy on us O Lord,

All: Have mercy on us.

Leader: O sweet Mother! font of love,

Touch my spirit from above,

Make my heart with yours accord.

All: O Mary, Mother of Sorrows, pray for us.

Leader: We adore You, O Christ and we praise You.

All: Because by Your holy cross You have redeemed the world!

9th Station Jesus falls the third time

O Sorrowful Virgin, by the sufferings of your motherly heart at the third fall of Jesus, grant that I may never lose faith to correct my faults, and to all sinners the grace never to despair of God's pardon.

Leader: Have mercy on us O Lord,

All: Have mercy on us.

Leader: Make my feel as you have felt;
Make my soul to glow and melt
With the love of Christ, my Lord.

All: O Mary, Mother of Sorrows, pray for us.

Leader: We adore You, O Christ and we praise You.

All: Because by Your holy cross You have redeemed the world!

10th Station Jesus is stripped of His garments.

O Sorrowful Virgin, by the sorrow in seeing Jesus stripped of the clothes which you had woven with so much love, strip me of my impurity and immodesty, and clothe me with your virtues.

Leader: Have mercy on us O Lord,

All: Have mercy on us.

Leader: Holy Mother, pierce me through,
In my heart each wound renew
Of my Savior crucified.

All: O Mary, Mother of Sorrows, pray for us.

Leader: We adore You, O Christ and we praise You.

All: Because by Your holy cross You have redeemed the world!

11th Station Jesus is crucified

O Sorrowful Virgin, by the torture your motherly heart experienced at the sight of the atrocious crucifixion of your beloved Jesus, obtain for me the pardon of my sins, which more than the hammers, sink the nails into your Son's innocent body. Grant me the strength to crucify my passions in order to enjoy the fruits of His redemption.

Leader: Have mercy on us O Lord,

All: Have mercy on us.

Leader: Let me share with you his pain,

Who for all our sins was slain,

Who for me in torments died,

All: O Mary, Mother of Sorrows, pray for us.

Leader: We adore You, O Christ and we praise You,

All: Because by Your holy cross You have redeemed the world!

12th Station Jesus dies

O Sorrowful Virgin, who like the heavenly Father loved us so much as to consent to the death of Jesus, to obtain for us a life of grace and glory, listen to the will of your dying Son, who gave you as our mother, and do not let the tears and the precious blood of your son be shed in vain.

Leader: Have mercy on us O Lord,

All: Have mercy on us.

Leader: Let me mingle tears with you,

Mourning him who mourned for me,

All the days that I may live.

All: O Mary, Mother of Sorrows, pray for us.

Leader: We adore You, O Christ and we praise You,

All: Because by Your holy cross You have redeemed the world!

13th Station Jesus is taken down from the cross and placed in the arms of His mother.

O Sorrowful Virgin, by the pain of your motherly heart in receiving the dead body of your Divine son in your arms,

kissing that bloody face, that forehead pricked with thorns, those hands pierced with nails, that side opened by the lance, obtain for me the grace to know how to live for the love of Him, who died for Love of me.

Leader: Have mercy on us O Lord,

All: Have mercy on us.

Leader: By the cross with you to stay,
There with you to weep and pray,
Is all I ask of you to give.

All: O Mary, Mother of Sorrows, pray for us.

Leader: We adore You, O Christ and we praise You,

All: Because by Your holy cross You have redeemed the world!

14th Station Jesus is laid in the tomb

O Sorrowful Virgin, by the sorrow you experienced at the grave of Jesus, obtain for me the grace to rise above my sins and tepidity and so live in fervor, that nourishes itself on the continuous remembrance and love of the Passion of Jesus and your tears.

Leader: Have mercy on us O Lord,

All: Have mercy on us.

Leader: While my body here decays,

May my soul your goodness praise,
Safe in heaven eternally. Amen.

All: O Mary, Mother of Sorrows, pray for us.

Leader: We adore You, O Christ and we praise You,

All: Because by Your holy cross You have redeemed the world!

Leader: Jesus, Savior, save us by the power of your cross,
All: You who saved Peter on the water, have mercy on us.

Leader: Let us pray: O God, you willed to sanctify the life-giving cross with the precious blood of Your only begotten Son, grant we beseech You, that we who are privileged to venerate the same Holy Cross, may also enjoy everywhere Your protection, Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen. May the divine assistance remain always with us. Amen.

ALTERNATE SABAT MATER

At the cross her station keeping,
Mary stood in sorrow, weeping,
When her Son was crucified.

While she waited in her anguish,
Seeing Christ in torment languish,
Bitter sorrow pierced her heart.

With what pain and desolation,
With what noble resignation,
Mary watched her dying Son.

Ever patient in her yearning,
Though her tear filled eyes were burning,
Mary gazed upon her Son.

Who, that sorrow contemplating,
On that passion meditating,
Would share the Virgin's grief?

Christ she saw, for our salvation,
Scourged with cruel acclamation,
Bruised and beaten by the rod.

Christ she saw with life-blood failing,
All her anguish unavailing,
Saw him breathe his very last.

Mary, fount of love's devotion,
Let me share with true emotion,
All the sorrow you endured.

Virgin, ever interceding,
Hear me in my fervent pleading;
Fire me with your love of Christ.

Mother, may this prayer be granted;
That Christ's love may be implanted
In the depths of my poor soul.

At the cross, your sorrow sharing,
All your grief and torment bearing,
Let me stand and mourn with you.

Fairest maid of creation,
Queen of hope and consolation,
Let me feel your grief sublime.

Virgin, in your love befriend me,
At the Judgment Day defend me,
Help me by your constant prayer.

Savior, when my life shall leave me,
Through your mother's prayers receive me
With the fruits of victory.

Let me to your love be taken,
Let my soul to death awaken,
To the joys of Paradise.

THE HOLY ROSARY

"After the celebration of the Hours, the apex of family prayer is without doubt the Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary. It shall be held as one of the most excellent and effective communal prayers, which the Christian family is invited to pray" (Marialis Cultus. no. 54).

"Let us pray the Holy Rosary faithfully, it is the breviary of all those devoted to Mary and strive to meditate on the life, passion, and death of our Divine Savior" (Cfr. in: La Divina Provvidenza, 1905, p. 147).

Leader: The Apostles Creed, Our Father,

(Faith, hope, and love are the three basic virtues central to our relationship with God. Let us pray for their growth and development in our lives as dedicated followers of Christ), The Hail Mary is said three times, followed by The Glory . . .

Alternate introduction:

Leader: O God, come to my assistance,

All: Lord, make haste to help me.

Leader: Glory . . .

MYSTERIES OF THE ROSARY

It is traditional to say all five decades of one of the Mysteries of the Rosary. According to custom, the Joyful Mysteries are said on Monday and Thursday and daily during Advent; the Sorrowful Mysteries are said on Tuesday and Friday, and daily from Ash Wednesday until Easter; the Glorious Mysteries are said on Wednesday, Saturday and Sunday.

The leader announces each mystery, and if desired, another person or the leader may read a brief passage related to

the mystery being recalled. The "Lord's Prayer," ten "Hail Mary's" and the "Glory" are said after each mystery.

Joyful Mysteries

1. Annunciation of the birth of Jesus to Mary by the angel Gabriel
2. Visitation of Mary to her cousin Elizabeth
3. Nativity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ
4. Presentation of the infant Jesus in the Temple
5. Finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple by Mary and Joseph

Sorrowful Mysteries

1. Agony of Jesus in the Garden
2. Scourging of Jesus at the Pillar
3. Placing of the crown of thorns on the head of Jesus
4. Carrying the Cross by Jesus
5. Crucifixion of our Lord Jesus Christ

Glorious Mysteries

1. Resurrection of our Lord from the dead
2. Ascension of our Lord into heaven
3. Descent of the Holy Spirit upon the apostles on Pentecost
4. Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary into heaven
5. Coronation of the Virgin Mary

Suggested endings: O Lady of Divine Providence by the glorious triumph of your Immaculate Conception and your glorious Assumption into heaven, aide, hear, and console this our community and all our families. Hail Holy Queen...
Litany follows.

Alternate prayer after the Rosary: O God, whose only begotten Son, by His life, death, and resurrection, has purchased for us the rewards of eternal life; grant, we beseech you, that meditating upon these mysteries of the most holy rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we may imitate what they contain and obtain what they promise, through the same Christ our Lord. Amen. Hail Holy Queen . . . Litany follows.

Suggested ejaculations after each decade of the rosary.

- Our Lady of Providence, pray for us.
- O Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fire of hell, and bring all souls to heaven especially those who most need your mercy.
- Mary, Mother of the Church, pray for us.
- O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to you.

Others ejaculations may be selected.

THE LITANY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN (The Litany of Loreto)

Lord, have mercy on us.

Christ, have mercy on us.

Lord, have mercy on us.

Christ, hear us.

Christ, graciously hear us.

God the Father of heaven, have mercy on us.

God the Son, Redeemer of the world, have mercy on us.

God the Holy Spirit, have mercy on us.

Holy Trinity, one God, have mercy on us

Holy Mary, (repeat "pray for us" after each intercession)

Holy Mother of God,

Holy Virgin of virgins,

Mother of Christ,
Mother of divine grace,
Mother most pure,
Mother most chaste,
Mother inviolate,
Mother undefiled,
Mother most amiable,
Mother most admirable,
Mother of Good Counsel,
Mother of Divine Providence,
Mother of our Creator,
Mother of our Savior,
Mother of the Church,
Virgin most prudent,
Virgin most venerable,
Virgin most renowned,
Virgin most powerful,
Virgin most merciful,
Virgin most 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
Queen of Priests
Queen of Prophets
Queen of Apostles
Queen of Martyrs
Queen of Confessors
Queen of Virtues
Queen of All Saints
Queen conceived without sin
Queen assumed into heaven
Queen of the Holy Rosary
Queen of peace
Tomb of God, you take away the sins of
Lord us O Lord
Tomb of God, you take away the sins
Mercy on us
Cprise
All: That we may be made worthy to
body O Lord God. Let the intercession of the
Virgin Mary assist for us to draw on
Let us pray: Grant your servants
Lord, Amen.

Help of Christians,
Queen of Angels,
Queen of Patriarchs,
Queen of Prophets,
Queen of Apostles,
Queen of Martyrs,
Queen of Confessors,
Queen of Virgins,
Queen of all Saints,
Queen conceived without original sin,
Queen assumed into heaven,
Queen of the Most Holy Rosary,
Queen of peace.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, spare us O Lord,
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, graciously hear us O Lord,
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

Leader: Pray for us, O holy Mother of God,
All: That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray: Grant your servants continual health of mind and body, O Lord God. Let the intercession of the blessed ever-virgin Mary gain for us freedom from our present sorrow. Give us the joy of everlasting happiness. Through Christ our Lord, Amen.

THE LITANY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN (Latin)

THE LITANY OF THE HOLY CROSS	THE LITANY OF THE HOLY CROSS
Virgo prudentissima	Karie, éléison!
Virgo veneranda	Karie, éléison!
Virgo praedicanda	Karie, éléison!
Virgo potens	Karie, éléison!
Virgo clemens	Karie, éléison!
Virgo fidelis	Karie, éléison!
Speculum justitiae	Karie, éléison!
Sedes sapientiae	Karie, éléison!
Causa nostrae laetitiae	Criste, auge nos!
Vas spirituale	Criste, auge nos!
Vas honorabile	Criste, exaudi nos!
Vas insigne devotionis	Criste, exaudi nos!
Rosa mystica	Pater di Cogite, Deus
Turris Davidica	Missere nos!
Turris eburnea	Fili, Redemptor nuncify, Deus
Domus aurea	Missere nos!
Foederis arca	Missere nos!
Janua coeli	Missere nos!
Stella matutina	Missere nos!
Salus infirmorum	Sancte Maria, ora pro nobis
Refugium peccatorum	Sancte Dei Clemetissime
Consolatrix afflictorum	Sancta Maria Virginum
Auxilium Christianorum	Master Christi
Regina angelorum	Master Beatae Virginitatis
Regina Patriarcharum	Master dilectionis
Regina Prophetarum	Master misericordie
Regina apostolorum	Master castissimus
Regina martyrum	Master uiuacitas
Regina confessorum	Master intercessio
Regina virginum	Master supplicie
Regina sanctorum omnium	Master adiutoris
Regina sine labe originali concepta	Master poni consilii
Regina in coelum assumpta	Master Divitiae Provvidentiae
Regina sacratissimi rosarii	Master Sustentationis
Regina pacis	Master Clemetotatis

Agnus Dei qui tollis peccata mundi,
Parce nobis Domine!

Agnus Dei qui tollis peccata mundi,
Exaudi nos, Domine!

Agnus Dei qui tollis peccata mundi,
Miserere nobis!

Ora pro nobis sancta Dei Genitrix,
Ut digni efficiamur promissionibus Christi.

Oremus: Concede nos famulos tuos, quaesemus, Domine Deus, perpetua mentis et corporis sanitate guadere: et gloriose beatae Mariae semper Virginis intercessione, a praesenti liberari tristitia et aeterna perfrui laetitia. Per Christum Dominum nostrum. Amen.

BIBLICAL LITANY OF MARY

Leader: Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: Christ, have mercy.

All: Christ, have mercy.

Leader: Lord, have mercy.

All: Lord, have mercy.

Leader: God the Father of heaven, All: Have mercy on us.

God Redeemer of the world,

God the Holy Spirit,

Holy Trinity, one God,

Virgin, daughter of Zion, All: Pray for us.

Descendant of Abraham,

Glory of Jerusalem,

Joy of Israel,

Honor of our People,
Ark of the Covenant,
Tabernacle of the Most High,
Virgin of Nazareth,
Spouse of Joseph the Worker,
Full of grace,
Spouse of the Just,
Mother of the Son of the Most High,
Mother of the Son of David,
Mother of the King of Israel,
Mother by virtue of the Holy Spirit,
Handmaid of the Lord,
Oh, Blessed among all women,
Mother of the Lord,
Mother of the Messiah,
Virgin, who kept all in her heart,
Mother, who presented Jesus in the Temple,
Mother, who the Magi found with the child,
Mother, who Joseph brought into Egypt,
Mother, who searched for Jesus three days,
Mother, who found Jesus in the temple,
Virgin, to whom Jesus was subject,
You who hastened the first miracle of Jesus in Cana,
O Mary, you who chose the better part,
O Blessed, who listened to the Word of God,
O Blessed, who lived the Word of God,
O Mother, who stood firm beneath the cross,
O Mother, who persevered with the Apostles in
prayer,
O Woman, clothed with the Sun,
O Woman, crowned with twelve stars,
Sorrowful Mother of the Church,
Image of the heavenly Jerusalem,
The new Eve, who with her Son crushed the head of
the ancient serpent,

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us,
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us,
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant us peace,

Leader: Pray for us, O holy mother of God.

All: That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Leader: Let us pray: (After the Joyful Mysteries)

O God, you willed that at the Annunciation, Your Son would become incarnate in the womb of the Virgin Mary; grant us your help through the intercession of her whom we believe to be the true Mother of God. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Leader: Let us pray: (After the Sorrowful Mysteries)

O Lord, look on us your family, for whom our Lord Jesus Christ did not hesitate to give Himself over to the hands of criminals and to undergo the sufferings of the cross. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

Leader: Let us pray: (After the Glorious Mysteries)

Have mercy on us, O Lord, and grant us eternal life together with the Blessed Virgin Mary the Mother of God, with the Apostles and all the Saints, who in every age were pleasing to you, and in Jesus Christ we will sing your glory, forever and ever. Amen.

PRAYER TO THE HOLY FAMILY

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, be the advocates and defenders of our dear Gouglieation. Grant us always to follow your saintly descension, and dispel each and every

MARIAN CELEBRATION OF THE ROSARY

On the principle feasts of the Virgin Mary, a Marian Celebration can be held concentrating on any one of the mysteries or other events of the life of Christ or the story of salvation. On a feast day of Mary or during a month dedicated to her, change the mysteries for meditation, plan novenas, or a triduum according to the plan suggested.

- a. Introduction: An appropriate hymn.
- b. Brief presentation of the mystery selected.
- c. Reading: One or two verses of a responsorial psalm.
- d. Reflection: Guided or in silence.
- e. Recitation of ten Hail Mary's.
- f. Intercessions
- g. Our Father.
- h. Concluding prayer from either the Missal or the Liturgy of the Hours.
- i. Marian Hymn in closing.

COMPLINE

Leader: Sign of the Cross

O Sacrament most Holy, O Sacrament Divine.

All: All praise and all thanksgiving be every moment thine.

Leader: Our Father . . .

Hail Mary Glory

PRAYER TO THE HOLY FAMILY

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, be the advocates and protectors of our dear Congregation. Guard it, defend it from every adversity, persecution, and diabolic deceit. Turn on each and

everyone of us a glance of special love. Provide for all our spiritual and temporal needs. Bless our Superiors, grant and invoke upon them the comfort of the Holy Spirit. Bless our works of charity and zeal. Be our guide in the practical observance of the Holy Rule, and therefore, make us know the power and the sublimity of that interior life of silence, obscurity, of hidden sacrifice and of abandonment to the will of God, which is the secret of true holiness and the highest perfection. O Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, dwell in the midst of us and our House will become like yours, a house of peace, of continual prayer, of humble obedience and charity which are the bonds which keep our hearts united to the Heart of Jesus, our only love and sweetest spouse. Amen.

O Jesus, Mary and Joseph enlighten, assist, and save us. Amen.

O St. Joseph, foster father of Jesus Christ, and true spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary, pray for us and for the dying of this night.

Leader: For our sick Sisters: Health of the sick, pray for us.

Hail Mary . . .

O God, come to my assistance.

All: Lord, make haste to help me.

Leader: Glory . . .

Examine

EXAMINE YOURSELF

“Give special attention to the faults you have committed against your holy vows, remembering, however, that you must not look at the letter which kills, but rather to the Spirit which vivifies” (A.G., Guide, D.S.M.P., 1938–86, p. 214–215).

The Daughter of St. Mary of Providence places herself before Jesus Christ, model of mercy, and on the measure of His love examines her day.

We suggest the following plan:

GIVE THANKS

"I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise always on my lips; (Ps 34:2)
On another day: How many inspirations, how many gifts, what graces known and unknown!

On another day: A new experience of God in my regard . . .
Thanks to you O Lord

ASK FOR LIGHT

"Come, Holy Spirit, fill me with the fire of your love, let your light shine upon me":

- that I may discover my defects of today;
- that I may understand their causes;
- that I may detect the remedies;
- that I may feel their displeasure;
- that I may promptly flee from them;

Lord, that I may know You, that I may know myself!

Lord, you know well what man is, what I am: may I understand myself so as to give more pleasure to you.

EXAMINE YOURSELF

Have my thoughts been for God, my Father?

Have I made my meditation well? For the established time?

Have I found in it nourishment for my union with God, during this day?

Has the celebration of the Eucharist had the first place in my day?

How have I made the other practices of community prayers?

Can I say that my whole day was a sacrifice of praise to God?

Did I seek to express my love to the Father with frequent acts of faith, hope, love and thanksgiving?

How have I practiced Christian mortification today?

During meals, was I moderate?

Did I have any sufferings today? How did I accept them?

Did I have any joys today? Was I grateful to God?

How were my encounters with my brothers and sisters? Did I practice charity in thoughts, words, and deeds?

Is there someone who is sad this evening because of me?

Was there something displeasing today?

What do I foresee in particular for tomorrow?

REGRETS

“Lord, I have sinned: have mercy on me!”

“Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness, in your compassion blot out my offense” (Ps 51).

RESOLUTION

“A pure heart create for me, O God, put a steadfast spirit within me” (Ps 51).

Lord, may your grace help me to correct my faults, I want tomorrow to be a better day.

PRAYER FOR FORGIVENESS (may vary from time to time)

I confess . . . Lord, have mercy . . . You were sent to heal . . . (Breviary)

O God of infinite goodness who are always a Father even to her who ceases to be your daughter, I repent sincerely of having offended you, because you are worthy of being loved, served, and obeyed.

My Lord Jesus Christ, pardon this heart of mine for its ingratitude. It is a repentant heart which desires to expiate the

evil done and to strive to observe your law of love exactly. From now on I want to love you and my brothers and sisters without reserve. Enfold me in the wounds of Your side in which I desire to live and die. Virgin Immaculate, Angels, and Saints, my advocates, help me to live my resolution. Amen.

“O Jesus, who in the Most Holy Sacrament dwells day and night eager to bless and pardon, bless us who are in Your presence. Pardon us while we still have voice to say: We have sinned, O Lord!” (Cfr. L. G., *Le missioni in casa*, 1934, p. 132).

A Hymn of forgiveness may be used.

Leader: May Almighty God have mercy on us, forgive us our sins, and bring us to everlasting life.

All: Amen.

For Compline, follow the official text of the Church.

At the end of Compline

Leader: Heart of Jesus, fountain of life and holiness

All: Have mercy on us.

Reading of the Gospel for the following day.

Necrology

Leader: Tomorrow is the anniversary of: Names of departed Sisters are announced and where available a brief biography for Sisters known to the community.
Out of the depths . . .

For God's protection during the night.

Blessed Aloysius Guanella, All: pray for us.
Blessed Clare Bosatta, All: pray for us.
Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory . . .

All: Holy Virgin Mary, we place ourselves under your precious mantle, we offer you our hearts and beg

you to inflame them with your holy, divine love, to guard us, to make us saints, to look upon us always as your daughters. O good Jesus, Virgin Mary, I pray you to bless my soul.

Leader: Praised be Jesus Christ,

All: Now and forever. Amen.

Conclude with the Sign of the Cross

BEGINNING OF THE GRAND SILENCE DURING THE NIGHT

Eternal Father, I offer You the Sacred Heart of Jesus, with all its love, all its sufferings and all its merits:

- to expiate all the sins I have committed this day, and during all my life; Glory . . .
- to purify the good I have done poorly, this day and during all my life; Glory . . .
- to make up for the good I ought to have done and that I have neglected this day and during all my life; Glory be . . .
- to thank you for the evil I may have done and did not do this day and during all my life; if I have not done it, the merit is not mine, but the pure effect of your paternal goodness, which has mercifully preserved me. Glory . . .

Jesus, Mary, Joseph, I give you my heart and my soul.

Jesus, Mary, Joseph, assist me in my last agony.

Jesus, Mary, Joseph, may I die in peace with you.

“Every blessing from heaven I”

“Every blessing of the Lord my God”

“Every blessing of peace” (A.C., Reg. 20.C.)

THE SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

“Wash yourselves clean! Put away your misdeeds from before my eyes; cease doing evil; learn to do good” (Is 1:16).

“Those who approach the sacrament of Penance obtain pardon from God’s mercy for the offense committed against Him, and are, at the same time, reconciled with the Church . . .” (LG n. 9).

“With humility and trust in the pardon of God, open candidly to the Confessor the inner recesses of your soul to be cleansed and to receive pardon with fullness of grace” (Cfr. A.G., Guide, D.S.M.P., 1938–86, p. 159).

“If you make the particular examine well, and the examine in the evening, you will make your confessions well” (A.G., Conferences to the Sisters).

AN OUTLINE FOR THE EXAMINE OF CONSCIENCE

1. ONLY ONE SPIRIT

“Blessed Guanella, had his spirit very clear and he was so convinced of it that if anyone, for whatever reason, and even with the best of intentions were to interfere to have it changed, he was ready to renounce establishing the two institutes juridically as Congregations, to find another form that would agree with him, so as to transmit his spirit rather than alter it” (Cfr. L. Mazzucchi, La vita . . . , 1920, p. 181 s).

“Every religious family has a particular spirit, prompted by the grace of the Lord and by the nature of the times and by the circumstances of place” (A.G., Reg. S.o.C. 1910, p. 131).

- The religious meets these features of its spirit above all in her spirituality. A spirituality is true only if it transforms a life. Am I aware of this?
- The religious charisma, gift "created by God for the service of others," must constitute my identity. The elements of such a gift become the characteristic features of my physiognomy. Is it at these levels that I verify my identity? Or do I hold that my "ego" is uniquely defined by the gifts that I possess, by the talents, by the culture? Do I think of being fulfilled only through them?
- Do I consider my belonging to the Guanellian family as a casual fact, secondary or "providential," for which I thank God continuously?
- Am I aware of being a bearer, by the grace of God, of a special charisma that unites me to all the members of the Guanellian family: Servants of Charity, Daughters of St. Mary of Providence, Cooperators, friends, volunteers?
- Do I pledge myself to deepen the origins of the true spirit of Blessed Guanella?
- As a faithful Guanellian religious do I strive to grasp the signs of the times and fulfill, to the best of my ability the will of God manifested in them, leaving it to Providence to lead the events as he wills and to utilize even my efforts to the fulfillment of his plans over me?

2. GOD THE FATHER: PROVIDENCE AND MERCY

"God the Father looks upon you as if you were his only concern. In this he resembles the sun, which shines on all and at the same time sends its rays to you as if it had only you to provide for. Therefore, as in every corner of the earth the sun shines, so you must remember that in every part of the world the Lord from on high seeks you to aid you" (L.G., Andiamo al Padre. 1880, p. 47).

- God is my Father; do I believe that if I entrust my life to Him, "he will smooth my paths and my plans will succeed?"
- Do I cultivate the faith of Blessed Guanella, that even within human events he knew how to see the power and the richness of the Spirit of God who watches over us and over our apostolate?
- The characteristic of a Guanellian is that of having a "merciful heart;" how does this quality resound within me?
- On what criteria do I base my decisions and choices; to whom do I give preference, friendship, comfort? To the poorest, as Blessed Guanella willed?
- Blessed Guanella invites us to give first place to the most abandoned to be certain of His divine help. Am I concerned that these ideals be fostered in the Congregation, contributing by prayer, sacrifice and actual support?

3. PRAYER AND WORK

The divine paternity, dominating in the spirituality of the Blessed, interiorly enlightens and vivifies the Daughters of St. Mary of Providence, rendering ardent, filial piety.

Devotions specifically for the Congregation:

- the Eucharist, "the fire of the Charity of God" (Cf. A.G., Guide, D.S.M.P., 1938-86, p. 86).
- the Sacred Heart, "patron, guardian, master and Lord of the House, since the beginning," to whom is due adoration and love (L.G. Reg. S.d.C., 1905, p. 77).

Mary most holy and Immaculate, "our mother, all good, all merciful" (L.G., Reg. S.d.C., 1905, p. 78). "Our Lady of Divine Providence."

- Does my prayer unfold in an atmosphere of confidence with the Father? Do I seek to deepen this relationship of

“Father-child” which was the “heart” of the entire life of the Founder?

- The Rule of life obliges me to moments of personal and communitarian prayer: do I feel within me the joy of meeting with God “face to face?”
- the Eucharist is the encounter between me, a finite creature, and the Christ who comes from eternity, the Risen One: do I live it as an experience of resurrection?
- The Heart of Jesus has inspired and nourished the spirituality of Blessed Guanella.

Does it sustain me in a generous and joyous giving of every intellectual, spiritual and physical energy for the untiring service of God and neighbor? Does it render sacrifice familiar to me, the serene acceptance of suffering? Does it urge me to examine behavior based on humility and meekness?

- Mary of Nazareth is the woman whose motherly commitment has spread to universal dimension: have I chosen her definitely as guide for my journey toward God?

“The members of this Little House must work with energy to the end of coming to the aid of the various works of mercy which Providence places in their hands” (L.G. Metodo, 1889, p. ls).

- Does “work”, the faithful companion of Blessed Guanella, constitute, even in my case, the characteristic of my will? (L.G., Metodo, 1889, p. ls.). Do I work using my body? Do I work using my mind? (L.G., Metodo, 1889, p. 53).
- Personally and communitarily have we preserved the characteristic of “Hard-working Sisters”? (Cf. L. Mazzucchi, The Life . . . 1920, p. 138).
- Am I really convinced that my vocation is to tire myself out for the Lord as a victim for sin: to work with vigor of will and joy of spirit so as to exercise the works of mercy, to merit before God and to make the work of Divine Providence progress?

- Am I convinced that the renunciation of appreciable things and self-denial lead to a solid maturity of person in her humanity and spirituality?
- In "doing good" do I seek not to appear, as accomplishing more actions of love; am I prompt to any office Providence wishes to assign to me?

4.iii BOND OF CHARITY

The Daughters so gathered together remain especially united by the bond of charity and by the bond of the three vows (L.G., Stat. Crocine, p. 2s.).

The manner of living the spirit of Charity renders the Congregation a family: "the members of the Little House live among themselves resembling the Holy Family. They love each other heartily and treat each other with much gentleness" (Cf. L.G., *Metodo*, 1889, p. 42).

- Charity is mercy: toward the Sisters in difficulty, in crises for any problem: spiritual, moral, emotional, or material.
Am I sensitive and let myself be guided by the criteria of mercy more than that of justice and rigor?
- Charity is patience: do I believe that patience overcomes everything? Do I believe that, although to all appearance I am losing, that I will conquer? Do I overcome little disputes with greatness of soul?
- Charity is not annoyed: is gentleness constant in my life? Am I convinced that true strength lies in the one who knows how to dominate herself?
- Charity is supportive: do I cultivate a special love toward the sick Sisters, and the aged who closely represent Jesus crucified?
- Charity is a bearer of joy: called to live in a family climate we should verify its authenticity even in joy, in the spirit

of acceptance, in the area of hospitality . . . how do we personally and communitarily refine this sensitivity? Can we say that we attend to the greatest ideal the love of Christ has pointed out to us? "Love one another as I have loved you."

5. OUR STYLE

"In everything even to the point of a fault, a heart that wants to please and profit her neighbor should show herself courteous, free, condescending, rich in that liberty of spirit which is a true gift of heaven" (L.G., *Metodo*, 1889, p. 10: cfr. L.G., *Regol. S.d.C.*, 1910 p. 133).

- For Blessed Guanella the best system of education is a "familiar benevolence." Do we know how to adopt this method in our manner of working? Are we accustomed to examine ourselves on the exercise of this virtue?
- With all those entrusted to us, above all toward those who suffer more, do we use the pedagogy of a most loving and courteous charity? Do we use all the means available to us to alleviate their sufferings?
- Do we cultivate a personal and communitarian life style based on simplicity so dear to Blessed Guanella?

ANOTHER OUTLINE FOR THE EXAMINE OF CONSCIENCE CONSECRATED TO GOD

"We, Daughters of St. Mary of Providence, chosen by a merciful God to enjoy the banquet of Divine Love, and to live the total demands of Baptism, bind ourselves with vows to live that same type of life, virginal, poor, and obedient, which Christ chose for Himself . . . " (Const. Art. 8).

Blessed Guanella is very attentive in pointing out the directives of Jesus: if we find ourselves following him it is because, through his spirit, we have been overtaken by his call.

- Am I aware of the special love with which God loves me?
- Do I recognize habitually with humility and truth the gratuitous gift of my vocation?
- Is recognition toward the good and merciful God an habitual dimension of my prayer and my life?
- Do I live my consecration in joy or am I rather resigned to the vows made and convinced that it was I who gave something to the Lord?
- Do I reduce my fidelity in my flight from grave sin?
- Do I forget that the vows are a means that help me to exercise more efficiently and in an heroic degree the Christian virtues that will make of me a real witness of Christ in the world?
- Do I strive daily to imitate Christ, to model myself to his word, and his examples?
- Do I cultivate the will of making Jesus the ultimate norm of my personal world?
- Am I convinced that religious life places me in the best position so that baptismal grace may develop more fully?
- Am I really convinced that all requires of me a continual conversion?

Blessed Guanella loved to place his thinking on the evangelical counsels in the context of the Beatitudes:

He writes: "When your Director was visiting the Holy Land, he ascended Mt. Tabor and thought, with paternal tenderness of the Daughters of St. Mary of Providence. He saw you amazed and recollected, listening to the words of the Divine Master who went on repeating: "Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven." "Blessed are the clean

of heart . . . how fortunate you are to be called to the most noble band of persons who accompanied him to Calvary and who followed the example of suffering of Jesus on the Cross.” (A.G., *Guide*, D.S.M.P., 1938-86, p. 17-18)?

- Do I make the Sermon on the Mountain my program of life, the point of reference for my choices, in internal tensions?
- Do I read the history of my vocation in the context of the beatitudes and do I ask God the grace to actuate the radical demands they contain?

Even the mission becomes part of the consecration with which the Lord chose us and made us his own. The apostolic duty is essential in our fidelity. For Blessed Guanella “vocation” and “mission” are all one. His religious must be a “light and salt of the earth, city seated on a mountain” to express their witness of charity by continuing the work entrusted by God to the Founder himself.

- Do I feel “on mission” for what I am and for what I do?
- Is my life dominated by the desire of the Kingdom?
- Do I really “give” my time and my strength to the mission which providence has entrusted to me, without losing time or searching for conveniences?
- Am I always available to accept and to extend aid to a brother and sister who comes to me in a state of loneliness, of abandonment and suffering?
- Am I concerned about maintaining and improving my competency in the field of health care, education, and other areas of service, to offer qualified service?
- Do I go to the poor in the true spirit and method of Blessed Guanella, assuring active assistance, seeking personal contact, and gradually to re-awaken their responsibility?
- How do I practice acceptance, tenderness, delicacy, family spirit, and Guanellian optimism and joy?

The Founder required of his religious a radical fidelity to their holy vows just because being called to a life of consecration is a "great gift" of God.

"Lean entirely with heart and will on that God who has called you, and faithful to the vocation received, confide in Him and your trust will never be confounded" (A.G., Guide, D.S.M.P., 1938-86, p. 86).

- Am I accustomed to meditate on this truth?
- Do I strive to be a "faithful servant" of the Lord in daily life after the example of Mary and of the Founder?
- Is our Lady, the faithful virgin, a meaningful presence in my consecrated life?
- Do I devote sufficient time to meditate on her most prominent virtues: fidelity, humility, self-giving, purity . . . ?
- Are the examples of fidelity left by our deceased brothers and sisters a privileged source of consideration for me and do they spur me on the way of sanctity with greater resolution?

Blessed Guanella wanted his religious to be strong souls, generous in corresponding to the love of God, prompt to sacrifice even their own life. He required that they hear the call to sanctification as urgent and most important, that through a "holy life" they edify "the little Communion of Saints" within the Congregation itself, a sign of the "great" Communion – the Church.

- Do these high ideals of the Founder open up to me new horizons and lead me on the way of perfection?
- Do I renew in myself every day the willingness to live or to die, to be faithful to the vocation that I have received as the "greatest gift"?
- Am I aware that my faithfulness brings vitality to my religious family and the Church, and favors the upbuilding

of the Communion of Saints? And vice versa that my infi-
delities, even secret, deprecate or hinder this growth?

- Do I feel that to live my consecration in full, I have absolute
need of the help of God?
- Do I ask for it with perseverance and humility? Do I invoke
the Holy Spirit, the intimate animator of all sanctity every
day?
- Do I have recourse with trust to Mary, most holy, Mother
of Divine Providence, who looks after us with a mother's
heart to form Christ in me?

BEFORE CONFESSiON

*It is recommended that to prepare oneself for the encounter
with the merciful God to pray a Psalm (Ps 25, 32, 51, 13,
139, or 142).*

Most merciful Savior, I have sinned against you, through
my fault, through my greatest fault, rebelling against your
commandments, and preferring creatures and my whims to
you, my God and heavenly Father. In spite of my weakness
do not deny me the grace to know, detest and confess my sins
sincerely, so that I may obtain pardon and truly amend my
life. Holy Virgin, intercede for me (Cfr. L.G., Le missione in
casa, 1934, p. 209).

AFTER CONFESSiON

I thank you, Lord, because you have been good to me. Instead
of punishing me for so many sins, you have pardoned me with
infinite mercy in this holy confession.

I promise, with the help of Your grace, not to offend you
again and to repair with much love and good works the
offenses that I have committed in my life.

Virgin most holy, Angels and Saints of heaven, I thank you for your assistance: give thanks for me to the Lord for his mercy and obtain for me constancy in good (Cf. L.G., Le missione in casa, 1934, p. 210).

“Your kindness is before my eyes, and I walk in your truth” (Ps 27:3).

*Suggested psalms of thanksgiving: Ps 30, 34, 40, 116, or 138.
Sing the Magnificat*

BEFORE CONFESSION

Most merciful God, I have sinned against you, willingly and through negligence, through my greater pride, especially against your commandments, and through negligence, desire to win worldliness, and through pride, I have sinned against you, through negligence, so that I may obtain pardon and truly serving you, that I may deserve to know, deserve and confess my sins that I may succeed in this life. Holy Virgin, intercede for me (Cf. F.G., Le missione in casa, 1934, p. 203).

AFTER CONFESSION

I thank you, Lord, because you have freely given to me, instead of punishing me for so many sins, for your boundless love and infinite mercy in this holy confession.

I promise, with the help of Your grace, not to offend you again and to lead with uncompromising love and good works the offering that I have committed in this life.

WALKING THROUGH
THE WEEK
TOGETHER PRAISING
THE LORD



*“For your love is before my
eyes and I walk according to
your truth”*

(Psalm 26:3)

WALKING THROUGH
THE WEEK
TOGETHER RAISING
THE WORLD



"For your love is before my
eyes and I walk according to
your steps" (Psalm 36:3)

to us so glorious a mystery. We ask you to grant us that
blessing which is the possession of this day. We may
see truly truly earthly earthly in heaven that which we believe here
below, one God in Three Persons, the Father the Son, and
the Holy Spirit. Amen.

SUNDAY The Most Holy Trinity

We pray for our Holy Father
and the needs of the Church

"Behold the day of feasting has burst forth. The earthly
children gather around their heavenly Father, they place their
needs before Him and they receive comfort from Him. They
are afflicted in heart and they come to receive consolation,
they are tired in body and ask for some suitable rest. Mean-
while they pray: O Lord, bless the work of the week and
make it fruitful. The pitiful are heard, and they remain in
peace. Now light has burst forth on the Holy Day. Let us
enter into this new day which is solemn to the Lord, dear to
His good children" (A.G., Vieni Meco, 1883, p. 186 s.)."

PRAISE THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

Father, you sent your Word to bring us truth and your Spirit
to make us holy. Through them we come to know the mys-
tery of your life. Help us to worship you, one God in three
Persons, by proclaiming and living our faith in you. Amen.
(Liturgy)

Glory to the Father who created me to His Image; Glory be
to the Son, Who has redeemed me; Glory to the Holy Spirit
Who sanctified me in Baptism, and Who incessantly works
within me with His graces.

We adore You, O Most Holy Trinity, we praise you, we thank
you with humble sentiments of gratitude, for having revealed

to us so glorious a mystery. We ask you to grant us that persevering until death in the possession of this faith, we may see and glorify eternally in heaven, that which we believe here below, one God in Three Persons, the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

May the Most Holy Trinity assist me: hear me, O Lord!
You are my living God.
You are my strength, you the just judge.
You are the omnipotent physician.

You are the eternal priest.
You are the guide to our homeland.
You are my true light.
You are my grace.
You are my magnificent wisdom.
You are my crystal-clear simplicity.
You are my universal soul.
You are my peaceful harmony.
You are my full protection.
You are my absolute perfection.
You are my eternal salvation.

You are my immense mercy.
You are my spotless life.
You are relentless patience.
You are my complete redemption.
You are my holy resurrection.
You are my eternal life.

I beg you, I supplicate you, make me walk with you, that I may reach you, repose in you, rise with you.

Hear me, O Lord. (Alcuino, monk of the 8th century)
God, Most Holy Trinity, I no longer wish to close my ears to your loving invitation, I no longer wish You to be in me "the great abandoned one"; help me to place my strength in you, so that I may live in continual, intimate union with You; that

I may seek You alone, that I may always turn my glance to You, that with You and in You, I may suffer, pray, and work. O eternal Trinity, my sweet love, O Father, draw me with the strength of Your omnipotence; O Son, enlighten me with the splendor of Your wisdom; O Holy Spirit, inflame me with the ardor of your charity. (St. Therese of Jesus)

Let us pray for Our Holy Father

The Lord preserve him and give him life,
and make him blessed upon the earth,
and deliver him not into the hands of his enemies.

TO THE HOLY FATHER OF THE CHURCH OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

Jesus, Who before ascending to heaven, promised to your apostles and discipiles to send them the Holy Spirit to comfort them, and fortify them, make them strong in this apostolate.

Passion: Come spirit of Miserere, respond to your apostles of the earth and history in an act of love and grace for the spirits of Heaven.

All: Send us Your Spirit, using now the force of Your (spirit of Heaven) (spirit of the season)

Come spirit of Unigenitum, enlighten our people with the gifts of certain truth and truth in every people.

Compassions and graces are on the way of election, add your intercessions and graces to those of Your

MONDAY

The Holy Spirit

The Faithful Departed

"The Holy Spirit is like the sun which appearing over the mountain becomes bigger to light up and warm the valley and every part of the plain. Before being enlightened by the Holy Spirit it is the mountain of the Church, of the Pontiff, the Vicar of the Lord. Later the bishops, priests and faithful are enlightened and warmed through it; they fix their gaze where the sun rises brightly" (A.G., Andiamo al Paradiso, 1883, p. 90).

TO IMPLORE THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

O Jesus, Who before ascending to heaven, promised to Your apostles and disciples to send them the Holy Spirit to console, comfort and fortify them, make descend also to us this Spirit, the Fortifier and Sanctifier.

Leader: Come, Spirit of Wisdom, detach us from the things of the earth and instill in us a love and taste for the things of Heaven.

All: Send us Your Spirit, and renew the face of the earth.
(after each petition)

Come, Spirit of Understanding, enlighten our mind with the light of eternal truth and enrich it with holy thoughts.

Come, Spirit of Counsel, make us docile to Your inspirations and guide us on the way of eternal salvation.

Come, Spirit of Fortitude, and give us strength, constancy, and victory in the battles against our spiritual enemies.

Come, Spirit of Knowledge, be the Teacher of our souls and help us to put Your teachings into practice.

Come, Spirit of Piety, dwell in our heart, bless and sanctify all its affections,

Come, Spirit of Holy Fear, reign over our will and grant that we may always be willing to suffer rather than sin.

Come, O Holy Spirit, and speak to my heart; or if it pleases You to be silent, may your very silence speak to me, because without You I am always in danger of following error and of confusing them with Your teachings.

O Holy Spirit, come into my heart and draw it to Yourself, true God; grant me true charity, protect me from every evil thought; warm me and inflame me by Your love, so that every suffering may seem light. Holy Father and dear Lord, help me now and in all my actions. (St. Catherine of Siena)

Come, O most divine Spirit, consolation of afflicted souls, joy of hearts, relief in tribulations. Come, O Sanctifier of sinners, Teacher of the humble, merciful Father of the abandoned, Strength of the weak and Comfort of the poor. Enter into the interior of my spirit with the strength of Your grace. Support my weakness with the power of Your arm. Inflame my lukewarmness with Your most holy fire. Give my heart a spark of your most gentle charity. Make me enjoy Your heavenly grace, so that upheld and guided by You, I may use wisely earthly goods while in continual search for eternal ones. Amen.

Veni Creator Spiritus

Come, Spirit of the Mighty Word,

We need your presence and your aid;

Be your supernal graces poured

Into the breasts which You have made.

Well are You called the Paraclete

Your mercies comfort and console,

The fount of life, the love the heat,

The soothing unction of the soul.

Bearer of sev'nfold blessedness

Finger of God to guide and teach,

Who sheds from heaven the promised grace

Enriching tongues with holy speech.

Kindle our senses with your light,

Your love into our bosom pour

sustain each weakness with your might,

And raise our souls forever more.

Drive from our path the evil one,

Bring gentle peace to crown our day;

With You before us leading on,

We shall not from the truth e'er stray.

Grant that we may the Father know,

And feel the love of Christ the Son,

through You, and in your holy glow,

Forever see the Three in one,

Be glory to the Father giv'n,

And to the risen Son and You,

O spirit Blest, let earth and heaven,

Ring with the praise forever due. Amen.

Veni Creator Spiritus

*Veni, Creator Spiritus,
Mentes tuorum visita,
Imple superna gràtia,
Quae Tu crèasti pectora.
Qui diceris Paràclitus,
Altissimi donum Dei,
Fons vivus, ignis charitas,
Et spiritialis unctionis.
Tu septifòrmis munere,
Digitus paternae dexteræ,
Tu rite promissum Patris,
Sermòne dítans guttura.
Accènde lumen sensibus:
Infunde amorem cordibus;
Infirma nostri corporis,
Virtute firmans pèrpeti.
Hostem repellas longius,
Pacèmque dones pròtinus:
Ductore sic te praèvio,
Vitèmus omne noxium.
Per te sciàmus da Patrem,
Noscàmus atque Filium,
Teque utriùsque Spiritum,
Credàmus omni tèmpore.
Deo Patri sit gloria,
Et Filio, qui a mortuis,
Surrexit, ac Paràclito,
In saeculòrum saecula. Amen.*

Vieni Santo Spirito

*Holy spirit, Lord divine,
Come, from heights of hea'ven and shine,
Come with blessed radiance bright!*

*Come, O Father of the poor,
Come, whose treasured gifts ensure,
come, our heart's unfailing light!*

*Of consolers, wisest, best,
And our soul's most welcome guest,
Sweet refreshment, sweet repose.*

*In our labor rest most sweet,
Pleasant coolness in the heat,
Consolation in our woes.*

*Light most blessed, shine with grace
In our heart's most secret place,
Fill your faithful through and through.*

*Left without your presence here,
Life itself would disappear,
Nothing thrives apart from you!*

*Cleanse our soiled hearts of sin,
Arid souls refresh within,
Wounded lives to health restore.*

*Bend the stubborn heart and will,
Melt the frozen, warm the chill,
Guide the wayward home once more!*

*On the faithful who are true
and profess their faith in you
In your sev'nfold gift descend!*

*Give us virtue's sure reward,
Give us your salvation, Lord.
Give us joys that never end!*

*Breathe in me O Holy Spirit
That my thoughts may all be holy;*

*Act in me O Holy Spirit
That my work, too, may be holy;*

*Draw my heart of Holy Spirit
that I love but what is holy;*

*Strengthen me O Holy Spirit
To defend all that is holy;*

*Guard me then O Holy Spirit
That I always may be holy.*

(St. Augustine)

IN MEMORY OF THE FAITHFUL DEPARTED

*"The eyes of the good look to heaven, and then pause on its loved ones at rest . . . in the cemetery. The deceased are our loyal friends . . . May we always be generous in extending suffrage to the souls in Purgatory" (A.G., *Sulla tomba dei morti*, 1883, pp. 42, 62, 54 s.).*

When possible remember the faithful departed by assisting at the Eucharistic Liturgy, praying the office, the rosary or the Via Crucis.

OFFERINGS OF THE PASSION IN SUFFRAGE OF THE DECEASED

O Lord, through the bloody sweat which you suffered in the garden of Gethsemane have mercy on the souls in Purgatory.

through the pains which you suffered while carrying your Cross to Calvary; have mercy on the souls in Purgatory.

through the pains which you suffered in your most painful crowning with thorns; have mercy on the souls in Purgatory,

through the pains which you suffered during your most cruel crucifixion; have mercy on the souls in Purgatory,

through the pains which you suffered in your most bitter agony on the cross; have mercy on the souls in Purgatory.

through the immense pain which you suffered in breathing forth your blessed soul; grant eternal rest to all the faithful departed.

PRAYERS

Christ Jesus, Lord of life and Redeemer of the world, grant eternal rest to all the faithful departed. Let my relatives and friends whom you have called from this life attain their eternal home. Reward our departed benefactors with eternal blessedness. Grant your departed priests and religious the recompense for their work in your vineyard.

O Lord, receive into your peace the souls of our brothers and sisters who labored for peace and justice on earth. Accept the sacrifices of those who gave their lives out of love for you and their fellow human beings. Look with mercy on all who showed good will to others, and grant them the peace they deserve.

PRAYERS

TUESDAY

Guanellian Day

Blessed Aloysius Guanella – Blessed Clare Bosatta

Holy Angels

“... For you has he commanded his angels, to keep you in all your ways...” (Psalm 91:6).

*“Converse with your Angel as with a spiritual brother or with a celestial companion... how delightful it is to speak with spirits of Paradise” (A.G., *Il fondamento*, 1885, p. 100).*

PRAYERS TO THE GUARDIAN ANGEL

“Angel of the Lord, who burst the chains of Peter, break the habits that hold us bound to the earth, and grant that we may be able, like apostolic men, to obtain sanctity and point out to others also the way to reach eternal salvation” (A.G., *Le missioni in casa*, 1934, p. 179).

“Angels of the Lord, you were the first to come forth from the hands of the Creator, we greet you from this earth: Hail, O gentle companions! You enjoy the glory of God; and we are still here in danger. Extend to us your hand to raise us up, and your voice to encourage and inspire us, so that we too may reach heaven” (A.G., *Le missioni in casa*, 1934, p. 17).

GUANELLIAN DAY

“On Tuesday we honor the Founder with special prayers, hymns, and meditation of his word” (*Capitular deliberations*, 1982).

PRAYERS

O Father, live again with your spirit in your daughters. Keep in mind the houses of your poor. Grant to the friends of your name and your heart the reward of doing good, prepare for all a place near you for all eternity. Amen.

O Blessed Aloysius Guanella, apostle of charity, who in a world pervaded by hatred and selfishness, have spread the treasures of your heart helping the poor and suffering so dear to you, obtain for us from the bounty of the Lord, an ever increasing love of God and neighbor. Implore for us also the grace we desire and the gift of final perseverance. Amen.

Father Guanella, you loved God and the poor with a generous heart, always ready to give yourself with simplicity and charity: – take my heart and continue to help the poor.

You used all the talents given you by God... .you who strove to assist the handicapped, abandoned, and sick: – take my talents and continue to help the poor.

O Father Guanella, you said that misery should not only be aided, but that we need to go in search of it: – take my hands and continue to help the poor.

PRAYER FOR THE GLORIFICATION OF BLESSED ALOYSIUS GUANELLA

Heart of Jesus, you came into the world to light the fire of your love and to save souls, deign to glorify on earth, as you have glorified in heaven, your faithful servant, Blessed Aloysius Guanella. Grant that his sanctity may be for the greater glory and the benefit of all Christians. Grant through his intercession the graces we ask with faith, to imitate his virtues, his ardent charity toward the Eucharist, his zeal for

souls, his serene confidence in Providence, and his tender charity toward the poor, especially the most abandoned, so that we may enter Heaven one day to sing with him Your praises for all eternity. Amen. Our Father . . . Hail Mary . . . Glory . . .

PRAYER FOR THE TWO CONGREGATIONS

O God, in your wisdom you inspired Blessed Aloysius Guanella to establish the Congregations of the Servants of Charity and the Daughters of St. Mary of Providence, grant that they both be animated by the same spirit and endowed with the same virtues, dedicating themselves to the care and assistance of the most abandoned and in need. Protect these Congregations continually and infuse in the hearts of every Servant of Charity and Daughter of St. Mary of Divine Providence, the spirit of its Founder for your greater glory. We ask this through Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER FOR A GUANELLIAN SISTER

Lord, you have called me to live under the wings of Providence and to place myself confidently under the protection of the Blessed Virgin who is its loving and faithful dispenser.

Teach me to place all my hope in her and to expect every thing from Him whom I call Father and who each day sends to everyone good and bad, His sun and his bread.

Divine Master, You have said: "Pray, Pray without interruption, Pray Always". Teach me to live in Your presence, enlightened by continuous ejaculations and the practice of lifting up my heart and mind to holy things.

An exclusive love for You and the meditation of Your passion will be the program of my life and my actions.

Make me love my Congregation as the pupil of my eye and the sweetest link which binds me to You and to so many souls striving to live and to work according to Your will.

Grant that my behavior may be natural, spontaneous, joyful, and modest as one who presumes nothing from herself and awaits everything from God her only Good.

Arouse in me a generous love for those abandoned and in need. Grant that I may be the support of the elderly, eyes for the blind, mother to the handicapped, speech for the mute and comfort for the dying.

I ask you finally for myself and for all my Sisters that we may know how to live the testament of our Founder: "Pray and Suffer" and that the names of all of us will be written in heaven. Amen.

LITANY OF BLESSED ALOYSIUS GUANELLA (*For private devotion*)

Lord, have mercy on us.

Christ, have mercy on us.

Lord, have mercy on us.

Christ, hear us.

Christ, graciously hear us.

God, the Father of Heaven,

have mercy on us.

God, the Son, the Redeemer of the world.

God, the Holy Spirit,

Holy Trinity, One God.

Holy Mary,

pray for us.

Our Lady of Providence,

Blessed Aloysius Guanella,

Our Father and Founder,
Chosen soul of Jesus and Mary,
Humble servant of Our Lady,
Lover of the Eucharist,
Zealous Apostle of Christ,
Lover of the Sacred Heart of Jesus,
Priest of prayer,
Ardent adorer of the Eucharist,
Teacher of truth,
Defender of the Church,
Loyal Son of the Popes,
Director of souls,
Example of Poverty,
Angel of Chastity,
Model of Obedience,
Instrument of God's Providence,
Dispenser of Our Lady's gifts,
Soul of charity,
Recourse of the afflicted,
Hope of the hopeless,
Father of the abandoned,
Shelter of the homeless,
Provider of the poor and needy,
Support of the handicapped,
Champion of the helpless,
Penniless Provider,
Comforter of the suffering,

Leader: Pray for us, O Blessed Aloysius Guanella

All: That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Leader: Let us pray: O Blessed Aloysius Guanella, Apostle of Charity . . .

HYMN IN HONOR OF BLESSED ALOYSIUS GUANELLA

1. Blessed Father Aloysius,
heart and voice we raise to you.
Earthly story, heav'nly glory,
move our souls with praise of you.
Dear Father Guanella, gallantly
performing ardent deeds of mercy
for the love of God;
How well you have shown to us
that we must be humble
to gain the title, **SERVANT OF CHARITY!**
2. To a life of prayer and hardship
You were called by Christ, Our Lord;
Training children, helping the aged
Up the road to Heaven's door.
Your love, Don Guanella
taught your sons and daughters
How to serve the needy
whom the world forgot.
Implore Jesus' tender Heart
that our life on earth
May resemble yours,
O SERVANT OF CHARITY!

WEDNESDAY
Dedicated to St. Joseph

“After Jesus and Mary, our trust is placed in St. Joseph, patron of the Universal Church and our special protector. Invoke him for the moral development of the Institute, the increase of vocations and in particular for the salvation of the dying. There is a need to live well, but there is a still greater need of dying well. A good death is everything. How anxious should we be to provide men and women the assistance of dying in a Christian manner” (A.G., Regol. F.S.C., 1899, p. 135 s.).

“The Little House lives under the protection of St. Joseph, protector of the Catholic family and of a good death; therefore, it is right that we dedicate Wednesday to his devotion” (in: *La divina Provvidenza*, 1893, p. 51).

MEMORARE TO ST. JOSEPH

Remember, O most glorious Spouse of Mary every Virgin, and my sweetest protector St. Joseph, that it has never been heard that anyone that invoked your protection and asked your help was not being consoled by you. With this confidence I come to your presence and I recommend myself fervently to you. Ah! do not despise my prayers O foster father of the Redeemer; but receive them graciously and answer them. Amen.

TO YOU, O BLESSED JOSEPH

To you, O blessed Joseph, do we come in our tribulation,

and having implored the help of your most holy spouse, we confidently invoke your patronage also.

Through that charity which bound you to the Immaculate Virgin Mother of God and through the paternal love with which you embraced the Child Jesus, we humbly beg you graciously to regard the inheritance which Jesus Christ has purchased by his Blood, and with your power and strength to aid us in our necessities. O most watchful Guardian of the Holy Family, defend the chosen children of Jesus Christ; O most loving father ward off from us every contagion of error and corrupting influence; O our most mighty protector, be propitious to us and from heaven assist us in our struggle with the power of darkness; and, as once you rescued the Child Jesus from deadly peril, so now protect God's Holy Church from the snares of the enemy and from all adversity; shield too, each one of us by your constant protection, so that, supported by your example and your aid, we may be able to live piously, to die holily, and to obtain eternal happiness in heaven. Amen.

(Leo XIII)

St. Joseph, I give you my heart, I will always have recourse to you. Do not abandon me, until I reach heaven.

LITANY OF ST. JOSEPH

Lord, have mercy on us.

Christ, have mercy on us.

Lord, have mercy on us.

Christ, graciously hear us.

God the Father of heaven, have mercy on us.

God the Son, Redeemer of the world, have mercy on us.

God the Holy Spirit, have mercy on us.

Holy Trinity, one God, have mercy on us.

Holy Mary, pray for us.

Holy Joseph,

Renowned offspring of David,
Splendor of patriarchs,
Spouse of the Mother of God,
Chaste guardian of the Virgin,
Foster father of the Son of God,
Watchful protector of the divine Child,
Head of the Holy Family,
Joseph most just,
Joseph most pure,
Joseph most prudent,
Joseph most courageous,
Joseph most obedient,
Joseph most faithful,
Model of patience,
Lover of poverty,
Model of artisans,
Glory of family life,
Protector of virgins,
Pillar of families,
Solace of the afflicted,
Hope of the living,
Patron of the dying,
Terror of demons,
Protector of Holy Church,
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, pardon us, O Lord.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, listen to us, O Lord.
Lamb of God, take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us, O Lord.
Leader: God made him master of his household.
All: And put him in charge of all that he owned.
Leader: Let us pray: Almighty God, in your infinite wisdom and love you chose Joseph to be the husband of

Mary, the mother of your Son. As we enjoy his protection on earth may we have the help of his prayers in heaven. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH

O glorious St. Joseph, you who have power to render possible things which are impossible, come to our aid in our present trouble and distress. Take this difficult affair under your particular protection that it may end happily.

O dear St. Joseph, all our confidence is in you. Let it not be said that we have invoked you in vain; and since you are so powerful with Jesus and Mary, show that your goodness equals your power. Amen.

Divine Providence can provide.

Divine Providence did provide.

Divine Providence will provide.

TO THE HOLY FAMILY

“The members of the Little House live together resembling the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph. They wish each other well with all their heart, and treat each other with gentle affection” (A.G., *Metodo*, 1889, p. 42).

“Imagine to yourself the Congregation as if it were the Holy Family of Jesus, Joseph and Mary; and mutual relations will be reverent, sweet, full of charity and dignity” (A.G., *Guide*, D.S.M.P., 1938-86, p. 145).

“But remember that Jesus, Mary and Joseph labored and suffered much on earth; if you love and embrace labor, sacrifice,

and suffering with them, it will be given one day to be all united in heaven" (A.G., *Guide*, D.S.M.P., 1938-86, p. 273).

PRAYER

O most loving Jesus, who with inexpressible virtue and by the example of your life, sanctified the family chosen by you here on earth, look with mercy on our family as we kneel before you asking you to look favorably on us. Remember that it is a family especially dedicated and consecrated to you. Kindly assist it, defend it from every danger, aid it in its necessities, and grant it the grace to remain constant in imitation of your Holy Family, so that serving you faithfully and lovingly on earth, it may one day bless you eternally in Heaven. O Mary, sweetest Mother, we have recourse to your intercession, certain that your Divine son will hear your prayer.

And you, O glorious Patriarch St. Joseph, help us with your powerful intercession and offer our promises to Jesus, through the hands of Mary. Amen. (Leo XIII)

(Leo XIII)

TO THE HOLY FAMILY

THURSDAY

Offered in Thanksgiving for the Eucharist

We pray especially for priests

"The exposition of the most holy Eucharist, whether in the pyx or in the ostensorium, directs the mind of the faithful to recognize in it the admirable presence of Christ, and invites them to the communion of the Spirit with him, therefore it nourishes the worship due to Christ in spirit and in truth" (EM 60).

"Experience conversing with Jesus, experience living with him and you will see. It is not like conversing with men. Although they are virtuous, they are never without faults, and so conversing with them is never without some bitterness, and living with them is never without some tediousness. With God it is otherwise. The Spirit of the Lord is sweeter than honey. Blessed are you if you merit enjoying even for a short time the gentleness of the Heart of Jesus. You will dwell there like the bee on the flower, to suck out the sweetest nectar" (A.G., *Nel mese del fervore*, 1884, p. 66).

"Inculcate a sense of adoration also in the persons entrusted to you, have them relish the celebration of the Eucharist to nourish them with the Bread of Life" (A.G., *Guide*, D.S.M.P., 1938-86, pp. 192-202).

OUR ADORATION IS EXPRESSED WITH:

- Thursday Hour of Prayer, communitarian and usually in the evening.

- *Weekly Hour of Prayer, during the day, made by each Sister, at a convenient hour.*
- *Offering of the ecumenical hour on Saturday morning. Offer the work of this hour according to the ends indicated.*
- *Eucharistic Day, in the communities where it is possible.*

PRAYERS

MY GOD, I BELIEVE

My God, I believe, I adore, I hope, and I love you: I ask pardon for those who do not believe, do not adore, do not hope and do not love you. Most Holy Trinity, Father, Son and Holy Spirit, I adore you profoundly and I offer you the most precious Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, present in all the tabernacles of the world, in reparation for the outrages, sacrilege, and indifference, with which he is offended. Through the infinite merits of His Most Sacred Heart and of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I ask you for the conversion of all poor sinners.

TO JESUS IN THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

My Lord Jesus Christ, who, for the love You bear mankind, remain night and day in this Sacrament, full of mercy and love, waiting, calling, and receiving all who come to visit You: I believe that you are present in the Sacrament of the Altar: I adore You from the depths of my own nothingness; I thank You for the many graces You have given to me, and especially for having given me Yourself in this Sacrament; for having given me Mary Your Mother as my advocate, and for having called me to visit you in this Church. I greet Your most amiable and most loving heart; and I do so first, in

thanksgiving for this great gift; secondly, to atone for the insults You have received in this Sacrament; thirdly, I intend in this visit to adore You in all those places where You are least adored and most abandoned. My Jesus I love you with all my Heart, I am sorry that I have so often offended Your infinite goodness. With the help of Your grace I resolve to displease You no more; and, unworthy as I am, I now consecrate myself entirely to you; I renounce and give to You my will, my affections, my desires, and all that is mine. Do with me and with all that is mine, whatever is pleasing to You. I ask for nothing but You and Your holy love, final perseverance, and the perfect fulfillment of Your will. I recommend to You the souls in purgatory, especially those who were most devoted to this Most Blessed Sacrament, and to Mary Most Holy. I also recommend to You sinners. And lastly, my beloved Savior, I unite all my affections to those of Your most loving heart; and so united, I offer them to Your Eternal Father; and in Your name I beg Him to accept and grant them.

(St. Alphonsus Liguori)

PRAYER BEFORE THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Most gentle Jesus, I believe that you are as truly present here in the tabernacle as when you walked in Galilee where you ministered to the sick, the lame and the blind. Your ears of mercy were ever open to listen to the cries of the sorrowing and wounded and your lips ever ready to speak words of sympathy, comfort and encouragement to those who trusted in your power to help them.

As a sinner conscious of your mercy I come before you now to spend an hour in communion with you. Too long have I heard your plea "could you not watch one hour with me?", and too long have I neglected to respond to it. Now at last I come to you, Jesus, my patient and faithful friend, to whom I can open my heart as someone who fully understands me.

Gentle Jesus, you know me better than I know myself. You perceive the innermost secrets of my heart and see there my longing to be totally yours. Deep down within me I want to love you, but at the same time I am aware of the prompting of my sinful nature drawing me away from you, and the unselfish service which I should render to you. Jesus, I have asked, and now ask you again to make me love you in spite of my weaker self. Fill each day of my life with acts of love for you and make me realize what your love really means. Enlighten my understanding that I may clearly see that to love you means wealth beyond measure and to serve you reward without limit. Heart of Jesus I implore that I may love you daily more and more.

PRAISE TO YOU, O CHRIST

Leader: You are the one descended from the Father who took on mortal flesh, died on the cross, arose on the third day, and granted us pardon in your great mercy.

All: Praise to You, O Christ, Our God.

Leader: Praise to You, O Lord, above the Seraphim, the Cherubim and the Archangels! We unite our voices to those of the Angels, Apostles, and Prophets.

All: Praise to You, O Christ, Our God.

Leader: You have come to absolve our sins, we sing to You, O marvelous Savior, you are the shepherd of the sheep sent by the Father.

All: Praise to You, O Christ, Our God.

Leader: You are the Christ, the liberator, born of the Virgin Mary. We drink at the chalice of salvation, free us from all evil.

All: Praise to You, O Christ, Our God.

Leader: We will receive your holy body with reverence, we will be filled to satisfaction with your sweetness, O Lord. You have given us the bread from heaven. Man has eaten the Bread of Angels.

All: Praise to You, O Christ, Our God.

Leader: Let us love one another, because God is love. He who loves his brother is born of God and in him charity is perfect.

All: Praise to You, O Christ, Our God.

Leader: Holy Father, give peace to priests, who break the body of Christ, give peace to those in authority, and to the people, who receive the Body of Christ. Amen.

(Adapted from an ancient Ambrosian Liturgy)

EUCHARISTIC LITANY

Leader: Lord, mercy All: Lord, mercy

Leader: Christ, mercy All: Christ, mercy

Leader: Lord, mercy All: Lord, mercy

Leader: God the Father of Heaven, All: Have mercy on us.

Leader: God the Son, Redeemer of the world,
God the Holy Spirit,
Holy Trinity, One God,

Leader: Most Holy Eucharist, All: We adore you.

Indescribable gift of the Father,

Sign of the Supreme love of the Son,

Marvel of the charity of the Spirit,

Blessed fruit of the Virgin Mary,

Sacrament of the Body and Blood of Christ,

Sacrament that perpetuates the sacrifice of the cross,

Sacrament of the new and eternal covenant,

Memorial of the death and resurrection of the Lord,

Memorial of our salvation,

Sacrifice of expiation and propitiation,
Dwelling of God among man,
Banquet of the marriage of the Lamb,
Living bread that came down from heaven,
Hidden manna full of sweetness,
True paschal lamb,
Glory of priests,
Treasure of the faithful,
Viaticum for the pilgrim church,
Remedy of our daily infidelities,
Medicine of immortality,
Mystery of faith,
Support of hope,
Bond of charity,
Sign of unity and peace,
Source of pure joy,
Sacrament that brings forth Virgins,
Sacrament of strength and vigor,
Foretaste of the Heavenly Banquet,
Pledge of our resurrection,
Pledge of future glory,

Leader: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world
All: Pardon us, O Lord.

Leader: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world
All: Hear us, O Lord.

Leader: Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world
All: Have mercy on us.

PANGE, LINGUA

I shall praise the Savior's glory,
Of his flesh the mystery sing,
And the blood, all price exceeding,
Shed by our immortal King.
God made man for our salvation,
Who from Virgin pure did spring.

Born for us, and for us given,
Born a man like us below,
Christ as man with man residing,
Lived the seed of truth to sow,
Suffered bitter death unflinching,
And immortal love did show.

On the night before he suffered,
Seated with his chosen band,
Jesus, when they all had feasted,
Faithful to the law's command,
Far more precious food provided;
Gave himself with his own hand.

Word made flesh, true bread of heaven,
By his word made flesh to be,
From the wine his blood is taken,
Though our senses cannot see,
Faith alone which is unshaken
Shows pure heart the mystery.

Therefore we before him falling,
This great sacrament revere;
Ancient forms are now departed,
For new acts of grace are here,
Faith our feeble senses aiding,
Makes the Savior's presence clear.

To the everlasting Father

And his Son who reigns on high,

With the Holy Spirit proceeding

Forth from each eternally,

Be all honor, glory, blessing,

Power and endless majesty.

Bowing low, then, offer homage

To a Sacrament so great!

Here is new and perfect worship;

All the old must terminate.

Senses cannot grasp this marvel:

Faith must serve to compensate.

Praise and glorify the Father,

Bless his Son's life-giving name,

Singing their eternal Godhead,

Power, majesty and fame.

Offering their Holy Spirit

Equal worship and acclaim. Amen.

ALTERNATE — PANGE LINGUA

1. Praise, O Zion, Christ our glory; To the Shepherd let us sing,
Tell to all the world the story; Laud with all our might the King.
Bread of life and source of living! Lacking, still our praises ring.
2. This our special theme for singing, Christ the Lamb for us was slain.
At the paschal meal he taught us, To the twelve he made it plain:
Flesh as food for us was giving, Therefore let your faith not wane.
3. On this day of Christian feasting, With full voices we delight:
Instituting our salvation, In the sacred meal that night.
Christ the ancient law fulfilling, Fills all people with new sight.
4. In the memory of Jesus, Gathered we as chosen band.
Bread and wine Christ is transforming, Flesh and blood are

now at hand.

From his words and actions learning, Love we share at his command.

5. Gathered at this solemn table, Darkness now has taken flight.
In the bread and wine partaking, Christ is for each one the light.
Then as food to us disciples, Gives our souls a new delight.
6. To all people Christ is giving, Truth in word and sacrament.
By the sacrifice redeeming, All into one covenant.
One in Jesus' name assembling: Faith and love our testament.
7. To our minds these signs disclosing, To our senses must unfold:
Bread is broken, Blood outpouring; Christ the myst'ry, awe untold!
Flesh and Blood to sight revealing: This the story to be told.
8. Undivided is his body, Yet Christ gives himself to all.
Word made flesh with us abiding, For without him we must fall.
Christ the Pasch we are consuming, One in spirit is our call.
9. Good and evil are all sharing, Seeds of destiny are sown.
To new life our Saviour guides us; Death prevails when on our own.
Life immortal, for those seeking, Is fulfilled in Christ alone.
10. When the sacred bread is broken, All receive the Christ as one.
By his love Christ is transforming, Though so many we are one;
All the scattered are united, All the lonely welcomed home.
11. Come, behold, the bread of angels, This our strength on pilgrims' way.
For the children God is giving, Manna for our bread each day.
Now the sign of Isaac telling: Christ has conquered on this day.
12. Hear our prayers, O kindly Shepherd, Be for us true living bread.
Grant us peace in all our doings, To our resting place be led.
Forth with all the saints now dwelling, We the body, you the Head.

ADORO TE DEVOTE

O Godhead hid, devoutly I adore You,
Who truly are within the forms before me;
To You my heart I bow with bended knee;
As failing quite in contemplating You,
Sight, touch and taste in You are each deceived.

The ear alone most safely is believed.
I believe all the Son of God has spoken,
Than truth's own word there is no truer token.

God only on the Cross lay hid from view;
But here lies hid at once the manhood too;
And I, in both professing my belief,

Make the same prayer as the repentant thief,
Your wounds as Thomas saw, I do not see;
Yet You confess my Lord and God to be;

Make me believe You ever more and more;
In You my hope, in You my love to store.

O memorial of our Lord's own dying,
O living bread, to mortals life supplying;
Make my soul henceforth on You to live.
Ever taste of heavenly sweetness give.

O loving Pelican! O Jesus Lord!
Unclean I am, but cleanse me in Your blood;
Of which a single drop, for sinners spilt,
Can purge the entire world of all its guilt.

Jesus, whom for the present veiled I see,
What I so thirst for, oh vouchsafe to me;
That I may see Your countenance unfolding,
And may be blessed Your glory in beholding. Amen.

O SACRUM CONVIVIUM — O SACRED BANQUET

O sacred banquet in which Christ is received,
the memory of His Passion is renewed,
the mind is filled with grace,
and a pledge of future glory is given to us.

Leader: You have given us bread from heaven

All: Having all sweetness within it

Leader: Let us pray: Lord Jesus Christ,

You gave us the Eucharist as the memorial of Your
suffering and death. May our worship of this Sacra-
ment of Your Body and Blood help us to experience
the salvation You won for us and the peace of the
Kingdom, where you live with the Father and the
Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. All: Amen.

O SALUTARIS HOSTIA

O saving Victim o-p'ning wide.
The gate of heaven to us below!
Our foes press on from ev'ry side;
Your aid supply, Your strength bestow.
To Your great name be endless praise,
Immortal Godhead, one in three;
Oh, grant us endless length of days
In our true native land with You. Amen.

TANTUM ERGO

Bowing low, then offer homage
To a Sacrament so great!
Here is new and perfect worship;
All the old must terminate.

Senses cannot grasp this marvel;
Faith must serve to compensate.

Praise and glorify the Father,
Bless his Son's life-giving name.
Singing their eternal Godhead,
Power, majesty and fame,
Offering their Holy Spirit
Equal worship and acclaim. Amen.

WITH JESUS IN GETHSEMANE PRAYERS AND OFFERINGS TO THE FATHER

Leader: Let us pray to the Holy Spirit, that He may enlighten us and grant us true love for Jesus.

Hymn

1st Reader: From the Gospel of Luke: 22:39-46

"Then he went out and made his way, as was his custom, to the Mount of Olives; his disciples accompanied him. On reaching the place he said to them, "Pray that you may not be put to the test." He withdrew from them about a stone's throw, then went down on his knees and prayed in these words: "Father, if it is your will, take this cup from me; yet not my will but yours be done." An angel then appeared to him from heaven to strengthen him. In his anguish he prayed with all the greater intensity, and his sweat became like drops of blood falling to the ground. Then he rose from prayer and came to his disciples, only to find them asleep, exhausted with grief. He said to them, "Why are you sleeping? Wake up, and pray that you may not be subjected to the trial."

All: Jesus, we are here to keep you company. With your help we want to overcome fatigue and sleep and turn our aridity

into a living expression of our love. We will watch, pray and take part in your painful sufferings.

2nd Reader: You suffer for us and for our salvation, to make reparation to the Father, which alone we could never give. Your suffering is without measure. All for us! It permeates your soul and merits for us blessings in this life of trial and hopeful expectation. Your prayer is for us; the sweat of blood that runs over your body must wash away our guilt and faults and our unfaithfulness.

All: Thank your Jesus for all you suffered for us. Inflame our hearts with love for You.

Hymn

Leader: Many men and women rarely think of the sufferings Jesus experienced to gain our salvation. Some do not know Him, And we? He has chosen us . . . do we know Him . . . how many times have we offended Him? Let us watch Jesus, kneeling on the ground, immersed in a sea of bitterness, oppressed by a sadness that could cause death, and ask Him to bless us.

REFLECTIONS

1st Reader: Who is kneeling on the ground like a sinner, sighing, praying and suffering the agony of death?

– it is the Son of the Most High, the Master of the world . . . the friend, the benefactor, and the Savior of all humanity.

All: We adore you, Jesus. Glory . . .

2nd Reader: What does Jesus suffer in the garden?

– A deadly sadness caused by the horror of our sins which he detests as outrages against the Divine Majesty of the

Father, as the cause of the eternal condemnation of many souls, and the only reason of those sufferings, of that most bitter death He will soon suffer to fulfill the redemption.

All: Jesus we share deeply in your sorrow. Glory . . .

3rd Reader: Why did the innocent Jesus suffer such severe cruelties?

— because he has taken on our sins and wishes to carry their weight. He Himself will redeem all and bring them, with him, forever to Paradise.

All: Jesus, we thank you with profound gratitude. Glory . . .

Leader: As a hymn of thanksgiving we will pray Psalm 138.

I thank you, Lord, with all my heart,
you have heard the words of my mouth,
in the presence of the angels I will bless you.

I will adore before your holy temple.

I thank you for your faithfulness and love
which excel all we ever knew of you.

On the day I called, you answered;
you increased the strength of my soul.

All earth's kings shall thank you
when they hear the words of your mouth.
They shall sing of the Lord's ways:
"How great is the glory of the Lord!"

The Lord is high yet he looks on the lowly
and the haughty he knows from afar.

Though I walk in the midst of affliction
you give me life and frustrate my foes.

You stretch out your hand and save me.

Your hand will do all things for me.

Your love, O Lord, is eternal,

discard not the work of your hands. Glory . . .

THE PRAYER IN THE GARDEN

Leader: In the gospel we read the words of Jesus, to the Father: "... if it is your will, take this cup from me; yet not my will but yours be done." His prayer was repeated several times, however, it was not answered. Jesus falls to the ground in agony. What mystery! Jesus desired to fulfill his passion . . . He had always proved that he had perfect control over himself and all creation, but now . . . why do we see Him fear, grow pale, cry, and turn to the Father, asking that the bitter chalice of the passion might pass from Him?

All: Jesus, we wish to understand! You wanted, not only your body, but also your soul to suffer martyrdom . . . ; without measure in an indescribable way. You do not speak, but your body lowered to the ground speaks . . . your pale face speaks . . . your tears speak . . . the blood which began to bathe your body speaks. How great is Your love for us! May our hearts burn with love for You!

Hymn

All: My God, I offer myself and all my possessions for Your eternal honor and glory, because you have created me, redeemed me, and preserved me until now. I thank you for all the gifts conferred on me, even those unknown to me. Amen

OFFERING

— I offer You, Eternal Father, the Blood which Jesus shed in the garden, asking you to wash in it our souls, and purify them from every stain of sin. Glory . . .

— I offer You, Eternal Father, the Blood which Jesus shed in the garden, asking you to grant us a true spirit of penance, and the grace to atone for our sins in this life. Glory . . .

— I offer You, Eternal Father, the Blood which Jesus shed in the garden, asking you that Jesus may be known and loved by all, and that He may find gratitude in our hearts. Glory . . .

— I offer You, Eternal Father, the Blood which Jesus shed in the garden, asking you to impress on our minds the remembrance of the sufferings of our Savior, and give us the grace to mirror in ourselves His examples. Glory . . .

— I offer You, Eternal Father, the Blood which Jesus shed in the garden, asking you to grant to all sinners, a lively contrition, conversion, and perseverance. Glory . . .

— I offer You, Eternal Father, the Blood which Jesus shed in the garden, asking you that all those who are dying may pass happily from earth to heaven, Glory . . .

— I offer You, Eternal Father, the Blood which Jesus shed in the garden, asking you to apply its merits to the souls in Purgatory, and open to them the gates of Paradise. Glory . . .

THE CHALICE OF THE PASSION

Leader: An angel draws near to Jesus and comforts Him saying that His obedience will glorify the Father and redeem all humanity. What obedience! Jesus sees the arrest, the flagellation, the condemnation, the contempt and humiliations,

the cross, the journey to Calvary, the crucifixion . . . It is the will of the Father . . . Jesus accepts and will drink the bitter chalice to the last drop. How much more sorrow does the realization that inspite of His sufferings, numerous souls ungrateful for the gift of redemption will break His law, despise His name, reject His blood, and will sin. He sees many of His loved creatures, children of His sufferings, draw away from Him forever . . . ; He sees that there will not be a new day without offenses against God, without disobedience to God's will. But nothing bends the will of Jesus, he accepts everything for the glorification of His Father and for the redemption of humanity.

All: Jesus, to see you submit so promptly for my love to so painful a sacrifice, embarrasses me because of my aversion to suffering.

Leader: The chalice was offered to me also: I accepted it on the day of my Baptism. The name and distinctive trait of a Christian requires a perfect resemblance to You, my Divine Model. If I wish to be a Christian I must be resigned to suffering. Pardon me, my savior for having refused your chalice for having so many times withdrawn from the weight of the cross, and for having fled from all that went against my will and desires. Help me Jesus to accept suffering because suffering makes me resemble you. Through the merits of your passion, help me never to refuse to drink from your chalice, even to be ready to thank you in the midst of distress and sufferings.

1. In memory of the agony that Jesus suffered in the garden, when He sweat blood and prayed for the third time. Glory . . .
2. In memory of all the sufferings of Jesus, especially the pain of being nailed to the cross and dying after three hours of agony. Glory . . .

3. In memory of the indescribable love which made Him descend from heaven to earth, become man to suffer and die for us. Glory . . .

Leader: Examine: Let us for a moment think how and in what measure we have intensified the agony of Jesus by our sins, unfaithfulness, and lack of correspondence to grace.

Hymn

Leader: Jesus, grant that tomorrow, Friday, there will be present in my mind the thought of Your passion, and that I may follow You step by step to Calvary, to the cross, and to the sepulcher. Mary, Mother of Sorrows pray that I may always remember the sufferings of Jesus, and never increase them by unfaithfulness.

THE AGONIZING GOD-MAN

Part I

Hymn:

Leader:

Let us invoke the Holy Spirit:

Go forth into the world, renew the face of the earth, convert hearts.

—Breath of Life, Strength of God

Come, Holy Spirit.

To our souls wounded by sin, you are pardon.

—Breath of Life, Strength of God

Come, Holy Spirit.

Work and fatigue exhaust us, you are our rest.

—Breath of Life, Strength of God
Come, Holy Spirit.

On our journey to our homeland, you are our guide.

—Breath of Life, Strength of God
Come, Holy Spirit.

To You and to the Father and the Son be glory and praise
forever, amen.

—Breath of Life, Strength of God
Come, Holy Spirit.

1. Reading from the Gospel of Mark (14:32–37)

“They went then to a place named Gethsemane. “Sit down here while I pray,” he said to his disciples; at the same time he took along with him Peter, James, and John. Then he began to be filled with fear and distress. He said to them, “My heart is filled with sorrow to the point of death. Remain here and stay awake.” He advanced a little and fell to the ground, praying that if it were possible this hour might pass him by. He kept saying, “Abba (O Father), you have the power to do all things, Take this cup away from me. But let it be as you would have it, not as I.” When he returned he found them asleep. He said to Peter, “Asleep Simon? You could not stay awake for even an hour?”

(Brief pause)

2. From the Guide, D.S.M.P., 1938–86, pp. 448–470

On Thursday evening, with intense sadness and emotion, you draw near to a spectacular event of the greatest compassion. You Daughters of St. Mary of Providence, reflect on the sorrowful mystery, Jesus in agony. The God-Man suffering for our sins; the God-Man suffering as He envisions the sorrow and pain, which await him on the following day.

(Brief pause)

Leader: Having read the gospel passage and the reading of our Founder, let us seek to immerse ourselves in the contemplation of Jesus, God-Man in agony. If only we could penetrate this truth! If we could understand how much Jesus loves us! Let us ask the sorrowful Mother to obtain for us this grace: let us pray together: "Hail Mary . . ." The Passion is a work of love par excellence, as is the mystery of the Eucharist, it is actual and perennial, a "Memorial", because in it we are given to admire a gift of infinite generosity on the part of the Father, of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. This work is intensely realized by the pain Jesus experiences in the garden of Gethsemane.

(Brief pause)

Hymn:

(The reading is now continued individually, with reflection)

Jesus is beaten and ill treated by both religious and civil leaders. He is scourged, tortured with the crown of thorns, raised on the scaffold of the cross, and dies.

All this is but the fulfillment of His determination to love intensely even to the last beat of His heart. The bloody sacrifice begins with the agony and the bloody sweat in Gethsemane.

It is an intention of sacrifice, born with him, at the precise moment in which he came forth from eternity, to become a creature in time, it has grown within him, in the course of his life, which is now presented as his most dramatic interior struggle: "My Father, if you will, take this chalice from me, but not my will be done, but yours!" It is with this act that he decides for the last time to give himself to the death of the cross, in obedience to the Will of the Father, which grants

merit and value to the passion, because all that counts before God is the generous and unconditional acceptance of the disposition of Providence and the realization that this unique, supreme sacrifice is founded on love.

What Jesus suffered in Gethsemane remains an unfathomable mystery, just as His being God and being Man is a mystery — oneness in person:

- being innocent yet the representative of the guilty;
- being glorious but covered with humiliation;
- being full of grace and beauty but . . . refused by the people.

Leader: Most merciful Jesus, after having reflected on Your immense love, which brought You to so much suffering for my salvation, we ask Your pardon for our continual lack of correspondence to Your infinite love. Inflame our hearts with love for You. Lord, increase our love.

INVOCATIONS

(At every invocation repeat: "Make us perfect in Love, Lord.")

—let us acknowledge Jesus and all His gifts to us, may he not find in us arid soil, but that which brings forth fruits for eternal life. Make us . . .

—grant that we give witness before all, to be worthy of uniting ourselves to the offering of your sacrifice. Make us . . .

—help us to see your face in our brothers and sisters and to serve you in each of them. Make us . . .

—grant that we remain in Your love, to bear much fruit for the glory of the Father. Make us . . .

—give to all men and women, Lord, the gift of Salvation.
Make us . . .
Sing the “Our Father.”

Part II

1. Reading from the Gospel of St. Mark (14:37–42)

“When he returned he found them asleep. He said to Peter, “Asleep, Simon? You could not stay awake for even an hour? Be on guard and pray that you may not be put to the test. The spirit is willing but nature is weak.” Going back again he began to pray in the same words. Once again he found them asleep on his return. They could not keep their eyes open, nor did they know what to say to him. He returned a third time and said to them. “Still sleeping? Still taking your ease? It will have to do, The hour is on us, You will see that the Son of Man is to be handed over to the clutches of evil men. Rouse yourselves and come along. See! My betrayer is near.”

2. Word of Blessed Guanella (Guide, D.S.M.P., 1938–86, pp. 466–467)

“And we, who have many times claimed to belong only to Jesus, can we consider ourselves freed from the weariness and lukewarmness of which the disciples of the Savior were guilty?”

How much fervor have you had in your prayers? and in your mortifications?”

(Pause)

Leader: Let us pray:

(After each prayer we will sing: *Lord, have mercy on us! Christ, have mercy on us! Lord, have mercy on us!*)

—For the times that we are cold, indifferent, and lazy in prayer, Lord, . . .

—For the times that we concentrate on ourselves and pass the time of prayer in distraction, forgetting your presence, Lord, . . .

—For the times that we offended You, Lord, by our lack of correspondence to your grace, Lord, . . .

—For the times that we did not treat the Eucharist with due respect and love, Lord, . . .

(Pause)

(Silently, let us ask our Founder to gain for us the grace of a greater and stronger love of Jesus.)

Part III

1. From the Gospel of St. Mark (14:42)

“Arise, let us go! Behold, he who betrays me is at hand.”

2. Word of Blessed Guanella: “With all your soul, embrace sufferings and the love of the Crucified.” This word spurs us on: arise . . . go to embrace your daily cross.

Leader: Jesus wept, was beaten, trembled, experienced fear, but . . . after the prayer, with strength and new vigor, he went to meet his enemies. Blessed Guanella, strong by mature experience, spurs us on to take up our journey once again, embracing suffering, which accompanies the fatigue of every day. When prayer is authentic, when it is really a relationship of love with God, it gives strength to our spirit and gives back the necessary vigor to take up the burden of daily service for a real, concrete sacrifice to the glory of God, for the good of our brothers and sisters and for the kingdom.

(Pause)

Prayer of Blessed Guanella

“Jesus, draw me to yourself, draw me with all the affection of my heart. If I knew that one fiber of my heart did not beat for you, I would tear it out at any cost. Draw me, O Jesus, draw me entirely. I know it well: My heart cannot rest, until it rests entirely near your heart” (Nel mese del fervore, p. 189).

Let us thank the Lord for this hour of prayer before Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament by praying Psalm 138.

FIRST THURSDAY OF THE MONTH

“*Thursday is the memorial of the institution of the Eucharist and of the Priesthood. Priests have been taken from among men and appointed to serve men in whatever pertains to God, to offer gifts and sacrifices in remission of sins; they live in the midst of men as brothers with brothers. In regard to the sacrament of the Priesthood they are marked by a special character that conforms them to Christ the eternal priest, in such a way as to be able to act in the name of Christ, the head of the Church*” (cf PO n. 3).

“*Always love your priests, and pray for them . . . ! They are the light of the world and the salt of the earth. In the name of God they absolve you from your sins, in the name of God they dismiss you from earth to heaven. The Priest accepts you, educates you, receives the old and dying into his heart, and enkindles your heart with love for the Heart of Jesus, your Savior*” (L.G., Cinquanta ricordini delle sante missioni, 1887, p. 64).

PRAYER FOR THE SANCTIFICATION OF THE CLERGY

Jesus, eternal shepherd of souls, listen to our prayer for priests! Recognize in it Your own infinite desire! Are not priests the ambassadors of Your most tender and delicate love, in which are summed up all Your affections for souls?

We confess we are unworthy of having holy priests. But Your mercy is infinitely greater than our foolishness and malice! Jesus, grant that there may ascend to Your priesthood only those who are called by You. Enlighten pastors in their choice, and directors in the spirit of counsel, educators in the cultivation of vocations. Give us priests who are chaste, humble and full of love, courageous in sacrifice, apostles of Your glory, saviors and sanctifiers of souls!

Have mercy on so many uneducated people, for whom they must be the light; on so many children of working people, who call for someone, who, saving them from deceptions will redeem them in Your name; on so many children and youth who call for someone to save them and lead them to You; on so many who suffer and have need of a heart which will console them in Yours! Remember, how many souls will arrive at perfection through the ministry of holy priests!

Jesus, take compassion once more on the multitudes who are hungry and thirsty! Grant that the priesthood may lead all suffering humanity to You, so that the earth may once again be renewed through it, that the Church may be exalted, that the kingdom of Your heart may be established in peace.

Virgin Immaculate, Mother of the Eternal Priest, who had for the first son of adoption John, the priest chosen by Jesus; You who resided as mistress and Queen of the Apostles in the cenacle, make your humble prayer your own; make its accents resound in the Heart of Your Divine Son, and with

Your unfailing supplication, obtain that the Church of Jesus may have a continual renewal of Pentecost. Amen.

GIVE US HOLY PRIESTS

(After each invocation respond "Give us holy priests.")

Lord, to spread your honor and glory, give us holy priests.
Lord, to increase our faith,
Lord, to support your Church,
Lord, to preach your gospel,
Lord, to defend your cause,
Lord, to combat error,
Lord, to destroy evil,
Lord, to support the truth,
Lord, to direct our souls,
Lord, to make humanity better,
Lord, to eradicate vice,
Lord, to enlighten the world,
Lord, to make known the riches of Your heart,
Lord, to make us love the Holy Spirit,
Lord, may your priests be the light of the world and the salt of the earth.

Let us pray:

Jesus, High Priest, we ask you with all the zeal of our souls to increase the number of men aspiring to the priesthood and mold them according to the plans of your loving heart, so that they may work effectively in making the world one flock and one Shepherd. Amen.

PRAYER FOR PRIESTS

Heavenly Father, pour out your grace on the priests you have made. Let them remember that in performing their tasks

they are never alone. Relying on your almighty power and believing in Christ who called them to share his priesthood, may they devote themselves to their ministry with complete trust, knowing that you can intensify in them the ability to love.

Let them also be mindful that they have as partners their brothers in the priesthood and indeed the faithful of the entire world. For they cooperate in carrying out the saving plan of Christ, which is brought to fulfillment only by degrees, through the collaboration of many ministries in the building up of Christ's Body until the full measure of his manhood is achieved.

(Based on Vatican II)

Lord Jesus, bless all priests and give them grace to do your great work on earth. Keep them, Lord, close to your heart and under the shadow of your protection. Bless their labors for you and grant that their harvest of souls may be a source of joy and consolation to them during life and may merit an everlasting reward for them in death, that having led many souls to you they may see you face to face. Amen.

Lord our God, you guide your people by the ministry of priests. Keep them faithful in obedient service to you that by their life and ministry they may bring you glory in Christ.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

(Roman Missal)

Lord, send holy priests and fervent religious to your Church.

Heart of Jesus, make priests and religious flourish in chastity and sacrifice.

Lord Jesus, you have said: Heaven and earth shall pass away, but my Word shall not pass away. I gave you authority in Your

play the never failing power of your graces. Requiesce in Christ who made the world, and let us be made in your image. May these devout messages to your memory with complete confidence in your love fill us.

FRIDAY

Dedicated to the Passion and Death of Our Lord and To the Sacred Heart of Jesus

*"Be devoted to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, the continual source of sanctity, from whom you derive true charity toward our brothers. To the Heart of Jesus we dedicate our houses, our altars, our poor, our humble work which we go on fulfilling in the exercise of the works of mercy" (Cfr. in: *La divina Provvidenza*, 1911, p. 77).*

*"Let us meditate intensely on the agony of Jesus as an effect of sin; let us mingle our tears with those of Jesus and take up our part of reparation. Expiating, let us love the Love and we will find mercy" (A.G., *Guide*, D.S.M.P., 1938-86, p. 451).*

PETITIONS TO THE HEART OF JESUS

Leader: Lord Jesus, you have said: "Ask and you shall receive, seek and you shall find, knock and it shall be opened to you." I ask, I seek, I knock and I beg you for the grace of which I have so much need, Sacred Heart of Jesus,

All: I trust in You.

Leader: Lord Jesus, you have said: "All that you ask the Father in My Name, He will grant you; I ask your Father, in your name the grace of which I have so much need. Sacred Heart of Jesus,

All: I trust in You.

Leader: Lord Jesus, you have said: Heaven and earth shall pass away but my Word shall not pass away." I have confidence in Your

infallible word and I ask the grace of which I have so much need. Sacred Heart of Jesus,
All: I trust in You.

Lord Jesus, only one thing is impossible to you, that is, that of not having compassion on the unhappy, have pity on us poor sinners and grant us the graces that we ask of you through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, your mother and ours. Mary, Queen of the Heart of Christ,
All: pray for us.

LITANY OF REPARATION

Jesus, look with mercy upon us, as we come before You in a spirit of faith, reparation and love, to express sorrow for ourselves and for all sinners. May we move your divine heart by the promises we are about to make to obtain pardon for ourselves, for the believing and unbelieving world, and for those who have not had the gift of evangelization. We wish to console you:

For the forgetfulness and ingratitude of men,

we will console You, Lord.

For the way you are abandoned in Your holy tabernacle,

we will console You, Lord.

For the offenses of sinners,

we will console You, Lord.

For those who do not respect you,

we will console You, Lord.

For the profanities spoken against you,

we will console You, Lord.

For the outrages against Your divinity,

we will console You, Lord.

For the sacrileges which profane Your Sacrament of Love,

we will console You, Lord.

For the irreverences committed in Your Holy Presence,
we will console You, Lord.

For the injuries of which you are the victim,
we will console You, Lord.

For the coldness of the greater part of Your children,
we will console You, Lord.

For the contempt of Your loving invitations,
we will console You, Lord.

For the unfaithfulness of those who call themselves your
friends,
we will console You, Lord.

For the misuse of Your grace,
we will console You, Lord.

For our own unfaithfulness,
we will console You, Lord.

For the incomprehensible hardness of our hearts
we will console You, Lord.

For our long delay in loving You,
we will console You, Lord.

For our lukewarmness in Your holy service,
we will console You, Lord.

For the sadness you experience at the loss of souls,
we will console You, Lord.

For the long waiting at the door of our hearts,
we will console You, Lord.

For the heartless contempt that grieves You,
we will console You, Lord.

For Your loving sighs,
we will console You, Lord.

For Your loving tears,
we will console You, Lord.

For Your loving imprisonment,
we will console You, Lord.

For Your loving death,
we will console You, Lord.

Let us pray:
Jesus, Savior, from whose Heart came forth this bitter complaint: "I looked for one that would comfort me, and I found none," accept the meager consolations we offer You, and assist us with your powerful grace, that we may always avoid sin that displeases You. May we prove ourselves in everything, everywhere, and forever Your most faithful and devoted souls. We ask this from Your Sacred Heart, dear Jesus, Who being God with the Father and with the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, have mercy on us.
Immaculate Heart of Mary, pray for us.

ALTERNATE REPARATION BEFORE THE BLESSED SACRAMENT

Leader: Lord Jesus, You said to the paralytic man, "Have courage, son, your sins are forgiven." Your words are words of life. Sorry for our sins, and confident in your mercy, as your sons and daughters, we have the courage to say:

All: Loving Jesus, you are the victim of our sins, and the salvation of those who hope in you. In the Eucharist you often remain unknown and forgotten, yet you continue to offer day and night the Sacrifice of Calvary all over the world. We intend to console You, O Lord, for the ingratitude and the indifference of so many people. O Lord, do not look at our unworthiness, but forgive our sins and be mindful of our good intention to be here to pray for good laborers for your harvest.

INVOCATIONS

Leader: We need to ask you, God, for forgiveness. As we give you thanks and praise in reparation for those who offend you,

we offer you our love and our life in repentance for all sins. Let us turn in prayer to Jesus, our merciful and compassionate Lord, present in the Sacrament of the Eucharist, and say:

All: Be merciful, O Sacrament Divine.

Leader: Towards those who despise your commandments.

All: Be merciful, O Sacrament Divine.

Leader: For the sins of our families, relatives, and friends,

All: Be merciful, O Sacrament Divine.

Leader: For infidelities and sacrileges,

All: Be merciful, O Sacrament Divine.

Leader: For our disobedience and infidelity to your holy Church,

All: Be merciful, O Sacrament Divine.

Leader: For lack of courage in defending our faith,

All: Be merciful, O Sacrament Divine.

Leader: For our laziness in reading and listening to your Word,

All: Be merciful, O Sacrament Divine.

Leader: For those who are hesitant and resist the inspiration of your divine grace,

All: Be merciful, O Sacrament Divine.

Leader: For our lack of cooperation in building the Christian Community,

All: Be merciful, O Sacrament Divine.

Leader: For licentiousness, public corruption and scandals,

All: Be merciful, O Sacrament Divine.

Leader: For the injustices against the poor, handicapped and minorities,

All: Be merciful, O Sacrament Divine.

Leader: For the sins of violence, and alcohol and drug abuse,
All: Be merciful, O Sacrament Divine.

Leader: For lack of respect for the life of the unborn,
All: Be merciful, O Sacrament Divine.

Leader: For the violation of human rights in the world,
All: Be merciful, O Sacrament Divine.

Leader: For our weak dedication to religious education,
All: Be merciful, O Sacrament Divine.

Leader: For divisions and conflicts in our families,
All: Be merciful, O Sacrament Divine.

Leader: For our lack of Christian participation in the welfare
of society,
All: Be merciful, O Sacrament Divine.

Leader: For the errors and sins of the Church's leaders,
All: Be merciful, O Sacrament Divine.

Leader: For the faults and imperfections of priests and con-
secrated people in the Church,
All: Be merciful, O Sacrament Divine.

Leader: Let us pray in adoration,
All: Lord Jesus, great is the grace we ask of you. Even
though our faults are many, remember that your
mercy is greater still. Let your grace abound over
all sinfulness. Lord of the Harvest, hear us: send us
holy vocations. We ask this in faith, through the in-
tercession of Mary, your Mother. Out of love for her
and for your glory hear our prayers! Come, Lord, do
not delay. Look upon your Sanctuary and see how it
has become deserted. Send, O Lord, Holy Apostles
to your Church. (Blessed Hannibal)

LITANY OF THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS

Lord, have mercy,

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy,

Christ, hear us,

Christ, graciously hear us.

God, the Father of heaven, Have mercy on us.

God the Son, Redeemer of the world, Have mercy on us.

God the Holy, Spirit,

Holy Trinity, one God,

Heart of Jesus, Son of the eternal Father,

Heart of Jesus, formed by the Holy Spirit in the womb of the Virgin Mary,

Heart of Jesus, substantially united to the Word of God,

Heart of Jesus of infinite majesty,

Heart of Jesus, sacred temple of God,

Heart of Jesus, tabernacle of the Most High,

Heart of Jesus, house of God and gate of heaven,

Heart of Jesus, burning furnace of charity,

Heart of Jesus, abode of justice and love,

Heart of Jesus, full of goodness and love,

Heart of Jesus, abyss of all virtues,

Heart of Jesus, most worthy of all praise,

Heart of Jesus, King and center of all hearts,

Heart of Jesus, in whom are all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge,

Heart of Jesus, in whom the Father was well pleased,

Heart of Jesus, of whose fullness we have all received,

Heart of Jesus, desire of the everlasting hills,

Heart of Jesus, patient and most merciful,

Heart of Jesus, enriching all who invoke you,

Heart of Jesus, fountain of life and holiness,

Heart of Jesus, propitiation for our sins,

Heart of Jesus, loaded down with opprobrium,

Heart of Jesus, bruised for our offenses,
Heart of Jesus, obedient to death,
Heart of Jesus, pierced with a lance,
Heart of Jesus, source of all consolation,
Heart of Jesus, our life and resurrection,
Heart of Jesus, our peace and reconciliation,
Heart of Jesus, victim for our sins,
Heart of Jesus, salvation of those who trust in you,
Heart of Jesus, hope of those who die in you,
Heart of Jesus, delight of all the saints,
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world;
 spare us, O Lord.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world;
 graciously hear us, O Lord.
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world;
 have mercy on us.

Leader: Jesus, meek and humble of heart.

All: Make our hearts like yours.

Leader: Let us pray.

Almighty and eternal God, look upon the Heart of your most beloved Son and upon the praises and satisfaction which he offers you in the name of sinners; and to those who implore your mercy, in your great goodness, grant forgiveness in the name of the same Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with you forever and ever. Amen.

NOVENA IN PREPARATION FOR THE FIRST FRIDAY OF THE MONTH

Leader: (After each invocation respond: I unite myself to You.)
 Profound adoration of the Heart of Jesus,

Ardent love of the Heart of Jesus,
Fervent zeal of the Heart of Jesus,
Reparation of the Heart of Jesus,
Thanks of the Heart of Jesus,
Certain confidence of the Heart of Jesus,
Ardent prayers of the Heart of Jesus,
Humility of the Heart of Jesus,
Eloquent silence of the Heart of Jesus,
Obedience of the Heart of Jesus,
Sweetness and peace of the Heart of Jesus,
Ineffable goodness of the Heart of Jesus,
Universal charity of the Heart of Jesus,
Profound recollection of the Heart of Jesus,
Sufferings and sacrifices of the Heart of Jesus,
Infinite patience of the Heart of Jesus,
Interior sorrow of the Heart of Jesus,
Resignation of the Heart of Jesus,
Intentions, desires, and will of the Heart of Jesus,
Love of the Heart of Jesus, inflame my heart.
Charity of the Heart of Jesus, fill my heart.
Strength of the Heart of Jesus, sustain my heart.
Mercy of the Heart of Jesus, pardon my heart.
Patience of the Heart of Jesus, do not tire of my heart.
Kingdom of the Heart of Jesus, establish yourself in my heart.
Wisdom of the Heart of Jesus, teach my heart.
Will of the Heart of Jesus, guide my heart.
Zeal of the Heart of Jesus, consume my heart.

Adorable Trinity, we give you thanks for the favors you granted your servant, Saint Margaret Mary Alacoque, and we ask, through her intercession, that you grant us the grace which we pray for, in this novena. Immaculate Virgin, pray the Sacred Heart of Jesus for us.

NOVENA TO THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS

INVOCATION

Come, let us worship Jesus,
— whose Heart was wounded for our sins.

CANTICLE

Rv 4:11, 5:9 10, 12

Lord our God, you are worthy
to receive glory and honor and power.

For you have created all things;
by your will they came to be and were made.

Worthy are you, O Lord,
to receive the scroll and break open its seals.

For you were slain;
with your blood you purchased for God
men of every race and tongue,
of every people and nation.

You made of them a kingdom,
and priests to serve our God,
and they shall reign on the earth.

Worthy is the Lamb that was slain
to receive power and riches,
wisdom and strength,
honor and glory and praise.

READING

Rom 5:8-9

It is precisely in this that God proves his love for us: that
while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Now that we

have been justified by his blood, it is all the more certain that we shall be saved by him from God's wrath. He was pierced for our offenses.

— And by his stripes we are healed.

INTERCESSIONS

Leader: My brothers and sisters, let us ask Jesus, who is gentle and humble of heart:

All: King of Love, have mercy on us!

Jesus, in you resides the fullness of God;

— let us share your divine nature.

Jesus, in you is hidden every treasure of wisdom and knowledge;

— reveal to us the wisdom of God through the many expressions of your Church.

Jesus, favored by the Father,

— enable us who hear your word to persevere in it.

Jesus, from your fullness we have all had a share;

— lavish upon us the grace and truth of the Father.

Jesus, source of life and holiness,

— make us holy and pure in our love.

PRAYER

Almighty God, we glory in the heart of your beloved Son and recall the principal favors that have come to us from his love. Make us worthy to receive superabundant grace from that heavenly source of gifts. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

On the first Friday of each month, wherever possible celebrate the Eucharist for the remission of sins, reparation for profanity, and for the lack of respect toward the Eucharist, as well as, for all our sins and those of our brothers and sisters.

TO OUR SORROWFUL MOTHER

“Thus the Blessed Virgin advanced in her pilgrimage of faith, and faithfully persevered in her union with her Son unto the cross, where she stood, in keeping with the divine plan, enduring with her only begotten Son the intensity of his suffering, associated herself with his sacrifice in her mother’s heart, and lovingly consenting to the immolation of this victim which was born of her” (LG n. 58).

THE SEVEN SORROWS OF MARY AND THE GIFTS OF THE HOLY SPIRIT

First Sorrow: Virgin most sorrowful, through the sorrow you experienced in the prophecy of the venerable Simeon, obtain for us the grace to live in Faith supported by the virtue of Humility and the gift of Holy Fear of God. Hail Mary . . . Our Lady of Sorrows, pray for us.

Second Sorrow: Virgin most sorrowful, through the sorrow you experienced in the flight into Egypt, obtain for us the grace to advance in Faith supported by the virtue of Generosity especially toward the poor and the gift of Piety. Hail Mary . . . Our Lady of Sorrows, pray for us.

Third Sorrow: Virgin most sorrowful, through the sorrow you experienced at the loss of Jesus, obtain for us the grace to progress in Faith, supported by the virtue of Chastity, and the gift of Knowledge. Hail Mary . . . Our Lady of Sorrows, pray for us.

Fourth Sorrow: Virgin most sorrowful, through the sorrow you experienced in meeting Jesus on the way to Calvary, obtain for us growth in Faith, supported by the virtue of Patience and the gift of Fortitude. Hail Mary . . . Our Lady of Sorrows, pray for us.

Fifth Sorrow: Virgin most sorrowful, through the sorrow you experienced in contemplating your crucified Son, obtain for us progress in Faith, supported by the virtue of Temperance and the Gift of Counsel. Hail Mary . . . Our Lady of Sorrows, pray for us.

Sixth Sorrow: Virgin most sorrowful, through the sorrow you experienced in viewing the side of Jesus pierced with a lance and in the sorrow you felt in embracing the lifeless body of Jesus in your arms, obtain for us the grace to live by Faith, and the virtue of Charity, and the gift of Understanding. Hail Mary . . . Our Lady of Sorrows, pray for us.

Seventh Sorrow: Virgin most sorrowful, through the sorrow you experienced when Jesus was buried and you found yourself alone, obtain for us the grace to walk in Faith, supported by the virtue of Diligence and the gift of Wisdom. Hail Mary . . . Our Lady of Sorrows, pray for us.

Let us pray: O Most Holy Trinity, we offer You the precious blood of Jesus, the suffering of Mary and of the entire Mystical Body in reparation for the sins of all humanity, so that the Church may always be a guide and sure way of corresponding to grace and to thank you for the gifts received. We offer You all, O Most Holy Trinity, through the Immaculate and Sorrowful Heart of Mary. Amen.

SATURDAY

"How can you even succeed in such great work if you do not feel in the depth of your soul that you are Daughters of the Blessed Virgin . . ." (A.G., Guide, D.S.M.P., 1938-86, p. 10)?

"Run, run to Mary, our dearest Mother, cling to her powerful arm, hide under her mantle, invoke her with all your heart and she will come with pity to sustain you and your diminishing strength" (A.G., Guide, D.S.M.P., 1938-86, p. 178).

On Saturday, when possible celebrate the Liturgy of the Hours and the Eucharistic Liturgy of the Blessed Mother or that of Our Lady of Divine Providence.

PRAYERS TO OUR LADY OF DIVINE PROVIDENCE

Remember, O good and most merciful Virgin Mary, that you have been given to us to be our Providence and support. Full of confidence in your patronage, we come to you, asking your aid and your assistance.

To you we confide our sufferings and our needs. Come to sustain and comfort us. Bless our hopes and our works. You to whom Jesus denies nothing, help us. Protect our Holy Church, our country, our congregation, our superiors, our families and all those who no longer know how to call on you.

Open your heart to us, O gentle mother, dear Lady of Divine Providence, graciously receive our prayers, comfort us, and hear us, now and forever. Amen.

MEMORARE – ST. BERNARD

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection, implored your help, 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 stand, sinful and sorrowful.

O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in your mercy, hear and answer me. Amen.

TAKE US BY THE HAND

Grant to our homes the grace of loving and respecting life that begins with the same love with which you conceived in your womb the life of the Son of God.

... Holy Virgin Mary, mother of beautiful Love, protect our families, so that they may remain united. Bless the raising of children.

Mary, our hope, look on us with pity. Teach us to go continually to Jesus and if we should fall, help us to rise again and return to Him, through the Sacrament of Penance, in which all sins are forgiven and peace is restored to the soul.

We beg you to grant us a deep love for all the sacraments, which are like signs left by your Son. Thus, most holy Mother, with the peace of God in our conscience, with our hearts free from malice and hate, we shall be able to bring true joy and true peace to all, which comes to us from your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who with the Father and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns forever. Amen.

... Mother of Mercy, teacher of hidden and silent sacrifice, we sinners come to you today, we consecrate it to you along with our very being. We bring our Love and consecrate our

whole life, our works, our joys, our sickness and our sorrows. Grant peace, justice, and prosperity to our people as we entrust all we have and all we are to your care, our Lady and Mother. We want to be completely yours and journey with you on the path of fidelity to Jesus Christ in his Church: take us lovingly by the hand always.

See how great the harvest is, and intercede with the Lord, so that he may inspire a hunger for sanctity in all the people of God, and that he may grant many vocations to the priesthood and religious life, vocations strong in faith and zealous dispensers of the mysteries of God. (John Paul II)

FIRST SATURDAY OF THE MONTH REPARATION TO THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

O Immaculate Queen of heaven and earth, Mary, I am here at your feet to make reparation for the offenses you receive daily. I honor you, chosen Daughter of the Eternal Father, Mother of the Divine Son, Spouse of the Holy Spirit; I praise you as the most pure, the most beautiful and the holiest of all creatures.

Pardon, O mother of mercy, the sinners who offend you. Call them with your gentle voice and grant that they repent and return to the Heart of Jesus, the source of our salvation and from Him learn to live united in Love. Mother most pure, pray for us. Hail Holy Queen . . .

DAY FOR VOCATIONS

"The problem of vocations is a problem that interests the whole body of the Church, founded by Christ for the salvation of the world. It is one of the Church problems among many. It is the most important problem since it is a sign of

its visibility, a confirmation of its credibility, a guarantee of its vitality, and the security of the future.” (Paul VI, 1972)

JESUS, DIVINE MASTER

Jesus, Divine Master, who said: “The harvest indeed is great, but the laborers are few,” we lovingly accept Your invitation: “Pray the heavenly Father to send forth laborers into his harvest.”

Inspire a crusade for vocations. More priests! May they be the salt of the earth, the light of the world, the city placed on the mountaintop for the salvation of mankind redeemed by Your blood. More religious! — both men and women to promote the glory of God and the peace of men of good will.

May the earth be filled with seminaries and religious houses. O Mary, God’s chosen one, Mother and guardian of Holy Vocations, pray with us, pray for us, and for all those called by God. Amen.

PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS

Joseph Cardinal Bernardin

O Lord of the harvest, your Word finds a home in our hearts, calls us to community, and invites us to generous service of the human family. Bless with courage and spirit your priestly people, called to full participation by the one Body of Christ. May many choose to respond in public service to your call offered in Jesus’ name. Amen.

INTERCESSIONS

Leader: Let us pray with confidence to the Father that there may be an increase in the number of those who

pledge themselves "to live the evangelical counsels" "to increase the sanctity of the Church" and to be "witnesses of its apostolic vitality." Let us invoke our Savior:

All: Confirm us in your service, Lord.

Leader: Father and Lord of the universe, You sent Your Son into the world to unite your people and to praise Your name.

All: Strengthen the witness of Your Church in the world.

Leader: Watch over priests, religious, and all ministers of Your Church.

All: May their lives be always in harmony with the Gospel they proclaim.

Leader: Bless those whom you have called to perfect chastity for the sake of the Kingdom.

All: May they follow Christ Your Son with generosity.

Leader: Grant that our youth may pledge themselves to the service of Your Church.

All: May they correspond generously to the demands of a vocation.

Leader: Send laborers into your harvest.

All: So that Your name may be glorified among all nations.

Leader: Confirm virgins consecrated to you in their resolution.

All: So that they may serve you with zeal and fidelity.

Leader: Light and salvation of the nations, guide and protect missionaries.

All: Inflame in them the fire of Your Spirit.

Leader: You made Mary attentive to Your Word and Your faithful handmaid,

All: Through her intercession, make us disciples and servants of Your Son.

Leader: O God, You inspire and complete every resolution, guide Your people on the way of Eternal Salvation, and grant that Your children, who have consecrated themselves to you, by leaving all things to follow Christ poor, chaste, and obedient, may serve you with faithfulness and their community of brothers and sisters. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Novena to the Infant Jesus for religious vocations.

(16th to the 24th of each month)

O Jesus, Who has said, "Ask and you shall receive, seek and you shall find, knock and it shall be opened to you," through the intercession of Mary, Your most holy Mother, I knock, I seek, I ask that my prayer be granted. Glory . . .

O Jesus, Who has said, "All that you ask the Father in My Name, He will grant You;" through the intercession of Mary, Your most holy Mother, I humbly and urgently ask Your Father in Your Name that my prayer be granted. Glory . . .

O Jesus, Who has said, "Heaven and earth shall pass away but my Word shall not pass away;" through the intercession of Mary, Your most holy Mother, I am confident that my prayer will be granted. Glory...

DAY OF PRAYER FOR PERSEVERANCE

"Receive the gift of the call of God with gratitude, persevere in it with fidelity, and give in exchange a confident love and a salutary fear. So, the total abandonment to the God who

loved you so much that He wished to make you His own forever must not be unaccompanied by fear of yourself, of your correspondence to His grace, of fidelity in the fulfillment of your general and particular duties. In short, knowing and feeling that all the good things you have come from God, you must remember the saying of the Apostle: I am nothing and good for nothing. Have recourse to the Blessed Mother for help and for comfort; she will increase your faith and will give you the grace to remain faithful to the promises you made" (A.G., Guide, D.S.M.P., 1938-86, p. 105-106).

PRAYERS

"O God, You who wish to withdraw me from the dangers of the world, I thank you. Grant, O most merciful Bridegroom of my soul, that in gratitude for the gift of a religious vocation I may use all my life to glorify You in the exercise of charity and in the most intimate union with You, because You are the God of my heart" (A.G., Guide, D.S.M.P., 1938-86, p. 431).

Mary, most faithful Virgin, obtain for me the gift of perseverance. Hail Mary . . .

To you Mary, Mother of Providence, we entrust our vocation and the formation of our young sisters; we place in your motherly heart our doubts, anxieties, and sufferings. We beg you to lead them on the path of perfection.

We want them to speak of you, and to await from you that divine touch that will renew their hearts and will give the Congregation a new look of charity that believes everything, hopes everything, supports everything and expresses itself in the loving service of our brothers and sisters in need. Our Lady of Providence, pray for us. Hail Mary . . .

“YES”

Virgin Mary with your “yes” you changed the world. Take to heart my “yes” as I place it in your hands forever. You know how much this word costs and how much it costs to keep it: obtain for me the grace not to take back what is asked of me. Teach me to say “yes” as you did, in humility, in purity, in simplicity, and in abandonment to the will of the Father.

Ask of your Divine Son that my “yes” hereafter may be one of following the will of the Father for my salvation and that of the entire world. Amen.

PRAYER FOR COMMUNITY

Lord Jesus, you have called us to community life and have united us among ourselves and to You as branches on the vine. Make us always more fruitful branches capable of receiving and of transmitting the fullness of Your life. Free us from all that confines us within the limits of our personal vision, and open our hearts so that they may always be available to all those whom you place near us.

Lord, give us a true sense of responsibility for one another: a sense so profoundly Christian that it brings us not to judge but rather to give and to receive with fraternal humility.

Father, with Jesus Your Son, we beg You to make us one in Your Love. Amen.

PRAYER FOR SUPERIORS

Lord, bless those that guide us here on earth. You have given them a part of Your authority. Give them, Lord, health, peace, harmony, and stability, so that they may exercise the authority which You have conferred on them.

It is You, Lord, King of Ages, who give the children of men glory, honor, and power. Therefore, direct their decisions to do what is right and pleasing to You, and be able to exercise the authority You have given them with justice, peace, and forbearance, so as to be worthy of Your mercy. Amen.

(St. Clement, Roman, 1st Century)

DAYS OF SPIRITUAL RENEWAL

"The day of recollection and the retreat that the Rule prescribes for you are days of spiritual vacation, hence you should seek to recollect yourselves and obtain a bountiful harvest to preserve the efficacious nourishment. Remove yourself, as much as possible, from every care and distraction, to be able to relish fully the joy of conversing with God as a daughter with her father" (A.G., Guide, D.S.M.P., 1938-86, p. 206).

"If you truly do the work of God, you will on your own accord feel the need for times of retreat which together with your brothers and sisters will transform it into times of fullness" (ET no. 35).

MONTHLY DAY OF RETREAT

Scheduled by every community in a manner and place suitable for the best interior reflection.

— After the Eucharistic Liturgy invoke the Holy Spirit.

Come, Holy Spirit, through the merits of Jesus Christ, give me the grace to make the acts of Faith, Hope, Love, and Contrition, now and at the hour of my death.

- *Act of Faith*
- *Act of Hope*
- *Act of Love*
- *Act of Contrition*
- *Offering of Silence*
During the day, each sister will find a period of time for a revision of life and for personal adoration before the Blessed Sacrament. If possible a priest may be invited for conferences during the day or some community may wish to spend the day at a nearby retreat center.
- *In the evening before Evening Prayer or Compline the community prays the Act of Acceptance of Death.*

ACT OF ACCEPTANCE OF DEATH

Divine Author of my life, in order to unite myself to Your most holy will, I willingly accept the pains of my illness and agony, and I offer them to You in union with the Passion and Death of Jesus. Assist me and defend me, my God, I abandon myself entirely into Your hands.

(Pause)

Mother of Grace, and Mother of Mercy, shield me from the enemy and receive me at the hour of my death. Amen.

PRAYER FOR A GOOD DEATH

Most sorrowful Virgin, our Mother, help us to die well. When death comes, you come too, because as we see you, our heart will no longer be sad and we will abandon ourselves with joy into your hands and those of Jesus (Cfr. L. G., Le missioni in casa, 1934, p. 85).

It is recommended that we value strict silence since it permits us to listen and to come in contact with the Word of God.

The practice of frequent renewal of the Vows is also recommended.

A more lengthy penitential service will take place at a convenient time and day during the month, outside the monthly day of retreat.

etivou a satisfera la seva funció en els trams de la seva trajectòria però també la havia fet difóra tota cosa en seriosos i ben intel·ligents

amb un vestit de color blau. Això la havia fet sempre la preferida dels

que la envien a veure.

En el seu vestit de color blau, la havia fet sempre la preferida dels

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que la envien a veure.

En el seu vestit de color blau, la havia fet sempre la preferida dels

que la envien a veure.

LET US CELEBRATE
THE GREATNESS OF
THE LORD IN TIME



*"I will bless the Lord at all
times; his praise shall be ever
in my mouth."*

Psalm 34:2

THE GRANDEUR OF
THE LORD IN TIME



"I will praise the Lord at all
times; his praises shall be ever
in my mouth." Psalms 34:3

Psalms 34:3

JANUARY

At the beginning of the year, according to our tradition, we invoke the Light of the Holy Spirit with the hymn "Veni Creator."

WORLD DAY FOR PEACE

"When he saw the crowds he went up on the mountainside. After he had sat down his disciples gathered around him, and he began to teach them; "Blest too the peacemakers; they shall be called sons of God" (Mt 5:1-2, 9).

YOU ARE DAUGHTERS OF PEACE

"Keep your heads high: you are daughters of peace and to you is entrusted the care of preserving peace in the disturbing conditions that surround you. In only so doing you will be called Sisters of St. Mary of Providence. You will be loved as Daughters of Peace, and as Our Blessed Lady of Divine Providence is also greeted as Help of Christians" (L.G., Alle Figlie di Santa Maria della Provvidenza dell'opera degli asili, 1913, p. 32).

PRAYER FOR PEACE

Lord, God of Peace, who has created man, the object of your kindness to be close to you in glory. We bless you and we thank you because you have sent us your beloved Son, Jesus, making him, in

the Mystery of the Pasch, the architect of all salvation, the source of all peace, the bond of true unity.

We thank you for the desire, the efforts, the realizations Which your Spirit of Peace has roused in our day: to replace hatred with love, diffidence with understanding, unconcern with care. Open yet more our hearts to the needs of all our brothers and sisters, so that we may be better able to build a true Peace.

Remember, Father of Mercy, all who are in pain, who suffer and die in the cause of a better world.

For the people of every race, and every tongue—May your kingdom come; Your kingdom of justice, peace, and love; And may the earth be filled with your glory, Amen.

Pope Paul VI

SOLEMNITY OF THE EPIPHANY RENEWAL OF VOWS

Triduum in Preparation

“On the Solemnity of the Epiphany, in which the Church celebrates the revelation of Christ to all men, we Daughters of St. Mary of Divine Providence renew our holy vows as a devotional practice. We thank God for being privileged to have received the gifts of Baptism and of our religious vocation” (A. G., Guide, D.S.M.P., 1938-86, p. 442).

In preparation it is recommended that we use the words of our Founder for meditation found in the Guide, page 428, or another preparation. We suggest the following:

“Lord, we beseech you, the object of your kindness to be close to you in glory. We beseech you that we may seek you because you have sent us your beloved Son, Jesus, who is the true

First Day: CALL TO FRUITFULNESS

Hymn

INTRODUCTION: From the beginning of time, resounds the continuous call of our Creator: "increase and multiply" and creatures filled the earth. Having called them, God also gave them the means to respond.

This is the significance of the blessing which having passed through the world of plants and animals, renders a man and woman capable of "creating" with their being another like themselves. The book of Genesis is the history of the creation of man. The Lord enriches this story when besides the promised land, He proclaimed a posterity more numerous than the stars of heaven and the sands on the shore of the sea. It will be the same for Jerusalem after the exile; she will see all her children coming home.

Reading: Is 1:8

Is 64:15

Pause for Personal Reflection

Shared spontaneous prayer

After each prayer the community will respond:

"... Blessed be the Lord for all he has done!" (Sir 39)

Sing the "Our Father"

Second Day: LIFE OF FAITH AND VIRGINAL FRUITFULNESS

Hymn

INTRODUCTION: Jesus indicates in what way faith is spiritually fruitful. He shows us how to go beyond relationships according to the flesh. "Who is my Mother? Who are my

brothers? Whoever does the will of God, they are my brother, sister, and mother." Generating his own Son, God has said and done all things. All believers who are united to God participate, therefore, in the generation of the Son. Spiritual fruitfulness presupposes pure faith.

Reading: Lk 20:34-40
I Cor 7:25-40

Pause for Reflection

Shared spontaneous prayer

After each prayer the community will respond
"I will bless the Lord at all times." (Ps 34:1)

Sing the "Our Father"

Third Day: FRUITFULNESS OF THE CHURCH

Hymn

INTRODUCTION; Assuring their own spiritual fruitfulness believers participate in the fruitfulness of the entire Church. As a mother, she again gives birth in pain, nourishes her little ones and cares for them. Every believer, therefore, must bear fruit in the church, as every true vine bears good fruit. By means of these works, we give glory to the source of all fruitfulness, our Father who is in heaven.

Reading: Jn 15:2-8
Mt 13:31-40

Pause for Reflection

Shared spontaneous prayer

After each prayer the community will respond:
"With God we can do great things." (Ps 108:14)

Sing the "Our Father"

(The introductions for each day were taken from "The Dictionary of Biblical Theology," Ed. Marietti).

RITE FOR THE RENEWAL OF VOWS

The rite is to take place in great simplicity. The Liturgy of the Day is celebrated. After the homily the Sisters process towards the altar with lit candles. They offer the gifts for the Eucharistic Sacrifice and offer themselves reciting the formula for the renewal of vows together.

FORMULA

"I . . . grateful to the Divine Bounty for the gift of having been called to more fully develop the grace of my Baptism, and to follow more closely the Divine Master Jesus Christ in the service of the poor, among the Daughters of St. Mary of Providence, profess to God, the vows of Chastity, Poverty, and Obedience, which I oblige myself to observe faithfully in fraternal union of life with the Sisters, according to the Constitutions. May the Immaculate Virgin, Mother of Divine Providence, and Our Blessed Founder, Fr. Aloysius Guanella, help me in this resolution."

PRAYER

Lord Jesus, with the Sacrament of Baptism, you gave me the first great gift after the call to life: You granted me sanctifying grace. You lit the light of your teachings upon my path, You inserted me into the people of God, among the community of the local and universal Church.

With the Religious Vows, O Jesus, in full and total awareness, I confirmed in my choice of life, that faithfulness, which at the Baptismal Font, my godparents promised for me.

Today, I again renew, together with my Baptismal Promises, with full consciousness, my solemn pledge to You, to the Congregation, to the Church, and to all Christians.

I beg You to make me always more aware of the promise and be faithful to You forever, so that I may always be more constant to the dedication expressed in my vows, to serve my brothers and sisters, in particular the poor, whom you preferred.

REMEMBERING THE BAPTISM OF JESUS AND OUR BAPTISM

"Presenting Himself to receive Baptism by John, Jesus submitted to the will of the Father and humbly took his place among sinners. He is the Lamb of God who in this manner takes upon Himself the sins of the world. The descent of the Holy Spirit under the form of a dove is the declaration of His Divine Sonship on the part of the Heavenly Father. It is an investiture that responds to the prophecies and at the same time, announces Pentecost, which will inaugurate the Baptism of the Spirit, for the Church and for all who enter" (Dictionary of Biblical Theology p. 113).

PRAYER

Almighty and Eternal God, look upon me your creature whom You have called to the Faith, Remove my blindness of heart, break the chains of evil with which Satan tries to bind me. Open to me, O Lord, the doors of Your Paternal goodness. Free me from the corruption of the passions and

draw me to Your teachings. Make me glad to serve You in Your Church and day by day increase in good. Make me always fervent in spirit, joyful in hope and faithful in Your service. O Lord, Holy Father, I implore Your incessant and perfect mercy. You, font of life, and truth, deign to illumine me with Your light of conscience, render me pure and holy, give me true knowledge that worthy of the grace of Your Baptism, I will remain firm in Faith, upright in counsel, and pure in doctrine. (Ancient Rite of Baptism)

PRAYER FOR CHRISTIAN UNITY

Octave from January 18 to January 25

Let us pray with the universal Church making use of the material received each year.

“I do not pray for them alone, I pray also for those who will believe in me through their word, that all may be one as you, Father, are in me, and I in you; I pray that they may be (one) in us, that the world may believe that you sent me. I have given them the glory you gave me that they may be one, as we are one—I living in them, you living in me—that their unity may be complete. So shall the world know that you sent me, and that you loved them as you loved me” (Jn 17:20-23).

PRAYER FOR UNITY

“Come to our aid, O God of the universe, and put all the nations in dread of you! Raise your hand against the heathen, that they may realize your power.

As you have used us to show them your holiness, so now use them to show us your glory. Thus they will know, as we know, that there is no God but you.

Give new signs and work new wonders; show forth the splendor of your right hand and arm; Rouse your anger, pour out wrath, humble the enemy, scatter the foe. Hasten the day, bring on the time; crush the heads of the hostile rulers. Let raging fire consume the fugitive, and your people's oppressors meet destruction.

Gather all the tribes of Jacob, that they may inherit the land as of old, Show mercy to the people called by your name; Israel, whom you named your firstborn. Take pity on your holy city, Jerusalem, your dwelling place. Fill Zion with your majesty, your temple with your glory.

Give evidence of your deeds of old; fulfill the prophecies spoken in your name, reward those who have hoped in you, and let your prophets be proved true. Hear the prayer of your servants, for you are ever gracious to your people; Thus it will be known to the very ends of the earth that you are the eternal God.” (Sir 36: 1-17)

Eternal God, by means of the Holy Spirit make Your Church united in Faith. The people of the earth magnify You in diverse languages with the same faith that your Church proclaims to believers in a variety of languages. Teach your children in Your Grace through the Church so that they may work uprightly. Not the help of men, but Your strength and power cares for and protects the Church. By means of her give help to all the faithful in their weakness and guide those who are far from you, through Your considerate eternal goodness.

Without You we can do nothing. Give abundance of grace to Your Church so that she, as mother of all the living, may give you children that stretch forth to heaven like the branch of the vine from the trunk of the Cross.

St. Ambrose

GIVING THANKS

Leader: We give thanks to You, Almighty Father, Son and Holy Spirit not because of our consensus of thought and consent of will, but because without any merit on our part, you gave us grace, as a gift of the Holy Spirit, in the Incarnation, in Your death and in Your resurrection.

All: We thank you, O Lord.

Leader: We thank you because you have called us to faith and have united us to yourself.

All: We thank you, O Lord.

Leader: We thank you because we know that in spite of our petty divisions, we are still the object of divine grace and love.

All: We thank you, O Lord.

Leader: We thank You because you have given us union in thought and prayer: we thank you for all we have learned in this union, victory over prejudice, removal of misunderstandings, increased relationships and deeper concern resulting in much progress on the way to unity of Spirit.

All: We thank you, O Lord.

Leader: We thank you for the joy we experienced when we shared the benefits of the divine office and of piety, which are still our common possessions.

All: We thank you, O Lord.

Leader: Let us recognize that our understanding of truth, as it is in Jesus Christ, is biased by our pride, our obstinacy, and our division.

All: Lord, have mercy on us!

Leader: We pray that Christians of every Church may be led with patience and humility to a more profound understanding of the truths of the Gospel, that they may adhere and support the other Churches in a broader comprehension of truth in which they must recognize the unity in diversity.

All: Lord, listen to our prayer.

Leader: Let us pray that Christians everywhere may be guided to seek diligently the ways in which they can be visibly united in heart and spirit.

All: Lord, listen to our prayer.

Leader: We pray that everywhere men and women in this world may be converted to Christ, who in spite of divisions, may achieve unity. That He may unite those who are divided by many deceptions; that the world at the end may find in Him peace and union. Honor be to Him for all eternity.

All: Lord, listen to our prayer.

PRAYER FOR THE UNITY OF THE CHURCH

Heavenly Father, Your Son asked that his Church be one as You and He are one, but Christians have not been united as he prayed. We have isolated ourselves from each other and failed to listen to each other. We have misunderstood and ridiculed and even gone so far as to attack each other.

In so doing we have offended You, all our brothers and sisters in the Church, and all who have not believed in You because of our scandalous divisions. Forgive us Father, and make us fully one. Blot out our sins, renew our minds, enkindle our hearts and guide us by Your Holy Spirit into that oneness which is Your will.

FEBRUARY

*"The works of Divine Providence, mindful of the graces received from Our Lady of Lourdes, consecrate the month of February to this devotion" (in: *La Divina Provvidenz*, 1907, p. 17 s.).*

*"Our devotion to Mary Immaculate consists in keeping our hearts pure and immaculate so that we may be worthy of her, the Virgin without sin. Offer her a flower picked in the garden of our day; a prayer, an act of obedience, humility, charity, sacrifice" (Cfr. in: *La Divina Provvidenza*, 1911, p. 26).*

PRAYER

Virgin Immaculate, I come to your school since to walk in the ways of God and to save myself, I need you as my teacher. Give light of faith to our minds, the zeal of charity to our hearts, a spirit of penance for our own sins and those of all humanity, so that even here on earth the Lord may be glorified.

Do not permit, or rather prevent with your maternal care that our soul should get lost in the attractions and deceptions of the world. Help us so that, living in simplicity, in humility, and in perfect obedience to the Church, the chosen spouses of your Son Jesus, may conquer our spiritual enemies, our passions and senses, and thus give honor to God, become holy and merit to see you, O Immaculate Mother in glory, eternally happy in the light and charity of God. Our Lady of Lourdes, pray for us.

(From the writings of Aloysius Guanella)

IN HONOR OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

(Information regarding themes and extracts that can be used for personal and communitarian meditation)

1st day: Prayer

Readings: Ex 17:8-13

I Tm 2: 1-8

Jn 14: 12-14

2nd day: Penance! Penance! Penance!

Readings: Ez 33:10-20

I Jn 3:1-10

Lk 13:1-9

3rd day: Pray for the Conversion of Sinners

Readings: Hos 6: 1-6

Rom 9: 1-5

Lk 18: 9-14

4th day: I do not promise you happiness in this world.

Readings: Jer 20: 7-12

I Cor 1:18-31

Mt 10:16-26, 34-39

5th day: I will make you happy in the next life.

Readings: Is 25:6-9

I Pt 1:3-9

Jn 16:16-22

6th day: Go to drink and wash at the fountain

Readings: Ez 4:1-9

Rom 6:3-14

Jn 4:5-14

7th day: Ask that people come here in procession

Readings: Is 2:2-5

Eph 5:1-14

Lk 2:8-20

8th day: Have a chapel built here

Readings: 2 Sam 7:1-7, 27-29

I Cor 3:8-17

Mt 21:12-17

9th day: I am the Immaculate Conception

Readings: Gn 3:13-15

Rv 12:1-14

Lk 1:26-38

MARCH

"We dedicate the month of March to the glorious patriarch St. Joseph."

*"Besides homage and prayer to St. Joseph, we offer the pledge of a pure, honest, and fervent life, to God and to our neighbor" (Cfr. in: *La divina Provvidenza*, 1905, p. 36; 1907, p. 34).*

NOVENA

(Readings to be inserted in the outline of prayer for the novena)

1st day: An everlasting descendent

Readings: 2 Sam 7:4-5a, 12-14a, 16

2nd day: One who is truly great

Reading: Sir. 10:19-28

3rd day: The just man

Readings: Mt 1:16, 18-21, 24a

4th day: The carpenter's son

Readings: Mt 13:54-58

5th day: We were looking for you

Readings: Lk 2:41-51a

6th day: He believed in God

Readings: Rom 4:1-8

7th day: Father of many nations

Readings: Rom 4:13-22

8th day: You'll receive an inheritance from him as your reward

Readings: Col 3:14-17, 23-24

9th day: Eulogy of the just man

Readings: Sir 45:2-5

SEVEN SORROWS AND SEVEN JOYS

1. O glorious St. Joseph, by the sorrow you experienced in the mystery of the divine incarnation in Mary, obtain for us the grace of confidence in God. Glory . . .

2. O glorious St. Joseph, by the sorrow you experienced in seeing the Child Jesus born in such great poverty and by the joy you felt in seeing him adored by the angels, obtain for us the grace of approaching holy communion with faith, humility and love. Glory . . .

3. O glorious St. Joseph, by the sorrow you experienced in the circumcision of the Child Jesus and by the joy you felt when pronouncing his sweetest name for the first time, obtain for us the grace of removing from our heart all that is displeasing to God. Glory . . .

4. O glorious St. Joseph, by the sorrow you experienced in hearing the prophecy of the holy, old man Simeon, and the joy you felt when he foretold the redemption of the human

race, obtain for us the grace of meditating with love on the pains of Jesus and the sorrows of Mary. Glory . . .

5. O glorious St. Joseph, by the sorrow you experienced in the flight into Egypt and by the joy that you felt in having with you the Son of God, obtain for us the grace of fulfilling all our duties with exactness. Glory . . .

6. O glorious St. Joseph, for the consolation you experienced in returning to your home in Nazareth and for the fear you felt in hearing that the persecutors of Jesus were still reigning there, obtain for us the grace of conformity to the will of God. Glory . . .

7. O glorious St. Joseph, by the sorrow you experienced in the loss of Jesus and for the joy you felt in finding him, obtain for us the grace of leading a good life and persevering in faith until the end. Glory . . .

TO ST. JOSEPH FOR THE GIFT OF VOCATIONS TO THE CONGREGATION

Grant, O St. Joseph, vocations to the priesthood and religious life in our works of mercy and in the Guanellian Cooperators, for the greater glory of God and to assist so many of our brothers and sisters who suffer in misery and abandonment.

We beg you, O glorious patriarch St. Joseph to take under your patronage this house. (cause)

CRUSADE FOR THE DYING

"It is necessary to save souls; for this our Founder left us the task of active participation in the Crusade of Prayer for the salvation of the dying of each day, in the whole world, so as

*to be able to receive special help for the great passage toward eternity" (Cf. Mazzucchi, *La vita* . . . 1920, pp. 357-360).*

PRAYERS FOR THE DYING

"Prayer offered in faith will cure the sick." (Jas 5:15)

Brief phrases—Words of Jesus—Ejaculations

- "Who will separate us from the Love of Christ." (Rom 8:35)
- "While we live we are responsible to the Lord, and when we die we die as His Servants." (Rom 14:8)
- "We have a dwelling in the heavens." (2 Cor 5:1)
- "We shall be always with the Lord." (I Thes 4:17)
- "We shall see God as He is." (I Jn 3:2)
- "We shall pass from death to life, because we love our brothers." (I Jn 3:14)
- "To you I lift up my soul, O Lord." (Ps 25:1)
- "The Lord, is my light and my salvation." (Ps 27:1)
- "I believe that I shall see the bounty of the Lord in the land of the living." (Ps 27:13)
- "Athirst is my soul for God the living God." (Ps 42:3)
- "Even though I walk in the dark valley I fear no evil, for you are at my side." (Ps 23:4)
- "Come, blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you." (Mt 25:34)
- "I assure you; this day you will be with me in Paradise." (Lk 23:43)
- "In my Father's house there are many dwelling places." (Jn 14:2)
- "I am going to prepare a place for you, and then I shall come back to take you with me." (Jn 14:2-3)
- "I would have you in my company, where I am." (Jn 17:24)

- “Everyone who looks upon the Son, and believes in Him shall have eternal life.” (Jn 6:40)
- “Into your hands I commend my spirit.” (Ps 31:6a)
- “Lord Jesus, receive my spirit.” (Acts 7:59)

Holy Mary, pray for us.

St. Joseph, pray for us.

Jesus, Mary, and Joseph assist me in my last agony.

OFFERING THE EUCHARISTIC LITURGY FOR THE DYING

My God, I offer you with Jesus, Mary, and Joseph all the Eucharistic Liturgies—celebrated in the world for all my brothers and sisters who will appear before you today. May the blood of Jesus, the Redeemer, obtain mercy for them. Amen.

MOST CLEMENT JESUS

Most clement Jesus, who loves souls so much, I beg you by the agony of your most Sacred Heart, by the sorrows of your Immaculate Mother and by the intercession of St. Joseph, to wash in your blood the sinners of the whole world who are in agony and will die today. Amen.

APRIL

Although Easter is a moveable solemnity of the liturgical year, usually it is celebrated in April along with the other solemnities that form part of the paschal season: Ascension—Pentecost—Most Blessed Trinity—Body of Christ. Pray with the Church in the Eucharistic Celebration and in Christian Prayer: Liturgy of the Hours.

On the World Day of Prayer for Vocations, John Paul II proclaimed Blessed, the Italian Clare Dina Bosatta, religious of the Daughters of St. Mary of Providence, April 21, 1991.

NOVENA TO BLESSED CLARE BOSATTA

Blessed Clare Bosatta, saw herself as a humble servant of the Lord. She lived her life like that of Mary, her Mother and Model. During this novena let us pray to obtain from the hands of Blessed Clare the virtues and graces to be like her, true daughters of Our Lady and handmaids of Divine Providence.

Day 1: Humility "Oh when I think of the Eternal Word who left Paradise and became man and dwelt among us, that He has done this to . . . give me an example of humility, I do not know how to see myself . . . but, O Holy Immaculate Virgin, you who for your humility are so pleasing to God . . . transmit a ray of that Humility into my mind and heart. May it pierce my mind, heart, and body to destroy any sign of self-love and pride in me, . . .".

Day 2: Obedience "I am here and the Lord has placed me here. This work which we are undertaking is God's. If I had a well-founded doubt of it, I would be the first to give a hand to overturn it. But I must attend to this work. I want to give every thought, every affection, and every bodily effort to this work. I am God's and I belong to this work of God which is still young. It is a seed which is planted. All need to cultivate it . . . It needs a great heart . . . the heart of a mother. May God help me."

Day 3: Prayerfulness "At all times and in all places she tried to keep her heart united to God, but her favorite spot was before the Blessed Sacrament . . . she and her sister Marcellina, after the labors of the day were done, would beg the sacristan for the keys to the Church. Most often she would spend the greater part of the night at the foot of the Tabernacle. So ardent was Sr. Clare's devotion that frequently the first glimmerings of dawn found her still before Jesus."

Day 4: Purity of heart "Approaching that Divine Majesty and having to approach it without having time and a way of purifying herself as her heart desired was without doubt, a thorn to her poor heart! It was heard said that Blessed Clare manifested holding the beautiful virtue in esteem as a most precious treasure, and she guarded it jealously."

Day 5: Service and Generosity "Blessed Clare was always most prompt and most eager in the discharge of all her duties . . . She attended with joyful spirit to the service of the sick . . . always tranquil even when she had to deal with very difficult and irritable characters . . . And the concept of exemplariness in her life was so profound and universal in the house, that at her death I heard Sister Marcellina, exclaim: "I do not weep over the loss of sister, but rather for the loss of a model of virtue for the house."

Day 6: Spirit of Abandonment "We know well that Jesus Christ insofar as He is God, King of Glory and of blessedness by essence, and insofar, as He is Man, He is the Man of Sorrow and Prince of Martyrs. He, the captain of martyrs, holds in his right hand the standard of the cross and powerfully states: "He who wants to come after Me should take up his own Cross, put it on his shoulders, and then follow Me."

Day 7: Gentleness "Blessed Clare's affection for her sisters was not an instinctive love, of sensitive and temporal subjects but it was an especially spiritual love . . . When she was speaking with them, she spoke with heartfelt ardor, with strength and gentleness and with such heart that the sisters surrendered to her discretion in everything."

Day 8: Patience "She took upon herself a heart of honey, so generous and gentle that it flowed from her lips, eyes, face, and from her whole exterior deportment . . . who relieved sorrows rather than ever upset herself over this miserable life."

Day 9: Sacrifice ". . . the condition of both took a turn for the worse, and the doctor's report gave no hope for recovery. She realized that if Sister Marcellina should die the work would receive a serious setback. To avoid this she resolved to offer her own life on condition that her Superior's life be spared. This meant a painful sacrifice to each of these devoted sisters, still Blessed Clare did not waiver from her offering. She generously held out all she had for the good of her Community and the salvation of souls."

(Words of Blessed Clare or her companions)

PRAYER TO SISTER CLARE BOSATTA

Lord, our God, who made of Blessed Clare Bosatta a living image of Your Son Jesus Christ, adorer of the Father and

humble servant of men, we pray that we may be able to follow her example and to obtain through her intercession the grace. . . . that we ask you for trustingly. Through Christ our Lord. Amen. Blessed Clare, intercede for us.

APRIL 20

**FEAST OF BLESSED CLARE BOSATTA
(Common of Virgins)**

THE LITURGY OF THE HOURS

APRIL 20

BLESSED CLARE BOSATTA, VIRGIN

MEMORIAL

Dina Bosatta, known in religious life as Sister Clare, was born on May 27, 1858 in Pianello Lario (Como) Italy. With her elder sister Marcelina, co-foundress of the Guanellian Apostolate, she became part of the first nucleus of Sisters with whom Father Guanella began his mission of service to the poor. In 1886 after various apostolic missions, Sister Clare became directress of "The Little House of Providence" in Como, where she edified all with the witness of her life, manifesting a profound piety, accompanied by faithfulness to her responsibilities, a giving of self without counting the cost of the sacrifice in union with

Christ Crucified, an imperturbable faith in God the Father in the midst of poverty and confronted with every possible difficulties. Due to physical frailty she was unable to carry on the demands of the office entrusted to her. Instead she offered her life to the Lord for the solid foundation and development of the newly established Works of Providence. After great suffering, Sister Clare died—not yet thirty years old—her sanctity quite visible. She was proclaimed “Blessed” by John Paul II on April 21, 1991. Her body rests beside that of Blessed Aloysius Guanella, in the Sanctuary of the Sacred Heart.

OFFICE OF READING

SECOND READING

From the writings of Blessed Clare Bosatta, virgin. (Notebook of annotations: “On Reception and Religious Profession” cf. pp. 269-270 ss. 275 s.)
The most solemn and happiest day of my life.

The day of my consecration as a Daughter of Mary Most Immaculate, was for me a day of peace, of contentment and of holy joy. This was the most solemn and happiest day of my life, after that of my First Communion. How good is that Divine Heart, how much He still loves me and benefits me, even if so many, many times I have offended and wronged him. For my faults I merited to be rejected forever. But no, He who is so merciful and kind, chose me from among so many

and placed me in the number of His chosen ones, calling me to the religious life.

Yes, this day was really a day of joy and peace, of joy and contentment never before experienced. I shall never forget it even to the last breath of my life. Ah! yes, I shall not let pass a day without rendering to my most loving Spouse, praise and blessing, always asking the grace to persevere holily in this religious state. Behold me then, O my Spouse Jesus, all Yours, since You will it, all Your most loving Heart, all abandoned into Your most holy hands, so that You may do and dispose of me as pleases You. I ask only Your holy love, final perseverance and the perfect fulfillment of Your most holy will.

Most holy Heart of my Jesus, deign to infuse and to enrich my poor heart with these beautiful virtues which I ask of You; that is, that I may be always obedient – humble – respectful – meek – charitable – gentle – patient – modest – recollected – mortified – virtuous – fervent – pure in mind and heart—desirous of doing good to all. Finally, the grace of always loving You with a heartfelt love, to praise You and bless You even to that blessed day when I will see You and embrace You in Paradise.

My dear Jesus, I ask You for these beautiful virtues so dear to Your heart, for Your Blood shed for my love and for Your most holy merits and I will not cease to ask You for them until I have them in my heart. Give me the grace and the means that I may exercise myself in these virtues and become a Saint.

Everyday I will make a particular examine on these virtues; in this way I shall practice them and I will strive to be faithful and docile.

Many times the Lord sends temptations for our good and our advantage. Many times He does it to try our virtue and also that we may know clearly our tendency to evil, and pull it out by the roots. Without God, without His help, what are we? We are nothing but miserable sinners, capable only of doing evil. If then we alienate ourselves from the Lord, where shall we go to find a more secure support, and where shall we find peace and repose outside of Him?

Courage then, support everything and suffer everything for love of that God Who has chosen you as His Spouse and be constant in serving Him—be it in consolation or in tribulations.

Mary Most Holy, Immaculate Mother, help this poor daughter of yours who today has consecrated herself entirely to you. Help me to be firm and constant in maintaining these resolutions which I have made on this blessed day.

RESPONSORY

The Lord, is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot.

— The Lord is good to those who seek him.

You are my inheritance, O Lord.

— The Lord is good to those who seek him.

Morning Prayer

CANTICLE OF ZACHARIAH

In fidelity and love he has made you His Spouse forever: so the Lord has blessed you. (Alleluia)

Evening Prayer II

CANTICLE OF MARY

Courageous Virgin, you have followed the Lamb, who was crucified for love of us; now united with us in the Canticle of the Virgin Mary, magnify the Lord. (Alleluia)

Prayer: Merciful and provident Father, Blessed Clare Bosatta, Virgin, was filled with Your Spirit of love, uniting it with the contemplation of Christ crucified and service to the needy and abandoned. Grant through her intercession, that we may love you with complete faith and serve you with an active charity among the most needy brothers and sisters. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

For the rest of the Divine Office follow the official text of the Church

CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

(Common of Virgins)

APRIL 20

BLESSED CLARE BOSATTA, VIRGIN

MEMORIAL

READING I Is 61:10-11, 62:1-5

A reading from the book of the prophet Isaiah

The Lord is pleased with you.

I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, my whole being shall exult in my God; for he has clothed me with the garments of salvation, he has covered me with the robe of righteousness, as a bridegroom decks himself with a garland and a bride adorns herself with her jewels.

For as the earth brings forth its shoots and as a garden causes what is sown in it to spring up, so the Lord God will cause righteousness and praise to spring up before all the nations.

For Zion's sake I will not keep silent, and for Jerusalem's sake I will not rest, until her vindication shines out like the dawn, and her salvation like a burning torch.

The nations shall see your vindication, and all the kings your glory; and you shall be called by a new name that the mouth of the Lord will give.

You shall be a crown of beauty in the hand of the Lord, and a royal diadem in the hand of your God.

You shall no more be termed Forsaken, and your land shall no more be termed Desolate; but you shall be called My Delight Is in Her, and your land Married; for the Lord delights in you, and your land shall be married.

For as a young man marries a young woman, so shall your builder marry you, and as the bridegroom rejoices over the bride, so shall your God rejoice over you.

Word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 16

R. You are my inheritance, O Lord.

Protect me, O God, for in you I take refuge. I say to the Lord, "You are my Lord; I have no good apart from you." The Lord is my chosen portion and my cup; you hold my lot.

R. You are my inheritance, O Lord.

I bless the Lord who gives me counsel; in the night also my heart instructs me. I keep the Lord always before me; because he is at my right hand, I shall not be moved.

R. You are my inheritance, O Lord.

Therefore my heart is glad, and my soul rejoices; my body also rests secure. You show me the path of life, in your presence there is fullness of joy; in your right hand are pleasures forevermore.

R. You are my inheritance, O Lord.

READING II

Gal 2:19-20

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Galatians

I live now, not I but Christ lives in me.

For through the law I died to the law so that I might live to God. I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but it is Christ who lives in me. And the life I now live in the flesh I live by faith in the son of God, who loved me and gave himself for me.

Word of the Lord

GOSPEL

Mt 11:25

R. Alleluia, alleluia

“I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth, because you have hidden these things from the wise and the intelligent and have revealed them to infants; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.”

R. Alleluia

**A READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL
ACCORDING TO ST. MATTHEW**

Blessed are the poor in Spirit

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain; and after he sat down, his disciples came to him. Then he began to speak, and taught them, saying;

“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

“Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

“Blessed are the merciful, for they will receive mercy.

“Blessed are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

“Blessed are the peacemakers, for they will be called children of God.

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

“Blessed are you when people revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

Gospel of the Lord

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

Dear friends, as we continue our journey with Jesus and follow in the footsteps of Blessed Clare, let us present our petitions before Him:

R. Lord, hear our prayer

— For our Holy Father, our Cardinals and Bishops, and for the Pastoral Ministers of this celebration, that they serve God's people with humble courage and sincere compassion. Let us pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer

— For the people that we minister to, that they will come to know Christ's embrace in their needs. Let us pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer

— For all Daughters of St. Mary of Providence, that following the example of Blessed Clare, they may become sensitive to the physical and spiritual needs of our brothers and sisters. Let us pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer

— For the deceased Daughters of St. Mary of Providence, that they will soon be united with Blessed Clare and share in the Heavenly Banquet. Let us pray to the Lord.

R. Lord, hear our prayer

— For this Community of Faith, that we may grow in our love and loyalty to the Lord and to one another, Let us pray to the Lord.

God of life and love, help us to be of loving service to those we live with, work with, and pray with, so that like Blessed Clare we may share your glory in everlasting life. We make this prayer through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

MAY

In the Houses of Blessed Aloysius Guanella the month of May is dedicated to Mary with special fervor.

*“Do not believe that your love for Our Lady is sincere if you do not hasten to offer her fervent prayers and witness of life in imitation of her virtues” (Cfr. in: *La divina Provvidenza*, 1911, p. 63).*

PRAYER

Holy Virgin, Mother of Christ and our mother, who together with your son Jesus have known the fatigue of work, look with love on us who gain our bread with daily fatigue in the various fields of active charity.

We ask your maternal blessing on this work. Help us to live it as an active participation in the creative and provident power of God, a loving service to our brothers and sisters, and as penance for our sins, thus collaborating in our redemption and sanctification and that of all humanity.

O Mother, protect our families. Be to all the light of counsel and strength for good. Hear our prayers and give us what we ask for: but above all the strength and joy of adhering always to the will of God the Father.

Our Lady of work, pray for us!

AN OUTLINE OF PRAYER

An arrangement of Marian themes including the Word of God, psalms, and readings taken from the writings of Don Guanella.

(These liturgies of the word may substitute for a practice of piety)

MOTHER OF GOD, MOTHER OF HUMANITY

Let us Pray: O God, who in the fruitful virginity of Mary have given men and women eternal salvation, grant that we may experience her intercession, since through her, we receive the author of life, Christ your Son, who is God, and lives and reigns for all ages. Amen.

From the Gospel of John (19:25-27)

Near the cross of Jesus there stood his mother, his mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary Magdalene. Seeing his mother there with the disciple whom he loved, Jesus said to his mother, "Woman, there is your son." In turn he said to the disciple, "There is your mother." From that hour onward, the disciple took her into his care.

Psalm 71

*In you O Lord, I take refuge,
let me never be put to shame.*

*In your righteousness deliver me
and rescue me;*

incline your ear to me and save me.

*Be to me a rock of refuge,
a strong fortress, to save,
for you are my rock and my fortress.*

*Rescue me, O my God, from the
hand of the wicked,
from the grasp of the unjust and cruel.*

*For you, O Lord, are my hope,
my trust, O Lord, from my youth.*

*Upon you I have leaned from my birth;
it was you who took me from
my mother's womb,
My praise is continually of you.*

*I have been like a portent to many,
but you are my strong refuge.*

*My mouth is filled with your praise,
and with your glory all day long.*

*Do not cast me off in the time of old age;
do not forsake me when my strength is spent.*

Prayer

O Blessed Virgin, I too want to be like John, your beloved. Grant that the Spirit of the Lord rest in my heart, who prays for me, and helps me to pray as I should. Holy Virgin, show that you are a true mother, and obtain for me salvation and sanctification, (L.G. Nel mese del fervore, 1884, p. 116).

Mother of Divine Providence, pray for us.

Hymn

From the Guide (p. 272)

After Jesus, place your confidence and your hope in his Immaculate Mother, Our Lady of Providence, whom you have chosen as patroness. She is the guide and the protection of those who confide in her.

Reading

Mary is our Mother because she was the mother of Jesus. Consider carefully—if Jesus made the hearts of human mothers so tender, how much more tender he would have made the heart of Mary, His Mother? Mary learned love and divine mercy in bringing up her only begotten son! What can I say! From the cross—when Jesus is about to leave earth—He cries out to his mother: “In a few moments you will be deprived of your son, I leave you John and with him all the children of earth. Mary accepted. She accepted being mother of all and wanted to have for all her children that love and care of all mothers. The Virgin sees the innumerable needs that surround all. She sympathizes and aids with incomparable affection.

If you should ask her: Why so many cares and great sufferings? She would respond: do you not know that all these are my children? With the same love with which Jesus loves, she loves and suffers for us. Mary's heart is divided: one part loves Jesus, the other part loves us. If Mary loves us with love equal to her love of God, then she loves us with intense love, with the truest love. It is rare that a son comprehends all the affection of his parents. Impossible then it is that an earthly son fully understands the love of Mary our Mother and the Mother of God.

But we cannot cease to repeat: Mary, we rejoice in the fact that you love us so very much. We rejoice in you; we celebrate and exult in that great love that leads from your heart to God and to Paradise (L.G., O Padre! O Madre! Il corso, 1884, pp. 117-120).

QUEEN IN HEAVEN AND ON EARTH

Let us pray: O God who have given us as a mother and queen the Virgin Mary, from whom was born Christ your Son, by

her intercession give us the glory promised to your children in the Kingdom of Heaven. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

From the book of the prophet Isaiah (9:1-2, 5-7)

The people who walked in darkness have seen a great light;
Upon those who dwelt in the land of gloom a light has shone.
You have brought them abundant joy and great rejoicing.
As they rejoice before you as at the harvest, as men make merry when dividing spoils.
For a child is born to us, a son is given to us; upon his shoulder dominion rests,
They name him Wonder-Counselor, God-Hero, Father-Forever, Prince of Peace,
His dominion is vast and forever peaceful, From David's throne, and over his kingdom, which he confirms and sustains
By judgment and justice, both now and forever.

From Psalm 45:9-15

... daughters of kings are among your ladies of honor; at your right hand stands the queen in gold of Ophir.

Hear, O daughter, consider and incline your ear; forget your people and your father's house. and the king will desire your beauty.

*Since he is your lord, bow to him;
the people of Tyre will seek
your favor with gifts,
the richest of the people with
all kinds of wealth.*

*The princess is decked in her
chamber with gold woven robes:*

*in many colored robes she is
led to the king;
behind her the virgins, her
companions follow.
With joy and gladness they are led along
as they enter the palace of the king.*

Yes, yes, like a good child we want to repeat many times a day: We greet you, O Mother; hold us tenderly in your embrace, we want to merit to die in your arms and come into heaven to greet you eternally, Holy Mother and Powerful Sovereign (L.G., Le missioni in casa, 1934, p. 144).

Mother of Divine Providence, pray for us!

Hymn

From the Guide, p. 284

Lift up your hearts, daughters of the Blessed Virgin! With the omnipotent protection of your Mother who is in heaven, go on fearlessly until the last triumph: the cross, death, eternal happiness.

Reading

See how Mary loves her own. See how she caresses them with the expression of mother. Rejoice because Mary is a merciful mother—be equally joyful, because she is a powerful Queen.

The power of Mary is easily measured by her dignity and her sanctity. If you consider the dignity of Mary, you will be lost as if in a land without boundary. If you consider her sanctity, you find also here greater difficulty than in fathoming the depth of the sea. After praising God, praise Mary with all the praises your mind is capable of and your heart can express; because after God, Mary merits all the praise that you can imagine. Mary alone is greater than all the Saints and Angels of Paradise, because Mary is a universal sovereign.

Now that you have acknowledged the heart of a mother, think also of the power of a queen, and then say: How wonderful to be the daughter of Mary! How great Mary is! How Powerful! She can do all by grace, as God can do by nature (L.G., Le missioni in casa, 1934, pp. 138-140).

TEACHER OF EVERY VIRTUE

Let us pray: Lord Jesus, who gave Mary to us as a most sweet Mother and the perfect model of life, grant us to imitate her example of faith and charity and to live in poverty of spirit and purity of heart to obtain the evangelical ideal of sanctity. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

From the Book of Wisdom (7:25-26; 29-30)

For she is an aura of the might of God
and a pure effusion of the glory of the Almighty;
therefore nought that is sullied enters into her.
For she is the fulgurance of eternal light,
the spotless mirror of the power of God,
the image of his goodness.

For she is fairer than the sun
and surpasses every constellation of the stars.

Compared to light, she takes precedence; for that, indeed, night supplants, but wickedness prevails not over Wisdom.

Canticle of the Blessed Virgin (Lk 1: 46-55)

*"My soul magnifies the Lord,
and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior,
for he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his
servant.*

*Surely, from now on all generations will call me
blessed,*

*for the Mighty One has done great things for me,
and holy is his name.*

*His mercy is for those who fear him
from generation to generation.*

*He has shown strength with his arm;
he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their
hearts.*

*He has brought down the powerful from their thrones,
and lifted up the lowly;
he has filled the hungry with good things,
and sent the rich away empty.*

*He has helped his servant Israel,
in remembrance of his mercy,
according to the promise he made to our ancestors,
to Abraham and to his descendants forever."*

Prayer

O holy Virgin! I too wish to learn from Jesus the science to save myself. What a holy master, what a merciful teacher! While he teaches, he opens the intellect to understand and moves the heart to work. Good Jesus, your word works the miracle of converting the heart of an obstinate Christian into

a heart of a sorrowful Christian. Virgin, when shall I be able to profit by the school of Jesus, and draw profit from it as you have? (L.G., Nel mese dei fior, 1884, p. 109)

Mother of Divine Providence, pray for us!

From the Guide, p. 138

Imitate the Immaculate Virgin, most pure crystal, which neither a laborious troubled life, nor the power of hell could dim.

Reading

So that your devotion to Mary may be a perfect devotion, imitate her virtues as much as possible.

How much humility in Mary! How much patience! How much charity!

You cannot admire such a creature without imitating her in some way, at least in her examples. How much more then when we are dealing with a woman of salvation, of a mother? Children are bound to observe and draw from her example in the manner of speaking, acting and of thinking. It is by nature that a son imitates his mother. We are expected to resemble Mary in faith by looking up to God, in hope by traveling toward heaven, and by charity by reaching for eternal blessedness. From Mary let us learn prudence to govern, justice to protect the affairs of others, strength to overcome difficulties, temperance not to glory in cases of prosperity, or not to be discouraged in adversities. Let us mirror ourselves in Mary: she is a crystal from whom shines forth every beauty of color and excellence. Let us imitate Mary to be faithful devotees of this Immaculate creature (L.G., O Padre! O Madre! I corso, 1884, p. 98 s).

ADVOCATE OF SINNERS

Let us pray: O God, merciful Father, aid our weakness, and through the intercession of Mary, Immaculate Mother of Your Son, grant that we may rise from sin to a new life. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

From the book of Genesis (3:9-15:20)

The Lord God then called to the man and asked him, "Where are you?" He answered, "I heard you in the garden; but I was afraid, because I was naked, so I hid myself." Then he asked, "Who told you that you were naked? You have eaten, then, from the tree of which I had forbidden you to eat!" The man replied, "The woman whom you put here with me—she gave me fruit from the tree, and so I ate it." The Lord God then asked the woman, "Why did you do such a thing?" The woman answered, "The serpent tricked me into it, so I ate it." Then the Lord God said to the serpent: "Because you have done this, you shall be banned from all the animals and from all the wild creatures: On your belly shall you crawl, and dirt shall you eat all the days of your life. I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers: she will strike at your head while you strike at her heel."

The man called his wife Eve, because she became the mother of all the living.

Psalm 98:1-4

*O sing to the Lord a new song,
for he has done marvelous things.*

*His right hand and his holy arm
have gotten him victory.*

the Lord has made known his victory;

*he has revealed his vindication
in the sight of the nations.*

*He has remembered his steadfast
love and faithfulness
to the house of Israel.*

*All the ends of the earth have seen
the victory of our God.*

*Make a joyful noise to the Lord, all the earth;
break forth into joyous song
and sing praises.*

Prayer

Admirable Virgin, use in my favor that mercy that drew God into your womb. By the mercy of God you were saved from the demon. Grant that we miserable slaves of Satan be saved through the mercy of the Lord (L.G., O Padre! O Madre! III Corso, 1884, p. 115).

Mother of Divine Providence, pray for us!

Hymn

From the Guide, p. 260

The Virgin has subdued the serpent and crushed him under her heel; if you are faithful to the Blessed Mother she will defend you.

READING

Mary is the gate of heaven. The holy Fathers write that all those who are saved, are saved through Mary.

The Blessed Virgin has been made advocate of sinners. O, with what eloquence she treats the cause, with what fervor she defends it!

Mary is the help of Christians. O, with what solicitude she procures their salvation!

If Mary speaks in our behalf, she certainly obtains her request. If all the Saints and Angels said that heaven had abandoned me, and I knew that Mary said one word in my favor, I would remain in peace, and confident in the care of so great a Mother. One thing should be important to us. . . . that we permit no one to surpass us in loving Mary. She who loves Mary is immediately loved by her. Mary is the Blessed Mother who loves us so much. She is the mediatrix who wants us saved. Let us be consoled that in having found Mary we have found eternal salvation (L.G., O Padre! O Madre! III corso, 1884, p. 88).

MEDIATRIX

Let us pray: Lord Jesus Christ, who have appointed the Most Holy Virgin as your Mother, our Mother, and mediatrix, through her intercession, grant to all those who have recourse to you the joy of being heard and to enjoy the graces granted by your great goodness. You who live and reign forever. Amen.

From the Gospel of John (2:1, 3, 5)

There was a wedding in Cana of Galilee. The mother of Jesus was there. . . . In the meantime they ran out of wine. The mother of Jesus said to him "They have no wine." Then she said to the servants: "Do whatever he tells you."

Psalm 113

Praise the Lord!

Praise, O servants of the Lord,

praise the name of the Lord.

*Blessed be the name of the Lord
from this time on and forever.*

*From the rising of the sun to its setting
the name of the Lord is to be praised.*

*The Lord is high above all nations,
and his glory above the heavens.*

*Who is like the Lord our God,
who is seated on high,
who looks far down
on the heavens and the earth?*

*He raises the poor from the dust,
and lifts the needy from the ash heap,
to make them sit with princes,
with the princes of his people.*

*He gives the barren woman a home,
making her the joyous mother of children.*

Praise the Lord!

Prayer

O Virgin, I am your devoted child, but am I always faithful to you? Help me, O Mother. Lead me to Jesus. Tell him to enlighten me to do good, that he may crown me in Paradise. I want to pray to you continually. O Mother, present to God the words that come from my lips so that God will hear them (L.G., Nel mese dei fiori, pp. 172-173).

Mother of Divine Providence, pray for us!

HYMN

From the Guide, p. 178

Run, run to Mary, our dearest Mother, cling to her powerful arm, hide under her mantle, invoke her with all your heart and she will come with pity to sustain you and your diminishing strength.

READING

Place a hand over your heart and ask: How many graces has Mary given you until now? You will hear that they are innumerable and that you do not know how to number them. This is the heart of a mother: to do good to her child, especially when her child is not aware of it. True love is not selfish, true love hides its affections, because it is more tender. This love at times can manifest itself with all its brilliance. Mary repeats it continually: If the world is saved, it owes it to the prayers addressed to my son through me. As a sign of salvation Mary appears on high in the world and fills every place with the splendor of her sanctity. She comforts with her goodness and consoles with the gentleness of her motherly tenderness (L.G., Le missioni in casa, 1934, p. 140 s.).

DELIVERER

Let us pray: O God, you revealed to Mary the mystery of sorrow that would unite her life to the redeeming passion of her son, grant also to us to hold fast to your will and to be sharers in the grace that Christ merited for us. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

From the Gospel of St. Luke (2:34-35)

Simeon blessed them and said to Mary, his mother: "This child is destined to be the downfall and the rise of many in Israel, a sign that will be opposed and you yourself shall be pierced with a sword so that the thoughts of many hearts may be laid bare."

From Psalm 27

The Lord is my light and my salvation; of whom shall I fear?

The Lord is the stronghold of my life; of whom shall I be afraid?

When evildoers assail me to devour my flesh— my adversaries and foes— they shall stumble and fall.

Though an army encamp against me; my heart shall not fear; though war rise up against me, yet I will be confident.

One thing I asked of the Lord, that will I seek after; to live in the house of the Lord all the days of my life,

to behold the beauty of the Lord, and to inquire in his temple.

For he will hide me in his shelter in the day of trouble; he will conceal me under the cover of his tent; he will set me high on a rock.

Now my head is lifted up above my enemies all around me. and I will offer in his tent

sacrifices with shouts of joy; I will sing and make melody to the Lord.

I believe that I shall see the goodness of the Lord in the land of the living.

Wait for the Lord; be strong, and let your heart take courage; wait for the Lord!

Prayer

Virgin most sorrowful! The world may be as angry as it wishes, but I will cling to the cross of my Savior! The world despises the wood of salvation, and it will despise me too. Mother most desolate, inspire me with the deep affection you have for your Son. Then I also will repeat: I glory only in the cross of my Lord Jesus Christ (L.G., Nel mese dei fiori, 1884, p. 188).

Mother of Divine Providence, pray for us!

HYMN

From the Guide, p. 455

Let us cling to the arm of our Holy Mother, and with her follow her Divine Son on the sorrowful journey. Let us place ourselves near our Sorrowful Mother as faithful and loving daughters. Let us tell her, and her holy angels, to watch over our soul day and night so that the enemy may never lay snares against our eternal salvation.

READING

Mary never sinned, therefore she deserved no punishment; but she desired Paradise, and the Lord willingly permitted

that the Blessed Mother of the Savior should experience pain. Look at the Blessed Virgin, Like her most holy Son, Mary held in the midst of her heart the cross of the divine Savior. I beg of you: approach Calvary, see your Savior bleeding on the cross, then fix your eyes on Mary, and refrain if you can from loving him even more ardently.

Mary, had only one thought at this time: the duty of following Jesus Christ to the end. In her heart there was only one affection: that of participating in the pains of her Son and Savior . . . Arise then, embrace your Savior, make on your forehead the sacred sign of the cross . . .

Mary is always before you, and there on the height of Calvary is Jesus who awaits you. How His agonizing heart will be comforted in seeing you united to him! Walk, walk until you reach his presence. Beg Mary to accompany you. Meanwhile greet her by saying: Sweet Heart of Mary, be my salvation (L.G., Nel mese dei fiori, 1884, pp. 119, 181, 186, 192 s.).

COMFORTER

Let us pray: O Almighty and eternal God, grant that in our sorrows and sufferings we may have recourse to Mary. She who has suffered before us, will help us draw from our sorrow fruits of grace and salvation. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

From the Prophet Isaiah (66:10-14a).

*Rejoice with Jerusalem and be glad because of her.
all you who love her;
Exult, exult with her,
all you who were mourning over her!
Oh, that you may suck fully of the milk of her comfort,*

*That you may nurse with delight at her abundant
breasts*

For thus says the Lord.

*Lo, I will spread prosperity over her like a river,
and the wealth of the nations like an overflowing
torrent.*

*As nurslings, you shall be carried in her arms,
and fondled in her lap.*

*As a mother comforts her son,
so will I comfort you;
in Jerusalem you shall find your comfort.*

*When you see this, your heart shall rejoice,
and your bodies flourish like the grass;*

Psalm 126
*When the Lord restored the
fortunes of Zion,
we were like those who dream.*

*Then our mouth was filled with laughter,
and our tongue with shouts of joy;
then it was said among the nations,*

*“The Lord has done great things for them.”
The Lord has done great things for us,
and we rejoiced.*

Restore our fortunes, O Lord.

like the watercourses in the Neg'eb.

*May those who sow in tears
reap with shouts of joy.*

*Those who go out weeping
bearing the seed for sowing,*

READING

*shall come home with shouts of joy,
carrying their sheaves.*

Prayer

Blessed be the Lord who gave us the consolation of a mother!

A thousand times blessed is God, who for the relief of miserable mortals, has granted us a merciful mother in heaven! O Virgin, be a thousand times blessed!

You are our mother and you have a loving heart for your children.

You are our mother and our queen; you are powerful in aiding your children. After God, who is our creator, who will love us if not you, O Mary? We love you, O Mary, we want to love you forever! (L.G., Le missioni in casa, 1934, p. 134)

Our Lady of Divine Providence, pray for us!

HYMN

From the Guide, 105

Have recourse to the Blessed Mother for help and for comfort. She will increase your faith and will give you the grace to remain faithful to the promises you have made.

READING

An infant repeats: "Mamma, Mamma!" When he grows into a young boy he repeats: "Mamma, Mamma!" When he feels the weight of sorrow he runs to the same person crying with affection: "Mamma, Mamma!" If a serious illness overtakes him, he sighs: Mamma! If the darkness of death envelops

him, he weeps softly: Mamma! Mamma! because he hopes from his mother the greatest comfort there is here below.

Christians, let us also turn our glance to Mary in heaven and greet her: Mamma! Mamma! Let us begin this greeting in time, continue it during the course of our life, and exclaim it most heartily when we are ready to depart. She will be our true comfort. A child always thinks of his mother, he always speaks of his mother and will always have recourse to her in time of need.

A mother loves him because the son is the fruit of her womb. She loves him because her maternal blood continues to be the life of the child. A mother loves him because God has formed his heart in her womb. There is no other women who must suffer pain day and night; a mother suffers everything because love comforts her. If an earthly mother can love so much, how much more does a heavenly Mother love? Mary has brought us forth with great suffering at the foot of the cross. Mary has experienced from then on pain and solicitude without equal. The qualities of God that we possess, we have received from Mary, because she obtained them for us by the grace of God. Mary thinks of us by day, and watches over us by night, guards us from any danger, calls around us the holy Angels, and begs the Lord daily to have mercy on us. Mary inspires chaste thoughts, raises the banner of virtue and takes all of us by the hand, so that even the smallest shall walk with her (L.G., *Le missioni in casa*, 1934, pp. 133-135).

AVE MARIA STELLA

Ave Maris Stella,

Dei Mater alma,

Atque semper Virgo,

Felix coeli porta,

Sumens illus Ave,

Grabrielis ore

Funda nos in pace,

Mutans Evaē nomen.

Solve vincla reis,

Profer lumen caecia;

Mala nostra pelle,

Bona cuncta posce,

Mostra te esse matrem;

Sumat per te preces,

Qui pro nobis natus,

Tulit esse tuus,

Virgo singularis,

Inter omnes mitis,

Nos culpis solutos,

Mites fac et castos,

Vitam praesta puram,

Iter para tutum;

Ut videntes Jesus

Semper collaetemur,

Sit laus Deo Patri,

Summo Christo decus,

Spiritu Sancto,

Tribus honor unus. Amen.

Hail, O Star of ocean,

God's own mother blest

Ever sinless Virgin,

Gate of heavenly rest.

Taking that sweet Ave,

Which from Gabriel came,

Peace confirm within us,

Changing Eve's name.

Break the sinner's fetters,

Make our blindness day,

Chase all evils from us,

For all blessings pray,

Show yourself a Mother,

May the Word divine,

Born for us thine infant,

Hear our prayer through thine.

Virgin all excelling,

Mildest of the mild,

Free from guilt preserve us,

Meek and undefiled.

Keep our life all spotless,

Make our way secure,

Till we find in Jesus,

Joy for evermore.

Praise to God, the Father,

Honor to the Son,

And the Holy Spirit,

Be the glory one. Amen.

JUNE

*"The Heart of Jesus is the source of all graces and he dispenses them especially in the month of June which is consecrated to Him. What joy to have the month of the Sacred Heart follow the month of Our Lady. He is our model, our stimulus, an inextinguishable furnace: there we nourish charity, which draws us to sacrifice ourselves in the houses of Divine Providence for the service of the needy" (in: *La divina Provvidenza*, 1913, p. 186).*

"The SACRED HEART, is the love of the Father become visible among us. Blessed Guanella chose this devotion as a means to reach the fulfillment of his offering of self to the Father. He had asked that he be the Teacher between his heart and the Heart of the Father, the Mediator who made his work pleasing to the Father. In the beginning he called his priests "Sons of the Sacred Heart" and his sisters "Daughters of the Sacred Heart." Be it understood not only in name, the members were to adore and love this divine heart in word and in works" (L.G., Regol, F.S.C., 1899, p. 132 s.).

For each morning during the month the following is suggested:

— a passage from Sacred Scripture that proclaims the love of the Sacred Heart.

— a prayer

1st Day: The Mercy of God in the salvation of sinners

"God rich in mercy, because of his love for us brought us to life with Christ when we were dead in sin. By this favor you were saved" (Eph 2:4).

PRAYER: Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, come to me also. I wish to enter into that sacred side and remain before you in perpetual adoration. In remembrance of this divine heart who has saved me, I too weep with loving affection so that all mankind who still err and are on the way of perdition may hasten to receive salvation through your divine heart (L.G., Nel mese del fervore, 1884, p. 11).

2nd Day: The Heart of Jesus in the Incarnation

"In fact, God has loved the world so much as to give his only begotten Son" (Jn 3:1)

PRAYER: O Mary, help us to love Jesus! May your friends praise the confidants: I value the love of the Eternal God because I know that it is an intense love. What more could you do, O God, than to give me your only begotten Son, in a journey of immense suffering? I kneel in an ecstasy of love and repeat: God has loved the world so much as to give for it his only begotten Son! (L.G., Nel mese del fervore, 1884, p. 19s.).

3rd Day: The Heart of Jesus at his birth in Bethlehem

"Make fast friends with a man who is poor; thus will you enjoy his prosperity with him. In time of trouble remain true to him, so as to share in his inheritance when it comes" (Sir 22:23).

PRAYER: Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, I cannot love you as much as Blessed Mary loved you, I am sorry for this. I wish to love you like chaste Joseph loved you. At least, Lord, grant that I may love you with the simplicity and love equal to that of the shepherds. How happy I shall be when I really begin to love you.

Blessed will I be when making my ascent more fervent I shall be able to praise you with the angelic choirs, repeating: Glory to God in the highest heavens and peace on earth to men of good will! (L.G., Nel mese del fervore, 1884, p. 26s.).

4th Day: The Heart of Jesus extends His mercy to the People of Israel and the pagan world.

“Let us confidently approach the throne of grace, to receive mercy and favor and to find help in time of need” (Heb 4:16).

PRAYER: O Jesus, I adore the Divine Heart, the throne of mercy that you have manifested to humanity. I hasten to that throne and I beg mercy. I wish to remain there with faith until the end, O Jesus, to bring your salvation to all humanity, (L.G., Nel mese del fervore, 1884, p. 32 s.).

5th Day: The Heart of Jesus at the Circumcision

“For strong as death is love, relentless as the nether world is devotion; its flames are a blazing fire” (Song: 8:6).

PRAYER: O Jesus, call me to yourself. I desire it! It is better to die and to come to stay with you than to live on earth in the danger of losing you. Call me! May my heart be consumed for you; may I die with the desire of possessing you, O my Jesus! (L.G., Nel mese del fervore, 1884, p. 40).

6th Day: The Heart of Jesus at the Purification

“For the vision still has its time, presses on to fulfillment, and will not disappoint; If it delays, wait for it, it will surely come, it will not be late” (Hab 2:3).

PRAYER: O Jesus, to pray better, I place myself within your blessed Heart. I beg you for myself and my brothers and sisters the grace never to lose patience in waiting for you. I

know that suffering of soul is painful, but I also know that in your infinite goodness you direct the value of my suffering spirit toward my eternal salvation. Be always praised, O Heart of Jesus, I receive from you equally days of joy, and with resignation days of sorrow. Help me so that I may remain constant in this resolution (L.G., Nel mese del fervore, 1884, p. 47).

7th Day: The Heart of Jesus in Egypt

"See the Lord is riding on a swift cloud on his way to Egypt; The idols of Egypt tremble before Him, the hearts of the Egyptians melt within them" (Is 19:1).

PRAYER: O Jesus, that I may live within your Most Sacred Heart! You give yourself to me with immense love, I want to give myself to you! I am sorry for the offenses committed until now, I propose to die rather than offend you again, Sacred Heart of Jesus, enlighten my mind and with your strength support my heart. O Jesus, be forever the all of my poor heart, (L.G., Nel mese del fervore, 1884, p. 55).

8th Day: The Heart of Jesus in the temple as he discourses with the doctors

"Doing the will of him who sent me and bringing his work to completion is my food" (Jn 4:34).

PRAYER: O Jesus, pressed to my heart food becomes the flesh and blood of my life. Near your most Sacred Heart the nourishment of your will becomes precious food for my soul. O Jesus, make me grow in your divine life. I want to grow until I reach you and live eternally with you (L.G., Nel mese del fervore, 1884, p. 62).

9th Day: The Heart of Jesus in the Hidden life

“Within my dwelling, I should take my repose beside her; For association with her involves no bitterness and living with her no grief, but rather joy and gladness” (Wis 8:16).

PRAYER: O Jesus, I too desire the happiness of conversing with you. Make me deserving of it. You keep your side open within which your Most Sacred Heart is beating. I want to enter that heart and never more leave it. Graciously hear me, Most Sacred Heart of Jesus (L.G., Nel mese del fervore, 1884, p. 69 s.).

10th Day: The Heart of Jesus at the Jordan

“Take my yoke upon your shoulders and learn from me, for I am gentle and humble of heart, and your souls will find rest” (Mat 11:29).

PRAYER: O Jesus, my father and master let the effect of your word and example remain forever in my heart. I want to be patient and humble of heart. This is the greatest good that I can reach on this earth. This is the highest virtue that makes me worthy of the joys of paradise. Eternal Father, I beg you by the Incarnate Heart of Jesus, that I may always be meek and humble of heart until death (L.G., Nel mese del fervore, 1884, p. 77 s.).

11th Day: The Heart of Jesus in the temptation in the desert

“I will lead her into the desert and speak to her heart” (Hos 2:16).

PRAYER: O Jesus, lead me into the desert. I desire to detach myself from things of earth and await your call. Speak to me of eternal salvation. Speak to me of yourself and your most holy love. As a fish darts about in the water, and as a bird

flies in the air, so I want to live conversing with you who are the element of my living, the pure air of my breathing, (L.G., Nel mese del fervore, 1884, p. 86).

12th Day: The Heart of Jesus in his preaching

“...for my yoke is easy and my burden light” (Mat 11:30).

PRAYER: Jesus, contrary to the world, when he asks for something provides the light of mind and strength of will so that you may carry out his desires. Have mercy on me, O Jesus, and make me realize the comfort you bring to those who follow you with the yoke of your holy law, with the weight of your holy counsels (L.G., Nel mese del fervore, 1884, pp. 92-96).

13th Day: The Heart of Jesus in pardoning sin

“...for I did not come to condemn the world, but to save it” (Jn 12:47).

PRAYER: Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, with the power of your mercy continue to assist me. If I delay in coming urge me with the reminder of your punishment. Suffering is not a chastisement that leads to salvation but it is a grace of mercy. O Jesus, make use of my piety so that I can sing your mercies eternally (L.G., Nel mese del fervore, 1884, p. 104).

14th Day: The Heart of Jesus in the Transfiguration

“This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Listen to him” (Mat 17:5).

PRAYER: O Heart of Jesus, show yourself to me. Show yourself through your holy inspirations. For love you were transfigured in the Manger and on Tabor, for love you were transfigured on Calvary and at the sepulcher of the Resurrection.

For love you are transfigured in the most Holy Sacrament of the altar. When will I strive to be transfigured by imitating your holy virtues! Extend your help to me, O Most Loving Heart of Jesus, my Savior (L.G., Nel mese del fervore, 1884, p. 112).

15th Day: The Heart of Jesus in the entrance to Jerusalem

“You justify yourselves in the eyes of men, but God reads the hearts. What man thinks important, God holds in contempt” (Lk 16:15)

PRAYER: Sorrowful Jesus, you humiliated yourself to the end so that we might have an incentive to practice humility. Thank you for your gracious charity and I greet you: Sweet Heart of Jesus, grant that I may always love you more (L.G., Nel mese del fervore, 1884, p. 118).

16th Day: The Heart of Jesus in the institution of the Holy Eucharist

“The fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control” (Gal 5:22).

PRAYER: O Jesus, bless me. I desire you. Heart of Jesus, I want to enter into your heart and never depart from you. Cover my soul with the blood of your Heart, and make my heart pure so that I may appear before you in Paradise. Paradise, O my God, I do not sigh for anyone but you. Sweet Heart of Jesus, grant that I may love you always more (L.G., Nel mese del fervore, 1884, p. 230).

17th Day: The Heart of Jesus in the Prayer in the Garden

“Put your sword back in its sheath. Am I not to drink the cup the Father has given me” (Jn 18:11)?

PRAYER: O Jesus, you are so good toward your children. Be always praised, O Lord and loving Father. Send us a chalice of bitterness, at long as you desire it, but at the same time offer us the comfort of holy resignation. It is a simple chalice yet one of suffering in this life. Your will be done, O Father, May your will always be done (L.G., Nel mese del fervore, 1884, p. 133 s.).

18th Day: The Heart of Jesus before the tribunal

"They shall be like a garment eaten by moths like wool consumed by grubs; But my justice shall remain forever and my salvation, for all generations" (Is. 51:8).

PRAYER: O Jesus, make me holy. Point out the way to follow you. I will not fear the injuries of men and will laugh at their curses, I will ascend the royal road. But I am weak. Jesus, bless me, grant me but one degree of that divine strength which is in your heart and I will be saved forever (L.G., Nel mese del fervore, 1884, p. 140).

19th Day: The Heart of Jesus in being preferred to Barabbas.

"Sons I have raised and reared but they have disowned me" (Is 1:2).

PRAYER: O my Jesus, I know that the greatest misfortune is to offend your majesty, How ungrateful have I been! I shall be so no longer! I want to consume myself with zeal for the honor of your glory, because a son that does not work for the honor of his parent is an ungrateful creature, and an useless burden on this earth (L.G., Nel mese del fervore, 1884, p. 146 s.).

20th Day: The Heart of Jesus in the Flagellation

“And now I beg you through the mercy of God to offer your bodies as a living sacrifice holy and acceptable to God, your spiritual worship” (Rom 12:1).

PRAYER: O Jesus, I want to be a victim to please you. Blessed would I be if I became worthy of being immolated for your glory. But I am too great a sinner. Pardon me, O my Jesus, and give me your help so that I may be at least worthy of offering you the holocaust of pious works and the sacrifice of suffering (L.G., Nel mese del fervore, 1884, p. 153).

21st Day: The Heart of Jesus in the Shedding of his Most Precious Blood

“... Though I wished to redeem them they spoke lies against me” (Hos 7:13b).

PRAYER: O adorable Heart of my Savior! How it displeases me to have offended you by my many sins. How it saddens me to have outraged you with foolish talk! I deserve to be abandoned. But you did not abandon me and for this I give you glory. My lips will always resound your praise since I have been saved by your Most Precious Blood (L.G., Nel mese del fervore, 1884, p. 160).

22nd Day: The Heart of Jesus before Pilate—“Behold the Man”

“Even to death fight for truth and the Lord God will battle for you” (Sir 4:28).

PRAYER: O Jesus, I ask from your Sacred Heart the strength to fight. I beg for the glory of triumph. Your promises stand written also for me. O Heart of Jesus, give me courage and obtain for me the glory of a triumph (L.G., Nel mese del fervore, 1884, p. 167).

23rd Day: The Heart of Jesus on Calvary

"Just as Moses lifted up the serpent in the desert, so must the Son of Man be lifted up, so that all who believe in him may have eternal life in him" (Jn 3:14, 15).

PRAYER: O Jesus, who on the altar of the cross revealed your agonizing self for my love, I confess to you my Savior, true God and true Man, my true Father (L.G., Nel mese del fervore, 1884, p. 173).

24th Day: The Heart of Jesus pierced with a lance

"When I am lifted up from the earth, I will draw all men to myself" (Jn 12:32).

PRAYER: O my Jesus, draw me entirely to you. Draw me with all the love of my heart. If I knew that one fiber of my heart did not palpitate for you, I would tear it out at any cost. But I know that I could not speak without your help. Draw me, O my Jesus, draw me completely, I know it well, my heart cannot rest until it rests in your heart (L.G., Nel mese del fervore, 1884, p. 178 s.).

25th Day: The Heart of Jesus at the Sepulcher

"Indeed, we know that if our earthly tent in which we live is destroyed we have a dwelling provided for us by God, a dwelling in the heavens, not made by hands but to last forever" (2 Cor 5:1).

PRAYER: O adorable Heart of Jesus! What am I doing on this earth, if I do not burn entirely with your holy love? My Jesus! I look with pity on your sepulcher and I want to weep: the charity of Jesus Christ urges me. Meanwhile I want to live with you so that you may give me the grace to die for you (L.G., Nel mese del fervore, 1884, p. 186).

26th Day: The Heart of Jesus at the Resurrection

"Bear hardship along with me as a good soldier of Jesus Christ" (2 Tim 2:3).

PRAYER: O Most Sacred Heart of my Redeemer, you palpitate with great affection for my love. I think of the little love you receive in return. I want to be your good soldier. Arm me, O Lord, Light of my mind, courage of my heart. I want to consecrate myself thus for you, heavenly King who rose triumphant; you live and reign and command forever (L.G., Nel mese del fervore, 1884, p. 194).

27th Day: The Heart of Jesus in pardoning sinners their failings

"Here I stand knocking at the door. If anyone hears me calling and opens the door, I will enter his house and have supper with him, and he with me" (Ap 3:20).

PRAYER: O Heart of Jesus, now I understood how advantageous it is to listen to the loving invitations of your heart. I was foolish in making you wait until now. Stay with me. Be with me always. How happy it is for me to be with you! What joy to sit at the table you prepare for me. O Lord, when will I sit at your table in Paradise? When? (L.G., Nel mese del fervore, 1884, p. 202 s.).

28th Day: The Heart of Jesus in his apparitions after the resurrection

"I would wait all the days of my militia until there should arrive for me the hour of change" (Job 14:14)!

PRAYER: My Jesus, I also wait. I believe my resurrection will come also. Meanwhile I will wait with desire, My Jesus, send me trials if you so wish. Send me the sufferings of Calvary,

but assist me with your holy grace. Comfort me with the triumph of my immortality because only then will my joy be complete. Then I will resemble you Jesus, risen, triumphant, immortal (L.G., Nel mese del fervore, 1884, p. 209 s.).

29th Day: The Heart of Jesus in the Ascension

"Wait for the Lord, keep to his way. It is he who will free you from the wicked, raise you up to possess the land and see the wicked destroyed" (Ps 37:34).

PRAYER: O when shall my soul see you face to face, O God, my Lord! It comforts me to remember your mercy. It comforts me to remember the tenderness of your heart. I ask and you will save me, I will walk in your way and you will support my weakness, O my Jesus, and I shall be saved! My Savior, that I may be safe in heaven through your merits (L.G., Nel mese del fervore, 1884, p. 215 s.).

30th Day: The Heart of Jesus at the right hand of the Eternal Father

"Forget not the kindness of your maker, for he offers his very life for you" (Sir 29:15).

PRAYER: O Jesus, I have been proud. I have sinned through the senses. I deserve the blows, the lashings, the flagellations, and the cross—they are all due me for my sins. O Jesus, you have given me mercy. How can I pay the debt of my malice? You, O Jesus, without doubt satisfied abundantly. My Jesus, you have bought me back. I want to be all yours. Have mercy on me, O Jesus. You have redeemed me with your blood (L.G., Nel mese del fervore, 1884, p. 222 s.).

PRAYER: My Jesus, I also stir. I believe in your intercession with come also. May example will stir desire. My Jesus, come to us to wish. Send me the petitions of Christians

JULY

"Jesus offers His blood for the salvation of men; and still he sees that a multitude of children will be obstinate in offending Him, in denying Him, in refusing his calls, and precipitate themselves into eternal perdition" (L.G., Nel mese del fervore, 1884, p. 160).

During the month of July let us strive to honor the Blood of Christ and believing "in the strength of this blood" (SC no. 50); let us apply it for the salvation of souls. "The Blood of Christ is a sign of life, it is shed for us, for a positive communication of life, for a re-animation of the human vitality destroyed by sin" (cf. Lev 16:8; 17:11).

COMMEMORATION OF THE SHEDDING OF THE BLOOD OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST

Eternal Father, I offer you the merits of the Precious Blood of your beloved Son Jesus, my Savior and my God, for the spread and exaltation of the Church, the welfare of her visible Head, the Pope, the Bishops and pastors of souls, and all the ministers of the sanctuary, Blessed and praised for evermore be Jesus, who saved us with his Blood.

Eternal Father, I offer you the merits of the Precious Blood of your beloved Son Jesus,

my Savior and my God,
for peace and concord among nations,
the humbling of the enemies of the Faith,
and the welfare of all Christian people.

Blessed and praised for evermore be Jesus,
who saved us with his Blood.

Eternal Father, I offer you the merits of the Precious Blood
of your beloved Son Jesus,
my Savior and my God,
for the conversion of unbelievers,
the elimination of all heresies,
and the return of sinners.

Blessed and praised for evermore be Jesus,
who saved us with his Blood.

Eternal Father, I offer you the merits of the Precious Blood
of your beloved Son Jesus,
my Savior and my God,
for all my relatives, friends, and enemies,
for all in need, sickness, or tribulation,
for all those for whom you know I am bound to pray,
for all those for whom you know and desire
that I should pray.

Blessed and praised for evermore be Jesus,
who saved us with his Blood.

Eternal Father, I offer you the merits of the Precious Blood
of your beloved Son Jesus,
My Savior and my God,
for all who love this great treasure
for all my needs both temporal and spiritual,
as an intercession for the faithful departed,

and in a special manner for those
who were most devoted to this price of our redemption,
and to the sorrows and sufferings of our Mother,
Mary most holy.

Blessed and praised for evermore be Jesus,
who saved us with his Blood.
Glory to the Blood of Jesus
both now and forevermore
and through the everlasting ages.

LITANY OF THE MOST PRECIOUS BLOOD

Pope John XXIII in order to spread devotion to the most precious blood of Jesus, the Immaculate Lamb, by whom we have been redeemed, on February 24, 1960, approved the "Litany of the Most Precious Blood" inserting it into the Roman Ritual, so that it may be recited by the faithful of the whole world, in public as well as in private.

Leader:

Lord, have mercy on us,

Lord, have mercy on us,

Christ, hear us

Christ, have mercy on us.

Christ, graciously hear us,

God the Father of heaven,

God, the Son, Redeemer

of the world, O Lord.

God, the Holy Spirit,

Holy Trinity, One God,

Blood of Christ, only-begotten

Son of the Eternal Father,

Blood of Christ, Incarnate

Word of God,

Leader: Let us pray: And made us for our salvation.

Leader: Blood of Christ, of the New and Eternal Testament,

Blood of Christ, falling upon the earth in the Agony,
Blood of Christ, shed profusely in the scourging,
Blood of Christ, flowing forth in the Crowning with
 Thorns,
Blood of Christ, poured out on the Cross,
Blood of Christ, price of our salvation,
Blood of Christ, without which there is no forgiveness,
Blood of Christ, Eucharistic drink and refreshment of
 souls,
Blood of Christ, stream of mercy,
Blood of Christ, Victor over demons,
Blood of Christ, courage of martyrs,
Blood of Christ, strength of confessors,
Blood of Christ, bringing forth virgins,
Blood of Christ, help of those in peril,
Blood of Christ, relief of the burdened,
Blood of Christ, solace in sorrow,
Blood of Christ, hope of the penitent,
Blood of Christ, consolation of the dying,
Blood of Christ, peace and tenderness of hearts,
Blood of Christ, pledge of Eternal Life,
Blood of Christ, freeing souls from Purgatory,
Blood of Christ, most worthy of all glory and honor,
Lamb of God, You take away
 the sins of the world, Spare us, O Lord.
Lamb of God, You take away
 the sins of the world, Graciously hear us,
Lamb of God, You take away
 the sins of the world, O Lord.
Lamb of God, You take away
 the sins of the world, Have mercy on us.

Leader: You have redeemed us, O Lord, in Your Blood.
All: And made us, for our God, a kingdom.
Leader: Let us pray: Almighty and Eternal God, You have
 appointed Your only begotten Son the Redeemer of

the world, and willed to be appeased by His Blood, Grant us we beg You, that we may worthily adore this price of our salvation, and through its power be safeguarded from the evils of this present life, so that we may rejoice in its fruits forever in heaven. Through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

Invocation

Eternal Father, I offer you the most Precious Blood of Jesus in atonement for my sins, in supplication for the faithful departed, and for the needs of holy Church.

of this precious communion of the Resurrection of the
saints before the days of the Cross and of the Resurrection of the
living and the resurrection blood of the Lamb shall glorify the name of the
Lord, whereby that this shall be the desire of all
those who Christ and whose His brothers, "help my
blood in communion" (Psalm 51, "Miserere Canticum",
no. 6).

THE FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION

Physical Readings:

- “My spirit exults in God.” (Luke 1:39-48)
- “Sordid in flesh.”
- “A new heaven and a new earth.” (Revelation 21:1-2)
- “O death, where is your victory?” (1 Corinthians 15:28)
- “Christ is risen.”
- “God did not make death.” (1 Corinthians 15:54)
- “We eat if you will die.” (Genesis 3:1-10)

AUGUST

As daughters of Our Lady we celebrate the Assumption of Mary into heaven as a solemnity on August 15th.

"It is a feast of her destiny of fullness and blessedness, of the glorification of her immaculate soul and of her virginal body, of her perfect configuration to the Risen Christ; a feast that sets before the eyes of the Church and of all mankind the image and the consoling proof of the fulfillment of their final hope, namely, that this full glorification is the destiny of all those whom Christ has made His brothers, having "flesh and blood in common with them" (Paul VI, "Marialis Cultus," no. 6).

THE FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION

Some helpful readings can be utilized in preparation for the liturgical solemnity. They can be enriched with hymns, litanies, and prayers.

Biblical Readings:

- "If you eat it, you will die"	(Gen 3:1-19)
- "God did not make death"	(Wis 1:12-16; 3:23-24)
- "Christ is risen"	(1 Cor 15:12-26)
- "O death, where is your victory?"	(I Cor 15:42-58)
- "A new heaven and a new earth"	(Ap 21:1-5)
- "Solid in faith"	(1 Pet 5:6-11)
- "My spirit exults in God"	(Lk 1:39-48)

PRAYER IN HONOR OF THE ASSUMPTION

Leader: O Immaculate Virgin, Mother of God and Mother of men! We believe with all the fervor of our faith in your triumphal Assumption, both in body and soul, into heaven, where you are acclaimed as Queen by all the choirs of angels and all the legions of saints;

All: And we unite with them to praise and bless the Lord who has exulted you above all other pure creatures, and to offer you the tribute of our devotion and our love.

Leader: We know that your gaze which on earth watched over the humble and suffering humanity of Jesus, is filled in heaven with the vision of that Humanity glorified, and with the vision of Uncreated Wisdom; and that the joy of your soul in the direct contemplation of the adorable Trinity, causes your heart to throb with overwhelming tenderness.

All: And we, poor sinners, whose body weighs down the flight of the soul, beg you to purify our hearts, so that, while we remain here below, we may learn to see God, and God alone, in the beauty of His creatures.

Leader: We trust that your merciful eyes may glance down upon our miseries and our sorrows, upon our struggles and our weaknesses; that your countenance may smile upon our joys and our victories; that you may hear the voice of Jesus saying to you of each one of us, as He once said to you of His beloved disciple: Behold your son.

All: And we who, like John, call upon you as our Mother, take you as the guide, strength and consolation of our mortal life.

Leader: We are inspired by the certainty that your eyes, which wept over the earth watered by the Blood of Jesus, are yet turned toward this world, held in the clutch of wars, persecutions and oppression of the just and the weak.

All: And from the shadows of this vale of tears, we seek in your heavenly assistance and tender mercy, comfort for our aching hearts and help in the trials of the Church and of our county.

Leader: We believe, finally, that in the glory where you reign, clothed with the sun and crowned with the stars, you are, after Jesus, the joy and gladness of all the angels and of all the saints.

All: And from this earth, over which we tread as pilgrims, comforted by our faith, in the future resurrection, we look to you, our life, our sweetness and our hope; draw us onward with the sweetness of your voice, that one day, after our exile, you may show us Jesus, the blessed Fruit of your womb. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary. (Pius XII)

and the world to extend her to every corner of the globe. The world of men, growing daily, daily we claim the right of man, to be born, to live, to act, in accordance with the law of God, and the law of the spirit.

SEPTEMBER

In the month of September, the Daughters of St. Mary of Providence, honor the birth of Mary most holy, the dawn of redemption. They meditate on this exulted and glorious event shrouded in deep humility.

On September 8th, they renew their act of consecration to Mary as individuals and as a congregation.

ACT OF CONSECRATION OF THE DAUGHTERS OF ST. MARY OF PROVIDENCE

O Immaculate Virgin, glorious Mother of God, and our most tender Mother, turn your eyes kindly upon us, who desire to give you a solemn witness of our love, and to assure ourselves of your special and motherly protection, are here kneeling at your feet to renew the total and perpetual consecration of our whole being to your Immaculate Heart, and to proclaim you as Superior, Patroness, and Queen of our Congregation.

To you, O Mother, we confide our bodies, so that you may defend them from dangers, from illness, and especially, that we may never contaminate them with sin.

To you we consecrate our eyes, which we wish to preserve always as pure and modest as yours; our ears, which we hope will never submit to evil conversation; our speech which we wish to use only to tell the truth and to praise you with prayer and hymns.

To you above all, O Queen of all hearts, we consecrate our souls. With our minds we shall make every effort to know your greatness and goodness ever more; with our memory we recall all your graces and gifts; with our will we obey you always and in all things.

But we know that above all else you want from us our hearts. Therefore, O Mother, we consecrate them joyfully to you. Accept them O Holy Virgin, guard and defend them from the evil one; grant that your love and that of Jesus may reign in them, so that we may be your dearest daughters and slaves of love.

Not only does each one of us desire to be entirely yours, but we wish that our Congregation may belong entirely to you, and so all of us proclaim you as our Superior and our Queen.

O Most Holy Virgin, you who once left your family to retire into the temple to consecrate your youth to God and to prepare yourself for the mission that God wished to confide to you; you who have been the Model of Religious Life, the Foundress and tireless propagator of numerous communities inspired by you, deign to receive the consecration of our apostolate, in which we wish to imitate the splendid examples of purity, of piety, of obedience, and of charity, which you have left us.

Grant that our Superiors may command in your name, and that its members may obey them for love of you, seeing in them your representatives.

Reign, O Mary, in our houses which are yours forever, and grant that in them the spirit of piety, the exact observance of the Holy Rule, and especially fraternal charity, may reign, such as should reign among the Daughters of our Heavenly Mother. Bless, O Holy Virgin, this Congregation, guard and

defend it as your own, Keep the enemy far from it; remain with us always, bestowing freely on your daughters your motherly care, on its members your queenly graces, so that after corresponding to our vocation and having fulfilled our mission on earth, we may all come to share in your glory in heaven for all eternity. Amen.

Act of Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary

St. Louis de Montfort

I renew and ratify today in your hands, O Immaculate Mother, the vows of my Baptism; I renounce forever Satan, his pomps and works, and I give myself entirely to Jesus Christ, the Incarnate Wisdom, to carry my cross after Him all the days of my life, and to be more faithful to Him than I have ever been before. In the presence of all the heavenly court I choose you this day for my Mother and Mistress. I deliver and consecrate to you, as your slave, my body and soul, my goods, both interior and exterior, and even the value of all my good actions, past, present and future; leaving to you the entire and full right of disposing of me, and all that belongs to me, without exception, according to your good pleasure, for the greater glory of God, in time and in eternity. Amen.

TO THE SORROWFUL MOTHER

"Thus, the Blessed Virgin advanced in her pilgrimage of faith, and faithfully persevered in her union with her Son unto the cross, where she stood, in keeping with the divine plan, enduring with her only begotten Son the intensity of his suffering, associated herself with his sacrifice in her mother's heart, and lovingly consenting to the immolation of this victim which was born of her" (Cf. Lumen Gentium no. 58).

ACT OF CONFIDENCE IN MARY

O Mary! you are to me the best gift of a dying Savior. However great my sins may be, I will never relinquish my hope in you. Obtain then for me through your Seven Sorrows, such an ardent love of God, that I may no longer live, but Jesus live in me; such a spirit of prayer and union with God, that my life may be hidden with Christ in God: so ardent and fervent my devotion towards you as may obtain for me the gift of final perseverance and a refuge in your holy heart at the hour of my death; for happy are they, O Mary! who confidently hope in you. "The mountains shall be moved and the earth tremble," but the mercy of God shall not depart from those who are sincerely devoted to His Blessed Mother. Teach me, O Mary, to suffer and to die each day with Jesus; teach me to meditate on His love and sufferings, that I may reap the fruits of His Redemption. Amen.

SEVEN SORROWS OF MARY

1. O Mother of my Redeemer! With filial compassion do I recall to mind the grievous pain your maternal heart suffered when, presenting your Son to God in the temple, you were told by Simeon that your child "was set for the fall and for the resurrection of many in Israel, and for a sign which should be contradicted, and that a sword would pierce your own soul." By this sorrow of yours I beseech you, O Mother, to take me under your protection, that I may always cheerfully submit to the will of God. Hail Mary. . . .
2. I recall to mind the sorrow your heart endured when an angel commanded St. Joseph to take you and the Divine Child into Egypt to escape persecution and death. By this your anguish and by the hardships of the long journey through the desert and the stay in a strange land, I beseech you,

beloved mother, obtain for me the grace always to consider myself a stranger and a wayfarer on earth, and never be led astray from the road to my heavenly home by the deceitful attractions of this world. Hail Mary . . .

3. I recall to mind the great anguish your heart endured during the three days you were seeking your Child lost in Jerusalem. By this exceedingly great affliction, I beseech you, O Mother, obtain for me the grace never to lose Jesus through grievous sins, or, should such misfortune befall me, to return to Him at once by sincere repentance. Hail Mary . . .

4. I recall to mind the suffering that tore your maternal heart when you saw your innocent Son seized and bound like a criminal, scourged, crowned with thorns and carrying His Heavy Cross to the place of execution. By that sea of sorrows and by all the sufferings of your Son, I beseech you to turn away from me through your maternal intercession, the punishments I deserve for my sins, and to make me grow daily in the love of my Savior. Hail Mary . . .

5. I recall to mind the cruel sword that pierced your soul at the foot of the Cross, when Jesus, forsaken by all, mocked by the crowd, in torment and agony died on the Cross in your sight. By the tortures your heart went through, and by the fortitude you showed, I beseech you, O purest Virgin and sweet Consoler of the dying, obtain for me the grace to overcome all carnal temptations and so to live in penance that I may die in peace. Hail Mary . . .

6. I recall to mind the bitter anguish of your heart when you gazed on the lifeless body of your Son and beheld His cruel wounds. Obtain for me, O Mother of Sorrows, the grace always to submit to the guidance of divine Providence, however incomprehensible His ways, and never to waver in the conviction that God ordains all things for the best. Hail Mary . . .

7. I recall to mind the great sorrow of your heart when Jesus was laid in the tomb. I beseech you, O Mother of Mercy, make my own heart, in which your Son is laid so often in Holy Communion, a place in which He may delight to rest, and grant that I may always find in that divine food strength to overcome the temptations, troubles, and difficulties of life. **Hail Mary.**

Let us pray: Father, accept the sorrows of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of your Son. May they obtain from your mercy every good for our salvation. We ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

8. I recall to mind the cruel sword that pierced your son as the foot of the Cross upon Jesus' tortuous path by all mockingly the crowd, in torturing and scourging him on the Cross in your sight. By the tortures your son went through, and by the tortures your spouse I beseech you, O most Virtuous and sweet Consoler of the dying, obtain for me the grace to overcome all earthly temptations and so to live in holiness and purity I may die in peace. **Hail Mary.**

9. I recall to mind the bitter anguish of your most sacred heart when Jesus on the cross spoke of your Son and before His cruel wounds. Obtain for me, O Mother of Sorrows, the grace always to submit to the guidance of divine Providence, to overcome iniquity and sin, and never to waver in the conviction that God ordains all things for the best. **Hail Mary.**

OCTOBER

*"In the month of October we honor Mary with the recitation of the Rosary" (Cfr. in: *La divina Provvidenza*, 1905, p. 146).*

*"The rosary that glides between our fingers is not only a means of gentle and holy prayer—it is a weapon that conquers your enemies, the source of blessings on our communities, on our families, and on the entire Church" (Cfr. in: *La divina Provvidenza*, 1912, p. 159).*

OUR LADY OF POMPEII

In 1875 a humble painting of Our Lady was set up in a chapel near the ancient city of Pompeii, Italy, to encourage devotion to the Rosary. Invocation of Mary at this shrine resulted in many remarkable cures and conversions; the modest chapel was raised to basilica rank and is now one of the most famous sanctuaries of Our Lady.

O Virgin Immaculate and Queen of the Rosary, in these days of little faith and triumphant immorality, you have been pleased to establish your throne as Queen and Mother in the ancient land of Pompeii, once the home of paganism. From that place, where men of old worshipped idols and evil spirits, as the Mother of divine grace scatters far and wide the treasures of Heaven's mercy. From that throne where you reign in mercy, turn, dear Mother, your eyes of pity upon me and be gracious to me who has so great a need of your assistance. Show yourself to me, as you have shown yourself to so many others, a true Mother of mercy: "Mostra te esse

Matrem" (show yourself a Mother); while with all my heart I salute you and invoke you as my sovereign Lady and Queen of the Most Holy Rosary. Hail, holy Queen . . .

OCTOBER

ROSARY OF RELIGIOUS

THE ROSARY AND PERFECTION The perfection to which a Religious is bound to tend, consists in the conformity with the life and mysteries of Christ. Now the soul of the Rosary is precisely the contemplation of these mysteries, which the Religious should re-live in herself.

She finds in Jesus and Mary the most perfect MODEL of the religious virtues. She draws from the merits of Christ through the intercession of Mary the GRACE to observe them. Besides, religious perfection is centered in the vows: now the Rosary

- explains their nature to us;
- furnishes us the means to observe them;
- shows us their rewards,

St. Vincent calls the Rosary the Breviary of the Sister.

JOYFUL MYSTERIES

1. Most holy Virgin, foundress and model of religious life and of the practice of the evangelical counsels we offer you this decade of the Rosary in honor of the humble and generous FIAT, with which you corresponded to the call of God, who called you to those mystical nuptials, who made you His Mother, to thank you for the vocation with which you invite us to follow your example, and to beg you for the grace to be faithful to the vow of chastity, with which you prepare our souls to become the mystical spouses of the Lamb.

2. Most holy Virgin, who being filled with God, began in the visitation your mission of aiding our bodies and sanctifying our souls, we offer you this decade of the Rosary to thank you for having given our Community a mission so much like yours, to beg you for the grace to know how to bring Jesus to the world as you did through the care of the sick, the poor, the needy, the abandoned, the education of children and youth and to obtain for our spiritual family, that charity which makes religious life an anticipation of Paradise.

3. Most holy Virgin, you who gave us in the Birth of Jesus and during your whole life the most perfect model of the practice of virtue and of the vow of poverty, we offer you this decade of the Rosary, to thank you for having made us partakers of the blessedness promised by Jesus to the poor in spirit; to ask you pardon for our attachments, and for our deplorable repugnance to experience the effects of poverty, which we have voluntarily embraced, and to obtain for the future the grace to know how to accept everything with joy and as an alms of your motherly generosity.

4. Most holy Virgin, who in the mystery of the Presentation, showed yourself the perfect model of prompt, joyful, and complete submission to the Law, we offer you this decade of the Rosary, to thank you for having given us in the vow of obedience, the manner of sublimating the most humble actions of our life, making them a pleasing offering to God; and for obtaining for us the grace of knowing how to see God in our Superiors, your representatives, and obey them promptly, lovingly, and joyfully.

5. Most holy Virgin, who after the Finding of Jesus, saw the Son of God become your subject, lead a hidden life, a life of prayer and work, we offer you this decade of the Rosary to thank you for having given us the observance of the Rule as a surest way of doing the holy will of God and yours as

well, in all the instances of our life and to obtain that our consecration, the fulfilling of our vows, may make of us your faithful and loving children.

SORROWFUL MYSTERIES

1. O Sorrowful Virgin, you alone kept company to Jesus in his sorrowful Agony, and were the true consoling angel in the desolate abandonment, in which He was left by God and by humanity. Teach us to seek in the spirit of prayer and by abandonment to your motherly heart our strength in temptation, discouragement, and in sorrow, a necessary inheritance for one who follows the crucified Jesus.
2. O Sorrowful Virgin, by the pain you suffered in the scourging of Jesus, grant us the spirit of mortification, thereby keeping our purity of heart, and offering you a large harvest of sacrifices, to console your immaculate heart.
3. O Sorrowful Virgin, by the pain you suffered in the Crowning of Thorns of Jesus, obtain for us the spirit of humility, by which we do not seek dignities and preferences, but are satisfied and willing to take the last place, which you always preferred to have on earth.
4. O Sorrowful Virgin, by the sorrowful meeting and by the tender compassion you felt for Jesus, in His Journey to Calvary, deign to be our compassionate Cyrenean, and obtain for us the grace to know how to carry our cross courageously and lovingly after Him without complaints.
5. O Sorrowful Virgin, by the pain which pierced your maternal heart in assisting at the Crucifixion and Death of Jesus, grant us a tender devotion to the Crucifix which was given to us on the day of our Profession, so that, through a perfect

observance of our Holy Vows, we too may be crucified with the celestial Spouse of our souls.

GLORIOUS MYSTERIES

1. O Queen of Heaven, by the joy which you experienced at the glorious Resurrection of Jesus, grant us the grace to rise from our lukewarmness and to live the life of a new person born in justice and in sanctity, whereby to enjoy that holy liberty of the children of God, which is granted to her who being detached from all the things of earth, makes herself the voluntary child of obedience.

2. O Queen of Heaven, by the joy which you experienced in the triumphant Ascension of Jesus, who ascending to Heaven, took with Him your heart, obtain that we may find in the thought of Paradise comfort in our sorrows and an incentive to fervor remembering the words of Jesus who assures the hundredfold and life eternal to those who have abandoned all for His sake.

3. O Queen of Heaven, who obtained for the Apostles the abundance of the Holy Spirit, and were the soul of the first Community of the Cenacle, which was one heart and one soul, obtain for our Community, to live like those first Christians, in an atmosphere entirely supernatural, filled with your spirit, where there ever reigns family charity which is the beautiful reward which God grants on earth to those who have generously left their relatives for His sake.

4. O Queen of Heaven, by the serene peace of your holy death, and by the triumphant glory of your Assumption, make us feel even sensibly your presence in the hour of death and to render ourselves partakers of that Kingdom of Heaven promised by Jesus to the poor in spirit and by you to your devotees.

5. O Queen of Heaven and earth, but in a special manner, Queen of Religious, by your glorious Crowning, be in a special way, the Queen of our Community, and grant that after having been your faithful children and your zealous apostles on earth, and after having crowned you with the recitation of the Rosary, we may merit to be crowned by you in heaven for all eternity.

LITANY OF FATHER GUANELLA TO OUR LADY

(For private use only)

Leader:

Lord, have mercy.

Christ, have mercy.

Lord, have mercy.

God, our Father in Heaven, Have mercy on us.

God, the Son, Redeemer of the world, Have mercy on us.

God, the Holy Spirit, Have mercy on us.

Holy Trinity, one God, Have mercy on us.

Example of divine love, Pray for us.

Mediatrix of salvation,

Center of every virtue,

Hope of health and of life,

Virgin, veiled with the Sun of Justice,

Untiring pilgrim,

Giver of divine graces,

Voice of the Most High,

Virgin immaculate, spiritual mother,

Humble maiden,

Mary, who cared for the Author of Charity,

Mary, who modeled the example of Jesus,

Mary, whose will was to please Jesus,

Mary, who lived by faith,

Mary, who stood at the foot of the cross,
Mary, who magnifies the Most High,
Mary, patient woman,
Mary, strong in trials,
Mary, full of the gifts of the Spirit,
Mary, who keeps secret her dignity of the Mother of the
Savior,
Mother of Divine Providence,
Mother of the eternal Word,
Mother of all men and women,
Mother of the universe,
Mother of Jesus and our Mother,
Mother of the Sacred Heart,
Mother of kindness,
Mother of mercy,
Mother who seeks her lost children,
Mother, Queen of all Saints,
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have
mercy on us.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have
mercy on us,
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, grant
us peace.
Prayer: Immaculate Virgin, be my light always and grant that
my every good be a source of light for my brothers and sisters,
Amen.

N.B. For others litanies to Our Lady by Blessed Aloysius
Guanella, see "Seeds of Hope" pp. 166-175.

*The Daughters of St. Mary of Providence live the month
of October in company with Mary, honoring the Founder,
Blessed Aloysius Guanella, and solemnly celebrating his
Liturgical Feast.*

"Courage . . . Work . . . Persevere . . . the Lord . . . Our Lady . . . God will think of you . . . no one below is necessary, there is Providence that will help you . . . in the Charity of Christ . . . " Words of Blessed Guanella on his deathbed

NOVENA TO BLESSED ALOYSIUS GUANELLA

— O Blessed Aloysius Guanella, you were called by God to a special mission and supported in trials and difficulties by an unshakable faith in Divine Providence. Obtain for us a sincere and active faith in God the Father, who disposes us to fulfill always the divine will in all things. Glory . . .

— O Blessed Aloysius Guanella, you consumed your whole life in the exercise of works of mercy and genuine evangelical charity. Obtain for us a true charity toward God and our neighbor which urges us to fulfill our duties in the service of the poor to obtain the reward promised to the merciful. Glory . . .

— O Blessed Aloysius Guanella, in your earthly life, you burned with zeal for the glory of God and the salvation of souls through prayer and suffering. Obtain for us the grace of being true followers of Jesus and faithful children of the Church and to give the world a witness of a fruitful and holy life, as we await the coming of the Kingdom of God. Glory . . .

Amen.

OCTOBER 24th

FEAST OF BLESSED ALOYSIUS GUANELLA

(from the Common of Saints)

"O Father, O Father! Are you listening to us? It is your children who call you, the children you left weeping in this exile, poor orphans! Look at them from your Paradise and guide

our steps until that hour in which they will reach their Father in the embrace of our heavenly eternity" (L. Mazzucchi, *The life . . .* 1980, p. 452-453).

"It is God who works." If we are attentive to this voice, how would we evaluate the humility, the greatness, and the merit of work brought about by him? But let us assist not at an evaluation but at a glorification, so that we may conclude: "The work of Father Guanella is the work of God! And if it is the work of God, it is marvelous, it is beneficent, it is holy. Joy increases in us, but at the same time a question arises, a great and delicate problem, the memory of which will follow us into the future, thinking precisely of the Blessed whom we have placed upon the altars: the question of divine action, the question of Providence in combination with human action" (Pope Paul VI, from the discourse for the Beatification).

Blessed Aloysius Guanella, was born in 1842 in Fraciscio of Campodolcino in the diocese of Como. He was a zealous priest and apostle of charity. To aid the most abandoned and needy he founded the Congregations of the Daughters of St. Mary of Providence and the Servants of Charity. He also established the Pious Union of the Death of St. Joseph for the dying. He died at Como in 1915 and was Beatified October 25, 1964.

Invitatory

Lord, open my lips,
— and my mouth shall declare your praise.

Ant: Let us sing praise to God, as we acclaim Blessed Aloysius Guanella.

Psalm 95

OFFICE OF READINGS

Hymn

Psalmody

(Common of Holy Men)

First Reading:

From the first letter of St. John 4:7-21

Responsory

(1 Jn 5:3, Sir 23:37)

The Love of God consists in this: that we
keep His commandments
— and His Commandments are not burden-
some.

Nothing is more salutary than to obey
— and His commandments are not burden-
some.

Second Reading:

From the Guide of the Servants of Charity, written by Blessed Aloysius Guanella in 1910.

A PLEA TO CHARITY AND TRUST IN DIVINE PROVIDENCE

A Christian must not content himself with thinking and providing only for himself; but he must think and provide for the good of his brethren and among these, for the most needy of spiritual and physical assistance.

From this it follows that all the Servants of Charity should feel deeply the duty and desire of coming to the physical and spiritual assistance of their neighbor, their own brethren, the children of our Heavenly Father. All things must be restored in Christ. Now to restore persons and works we must fulfill the desire of the Divine Heart, who appearing in the figure of immense fire, cried out: "I have come to bring the world the fire of charity; and what do I wish, if not that such a fire be enkindled in the hearts of men and women?"

O, that the fire of Divine Charity may come as a holy fire!
May the Lord send the spirit of His Divine Charity, and the
world will be renewed!

To live in much poverty and to trust ourselves completely to Divine Providence is a virtue of the highest perfection. Divine Providence is our natural Mother and very dear to her children. Our work was born and grew with the visible help of Providence, which will never be lacking, provided it does not degenerate from its fixed spirit. That God who dresses the lilies of the field in clothes Solomon never wore, will never let anything be lacking to those who labor only for Him and for the greater glory of His name. We must, therefore, revive our faith and believe that good cannot be done but by ascending the fatiguing path of Calvary; that the Lord will never be wanting to those who confide in Him; that always sweet is the bread that comes from the hand of the provident Lord, sweet especially when it costs fatigue and sweat. The good Servants of Charity who for long years and many times every day aided the poor with faith, these good Servants of Charity who still living, never said "enough" in the works of charity and sacrifice, will ascend on high with Jesus Christ and possess that kingdom the Lord has prepared for them from the dawn of creation.

Responsory: (Mt 25:35-40, Prv 19:17)

I was hungry and you gave me food;

I was thirsty and you gave me drink.

I was a stranger and you welcomed me.

— I assure you, as often as you did it for one of my least brothers and sisters you did it for Me.

He who has compassion on the poor, lends to the Lord

— I assure you, as often as you did it for one of my least brothers and sisters you did it for Me.

Te Deum

Prayer: O God, You have made Blessed Aloysius, glorious for his remarkable love toward the poor, grant us, we pray you, to serve you continually in the exercise of charity, and to receive through Your paternal providence the inheritance of your children, through Our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with You, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.

For the rest of the Divine Office follow the official text of the Church.

CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST

(Common of Saints)

Holy Men

October 24

BLESSED ALOYSIUS GUANELLA

MEMORIAL

READING

A reading from the book of the Prophet Isaiah

If you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness . . .

Is it not to share your bread with the hungry, and bring the homeless poor into your house; when you see the naked, to cover them, and not to hide

yourself from your own kin? Then your light shall break forth like the dawn, and your healing shall spring up quickly; your vindicator shall go before you, the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard. Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer; you shall cry for him, and he will say, Here I am. If you remove the yoke from among you, the pointing of the finger, the speaking of evil, if you offer your food to the hungry and satisfy the needs of the afflicted, then your light shall rise in the darkness and your gloom be like the noonday. The Lord will guide you continually, and satisfy your needs in parched places, and make your bones strong; and you shall be like a watered garden, like a spring of water, whose waters never fail.

Word of the Lord

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Ps 34

R. Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord
I will bless the Lord at all times; his praise shall continually be in my mouth. My soul makes its boast in the Lord; let the humble hear and be glad.

R. Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord

O fear the Lord, you his holy ones, for those who fear him have not want. The young lions suffer want and hunger, but those who seek the Lord lack no good thing.

R. Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord

The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, and his ears are open to their cry. The face of the Lord is

against evildoers, to cut off the remembrance of them from the earth.

R. Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord

When the righteous cry for help, the Lord hears, and rescues them from all their troubles. The Lord is near to the brokenhearted and saves the crushed in spirit.

R. Blessed is the man who trusts in the Lord

READING II I Cor 13:1-8

Love never ends

If I speak in the tongues of mortals and of angels, but do not have love, I am a noisy gong or a clanging cymbal. And if I have prophetic powers and understand all mysteries and all knowledge, and if I have all faith, so as to remove mountains, but do not have love, I am nothing. If I give away all my possessions, and if I hand over my body so that I may boast, but do not have love, I gain nothing. Love is patient; love is kind; love is not envious or boastful or arrogant or rude. It does not insist on its own way; it is not irritable or resentful; it does not rejoice in wrongdoing; but rejoices in the truth. It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends.

Word of the Lord

GOSPEL

Mt 25:31-40

R. Alleluia, Alleluia 1 Jn 4:12

... if we love one another, God lives in us, and his love is perfected in us.

R. Alleluia

A READING OF THE HOLY GOSPEL
ACCORDING TO ST. MATTHEW

Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.

“When the Son of Man comes in his glory, and all the angels with him, then he will sit on the throne of his glory. All the nations will be gathered before him, and he will separate people one from another as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats, and he will put the sheep at his right hand and the goats at his left. Then the king will say to those at his right hand, ‘Come, you that are blessed by my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me.’ Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing?’

And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?’ And the king will answer them, ‘Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me.’”

Gospel of the Lord

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

— Dear friends, celebrating with devout fervor the Feast of Blessed Aloysius Guanella, we turn to God, the source of holiness, the joy and crown of all the Saints, and humbly make our petitions:

R. We beg You, hear us, Lord.

That God's holiness be reflected in the words and actions of those who form the Church. Let us pray to the Lord.

R. We beg You, hear us, Lord.

That the Shepherd of the flock of Christ and all priests, in fidelity to God, accomplish with humility and zeal their ministry for the good of the people of God. Let us pray to the Lord.

R. We beg You, hear us, Lord.

That those who profess the evangelical counsels and aspire to the perfection of charity, consecrate their whole life to the faithful service of God and the welfare of the entire Church. Let us pray to the Lord.

R. We beg You, hear us, Lord.

That the innocence of children be protected, and that they be educated in virtue; that youth will be formed in honesty, in generosity, in sacrifice and work; that the aged will be comforted in their weakness, and be prepared in a serene maturity for an eternal reward in heaven. Let us pray to the Lord.

R. We beg You, hear us, Lord.

That participation in the Eucharist will enable us to grow ever more in the love of God and in charity toward all. Let us pray to the Lord.

R. We beg You, hear us, Lord.

Keep us always, in Your grace, O Lord. May the intercession of Blessed Aloysius Guanella obtain for us the grace to imitate his virtues; his ardent love for the Holy Eucharist; his untiring zeal for the salvation of souls; his serene confidence in Divine Providence; his tender charity toward the poor, especially those, most in need. We ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

PRAYER TO BLESSED GUANELLA

Lord Jesus, Redeemer of mankind and our brother, grant that in imitation of Blessed Guanella, we may share everything in life with the most needy.

May our relationships with others be warm and loving so that our lives may cause them to feel loved.

May Blessed Guanella obtain for us from your goodness that daily sanctity that consists in loving you and our neighbor by doing ordinary things in an extraordinary way. Amen.

(with ecclesial approval)

WORLD MISSION DAY

Prayer outline: THE EUCHARIST BECOMES AN ANNOUNCEMENT

Hymn

PRAYER OF ADORATION;

— We adore You, Lord Jesus, for all things were created for you.

- We adore You, Lord Jesus, who became man for our salvation.
- We adore You, Lord Jesus, who announced the Gospel of truth.
- We adore You, Lord Jesus, who debased yourself, becoming obedient even to the death of the cross
- We adore You, Lord Jesus, who rose glorious from death and ascended into heaven.
- We adore You, Lord Jesus, who became our food and the comfort of our souls in the sacrament of the altar.
- We adore You, Lord Jesus, who live and reign forever.

THE WORD OF THE LORD

Readings: Gen 12:1-7, Jer 1:4-10, Rom 10:1-11, 17

Pause

Psalm 67

Hymn

Readings: Mat 28:16-20, Jn 6:1-11, Jn 7

Pause

Prayer: Rev 4:11, 5:9-10, 12

"O Lord our God, you are worthy to receive glory and honor and power! For you have created all things; by your will they came to be and were made!"

"Worthy are you to receive the scroll and break open its seals, for you were slain. With your blood you purchased for God people of every race and tongue, of every people and nation. You made of them a kingdom, and priests to serve our God, and they shall reign on the earth."

“Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power and riches, wisdom and strength, honor and glory and praise!”

Hymn

WORD OF THE CHURCH

Reading: Select a passage from the message of our Holy Father for World Mission Day of the current year.

Intercessions: Lord Jesus, who died on the cross for the salvation of all people, and gave to your Church the mandate to preach the Gospel to all nations, look upon the part of the human race that still does not know you and does not believe in You, the only Savior. We beg you to arouse in your Church zeal for the salvation of all people and to inspire many generous souls that they may give their life for the spread of the Gospel. We invoke you together saying: Hear us, O Lord.

- So that all people will be saved and come to the knowledge of the truth, we pray,
- That the Gospel may be proclaimed to every creature, we pray,
- That the missions may not lack the support of priests, religious and generous lay persons, we pray,
- That the new churches in mission lands may become witnesses of Christ, we pray,
- That the Lord comfort, help and guide those who suffer for the spread of the Gospel, we pray,

Our Father . . .

O God, you will that all men be saved and reach the knowledge of truth. Therefore send workers into your harvest who will announce Your Word with apostolic courage. May your Gospel be spread and accepted with honor, that all people

know you, the only true God and Him whom you sent, Jesus Christ, your Son, our Lord. Amen.

Hymn

PRAYER TO CHRIST THE KING

O Christ Jesus, I acknowledge You as King of the universe. All that has been created, has been made for You. Make full use of Your rights over me. I renew my baptismal promises, renouncing Satan and all his pomps and works, and I promise to live a good Christian life, and to do all in my power to bring about the triumph of the rights of God and of Your Church. Divine Heart of Jesus, I offer you my effort so that all hearts may acknowledge Your Sacred Kingship, and that thus the Kingdom of Your peace may be established in the whole world. Amen.

O God, You will that all men be saved and enter into Your Kingdom. Will You send Your Holy Angels to proclaim the glad tidings of Your Word with Your voice? Will You send Your Holy Angels to proclaim the glad tidings of Your Word with Your voice? Will You send Your Holy Angels to proclaim the glad tidings of Your Word with Your voice? Will You send Your Holy Angels to proclaim the glad tidings of Your Word with Your voice?

NOVEMBER

"Let us rejoice in the Lord and keep a festival in honor of all the saints. Let us join with the angels in joyful praise to the Son of God" (Liturgy).

LET US TURN TO THE SAINTS

They are in Paradise with God. They are powerful before the throne of the Lord. They have experienced the pains that we experience today, therefore they will understand us.

In the Christian family here below the Most High God gives talents to all, to one the gift of counsel, to another wisdom, and to a third the gift of piety. In the family of Saints in Paradise, the Lord has distributed the mansions of honor so that one saint will intercede in our behalf for special necessities. God is the master of his gifts. He distributes them as He wills and where He wills. What does that matter? It is enough to be heard. Let us then turn to the Saints of Paradise! (L.G., Un angelo Salvatore. S. Gottardo vescovo, 1884, p. 28)

PRAYER TO ALL THE SAINTS

O blessed heavenly souls! Help our misery and be our intercessors before the divine mercy that we may be given some of your joy and a share in this clear knowledge you possess. Give us understanding, my God, of what it is that is given to those who fight valiantly in the dream of this miserable life. Obtain for us, O loving souls, understanding of the joy it gives you to see the eternal character of your fruition, and

how it is so delightful to see certainly that it will have no end . . . O Blessed souls who with this precious price knew so well how to profit and buy an inheritance so delightful and permanent, tell us how you gained such an ending good! Help us, since you are so near the fount; draw water for those here below who are perishing of thirst. (St. Teresa of Jesus)

LITANY OF THE SAINTS

Leader:

Lord, have mercy on us,
Christ, have mercy on us.
Christ, hear us.
God, the Father of heaven,
God, the Son, redeemer of
the world,
God, the Holy Spirit,
Holy Trinity, one God,
Holy Mary,
Holy Mother of God,
Holy Virgin of Virgins,
Saint Michael,
Saint Gabriel,
Saint Raphael,
All holy angels and archangels,
All holy orders of blessed spirits,
Saint John the Baptist,
Saint Joseph,
All holy patriarchs and prophets,
Saint Peter,
Saint Paul,
Saint Andrew,
Saint James,
Saint John,

All:

Lord, have mercy on us.
Christ, have mercy on us,
Christ, graciously hear
us,
have mercy on us.
pray for us

Saint Thomas,
Saint James,
Saint Philip,
Saint Bartholomew,
Saint Matthew,
Saint Simon,
Saint Thaddeus,
Saint Matthias,
Saint Barnabas,
Saint Luke,
Saint Mark,
All holy apostles and evangelists,
All holy disciples of our Lord,
All holy innocents,
Saint Stephen,
Saint Lawrence,
Saint Vincent,
Saints Fabian and Sebastian,
Saints John and Paul,
Saints Cosmas and Damian,
Saints Gervase and Protase,
All holy martyrs,
Saint Sylvester,
Saint Gregory,
Saint Ambrose,
Saint Augustine,
Saint Jerome,
Saint Martin,
Saint Nicholas,
All holy bishops and confessors,
All holy doctors,
Saint Anthony,
Saint Benedict,
Saint Dominic,
All holy priests and levites,

All holy monks and hermits,
Saint Mary Madgalen,
Saint Agatha,
Saint Lucy,
Saint Agnes,
Saint Cecilia,
Saint Catherine,
Saint Anastasia,
All holy virgins and widows,
All holy saints of God,
Be merciful,
Be merciful,

From all evil,
From all sin,
From your just anger,
From a sudden and unprovided death,
From the snares of the devil,
From anger, hatred and feelings of revenge,
From everlasting death,
Through the mystery of your holy Incarnation,
Through your coming,
Through your nativity,
Through your baptism and holy fasting,
Through your cross and passion,
Through your death and burial,
Through your holy resurrection,
Through your admirable ascension,
Through the coming of the Holy Spirit, the comforter,

In the day of judgment, we beseech you, hear us,
We sinners,
That you would spare us,
That you would pardon us,
That you would bring us to true penance,

make intercession for us.
spare us, O Lord.
graciously hear us,
O Lord.
deliver us, O Lord.

That you would govern and preserve your holy Church,
That you would preserve our Pope and all ministers,
That you would give peace and true concord, to Christian
kings and queens,
That you would grant peace and unity to all Christian
people,
That you would bring back to the unity of the Church all
those who have strayed away, and lead to the light of
the gospel all unbelievers,
That you would confirm and preserve us in your holy
service,
That you would lift up our minds to desire heaven,
That you would render eternal blessing to all our benefac-
tors,
That you would give and preserve the fruits of the earth,
That you would grant eternal rest to all the faithful de-
parted,
That you would graciously hear us,
Son of God,
Lamb of God, you take away
the sins of the world, spare us, O Lord.
Lamb of God, you take away
the sins of the world, have mercy on us.
Christ, hear us, Christ, graciously hear us.
Lord, have mercy on us. Christ, have mercy on us.
Lord, have mercy on us.
Our Father . . .

Let us pray: O God, whose nature it is to have mercy and
to spare, receive our petitions that we and all your servants,
may through your compassion and goodness be mercifully
absolved from all our sins and attain to eternal salvation
through Christ, Our Lord. Amen.

REMEMBERING OUR FAITHFUL DEPARTED

"In full consciousness of this communion of the whole Mystical Body of Jesus Christ, the Church in its pilgrim members, from the very earliest days of the Christian religion, has honored with great respect the memory of the dead; and, "because it is a holy and wholesome thought to pray for the dead that they may be loosed from their sins" (2 Mac 12:46) she offers her suffrages for them" (L.G., no. 50).

"Our beloved dead are dear to us and we think of them often. They are our dearest dead; the dear dead whom we wished well in this life" (in: La divina Provvidenza, 1895, p. 245).

OCTAVE OF PRAYER DURING THE MONTH OF NOVEMBER

1st day: for our departed Sisters.

2nd day: for the departed Servants of Charity.

3rd day: for the departed cooperators.

4th day: for the departed benefactors.

5th day: for our departed relatives.

6th day: for our departed residents.

7th day: for the Sisters who died in each particular community.

8th day: for the most forgotten faithful departed.

REFLECTION

"You keep saying it to your children, the good faithful from the mountains and from the valleys: "The dead are our brothers and sisters. It is true. May the Lord have mercy on you who have mercy on the souls of the faithful departed."

It is very true: there is nothing between the living and the departed—but a thin wall that separates us. The curtain of our life, like on a stage, can suddenly be opened to reveal us before the Judge. Having shown mercy on earth will make us find mercy in that great moment!

Besides, you converse with your beloved dead continually. You converse with them at the dinner table, on the cross-roads, but you converse with them especially on certain recurring events.

What more than this? Living and dead, you are brothers and sisters. Every day you converse with the beloved departed in the sanctuary of divine mercies, in church, the true house of Jesus our Savior. You who are good, you converse a little with the faithful departed every hour of the day, since you always remember to pray for them to support them and yourselves by means of a remembrance or pious discourse. The departed are our brothers and sisters. How many times, finding ourselves in serious danger of body and soul, we have had recourse to the faithful departed and we have been heard!

They have lived a career of labor here on earth as we do now. So they know our needs and are ready to assist us.

We on our part offer them the assistance of a prayer and an alm. They on their part, shower upon us much help in strength and submission.

How beautiful is the day when, gathered in church the living and the dead, we converse with more confidence. Then, receiving the comfort of two most august Sacraments, our eyes will be fixed farther away and our hearts will long more lovingly for Paradise. The conversation of the living with the dead is a true school of virtue, it is a great comfort for the soul" (A.G., The Mountaineer, 1886-1993, pp. 12-13).

NOVENA TO MARY, MOTHER OF DIVINE PROVIDENCE

Let us celebrate the Feast of our Mother and Patroness, Mary, Mother of Divine Providence

“ . . . cultivate a tender and filial devotion to Mary Immaculate, Mother of Divine Providence, model and guide of our life of union with God” (Constitutions, D.S.M.P., 1984, p. 57).

SUGGESTED NOVENA

Invitatory: Come, let us adore the Lord, son of the Virgin Mary. Psalm 95

Prayer: Lord, look upon your people, united in the memory of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of Divine Providence, and grant that through her intercession we may share in the fullness of your grace. Through our Lord Jesus Christ.

Psalm 42

Readings:

1st day: Sir 24:1-4.8-14,18-21

2nd day: Is 61:10-11, 62, 1-3

3rd day: Sir 26:3, 14-18

4th day: Song 8:6-7

5th day: Gal 4:4-5

6th day: Zep 3:14-18

7th day: Is 7:10-14

8th day: Sir 15: 1-6

9th day: Song 4:7-12

Excerpts from the writings of Bishop Bacciarini on Our Lady of Providence, or other appropriate writings may also be used.

Hymn: *Salve, Mater Providentiae*, or another Marian Hymn.

Salve, Mater Providentiae

Salve, Mater Providentiae,
Mater Dei et mater vèniae,
mater spéi et mater gratiae,
mater plena sanctae laetitiae,

O Maria!

Salve, decus humani gèneris,
salve Virgo dìgnior caéteris,
quae virgines omnes transgréderis
et altius sedes in súperis,

O Maria!

Salve, felix Virgo puérpera,
nam qui sedet in Patris déxtera,
coelum régens, terram et étera,
intra tua se clausit viscera,

O Maria!

Te créavit Pater ingénitus,
obumbravit te Unigénitus,
fecundávit te Sanctus Spíritus,
tu es facta tota divinitas,

O Maria!

Te créavit Deus mirábilem,
te respxexit ancillam humilem,
te quaesivit spónsam amáibilem,
tibi numquam fecit consímilem,

O Maria!

Te beatam laudáre cúpiunt
omnes justi, sed non sufficiunt,
multas, laudes de te concípiunt
sed in illis prórsus deficiunt,

O Maria!

Esto, Mater, nostrum solátiūm,
nostrum esto tu, Virgo, gaudium
et nos tandem post hoc exilium
laetos júnge choris coeléstium,

O Maria!

Ant: "... for he has looked with favor on His lowly servant . . . the Almighty has done great things for me."

Sing: "Magnificat"

Intercessions:

God, who in your Providence, always works according to a plan of love, through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of Divine Providence we raise to you our petitions: O Mary, Mother of Divine Providence, pray to Jesus for us.

- Mother of mercy, look upon your Church, grant her strength, support and success in the work of evangelization. Guided by our Holy Father, bishops and priests may she lead all humanity to salvation. Let us pray to the Lord.
- Mother most amiable, turn your merciful gaze on the most needy of God's people, the poor, the sick, the hungry, and the most abandoned. Let us pray to the Lord.
- Mother of Virgins, call many generous souls to the service of your Church, who will consecrate themselves totally to

God in the service of our brothers and sisters. Let us pray to the Lord.

— Mother of Providence, look upon the sisters of all our communities and grant them perseverance in their vocation and availability to your graces in order to produce in their works fruits of eternal life. Let us pray to the Lord.

— Mother of Providence, grant us the ability to live together in fraternal community, united by faith, hope and charity. Let us pray to the Lord.

Our Father . . .

Benediction—where possible.

Final Hymn

PRAYER TO OUR LADY OF DIVINE PROVIDENCE

Mary, Immaculate Virgin and Mother of Divine Providence, keep my soul in the fullness of God's grace: govern my life and direct it in the way of virtue to the fulfillment of the divine will. Obtain for me the pardon and remission of all my sins; be my refuge, my protection, my defense, and my guide in my pilgrimage through the world; comfort me in danger; in the storms of adversity afford me your sure protection. Obtain for me, O Mary, the renewal of my heart within me, that it may become a worthy dwelling place for your divine Son Jesus; keep far from me every kind of sin and negligence. Dear Mother of Divine Providence, turn your motherly gaze upon me, and, if through weakness or malice I have provoked the threats of the eternal Judge and saddened the Sacred Heart of my dear Jesus, cover me with the mantle of your protection and I shall be safe. You are the Mother of Providence; you are the Virgin of pardon; you are my hope on earth. Grant that I may have you as my Mother in the glory of heaven. Amen. Hail Mary . . .

LITANY OF OUR LADY OF PROVIDENCE

Prayer: Let us ask Our Lady of Providence, Mary most holy, who is the refuge of sinners, the consolation of the afflicted, and the help of Christians, to assist us in all our necessities.

God, the Father, of Heaven, have mercy on us.

God, the Son, Redeemer of the world,

God, the Holy Spirit,

Holy Trinity, Divine Providence,

Our Lady of Providence, mother of grace and mercy, pray for us,

Our Lady of Providence, help of the sick,

Our Lady of Providence, hope of the oppressed,

Our Lady of Providence, star of the sea,

Our Lady of Providence, tower of David,

Our Lady of Providence, gate of heaven,

Our Lady of Providence, queen of the home,

Our Lady of Providence, model of disciples,

Our Lady of Providence, mother of the Church,

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, spare us

O Lord.

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, hear us

O Lord,

Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world, have

mercy on us O Lord.

Pray for us, Our Lady of Providence—that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

O God, whose ever watchful Providence rules all things, we humbly implore you through the prayer of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of Divine Providence, to remove from us whatever is harmful and to bestow on us only that which will be helpful. We ask this through Jesus Christ, your Son,

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God,
for ever and ever. Amen.

ALTERNATE LITANY

Leader:

Lord, have mercy on us,
Christ, have mercy on us,
Lord, have mercy on us.

All:

Lord, have mercy on us.
Christ, have mercy on us.
Lord, have mercy on us.
Our Lady of Providence,
protect us.

Chosen One,
Beloved daughter,
Spouse filled with grace,
House of the Lord,
Mount of holiness,
Abyss of perfection,

pray for us.
pray for us.

Our Lady of Providence,
protect us.

Enclosed garden,
Sealed fountain,
Flame of divine love,
Immaculate Conception,
Full of grace,
Mary, all beautiful and holy,

pray for us.
pray for us.

Our Lady of Providence,
protect us.

Descendant of the royal race
of David,
Virgin of Nazareth,
Dawn of salvation,
Woman who saves,

pray for us.
pray for us.
pray for us.
pray for us.

Our life and our salvation,

pray for us.

Our Lady of Providence,
protect us.

pray for us.

Handmaid of the Lord,
Blessed one who gave us the
Savior,
Disciple of the Lord,
Heavenly image of divine
fervor,
Model of divine love,
Perfume of virtue,

pray for us.

Our Lady of Providence,
protect us.

Immaculate and holy Virgin,
Unique and perfect Virgin,
Blessed Virgin,
Fruitful Virgin,
Virgin and Mother of God,
Mother of Jesus Christ,

pray for us.

Our Lady of Providence,
protect us.

pray for us.

Woman of faith,
Woman of hope,
Woman of love,
Woman most admirable,
Woman of humility and
patience,
Model of mothers and
families,

pray for us.

Mother of humanity,

pray for us.

Our Lady of Providence,
protect us.

pray for us.

Our Mother and Sister,
Provident Mother,
Mother who loves,
Mother with a generous
heart,
Mother most powerful,

pray for us.

Advocate of sinners,
Mother of mercy,
Mother, who seeks her lost
children,
Untiring pilgrim,
First Evangelizer,
Mother trusting in the
Providence of God,

pray for us.

pray for us,

Our Lady of Providence,
protect us.

pray for us.

Omnipotent by grace,
Co-redemptrix of the human
race,
Mediatrix of salvation,
Mother who consented to the
death of Jesus,
Mother who followed Jesus
to the Cross,
Queen of martyrs,

pray for us,

pray for us,

pray for us,

pray for us.

pray for us,

Our Lady of Providence,
protect us.

Mary, you let yourself be
guided by the Spirit,
Mary, sign of predestination,

pray for us.

pray for us.

Mary, glorious in the Church,
Mary, gate of heaven,
Mary, who sits on a throne of
peace in Paradise,

Lord, Savior of all,
Christ, light that illuminates the
world,
Lord, bread that sustains the
life of humanity,

pray for us.
pray for us.
pray for us.

Our Lady of Providence,
protect us.

have mercy on us.

have mercy on us.
have mercy on us.

Our Lady of Providence
beata for us
blessed are

Marie Von sei kommt bei
Benedikt der Geist

NOVEMBER 12

BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

MOTHER OF DIVINE PROVIDENCE

(Principal patroness)

(Solemnity)

The image of the Virgin Mary, Mother of Divine Providence, was exposed for public veneration in 1732, in Rome, in the Church of Saints Blase and Charles. In 1744 Benedict XIV permitted the solemn liturgical celebration to the Barnabite Fathers. The Holy Pontiffs in moments of difficulty had recourse to her.

Blessed Aloysius Guanella venerated her with the most lively affection, and dedicated to her his Congregation which he called, "Daughters of St. Mary of Providence" and chose her as the patroness of all his endeavors, pointing her out as "our dearest Mother."

OFFICE

Evening Prayer I

Hymn

Antiphons, psalms and canticle from the Common of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Prayer: O God, who in your Providence always work according to a plan of love, through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of Divine Providence, remove from us all evil and bestow on us every good. Through Our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who is God and lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. Amen.

Invitatory

Lord, open my lips
– and my mouth shall declare your praise.

Ant. Let us adore Christ the Lord who gave us as children
to his mother.

Psalm 100

OFFICE OF READINGS

Hymn

Psalmody (Common of the Blessed Virgin Mary)

First Reading: Is 7:10–14

Responsory Let us trustfully approach the throne of
grace to receive mercy and find grace and
be aided at the opportune moment
– Let us trustfully . . .

To you O Holy Virgin, we send up our sighs
and weeping in this vale of tears
– and receive mercy and find grace and be
aided at the opportune moment.

Glory to the Father . . .

– Let us trustfully approach . . .

Second Reading: From the Dogmatic Constitution on the
Church. no. 61, 62

Predestined from eternity by that decree of divine providence
which determined the incarnation of the Word to be the
Mother of God, the Blessed Virgin was on this earth, the
Virgin, Mother of the Redeemer, and above all others and in
a singular way the generous associate and humble handmaid
of the Lord. She conceived, brought forth, and nourished

Christ, she presented Him to the Father in the temple, and was united with Him by compassion as He died on the Cross. In this singular way she cooperated by her obedience, faith, hope and burning charity in the work of the Savior in giving back supernatural life to souls. Wherefore she is our mother in the order of grace.

This maternity of Mary in the order of grace began with the consent which she gave in faith at the Annunciation and which she sustained without wavering beneath the cross, and lasts until the eternal fulfillment of all the elect. Taken up to heaven she did not lay aside this salvific duty, but by her constant intercession continues to bring us the gifts of eternal salvation. By her maternal charity, she cares for the brethren of her Son, who still journey on earth surrounded by dangers and difficulties, until they are led into the happiness of their true home. Therefore the Blessed Virgin is invoked by the Church under the titles of Advocate, Auxiliatrix, Adjutrix and Mediatrix. This, however, is to be so understood that it neither takes away from nor adds anything to the dignity and efficaciousness of Christ the one Mediator.

For no creature could ever be counted as equal with the Incarnate Word and Redeemer. Just as the priesthood of Christ is shared in various ways both by the ministers and by the faithful, and as the one goodness of God is really communicated in different ways to His creatures, so also the unique mediation of the Redeemer does not exclude but rather gives rise to a manifold cooperation which is but a sharing in this one source.

The Church does not hesitate to profess this subordinate role of Mary. It knows it through unfailing experience of it and commends it to the hearts of the faithful, so that encouraged by this maternal help they may more intimately adhere to the Mediator and Redeemer.

Responsory: Show yourself to us in the time of trial and give us hope

– Show yourself to us in the time of trial and give us hope.

Free us with your power and assist us because we have no help but you

– and give us hope.

Glory to the Father . . .

– Show yourself to us in the time of trial and give us hope.

Te Deum

Prayer: as in Evening Prayer I

For the rest of the office follow the official text of the Church.

CELEBRATION OF THE EUCHARIST (Mother of Divine Providence)

NOVEMBER 12

MOTHER OF DIVINE PROVIDENCE

PRINCIPAL PATRONESS - SOLEMNITY

READING I

Sir 24:1-30

A reading from the book of Sirach

Mary, seat of Wisdom

Wisdom praises herself, and tells of her glory in the midst of her people. In the assembly of the

Most High she opens her mouth, and in the presence of his hosts she tells her glory: I came forth from the mouth of the Most High, and covered the earth like a mist. I dwelt in the highest heavens, and my throne was a pillar of cloud. Then the Creator of all things gave me a command, and my Creator chose the place for my tent. He said, "Make your dwelling in Jacob, and in Israel receive your inheritance." Before the ages, in the beginning, he created me, and for all ages I shall not cease to be. In the holy tent I ministered before him, and so I was established in Zion. Thus in the beloved city he gave me a resting place, and in Jerusalem was my domain. I took root in an honored people, in the portion of the Lord, his heritage. "Come to me, you who desire me, and eat your fill of my fruits. For the memory of me is sweeter than the honeycomb. Those who eat of me will hunger for more, and those who drink of me will thirst for more. Whoever obeys me will not be put to shame, and those who work with me will not sin."

Word of the Lord

Gal 4:4-7

READING II

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Lk 1:46-55

R. You are the highest honor of our race, O Mary.

"My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior.

R. You are the highest honor of our race, O Mary.

For he has looked with favor on the lowliness of his servant. Surely, from now on all generations

will call me blessed; for the Almighty One has done great things for me, and holy is his name.

R. You are the highest honor of our race, O Mary.

His mercy is for those who fear him from generation to generation. He has shown strength with his arm; he has scattered the proud in the thoughts of their hearts.

R. You are the highest honor of our race, O Mary.

He has brought down the powerful from their thrones, and lifted up the lowly; he has filled the hungry with good things, and sent the rich away empty.

R. You are the highest honor of our race, O Mary.

He has helped his servant Israel, in remembrance of his mercy, according to the promise he made to our ancestors, to Abraham and to his descendants forever."

R. You are the highest honor of our race O Mary.

READING II

Gal 4:4-7

A reading from the letter of Paul to the Galatians
God sent His Son, born of a woman.

But when the fullness of time had come, God sent his Son, born of a woman, born under the law, in order to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as children. And because you are children, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying "Abba! Abba!"

Father!" So you are no longer a slave but a child, and if a child then also an heir, through God.

Word of the Lord

GOSPEL **Jn 2:1-11**

R. Alleluia, Alleluia.

And he came to her and said, "Greetings, favored one! The Lord is with you."

R. Alleluia

**A READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL
ACCORDING TO JOHN**

... and the Mother of Jesus was there.

On the third day there was a wedding in Cana of Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples had also been invited to the wedding. When the wine gave out, the mother of Jesus said to him, "They have no wine." And Jesus said to her, "Woman, what concern is that to you and to me? My hour has not yet come." His mother said to the servants, "Do whatever he tells you." Now standing there were six stone water jars for the Jewish rites of purification, each holding twenty or thirty gallons. Jesus said to them, "Fill the jars with water." And they filled them up to the brim. He said to them, "Now draw some out, and take it to the chief steward." So they took it. When the steward tasted the water that had become wine, and did not know where it came from (though the servants who had drawn the water knew), the steward called the bridegroom

and said to him, "Everyone serves the good wine first, and then the inferior wine after the guests have become drunk. But you have kept the good wine until now." Jesus did this, the first of his signs, in Cana of Galilee, and revealed his glory; and his disciples believed in him.

Gospel of the Lord

GENERAL INTERCESSIONS

Dear friends, celebrating the Solemnity of our Mother of Divine Providence, our patroness and guide, we now humbly place our petitions before the Lord.

O Lord, who in your Providence always work according to a plan of love, we ask you that through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of Divine Providence, to guide our Holy Father and the Bishops as they work for justice within the structure of the Church. We pray and we sing.

R. O Lord, hear us we pray, O Lord, give us your love.

O Lord, you have called your Church to holiness of life. May each member of your Church realize more fully your love, and respond to your call to holiness. We pray and we sing.

R. O Lord, hear us we pray, O Lord, give us your love.

O Lord, we thank you for our religious vocation and for the life of our Blessed Founder, Father Aloysis Guanella, who has shared with us his Charisma of recognizing God as our Father and trusting in His Providential Care for us and for the most needy of our brothers and sisters. We pray and we sing.

R. O Lord, hear us we pray, O Lord, give us your love.

O Lord, you desire that within the family we come to learn what it means to belong to you as your child, we ask that you bless the living and deceased members of our Guanellian family. We pray and we sing.

R. O Lord, hear us we pray, O Lord, give us your love.

Lord God, we wish "to live under the wings of Divine Providence, trusting in the protection of the Virgin Mary, who is its dispenser." Grant us this grace through Christ our Lord. Amen.

THOUGHTS ON MARY, MOTHER OF DIVINE PROVIDENCE

THE PICTURE: An exchange of looks! An exchange of souls! It is the entwining of two hearts into one only love. The Son looks on in Love—The Mother looks on in Love. The hand of the baby rests peacefully on Mary's hand. Mary's arms enfold the small, frail body of Jesus who abandons himself completely—close to her heart. Her gaze speaks, "You are mine." Jesus responds tenderly, "I am yours." It is not simply a voice, it is the very heartbeat of life, the spirited quality of the soul that speaks.

THE PICTURE: Human in appearance—A mother and child. Divine in essence—Jesus and Mary.

JESUS: The Baby is weak. We are weak, also. An act of will would suffice to dissipate His weakness and take on energy and the attitude of a victorious master. But this is not His will. He willed weakness, pain, and poverty. He willed to be insignificant. He the King of Ages! And we? We rebel and shudder at the thought of humiliations, and make every effort to resist it, trusting in ourselves and other human resources. But He the King of Ages? He will grow and triumph. Every minute marks a step in growth and progress as He does not trust in Himself and human resources. He seeks strength from above. He raises his glance on High. Let us imitate Him, Sisters. Let us raise our glance on High. What does the child see as He glances up? Look carefully! He meets the glance of Mary. Let us raise our glance on high and we also will meet the eyes of Mary.

MARY: Mary has lowered her eyes and sees Jesus. In her life she has seen proud persons, seeking the heights of fame, raising their head high inebriated at their success. Yet she humbly lowers her eyes. She lowers her eyes to human glory, worldly knowledge, and to all that does not have the approval of God. In her humility she sees her nothingness. But behold! One day she felt near her heart the beating of a little heart, on her hand the touch of a tiny hand, she lowered her gaze and trembling with joy she sees Jesus, Her Son and Her God. God reveals himself to the humble. Only those who are not of the world feel the beating of His Heart, the breath of Divine Love.

MOTHER AND QUEEN: The human face is the masterpiece of Divine aesthetic, it enlivens the glory of the soul. The eyes reveal the strongest power of expression. As in a converging mirror our gaze gathers and reflects the splendor and warmth of the soul. If we could at this very moment reflect Mary's gaze, but it is far from us. We can only comfort ourselves in our exile by gathering around her dear and venerated picture. It is a fact that the supernatural transfigures the most celebrated images, with an almost spiritual beauty, which only the spirit understands. O! That glance! Its strength and attraction can only be seen not in having an artistic eye for art, but an eye of faith.

THE FEAST OF OUR MOTHER: It is the Feast of Our Mother, let us bring to her our flowers, our gifts. Let us enfold her in our hearts. We must celebrate her feast fittingly. We must tell her of our love, but who will speak for us? We have gathered around this provident mother on her feast day, with outbursts, of fervent love, our hands and hearts raised as we fall to our knees overcome by emotion. Who will speak for us? Who can reveal the love of her Sisters? There is one . . . the one nearest to her . . . Her beloved Son . . . our brother, Jesus. Silence, therefore, let Jesus speak for us. He

has often told her of His love for her. Certainly he will tell her of our Love! In the house of Nazareth He was often seated upon her knees, pressed to her heart, looking into her face as this image portrays—both His glance and His voice spoke softly—“Mamma, I love you.” Dear little Jesus, repeat these words to her today, but repeat them in our name—this way: “Mamma, we love you.” To your voice we shall place our human frailty and she will lift us up and give us a new heart and a new spirit leading us on the way toward heaven and toward peace.

DECEMBER

"Let us rejoice heartily! The Most High dwells on this earth in a place worthy of Him. He has built His own house. That is a holy house, a dwelling of virtue, the delight of holy souls. It is found in the beloved land of Canaan, and it is called by the venerable name of "Mary." Mary is the house of the Lord. Let us be comforted" (L.G., O Padre! O Madre! III corso, 1884, p. 83).

SOLEMNITY OF THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

December 8

Provide an opportunity for each Sister and Community to enrich and to perfect the following outline of prayer.

NOVENA OUTLINE

- Word of God
- Prayer (Fr. Guanella)
- Hail Mary
- Reflection (Fioretto proposed by Fr. Guanella for every day of the Novena)
- Ejaculation
- Hymn

N.B. The prayer and fioretto have been taken from the book: "Un saluto alla Immacolata di Lourdes," Milan, 1887 (Library of ascetical-moral works, no. 3).

1st day (November 29)

MARY, THE DAWN OF SALVATION

“Who is this that comes forth like the dawn, as beautiful as the moon, as resplendent as the sun, awe-inspiring as bannered troops” (Song 6:10).

“A great sign appeared in the sky, a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars” (Rev 12:1).

Prayer

Virgin Immaculate! The earth stained by sin, weeps over its faults. But it rejoices in the approach of the Immaculate. The woman without sin—the woman holy in the sight of the Most High! Immaculate Virgin, make our hearts pure!

Hail Mary . . .

Reflection

I will ponder the inexpressible mystery of the Immaculate conception.

Ejaculation

O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to you.

Hymn

2nd day (November 30)

FULL OF GRACE

“Sing and rejoice, O daughter of Zion! See, I am coming to dwell among you, says the Lord. Many nations shall join

themselves to the Lord on that day, and they shall be his people, and he will dwell among you, and you shall know that the Lord of hosts has sent me to you" (Zac 2:14-15).

"Upon arriving, the angel said to her; "Rejoice O highly favored daughter! The Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women" (Lk 1:28)!

Prayer

Virgin Immaculate! What joy to the Christian world in recognizing that you are the Immaculate, our Mother, come to visit her children! Virgin Immaculate, mother of God and our mother, take us by the hand, bring us to Jesus, and beg him to save us, Hail Mary . . .

Reflection

Rejoice and comfort others with the thought that Mary has come to visit her children.

Ejaculation

Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners.

Hymn

3rd day (December 1)

PARTICIPANTS IN THE MYSTERIES OF CHRIST

"Happy the man who obeys me, and happy those who keep my ways. Happy the man watching daily at my gates, waiting at my doorsteps. For he who finds me finds life, and wins favor from the Lord" (Prov 8:33-35).

"I have come to rate all as loss in the light of the surpassing knowledge of my Lord Jesus Christ" (Phil 3:8).

Prayer

Virgin Immaculate! Virgin and Mother, how many times you have shown me the way in time of darkness. You are always welcomed! Your motherly tenderness speaks of it daily. Make me understand that she who listens to you, listens to the Lord, Your Son, and that following you brings salvation! Hail Mary . . .

Reflection

I will examine myself to discover how well I have listened and followed the voice and inspirations of Mary.

Ejaculation

Mother of Good Counsel, enlighten me.

Hymn

4th day (December 2)

MOTHER, ADVOCATE, MEDIATRIX

“So let us confidently approach the throne of grace to receive mercy and favor and to find help in time of need” (Heb 4:16).

“I bud forth delights like the vine, my blossoms become fruit fair and rich. Come to me, all you that yearn for me and be filled with my fruits. Now I, like a rivulet from her stream, channeling the waters into a garden” (Sir 24:17–18, 28).

Prayer

Virgin Immaculate! Perform another miracle of motherly mercy. Open our eyes to understand the wonders of divine mercy. Move our hearts to love the inexpressible mysteries of divine love. Hail Mary . . .

Reflection

I will proclaim the greatness of the Virgin.

Ejaculation

Virgin most clement, pray for us.

Hymn

5th Day (December 3)

THE IMMACULATE—REFLECTION OF HOLINESS AND KINDNESS

“He has clothed me with a robe of salvation, and wrapped me in a mantle of justice, like a bride bedecked with her jewels” (Is 61:10).

“Become imitators of God as his dear children. There was a time when you were in darkness, but now you are children of light in the Lord. Light produces every kind of goodness and justice and truth. Be correct in your judgment of what pleases the Lord” (Eph 5:1, 8-10).

Prayer

Virgin Immaculate! It is the will of God that we become saints. Blessed Virgin, make us saints! Lead us on the royal road of simplicity which is dear to God and clear to mortals. Oh, make us know how beautiful it is to be virtuous! Make us understand what great happiness it is to walk in the way of perfection! Hail Mary . . .

Reflection

How can I improve my charity and obedience?

Ejaculation

Virgin Immaculate! make us saints.

Hymn

6th day (December 4)

HUMBLE SERVANT OF THE LORD

“The poor when they see it will be glad and God-seeking hearts will revive” (Ps. 69:33–34);

“For he has looked upon his servant in her lowliness . . . He has done great things for me . . . He has shown might with his arm, he has confused the proud . . . and raised up the lowly” (Lk 1:48–52).

Prayer

Virgin Immaculate! On this day I seek holy humility which made you most pleasing to God. Make me humble in thought, humble in thinking of others, humble in submitting myself to every wish or counsel of my superior. Hail Mary . . .

Reflection

Have I sinned in criticizing the directives of superiors?

Ejaculation

Virgin most faithful, pray for us.

Hymn

7th day (December 5)

MESSENGER OF LOVE

“Blessed are you by your God, in all the tents of Jacob; because in every nation where your name will be heard, the God of Israel will be glorified through you” (Jud 13:31).

“When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the baby leapt in her womb. Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and cried out in a loud voice: “Blest are you among women and blest is the fruit of your womb. But who am I that the mother of my Lord should come to me” (Lk 1:41–43)?

Prayer

Virgin Immaculate! Do not delay in inspiring us with a true spirit of faith, the mainstay of our holy religion! In your goodness graciously grant this request for the glory of your divine Son and the salvation of souls. Hail Mary . . .

Reflection

Ponder the past before the Lord and make amends for my lack of Christian prudence.

Ejaculation

Virgin most prudent, pray for us.

Hymn

8th day (December 6)

WOMEN OF “YES”

“ . . . Here I am. In the scroll of the book it stands written that I should do your will. My God, I delight in your law” (Ps 40:8–9).

“Mary said: “Behold I am the servant of the Lord. May it be done to me as you say” (Lk 1:38).

Prayer

Virgin Immaculate! Make us understand that our duty is to forget self and follow our divine savior, your Son. In suffering

is our glory and triumph . . . Virgin Immaculate! We know well the sorrows you endured, and that God raised you to the glory of sanctity. Have mercy on us, O Virgin. Hail Mary . . .

Reflection

I will guard against complaining about anything that happens to me, contrary to my taste.

Ejaculation

Virgin most sorrowful, pray for us.

Hymn

9th day (December 7)

MARY IMMACULATE, IDEAL AND MODEL OF THE CHURCH

“Christ loved the church, He gave himself up for her to make her holy, purifying her in the bath of water by the power of the word, to present to himself a glorious church, holy and immaculate, without stain or wrinkle or anything of that sort.”

Prayer

Virgin Immaculate! In our day the Christian approach is one of strong witness, prayer, and waiting for God's time. This is the program for faithful Catholics. Virgin Immaculate! keep us attentive to this approach, make us active and fervent so that one day soon the day of Christian triumph will dawn. Hail Mary . . .

Reflection

Consider how blessed is a nation that entrusts itself to the protection of the Virgin Mary.

Ejaculation

Dear Mary, Mother of Jesus, make us saints.

Hymn

PRAYER

Virgin Immaculate, if it is the will of God that one day we reach perfection of soul by following your way make us understand this journey toward perfection and hasten to pursue it. Virgin Immaculate! If your short apparition brought such great happiness—how much more will our happiness be when we see you face to face in heaven? Our hearts cannot fathom the experience of this realization of pure joy! Help us, O Immaculate Virgin (L.G., *Un saluto all'Immacolata di Lourdes*, 1887, p. 35).

TO OUR LADY OF LOURDES

O ever Immaculate Virgin, Mother of mercy, health of the sick, refuge of sinners, comforter of the afflicted, you know my wants, my troubles, my sufferings: look with mercy on me. By appearing in the Grotto of Lourdes, you were pleased to make it a privileged sanctuary, whence you dispense your favors; and already many sufferers have obtained the cure of their infirmities, both spiritual and corporal. I come, therefore, with complete confidence to implore your motherly intercession. Obtain, O loving Mother, the grant of my requests. Through gratitude for your favors, I will endeavor to imitate your virtues, that I may one day share your glory. Amen.

AN ACT OF CONSECRATION

Most Holy Trinity: Our Father in Heaven, who chose Mary as the fairest of your daughters; Holy Spirit, who chose Mary

as your spouse; God the Son, who chose Mary as your Mother; in union with Mary, we adore your majesty and acknowledge your supreme eternal dominion and authority.

Most Holy Trinity, we put the United States of America into the hands of Mary Immaculate in order that she may present the country to you. Through her we wish to thank you for the great resources of this land and for the freedom which has been its heritage. Through the intercession of Mary, have mercy on the Catholic Church in America. Grant us peace. Have mercy on our President and on all the officers of our government. Grant us a fruitful economy born of justice and charity. Have mercy on capital and industry and labor. Protect the family life of the nation. Guard the innocence of our children. Grant the precious gift of many religious vocations. Through the intercession of our Mother, have mercy on the sick, the poor, the tempted, sinners—on all who are in need.

Mary, Immaculate Virgin, Our Mother, Patroness of our land, we praise you and honor you and give ourselves to you. Protect us from every harm. Pray for us, that acting always according to your will and the Will of your Divine Son, we may live and die pleasing to God. (National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception—Washington, D.C.)

Let us celebrate with particular solemnity the novena in preparation for Chrsimas.

SOLEMNITY OF CHRISTMAS

December 25

EXULTATION: From the writings of our Founder

On a starry night, when Jesus was born in Bethlehem the angels sang; Glory to God in the highest and peace on earth to men of good will.

In remembrance of that holy night, the followers of Jesus join together from all parts of the earth to exult: Today is born to us a Savior! Let us hasten to adore him! Let us adore the great mystery! Mary, the daughter of Eve was created holy and immaculate by the Eternal One. The Holy Spirit, eternal God, chose her as the Beloved Spouse and the Eternal Son because of his desire to be among men, took on human flesh and was born in time . . .

The Divinity resides in Jesus Christ and therefore a voice from heaven cries out to the earth: adore the Savior, adore him because the Angels adore him, adore him because he is the only Begotten Son of the Father.

He is also the true son of Mary because he was born of the Immaculate Virgin. Jesus is then our older brother. He has come to lead you to the Father; embrace him. Mary then who is your sister, is the true Mother of Jesus Christ . . .

In Mary are all the virtues of Virgin and Mother. As the sun passing through a crystal makes it more resplendent thus Jesus Christ coming in Mary as the true Sun of justice greatly adorned the Body of the Immaculate one and exulted the spirit of the Blessed One (L.G., Andiamo al paradiso, 1883, pp. 75-77).

The Savior Messiah was greatly desired on earth. The Prophets awaited him with lively expectation; the Patriarchs after having waited many years grieved in having to die without having first seen him.

The Hebrews and unbelievers themselves, the priests and philosophers exclaimed: Come and do not delay. Hurry or we shall die! Behold when Jesus appeared in Bethlehem—his own did not know him. The Angels and Shepherds announce the arrival of the longed for liberator, but who has come to

greet him? Arriving one is displeased in seeing the Messiah in the poverty of the cave and leaves murmuring.

What is this? It is the foolishness of human beings, who have the bad habit of running to friends when they are in the heights of prosperity and of abandoning them quickly when they fall into the squalor of poverty. Beware heaven looks upon those who imitate this evil. Approach Jesus with love and you will enjoy a day when he will return to crown you (L.G., *Nel mese del fervore*, 1884, p. 21 s).

PRAYER OF JOY AT THE BIRTH OF JESUS

Let the just rejoice, for their Justifier is born,
Let the sick rejoice, for their Savior is born,
Let captives rejoice, for their Redeemer is born.
Let slaves rejoice, for their Master is born.
Let free people rejoice, for their Liberator is born.
Let Christians rejoice, for Jesus Christ is born.

St. Augustine

PRAYER FOR LIFE

Lord Jesus Christ. Son of God, in You we adore the eternal origin of all life. Born of God the Father before all time. You were born of the Virgin Mary in time. In Your humanity and Person You sanctified motherhood from the first instant of conception through all stages, for our salvation. Recall all people to these divine blessings, to appreciate the unborn as persons and to enlighten every human being coming into this world. In Your mercy avert Your just anger from the enemies of life, to allow God's infants to give Him glory and to be crowned with the heavenly life of grace. From the Cross You called, "Behold your Mother." Amen.

A THANKSGIVING CELEBRATION AT THE END OF THE YEAR

MEDITATION: The voice of a loving Father

Here we are at the end of this year. We have seen and experienced many things in the course of these twelve months, in the political world, in the religious world, in our families, and in the secret of our hearts. Throughout this year we have seen children being born, and children and adults dying. This year fades away and another approaches.

At the end of this new year of 365 days, will we find ourselves among the living or among the dead? I do not know how to distinguish precisely and specifically the persons who will live or those who will die, however, I know very well that every person that lives must be prepared to die.

The Evangelists offer this salutary advice, "Keep watch says God, keep watch for you do not know which hour your Lord will come. If the master of the house knew at which moment the thieves were coming to rob him, he would certainly be attentive. Therefore, you must be prepared because you do not know the hour in which the Son of man will come." This voice that you have heard is the voice of a loving Father, And what a loving Father! (L.G., O Padre! O Madre!, I corso, 1884, p. 36 s.).

God the Father, the Eternal Lord, rules with power both in heaven and on earth. God the Eternal Son guides with infinite wisdom and God the Holy Spirit vivifies with Eternal Love. The echo of these voices resounds in the hearts of all faithful Christians, ascends to heaven and is active on earth, therefore both in heaven and earth there is heard the cheer: Praised be God, praise him forever. And you who in the course of this year have received many gifts from God, how your hearts

must repeat, Praised be God, praise him forever! (L.G., O Padre! O Madre! I corso, 1884, p. 17).

Leader: The year closes, Lord. Thank you for all the good you have bestowed upon us.

All: Teach us to number our days so that we may arrive at true wisdom, which teaches us the frailty of life, the shortness of time and the happiness of your kingdom.

Leader: Thank you for the faith we have maintained, the graces we have received and the life you have given us.

All: Help us to find courage in remembering such love in order to offer you willingly our pain and our joys in suffering.

Leader: Thank you for the gift of your Word, the Eucharist, your Church, and your Holy Spirit.

All: Help us to make our life a hymn of gratitude, by expressing to you our thanks in prayer and in the Eucharist.

Leader: We believe in you Lord.

All: Increase our Faith.

Leader: We hope in you, Lord.

All: Revive our hope.

Leader: We trust you, Lord.

All: Strengthen our trust.

Leader: We love you, Lord.

All: Let us love you more and more.

Conclude by singing a psalm of thanksgiving, for example, Psalm 7 or Psalm 111 or by singing the "Te Deum."

HYMN, TE DEUM

You are God; we praise you;
You are the Lord: we acclaim you;
You are the eternal Father:
All creation worships you.

To you all angels, all the powers of heaven,
Cherubim and Seraphim, sing in endless praise;

Holy, holy, holy, Lord, God of power and might,
heaven and earth are full of your glory.

The glorious company of apostles praise you.
The noble fellowship of prophets praise you.
The white-robed army of martyrs praise you.

Throughout the world the holy Church acclaims you;
Father, of majesty unbounded,
your true and only Son, worthy of all worship,
and the Holy Spirit, advocate and guide.

You, Christ, are the king of glory,
the eternal Son of the Father.

When you became man to set us free
you did not spurn the Virgin's womb.

You overcame the sting of death,
and opened the kingdom of heaven to all believers.

You are seated at God's right hand in glory.
We believe that you will come, and be our judge.

Come then Lord, and help your people,
bought with the price of your own blood,
and bring us with your saints
to glory everlasting.

V. Save your people, Lord, and bless your inheritance.
 R. Govern and uphold them now and always.
 V. Day by day we bless you.
 R. We praise your name for ever.
 V. Keep us today, Lord, from all sin,
 R. Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy.
 V. Lord, show us your love and mercy:
 R. for we put our trust in you.
 V. In you, Lord, is our hope:
 R. and we shall never hope in vain.

SOLEMNITIES, FEASTS AND OBLIGATORY MEMORIALS PROPER TO THE CONGREGATION

Titular: Sacred Heart of Jesus—Solemnity

Principal Patroness: The Blessed Virgin, “Mother of Divine Providence”—Solemnity—November 12

Another Patron: St. Joseph, Spouse of the Virgin Mary
Solemnity—March 19

Founder: Blessed Aloysisus Guanella—Feast—October 24

Sister: Blessed Clare Bosatta—Memorial—April 20

Other Patron Saints of Charity or Saints working with youth

St. Angela Merici	Memorial	January 27
St. John Bosco	Memorial	January 31
St. Jerome Emiliani	Memorial	February 8
St. Joseph Cottolengo	Memorial	April 30
St. Anthony of Padova	Memorial	June 13
St. Aloysisus Gonzaga	Memorial	June 21
St. Camillus De Lellis	Memorial	July 14
St. Marcellina	Memorial	July 17

St. Cajetan of Thiene	Memorial	August 7
St. Pius X	Memorial	August 21
St. Vincent de Paul	Memorial	September 27
St. Teresa of Avila	Memorial	October 15
St. Ursula	Memorial	October 21

Novenas and Triduums according to Guanellian spirituality

- Triduum in Preparation for the Renewal of Vows
- Novena to St. Joseph
- Novena to the Sacred Heart
- Novena to the Holy Spirit
- Novena to Blessed Aloysius Guanella
- Novena to Blessed Clare Bosatta
- Novena to our Mother of Divine Providence
- Novena to the Immaculate Conception
- Novena in preparation for Christmas

GUANELLIAN CALENDAR

DATE	EVENT
February 4	Anniversary of the death of Mother Marcellina Bosatta—Co-foundress First Superior General (2-4-1934)
February 6	Anniversary of the death of Sister Apollonia Bistoletti
March 24	Third Superior General (2-6-1968) First Religious Profession of the Servants of Charity (3-24-1908)
March 28	Anniversary of the death of Don Leonardo Mazzucchi Second successor of Blessed Guanella (3-28-1964)
April 5	The beginning of the apostolates of Divine Providence—Como (4-5-1886)
April 20	Anniversary of the death of Blessed Clare Bosatta—(4-20-1887)
April 21	Anniversary of the Beatification of Sister Clare Bosatta—(4-21-1991)
May 3	Departure of the Sisters for North America (Chicago, Illinois—U.S.A.) 5-3-1913)
May 20	Final Approval of the Constitutions (5-20-1917)
May 26	Ordination of Blessed Aloysius Guanella (5-26-1866)
June 13	Anniversary of the death of the Servant of God, Catherine Guanella—(6-13-1891)
June 21	Anniversary of the death of Alexander Mazzucchi—(6-21-1890)
June 27	Anniversary of the death of the Servant of God, Bishop Aurelio Bacciarini—(6-27-1935)

July 1	Anniversary of the death of Don Carlo Coppini—(7-1-1881)
September 8	Consecration of the Congregation to the Immaculate Heart of Mary (9-8-1959)
September 27	Approval of the Congregation Decree of Commendation (9-27-1908)
October 7	Anniversary of the death of Sister Angela Cettini
	Fourth Superior General—(10-7-1977)
October 12	Anniversary of the death of Sister Rosa Colombo
	Second Superior General—(10-12-1956)
October 24	Anniversary of the death of the Founder Blessed Aloisius Guanella—(10-24-1915)
October 25	Anniversary of the Beatification of the Founder—Blessed Aloisius Guanella (10-25-1964)
December 19	Birth of the Founder—(12-19-1842) Anniversary of the death of Sister Rose Costantini Fifth Superior General—(12-19-1985)

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