

# PRAYERBOOK

## OF THE SERVITE SECULAR ORDER

### -USA-

#### PRESENTATION FROM THE PROVINCIALS

Brothers and Sisters in the Servite Family, the Second Vatican Council aware of the massive challenges facing the Christian Church in the fast-moving, urban, technological world of today, decided that nothing was more urgent for the renewal of the Church than a radical look at the apostolate of the laity. Its decree on the Apostolate of the Laity (*Apostolicam Actuositatem*) clearly recognized that the Church's mission of evangelizing the world in order that all men and women might share in God's redemption cannot possibly be carried out in the contemporary world unless the entire membership of the Church shares actively in that mission. And contemporary lay men and women will not be moved to an active apostolate if they feel that theirs is only a secondary or derivative role.

This conviction has always existed in the Servite Order. In fact, even before the Order was born our first Fathers, as members of a lay organization, carried out this apostolate in the midst of the poor and sick of their day bringing God's healing love and compassion through their ministry. And since the early beginnings of the Servite Order, lay people have been attracted to its charism of fraternity, loving service to others and devotion to Mary, Mother and Servant of the Lord. They have desired to live out their baptismal consecration as disciples of the Lord Jesus making use of the charism of Our Lady's Servants as a guide. And down through the ages lay people have associated themselves in a variety of ways to the life, spirit, mission and apostolic works of the Servants of Mary, taking pride in calling themselves her Servants.

The Second Vatican Council also recognized that worship, to use the felicitous expression of Jaroslav Pelikan, is the metabolism of the Christian life. In the liturgy, through the Word of God and the sacraments, the Church receives the grace of God by which she lives; in the liturgy through prayer and sacrificial action, she offers herself to God for His service in the world.

This conviction, too, has always existed in the Servite Order. In fact, tradition tells us that it was in the midst of prayer as lay Catholics that our founding fathers heard their first call to join together in an apostolic lay fraternity to serve together under the banner of Our Lady. It is significant too, that when they put in writing their first legislation as a religious order in the Church, its first chapter had to do with special acts of homage to their Lady. And among these acts of homage the liturgy held first place. The particular genius of the manual of prayer, which is now being offered to the members of the Secular Order, is that it carries out perfectly the dictates of the Second Vatican Council (*Sacrosanctum concilium*, 13) inasmuch as it draws its inspiration from the liturgy and by its very nature leads the faithful user back to the liturgy.

It is not surprising, then, that among the abundant fruits of the renewal inaugurated by the Second Vatican Council, the Secular Order of Servites should experience a new springtime of life and bring forth multiple expressions of this renewed vitality. The new *Rule of Life* was approved by the Holy See on April 29, 1995, making the necessary modifications, adaptations and changes to that way of life which for more than five and a half centuries had served lay men and women who wished to associate themselves more closely to the spirituality of the Order of Servants of Mary. A commentary on the *Rule of Life* of the Servite Secular Order entitled *Building a New World* was

published by Fr. Conrad M. Bomtrager, O.S.M. in 1997. And now, under the inspired leadership of Fr. Donald M. Siple, O.S.M., this *Prayerbook of the Servite Secular Order* offers Secular Servites a manual of prayer which not only reflects the liturgical impact of Vatican II on the Servite Order but is admirably suited to the personal prayerfulness of those lay men and women, who, together with the friars, sisters and enclosed nuns make up the Servite Family.

May this manual of prayer, which offers you the opportunity to join in worship with your brother and sister Servites around the world, nourish your life of prayer, inspire your service of God and his people and keep you always under mantle of Our Lady, whose Servants we are.

Fraternally,

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## SECTION I

### MARIAN DEVOTIONS

#### **Angelus Domini Celebrations of the Annunciation**

Invitation To Praise

**L.** Announce the salvation of the Lord,  
proclaim his works among the peoples.

**A.** His mercy is everlasting

**L.** Bless the Lord our God  
who sent the Word of Life into the world.

**A.** Just is the Lord in all his ways  
and holy in all his works.

Let every creature praise him  
and all living beings bless his name.

#### **Greeting and Introduction**

When the celebration takes place with the participation of the faithful, the leader may address the assembly with this or another appropriate greeting which may be followed by an introduction illustrating the nature and content of the celebration.

**L.** The mercy of the Father,

the grace and peace of Christ,  
and the love of the Holy Spirit  
be with us always.

A. Blessed be God forever.

Hymn

An appropriate Marian hymn is sung.

Canticle

Advent

Ant. Do not fear, Mary.

You have found favor with God. You shall conceive and bear a son, alleluia.

Christmas

Ant. The Lord will give strength to his King, he will exalt the power of the Messiah.

Lent

Ant. Rejoice, faithful Woman;

beside the tree of hope

you have given us the fruit of life.

Ordinary Time

Ant. My heart rejoices in the Lord;

it is he who humbles and raises up.

Or:

Ant. Let the hearts of all who seek the Lord rejoice: he is mindful of his covenant, the word given to a thousand generations.

Canticle of Anna

(1 Sam 2:1-10)

“The joy and hope of the lowly  
are in the Lord.”

My heart exults in the Lord,  
my horn is exalted in my God.

I have swallowed up my enemies;  
I rejoice in my victory.  
There is no Holy One like the Lord;  
there is no Rock like our God.

Speak boastfully no longer  
nor let arrogance issue from your mouths.  
For an all-knowing God is the Lord,  
a God who judges deeds.

The bows of the mighty are broken,  
while the tottering gird on strength.  
The well-fed hire themselves out for bread,  
while the hungry batten on spoil.  
The barren wife bears seven children  
while the mother of many languishes.

The Lord puts to death and gives life;  
he casts down to the nether world;  
he raises up again.

The Lord makes poor and makes rich,  
he humbles, he also exalts.

He raises the needy from the dust;  
from the ash heap he lifts up the poor,  
to seat them with nobles  
and makes a glorious throne their heritage.

For the pillars of the earth are the Lord's  
and he has set the world upon them.  
He will guard the footsteps of his faithful ones,  
but the wicked shall perish in the darkness.  
For not by strength does one prevail;  
the Lord's foes shall be shattered.

The Most High in heaven thunders;  
the Lord judges the ends of the earth.  
Now may he give strength to his king  
and exalt the horn of his anointed.

Advent

Ant. Do not fear, Mary.  
You have found favor with God.  
You shall conceive and bear a son, alleluia.

Christmas

Ant. The Lord will give strength to his King, he will exalt the power of the Messiah.

Lent

Ant. Rejoice, faithful Woman;  
beside the tree of hope  
you have given us the fruit of life.

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Gospel

“You shall conceive and bear a son”

From the Gospel according to Luke 1:26-38

In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee named Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David. The virgin's name was Mary. Upon arriving, the angel said to her: “Rejoice, O highly favored daughter! The Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women.” She was deeply troubled by his words, and wondered what his greeting meant. The angel went on to say to her: “Do not fear, Mary. You shall conceive and bear a son and give him the name Jesus. Great will be his dignity and he will be called Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of David his father. He will rule over the house of Jacob forever and his reign will be without end.”

Mary said to the angel, “How can this be since I do not know man?” The angel answered her: “The Holy Spirit will come upon you and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; hence, the holy offspring to be born will be called Son of God. Know that Elizabeth your kinswoman has conceived a son in her old age; she who was thought to be sterile is now in her sixth month, for nothing is impossible with God.”

Mary said: “I am the servant of the Lord. Let it be done to me as you say.” With that the angel left her.

The Word of the Lord.

The Angelus

**L.** The angel of the Lord declared unto Mary.

**A.** And she conceived by the Holy Spirit.

Hail Mary. Holy Mary.

**L.** Behold the handmaid of the Lord.

**A.** Be it done to me according to your word.

Hail Mary. Holy Mary.

**L.** The Word was made flesh.

**A.** And dwelt among us.

Hail Mary. Holy Mary.

Concluding Prayer

If the prayer intentions which follow are omitted, one of the prayers is said. In some celebrations, the prayer intentions proposed for the recitation of the Angelus by the bishops of Rome over the centuries may be expressed at this point: the needs of the Church, peace, the propagation of the faith, Christian unity. In this proposed text, an intention for the Order has been included. This

prayer of petition should not become a generic prayer of the faithful. After the last intention, one of the prayers is said.

L. In communion with all men and women,  
and renewing our commitment of service  
for the building up of the Kingdom,  
Let us present to the Father  
the intentions recommended  
by the Bishops of Rome  
for the praying of the Angelus  
and let us remember, too, the needs of our Order.  
A. May your word be fulfilled in us, Lord.

L. That the Church,  
Bride of the Incarnate Word,  
be always faithful to the Gospel,  
undivided in faith and united in love,  
let us pray to the Lord.  
A. May your word be fulfilled in us, Lord.

L. That the peace  
brought to earth by the Incarnate Word  
be maintained and spread throughout the world through the efforts of his disciples,  
let us pray to the Lord.  
A. May your word be fulfilled in us, Lord.

L. That the Word of God  
announced by the prophets,  
conceived in the womb of the Blessed Virgin, and proclaimed by the apostles,  
be accepted with love by all peoples,  
let us pray to the Lord.  
A. May your word be fulfilled in us, Lord.

L. That the brothers and sisters of our Order, inspired by the *fiat* of the Blessed Virgin, faithfully  
carry out the will of God and live in service of others,  
let us pray to the Lord.  
A. May your word be fulfilled in us, Lord.

One of the following prayers is said.

Lord,  
fill our hearts with your love,  
and as you revealed to us by an angel

the coming of your Son as one of us  
so lead us through his suffering and death  
to the glory of his resurrection.  
We ask this through the same Christ our Lord.  
A. Amen

Or:

O God,  
your Word became flesh  
and was born of the Virgin Mary.  
May we become more like Jesus Christ,  
whom we acknowledge as our redeemer,  
truly divine and truly human.  
We ask this through the same Christ our Lord.  
A. Amen.

Dismissal

L. May God,  
who brought light to the darkness of the world  
through the Incarnation of his Son,  
make us attentive to his Word  
and confirm us in his peace.

A. Amen.

If a presbyter or deacon presides at the celebration, he blesses the assembly with this or another usual form of blessing:

L. May the blessing of almighty God,  
Father, Son and Holy Spirit,  
come upon you and remain with you forever.  
A. Amen.

L. Go in peace of the Lord  
and cherish in your hearts the Word that saves.  
A. Thanks be to God.

Regina Caeli

Queen of heaven, rejoice, alleluia.  
The Son you merited to bear, alleluia,  
has risen as he said, alleluia.  
Pray to God for us, alleluia.

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

God of life,  
you have given joy to the world  
by the resurrection of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.  
Through the prayers of his mother, the Virgin Mary,  
bring us to the happiness of eternal life.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Amen.



## The Vigilia De Domina

### I. SAINT MARY, LADY OF HER SERVANTS

#### PSALMODY

*Ant. 1* Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.

#### Psalm 8

The majesty of the Lord and human dignity

*The Almighty has done great things for me (Lk. 1:49).*

How great is your name, O Lord our God,  
through all the earth!

Your majesty is praised above the heavens;  
on the lips of children and of babes  
you have found praise to foil your enemy,  
to silence the foe and the rebel.

When I see the heavens, the work of your hands,  
the moon and the stars which you arranged,  
what is man that you should keep him in mind,  
mortal man that you care for him?

Yet you have made him little less than a god;  
with glory and honor you crowned him,  
gave him power over the works of your hand,  
put all things under his feet.

All of the sheep and cattle,  
yes, even the savage beasts,  
birds of the air, and fish  
that make their way through the waters.

How great is your name, O Lord our God,  
through all the earth!

*Ant.* Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb.

*Ant. 2* Your holiness, O Mother of God, is like the fragrance of choice myrrh.

#### Psalm 19

Hymn to the creator of the universe and Lord of the law

*When the Word became flesh, like a bridegroom he united himself to human nature; and the nuptial chamber was the womb of the Virgin (St. Augustine).*

The heavens proclaim the glory of God  
and the firmament shows forth the work of his hands.  
Day unto day takes up the story  
and night unto night makes known the message.

No speech, no word, no voice is heard,

yet their span extends through all the earth,  
their words to the utmost bounds of the world.

There he has placed a tent for the sun;  
it comes forth like a bridegroom coming from his tent,  
rejoices like a champion to run its course.

At the end of the sky is the rising of the sun;  
to the furthest end of the sky is its course.  
There is nothing concealed from its burning heat.

The law of the Lord is perfect,  
it revives the soul.  
The rule of the Lord is to be trusted  
it gives wisdom to the simple.

The precepts of the Lord are right,  
they gladden the heart.  
The command of the Lord is clear,  
it gives light to the eyes.

The fear of the Lord is holy  
abiding forever.

The decrees of the Lord are truth  
and all of them just.

They are more to be desired than gold,  
the purest of gold,  
and sweeter are they than honey,  
than honey from the comb.

So in them your servant finds instruction;  
great reward is in their keeping.  
But who can detect all his errors?  
From hidden faults acquit me.

From presumption restrain your servant  
and let it not rule me.

Then shall I be blameless,  
clean from grave sin.

May the spoken words of my mouth,  
the thoughts of my heart,  
win favor in your sight, O Lord,  
my rescuer, my rock!

*Ant.* Your holiness, O Mother of God, is like the fragrance of choice myrrh.

*Ant. 3* Gathered in her presence, let us sing the praise of the holy Virgin.

**Psalm 24**

The Lord's entry into his temple

*The gates of heaven were opened to Christ because he assumed our human nature (St. Irenaeus).*

The Lord's is the earth and its fullness,  
the world and all its peoples.  
It is he who set it on the seas;  
on the waters he made it firm.

Who shall climb the mountain of the Lord?  
Who shall stand in his holy place?  
The man with clean hands and pure heart,  
who desires not worthless things,  
who has not sworn so as to deceive his neighbor.

He shall receive blessings from the Lord  
and reward from the God who saves him.  
Such are the men who seek him,  
seek the face of the God of Jacob.

O gates, lift high your heads;  
grow higher, ancient doors.  
Let him enter, the king of glory!

Who is the king of glory?  
The Lord, the mighty, the valiant,  
the Lord, the valiant in war.

O gates, lift high your heads;  
grow higher, ancient doors.  
Let him enter, the king of glory!

Who is he, the king of glory?  
He, the Lord of armies,  
he is the king of glory.

*Ant.* Gathered in her presence, let us sing the praise of the holy Virgin.

#### INTRODUCTION TO THE READINGS

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you.

- Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.

#### READING PRAYERS

*These three traditional reading-prayers may be substituted with a Marian passage from Scripture, the documents of the Church or Order, the Fathers, or other approved authors.*

#### FIRST READING

O holy Mary, Virgin of virgins,  
Mother and daughter of the King of kings,  
bestow on us your consolation  
that through you we may deserve  
to have the reward of the heavenly kingdom  
and to reign with the elect of God  
through all eternity.

#### RESPONSORY

O virginity, holy and pure, how can I praise your beauty?

- For the Lord whom the heavens cannot encompass was carried in your womb.

Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit if your womb.

- For the Lord...

#### SECOND READING

Holy Mary, most compassionate,  
intercede for us.

Through you, O Virgin,  
may he who was born for us,  
and now reigns over all,  
receive our prayers  
and in his mercy wash away our sins.

#### RESPONSORY

How blessed are you, Virgin Mary,  
for you carried within you the Lord, the creator of the world.

- Mother of your maker, you remain a virgin for ever.

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you.

- Mother of your maker...

### THIRD READING

O holy God-bearer,  
made worthy to conceive him  
whom the whole world could not contain,

by your gracious intercession,  
may our sins be forgiven  
so that we may ascend  
to that realm of glory  
where you reign with your Son, forever.

### GREATER ANTIPHON

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 valley of tears.  
Turn then, most gracious advocate,  
your eyes of mercy toward us,  
and after this exile  
show to us the blessed fruit of your womb, Jesus.  
O clement, O loving,  
O sweet Virgin Mary.

Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

- That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray.  
All powerful and ever living God,  
by the power of your Spirit,  
you prepared Mary, the glorious Virgin Mother,  
to be a worthy dwelling place of your Son.  
As we celebrate her memory with joy,  
grant that through her motherly intercession  
we may be preserved from evil in this world  
and from eternal death.  
We ask through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

*Instead of the above prayer "All powerful and ever living God," one of the following three prayers may be said.*

#### **1. Prayer for the Church and the Order**

In your loving kindness, Lord,  
break the chains of our sinfulness.  
Through the intercession of blessed Mary,  
Mother of God,  
our Seven Holy Fathers,  
your servant St. Philip

and all the saints,  
assist and make holy  
N., our pope,  
N., our brother and prior general,  
our brothers and sisters  
in the Secular Order of the Servants of Mary  
throughout the world,  
and all members and benefactors of the Order;  
deliver our parents, relatives and friends from evil  
and fill them with every gift of life;  
grant us peace and health;  
drive far from us all enemies seen and unseen  
and repel every sinful desire.  
Give us wholesome air and fruitful soil;  
free the world from hunger, war, and every disaster,  
and protect this city and country and all its inhabitants  
from every misfortune.  
Pour out your love  
upon our friends  
and upon our enemies

and grant eternal rest to all those departed in faith.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

## II. SAINT MARY, SERVANT OF THE LORD

### INTRODUCTION

Blessed are you among women.  
- And blessed is the fruit of your womb.  
Come, let us praise the Lord for the wonders he has worked in the Virgin Mary.  
- Great and wonderful are your works,  
    Lord, God almighty; just and true are your ways,  
    O King of the nations.

### HYMN

*Any suitable Marian hymn may be sung.*

### PSALMODY

**Ant. 1** Hail, faithful Virgin, woman of the new covenant, first to enter the kingdom.

## **Psalm 111**

God's marvelous works

*My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord...the Almighty has done great things for me (Lk. 1:46, 49).*

I will thank the Lord with all my heart  
in the meeting of the just and their assembly.  
Great are the works of the Lord;  
to be pondered by all who love them.  
Majestic and glorious his work,  
his justice stands firm for ever.  
He makes us remember his wonders.  
The Lord is compassion and love.

He gives food to those who fear him;  
keeps his covenant ever in mind.  
He has shown his might to his people  
by giving them the lands of the nations.

His works are justice and truth:  
his precepts are all of them sure,  
standing firm for ever and ever:  
they are made in uprightness and truth.

He has sent deliverance to his people

and established his covenant for ever.  
Holy his name, to be feared.

To fear the Lord is the first stage of wisdom;  
all who do so prove themselves wise.  
His praise shall last forever!

Psalm-prayer

We thank you, Lord; through Mary, your faithful servant, you have given us the Mediator of the new covenant. Grant that we too may obey your commands with love and be always faithful to your Word and to our commitment of service.

**Ant.** Hail, faithful Virgin, woman of the new covenant, first to enter the kingdom.

**Ant. 2** Hail, glorious Mother of Christ: in you the lowly are raised up and through you the hope of the poor is renewed.

## **Psalm 113**

The glory and mercy of God

*He has looked with favor on his lowly servant...and has lifted up the lowly (Lk. 1:48, 52).*

Praise, O servants of the Lord,  
praise the name of the Lord!  
May the name of the Lord be blessed  
both now and for evermore!  
From the rising of the sun to its setting  
praised be the name of the Lord!

High above all nations is the Lord,  
above the heavens his glory.  
Who is like the Lord, our God  
who has risen on high to his throne  
yet stoops from the heights to look down,  
to look down upon heaven and earth?

From the dust he lifts up the lowly,  
from his misery he raises the poor  
to set him in the company of princes,  
yes, with the princes of his people.  
To the childless wife he gives a home  
and gladdens her heart with children.

Psalm-prayer

From the rising of the sun to its setting may your name be praised, O Lord. You chose Mary, a poor and humble woman, to be the glorious Mother of your Son and the firstborn of all the redeemed. You have given her to the Church as the joyful mother of numberless children.

**Ant.** Hail, glorious Mother of Christ: in you the lowly are raised up and through you the hope of the poor is renewed.

**Ant 3** Hail, woman of hope: of you was born the light of the world, through you we have the Bread of life.

### **Psalm 146**

Happy is he who hopes in the Lord  
*He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation (Lk. 1:50).*

My soul, give praise to the Lord;  
I will praise the Lord all my days,  
make music to my God while I live.

Put no trust in princes,  
in mortal men in whom there is no help.

Take their breath, they return to clay  
and their plans that day come to nothing.



He is happy who is helped by Jacob's God,  
whose hope is in the Lord his God,  
who alone made heaven and earth,  
the seas and all they contain.

It is he who keeps faith for ever,  
who is just to those who are oppressed.  
It is he who gives bread to the hungry,  
the Lord, who sets prisoners free,

the Lord who gives sight to the blind,  
who raises up those who are bowed down,  
the Lord, who protects the stranger  
and upholds the widow and orphan.

It is the Lord who loves the just  
but thwarts the path of the wicked.  
The Lord will reign for ever,  
Zion's God, from age to age.

Psalm-prayer

Receive, O Lord, the praise of the Servants of Mary, for you have sent your Son to proclaim the Good News to the poor and liberty to captives. Renew us in our promise to love and support the needy and to defend the oppressed with the strength that comes from the Gospel.

**Ant.** Hail, woman of hope: of you was born the light of the world, through you we have the Bread of life.

Blessed is she who believed.  
- In her the Son of God was made flesh.

#### READING PRAYERS

*The three-reading prayers presented here are inspired by the constitutions. They can be substituted with a Marian passage from Scripture, the documents of the Church or Order, the Fathers, or other approved authors.*

#### FIRST READING

*To the Virgin of the Fiat*

Holy Mary,  
lowly servant of the Lord  
and glorious Mother of Christ, we greet you.

Faithful Virgin  
and sacred bearer of the Word,

teach us  
to be aware of the call of the Spirit  
and to know life in the hearing of the Word:  
the Word we hear in the profound depths of our own hearts,  
the Word spoken in the lives of our brothers and sisters,  
the Word spoken in the world around us and in the crises of our times.

Attentive Virgin  
and woman of prayer,  
receive the prayer of your Servants.

#### RESPONSORY

O Mary, you are the promised land, the sign of the kingdom to come,  
- and image of the Church that lives by the power of the Word.  
You are the earth made holy by Christ, the living tabernacle of God's own Word.  
- and image of the Church that lives by the power of the Word.

#### SECOND READING

*To the Virgin of the Magnificat*

Holy Mary,  
poor and lowly,  
blessed of the Most High God, we greet you.

Virgin of hope  
and bright promise of a new age,  
join us as we sing your song of praise  
and walk the pilgrim journey  
to announce the kingdom of justice,  
freedom and peace.  
Help us create with our brothers and sisters  
an ever richer communion of love in Christ.  
May we too glorify the mercy of God  
and sing his praise  
for the gift of life and salvation.

Holy Virgin, ark of the Covenant,  
and firstborn of the Church,  
receive the prayer of your Servants.

#### RESPONSORY

You are the voice of ancient Israel, the glory of the faithful remnant.

- The joyful song of the virgin Church.  
Through you ascends the praise of all the redeemed, of the poor and humble who trust in the Lord.  
- The joyful song of the virgin Church.

#### THIRD READING

*To the Virgin at the foot of the Cross*

Holy Mary,  
woman of sorrow  
and Mother of all the living, we greet you.

You are the new Eve,  
the Virgin bride at the Cross  
where love is consummated  
and life comes forth.  
Mother of disciples,  
inspire us to serve.  
Teach us to stand with you  
at the foot of those countless crosses  
where the Son of Man is still being crucified;  
make us living witnesses of Christian love,  
welcoming everyone as brother and sister.  
Help us to escape our blindness

to follow Christ, the light of all peoples.

O Holy Virgin of Easter,  
and glory of the Spirit,  
receive the prayer of your Servants.

*After the reading-prayers or the substituted reading, the Salve Regina with its prayer is sung, or another Marian hymn may be sung, or the following supplication recited.*

#### SUPPLICATION OF THE SERVANTS

Grant,  
Mother of all goodness,  
that we, your Servants,  
be filled with hope!  
Strengthen us  
in the difficulties and trials ahead;  
keep us faithful in your service.

Renew our sacred, timeless  
commitment to follow Christ.

With you as guide  
may we serve you,  
and our brothers and sisters,  
with love.

And at the end  
be our gateway  
to unending life.

## DISMISSAL

*If no other celebration follows, the Vigil concludes with this, or any usual form of dismissal.*

May our Lady  
protect us  
and guide us on the way of life.  
Amen.

## The Rosary Of Our Lady Of Sorrows

First Method of Recitation

### **WE CONTEMPLATE THE MYSTERY OF YOUR SORROW, HOLY MARY**

#### INTRODUCTION

- L.** In the name of the Father,  
and of the Son  
and of the Holy Spirit.
- A.** Amen.
- L.** We praise and we bless you, O Lord.
- A.** Because you willed that the Virgin Mother

share in the work of salvation.

- L.** We contemplate your sorrow, holy Mary.
- A.** May we follow you in the pilgrimage of faith.

#### RECALLING THE SORROWS OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN

##### **1. Mary accepts in faith the prophecy of Simeon**

Our Father  
*Seven Hail Marys.*

##### **2. Mary flees into Egypt with Jesus and Joseph**

Our Father  
*Seven Hail Marys.*

##### **3. Mary seeks Jesus lost in Jerusalem**

Our Father.  
*Seven Hail Marys.*

##### **4. Mary meets Jesus on the way to Calvary**

Our Father.  
*Seven Hail Marys.*

##### **5. Mary stands near the cross of her Son**

Our Father.  
*Seven Hail Marys.*

**6. Mary receives the Body of Jesus taken down from the cross**

Our Father

*Seven Hail Marys.*

**7. Mary places the Body of Jesus in the tomb, awaiting the Resurrection**

Our Father

*Seven Hail Marys.*

**Prayer for Reconciliation and Peace.**

*After the last group of Hail Marys, three more may be said to ask the gifts of reconciliation and peace for the Church and world.*

**CONCLUSION**

**L.** We praise you, Holy Mary.

**A.** Faithful Mother at the cross of your Son.

**Acclamation**

1. Blessed are you, Queen of Martyrs:  
united to the passion of Christ,

you became our Mother  
and a sign of hope in our life.

**Dismissal**

**L.** May the Virgin Mary protect us  
and lead us kindly on life's journey.

**A.** Amen.

Second Method of Recitation

**WE MEDITATE ON THE MYSTERY OF YOUR SORROW, HOLY MARY**

**INTRODUCTION**

**L.** In the name of the Father,  
and of the Son  
and of the Holy Spirit.

**A.** Amen.

**L.** We praise and we bless you, O Lord.

**A.** Because you willed that the Virgin Mother  
share in the work of salvation.

**L.** We contemplate your sorrow, Holy Mary.

**A.** May we follow you in the pilgrimage of faith.

**RECALLING THE SORROWS OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN**

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*In this second method of recitation, only the biblical part of the Hail Mary is said: the leader repeats the angelic salutation (“Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you”) and the assembly responds with Elizabeth’s blessing (“Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus”) followed by a short phrase that recalls the sorrow being contemplated. After the seventh Hail Mary, the ecclesial invocation “Holy Mary” is said by all in the usual manner or in the way proposed for each sorrow which relates the particular sorrow to our condition as sinners (for example,...”pray for us sinners unwilling to carry the cross).*

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**I**  
**MARY ACCEPTS IN FAITH**  
**THE PROPHECY OF SIMEON**

*Woe to me, mother,  
that you gave me birth! Object of strife and contention in all the land!*

*(Jer 15:10)*

Word of God

R. From the Gospel according to 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.”

**The Lord’s Prayer**

Our Father.

Biblical Prayer to the Blessed Virgin  
*Seven Times:*

L. Hail Mary, full of grace,  
the Lord is with you.  
A. Blessed are you among women

and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus,  
*the Word that reveals the thoughts of many hearts*

Or:

*whom you presented in the temple.*

**Ecclesial Invocation**

*After the seventh Hail Mary:*

A. Holy Mary, Mother of God,

pray for us sinners,  
*late in recognizing the Lord. Amen.*

**II**  
**MARY FLEES INTO EGYPT**  
**WITH JESUS AND JOSEPH**

*When Israel was a child I loved him,  
out of Egypt I called my son.*

*(Hos 11:1)*

Word of God

R. From the Gospel according to Matthew

2:13-14

The angel of the Lord suddenly appeared in a dream to Joseph with the command:

“Get up, take the child and his mother,  
and flee to Egypt. Stay there until I tell you otherwise.

Herod is searching for the child to destroy him.” Joseph got up and took the child and his mother  
and left that night for Egypt.

**The Lord’s Prayer**

Our Father.

Biblical Prayer to the Blessed Virgin

*Seven Times:*

L. Hail Mary, full of grace,  
the Lord is with you.

A. Blessed are you among women  
and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus,  
*exiled in a foreign land*

Or:

*Whom you saved from persecution.*

**Ecclesial Invocation**

*After the seventh Hail Mary:*

A. Holy Mary, mother of God,  
pray for us sinners,  
*far from the path of the Kingdom. Amen.*

**III**

**MARY SEEKS JESUS**  
**LOST IN JERUSALEM**

*I sought him whom my heart loves-  
I sought him but I did not find him.  
I will rise then and go about the city;  
in the streets and crossings I will seek Him whom my heart loves.*

(Sg 3:1-2)

Word of God

R. From the Gospel according to Luke 2:43-45  
At the end of the feast,  
the child Jesus remained behind  
unknown to his parents.  
Thinking he was in the party,  
they continued their journey for a day,  
looking for him among their relatives and acquaintances.  
Not finding him,  
they returned to Jerusalem in search of him.

### **The Lord's Prayer**

Our Father.

Biblical prayer to the Blessed Virgin  
*Seven Times:*

- L. Hail Mary, full of grace,  
the Lord is with you.  
A. Blessed are you among women  
and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus,  
*intent on fulfilling God's will*

Or:

*Whom you anxiously sought.*

### **Ecclesial Invocation**

*After the seventh Hail Mary:*

- A. Holy Mary, Mother of God,  
pray for us sinners,  
*forgetful of the glory of God. Amen.*

## IV MARY MEETS JESUS ON THE WAY TO CALVARY

*Abraham took the wood for the holocaust and laid it on his son Isaac's shoulders, while he himself  
carried the fire and the knife.*

(Gn 22:6)

Word of God

R. From the Gospel according to Luke 23:26-27



As they led him away,

they laid hold of one Simon the Cyrenean  
who was coming in from the fields.  
They put a cross beam on Simon's shoulders  
for him to carry along behind Jesus.  
A great crowd of people followed him,  
including women who beat their breasts  
and lamented over him.

### **The Lord's Prayer**

Our Father.

Biblical prayer to the Blessed Virgin  
*Seven Times:*

- L. Hail Mary, full of grace,  
the Lord is with you.
- A. Blessed are you among women  
and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus,  
*man of sorrows who knew true suffering*

Or:  
*whom you followed on the way to Calvary.*

### **Ecclesial Invocation**

*After the seventh Hail Mary:*

- A. Holy Mary, Mother of God,  
pray for us sinners,  
*unwilling to carry the cross. Amen.*

## V MARY STANDS NEAR THE CROSS OF HER SON

*They shall look on him whom they have thrust through,  
and they shall mourn for him as one mourns for an only son,  
and they shall grieve over him  
as one grieves over a first-born.  
(Zec 12:10)*

Word of God

R. From the Gospel according to John 19:24-27

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."

### **The Lord's Prayer**

Our Father.

Biblical prayer to the Blessed Virgin

*Seven Times:*

- L. Hail Mary, full of grace,  
the Lord is with you.
- A. Blessed are you among women  
and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus,  
*the lamb sacrificed for our salvation.*

Or:

*whom you saw die on the cross.*

### **Ecclesial Invocation**

*After the seventh Hail Mary*

- A. Holy Mary, Mother of God,  
pray for us sinners,  
*frightened at the thought of death.* Amen.

## **VI**

### **MARY RECEIVES THE BODY OF JESUS TAKEN DOWN FROM THE CROSS**

*Come, all you who pass by the way,  
look and see  
Whether there is any suffering  
Like my suffering.*

*(Lam 1:12)*

Word of God

R. From the Gospel according to Mark 15:42-46  
As it grew dark  
(it was Preparation Day, that is,  
the eve of the Sabbath),  
Joseph from Arimathea arrived-  
a distinguished member of the Sanhedrin.  
He was bold enough to seek an audience with Pilate  
and urgently requested the body of Jesus.  
Pilate released the corpse to Joseph.  
Then, having brought a linen shroud,

Joseph took him down.

**The Lord's Prayer**

Our Father.

Biblical prayer to the Blessed Virgin

*Seven Times:*

- L. Hail Mary, full of grace,  
the Lord is with you.  
A. Blessed are you among women  
and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus,  
*taken from the cross and placed in your arms.*

Or:

*whom you received lovingly in your arms.*

**Ecclesial Invocation**

*After the seventh Hail Mary*

- A. Holy Mary, Mother of God,  
pray for us sinners,  
*fearful of aiding the persecuted.* Amen.

**VII**  
**MARY PLACES THE BODY OF JESUS**  
**IN THE TOMB**  
**AWAITING THE RESURRECTION**

*A grave was assigned him among the wicked and a burial place with evildoers,  
Though he had done no wrong nor spoken any falsehood.  
Because of his affliction he shall see the light in fullness of days.*

*(Is 53:9,11)*

Word of God

R. From the Gospel according to John 19:40-42  
They took Jesus' body,  
and in accordance with Jewish burial custom,  
bound it up in wrappings of cloth  
with perfumed oils.  
In the place where he had been crucified  
there was a garden,  
and in the garden a new tomb  
in which no one had ever been buried.  
Because of the Jewish Preparation Day  
they buried Jesus there,  
for the tomb was close at hand.

**The Lord's Prayer**

Our Father.

Biblical prayer to the Blessed Virgin  
*Seven Times:*

- L. Hail Mary, full of grace,  
the Lord is with you.
- A. Blessed are you among women  
and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus,  
*first among the risen.*

Or:  
*whom you entrusted to the tomb in faith.*

### **Ecclesial Invocation**

*After the seventh Hail Mary*

- A. Holy Mary, Mother of God,  
pray for us sinners,  
*uncertain in our faith.* Amen.

### PRAYER FOR RECONCILIATION AND PEACE

*After the last group of Hail Marys, three more may be said to ask the gifts of reconciliation and peace for the Church and world.*

### CONCLUSION

- L. We praise you, Holy Mary.
- A. Faithful Mother at the cross of your Son.

### **Acclamation**

Blessed are you, Queen of Martyrs:  
united to the passion of Christ,  
you became our Mother  
and a sign of hope in our life.

### **Litany of Our Lady of Sorrows**

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy.**

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy.**

Christ, hear us.

**Christ, graciously hear us.**

God the Father in heaven,

**Have mercy on us.**

God the Son, Redeemer of the world,  
Holy Spirit, Paraclete,

Holy Trinity, One God,  
Mother of the Crucified,  
Mother of the pierced heart,  
**pray for us.**

Mother of the Redeemer,  
Mother of the redeemed,  
Mother of all the living,  
Mother of disciples,

Obedient Virgin,  
Prayerful Virgin,  
Faithful Virgin,

Virgin of silence,  
Virgin of forgiveness,  
Virgin of contemplation,

Woman of exile,  
Woman of strength,  
Woman of courage,

Woman of sorrow,  
Woman of the new covenant,  
Woman of hope,

New Eve,  
Disciple of the Redeemer,  
Servant of reconciliation,

Defense of the innocent,  
Courage of the persecuted,  
Strength of the oppressed,

Hope of sinners,  
Consolation of the afflicted,  
Refuge of the poor,

Comfort of exiles,  
Support of the weak,  
Relief of the sick,

Queen of martyrs,  
Glory of the Church,  
Virgin of Easter,

Lamb of God,  
who takes away the sins of the world,  
**Forgive us, Lord.**

Lamb of God,  
who takes away the sins of the world,  
**Hear us, Lord.**

Lamb of God,  
who takes away the sins of the world,  
**Have mercy on us.**

### **Prayer**

O God,  
when your Son was raised on the cross  
you willed that his sorrowing Mother be near to him.  
Like her, may we be united to the Passion of Christ  
and share in the glory of his resurrection.  
He lives and reigns forever and ever. Amen.

### **Or:**

O God,  
you willed that the life of the Blessed Virgin  
be marked by the mystery of suffering.  
Grant that we journey with her on the way of faith  
and unite our sufferings to the passion of Christ  
so that they become occasions of grace  
and the promise of future resurrection.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

### **Litany Of The Servants Of Mary**

Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**  
Christ, have mercy.  
**Christ, have mercy.**  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

Christ, hear us.  
**Christ, graciously hear us.**  
God the Father in heaven,  
**Have mercy on us.**  
God the Son, redeemer of the world,  
Holy Spirit, Paraclete,  
Holy Trinity, one God,

Hail Mary, Virgin Mother,

**Pray for us.**

Faithful Virgin,  
Wise Virgin,  
Prudent Virgin,  
Prayerful Virgin,

Hail Mary, Mother of God,  
Mother of Christ,  
Mother of the Savior,  
Mother of the New Man,

Mother of grace,  
Mother of mercy,

Hail Mary, seat of wisdom,  
Dwelling of the Spirit,  
Temple of holiness,  
Ark of the covenant,  
Path to heaven,  
Gate of Paradise,

Hail Mary, comfort of the poor,  
Refuge of the weak,  
Health of the sick,  
Guide of pilgrims,  
Hope of sinners,  
Joy of your Servants,

Hail Mary, model of sanctity,  
Model of humility,  
Model of obedience,  
Model of strength,  
Model of contemplation,  
Model of service,

Hail Mary, source of life,  
Source of light,

Source of beauty,  
Source of joy,  
Source of pardon,  
Source of unity,

Hail Mary, queen of the humble,  
Queen of the meek,  
Queen of the merciful,  
Queen of the pure of heart,  
Queen of peace-makers,

Queen of your Servants,

Lamb of God,  
who takes away the sins of the world,  
**Forgive us, Lord.**

Lamb of God,  
who takes away the sins of the world,  
**Hear us, Lord.**

Lamb of God,  
who takes away the sins of the world,  
**Have mercy on us.**

Let us pray.

O God,

you are always faithful to your covenant and your promises  
and in the message to Mary  
you brought all human expectation to fulfillment.  
Through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin,  
Daughter of Zion and our sister,  
who was always willing to do your will,  
grant that we your servants  
may be always attentive to your Word  
and open to the gift of your Spirit.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

### **Litany Of Our Lady of Hope**

Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**  
Christ, have mercy.  
**Christ, have mercy.**  
Lord, have mercy.  
**Lord, have mercy.**

Christ, hear us.  
**Christ, graciously hear us.**  
God the Father in heaven,

**Have mercy on us.**  
God the Son, redeemer of the world,  
Holy Spirit, Paraclete,  
Holy Trinity, one God,

Holy Mary of hope,  
**Pray for us.**  
Holy Mary of the way,



Holy Mary of light,

Fullness of Israel,  
Dawn of the new world,  
Source of messianic joy,

Mother of God,  
Mother of the messiah and liberator,  
Mother of the redeemed,  
Mother of all peoples,

Holy Mary of hope,

**Enlighten our way.**

Disciple of Christ,

**Pray for us.**

Witness of Christ,  
Sister of all men and women,

Beginning of the Church,  
Mother of the Church,  
Model of the Church,  
Image of the Church,

Holy Mary of hope,

**Enlighten our way.**

Servant of the Lord,

**Pray for us.**

Servant of the Word,  
Servant of the Kingdom,

Virgin of silence,  
Virgin of attentive openness,  
Virgin of song,  
Virgin of contemplation,

Holy Mary of hope,

**Enlighten our way.**

Mary, dignity of women,

**Pray for us.**

Mary, greatness of women,  
Mary, destiny of woman,

Woman, blessed among all others,  
Woman, faithful in commitment,  
Woman, faithful in discipleship,

Woman, faithful at the cross,

Holy Mary of hope,

**Enlighten our way.**

Star of evangelization,

**Pray for us.**

Educator in the faith,  
Teacher in life,

Enlightening presence,  
Prayerful presence,  
Accepting presence,  
Effective presence,

Holy Mary of hope,

**Enlighten our way.**

Hope of the poor,

**Pray for us.**

Confidence of the humble,  
Strength of the marginated,

Relief of the oppressed,  
Defense of the innocent,  
Courage of the persecuted,  
Comfort of the exiled,

Holy Mary of hope,

**Enlighten our way.**

Voice of unity,

**Pray for us.**

Voice of the poor,  
Voice of the Spirit,

Sign of the maternal face of God,  
Sign of the nearness of God,  
Sign of the mercy of the Son,  
Sign of the fruitfulness of the Spirit,

Holy Mary of hope,

**Enlighten our way.**

Lamb of God,  
who takes away the sins of the world,

**Forgive us, Lord.**

Lamb of God,  
who takes away the sins of the world,

**Hear us, Lord.**

Lamb of God,  
who takes away the sins of the world,  
**Have mercy on us.**

Let us pray.

Lord God,  
in its pilgrimage on earth  
you have given your Church  
the Blessed Virgin Mary as its guiding inspiration.  
Through her intercession,  
we ask that you strengthen our faith  
and enliven our hope  
so that nothing may move us from the way that leads to salvation.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
Amen.

**Stabat Mater**

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

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

O how sad and sore distressed  
Was that Mother highly blessed  
Of the sole begotten One!

Christ above in torment hangs,  
She beneath beholds the pangs,  
Of her dying glorious Son.

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

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

Bruised, derided, cursed, defiled,  
She beheld her tender Child,  
All with bloody scourges rent.

For the sins of his own nation

Saw him hang in desolation

Till his spirit forth he sent.

O sweet Mother! font of love,  
Touch my spirit from above,  
Make my heart with yours accord.

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

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

Let me share with you his pain,  
Who for all our sins was slain,  
Who for me in torments died.

Let me mingle tears with you,  
Mourning him who mourned for me,  
All the days that I may live.

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

Virgin of all virgins blest!  
Listen to my fond request:  
Let me share your grief divine.

Let me to my latest breath,  
In my body bear the death  
Of that dying Son of yours.

Wounded with his every wound,  
Steep my soul till it has swooned  
In his very blood away.

Be to me, O Virgin, nigh,  
Lest in flames I burn and die,  
In his awful judgement day.

Christ, when you shall call me hence,  
Be your Mother my defense,  
Be your cross my victory.

While my body here decays,  
May my soul your goodness praise,

Safe in heaven eternally.

**THE VIA MATRIS:  
The Way Of Our Sorrowful Mother**

Introductory Prayer

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

1. Amen.

L. The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God  
and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with you all.

1. And also with you.

L. Let us pray.

God our Father,

you gave the Holy Spirit to your apostles as they joined in prayer with Mary, the mother of  
Jesus.

By the help of her prayers

keep us faithful in your service and let our words and actions be so inspired as to bring glory  
to your name.

Grant this through Christ our Lord.

1. Amen.

**THE FIRST SORROW: THE PROPHECY OF SIMEON**

Reflection: *recited by the leader.*

Mary, full of joy, brings Jesus to the Temple. Simeon challenges her simple happiness with his disturbing words, just as Jesus will challenge all who hear his gospel preached. Our lives are an unbalanced mixture of joy and sorrow. Let us think of the way Jesus and Mary stood up against so much opposition from sinners, and then we will not give up for want of courage.

Prayer: *said by all.*

Mary, seat of all wisdom,

Simeon helped you to understand

the path your son Jesus had to walk

in order to be the redeemer of all humanity.

That path was the painful road

of humiliation and suffering.

Help us to recognize that we, too, must faithfully join you and your divine son

in the mystery of suffering

so that we may know the joys of sharing

in the resurrection and life everlasting

Hail Mary...

Virgin most sorrowful, pray for us.

**THE SECOND SORROW: THE FLIGHT INTO EGYPT**

Reflection: *recited by the leader.*

Joseph, a man of great faith, takes Mary and her child into Egypt ADVANCE \d1 at the command of God so that the Word that has been planted in the world might grow and bear fruit. Jesus will tell his disciples that whoever leaves home, relatives, and country, and bears suffering for the sake of the gospel will join him around the Father's table in the kingdom of heaven.

Prayer: *said by all.*

Mary, comforter of the exiled,  
in this world there are many stumbling blocks  
that keep us from practicing everything  
that faith in your son demands.

Pray for us,  
that we may have the strength  
to turn away from anything or anyone  
who leads us from Jesus.

Help us to renounce the selfish use of our riches and resources.  
and lead us to a greater appreciation of true gospel poverty-  
the love of God's ways to the exclusion of all else.

Hail Mary...

Virgin most sorrowful, pray for us.

### **THE THIRD SORROW: THE LOSS OF JESUS IN THE TEMPLE**

Reflection: *recited by the leader.*

The discovery that Jesus is missing plunges Mary into the center of the age-old conflict with which every parent must contend. The precious little baby whose every need must be taken care of has suddenly grown into young adulthood and asserts his independence. Even Mary, the mother of Jesus, is not spared the anxiety over the disappearance of her son, the exhaustion of the search, and the disappointment caused by the apparent lack of respect for family.

Prayer: *said by all.*

Mary, strength of the broken hearted,  
through the loss of your holy child,  
you experienced the human feelings of worry, fatigue,  
disappointment, and anger.

Pray for us  
that we, who often are weighed down  
with the disappointments of life,  
may be comforted by Christ's presence in the Church.  
And so, strengthened in our search  
for the peace of mind  
that is offered to all God's  
sons and daughters through the mystery of salvation,  
we may come to share in the inheritance  
that is yours with the saints and angels forever.

Hail Mary ...

Virgin most sorrowful pray for us.

## **THE FOURTH SORROW: MARY MEETS JESUS ON THE WAY TO CALVARY**

Reflection: *recited by the leader.*

Jesus begins to carry his own cross to the place of crucifixion. Later, Simon of Cyrene is pressed into service to carry the cross behind Jesus. We recall the words of Jesus: "If any man would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me." We recall that throughout her life Mary gave up what she wanted in order to fulfill the plan of God.

Prayer: *said by all.*

Mary, Mother of Sorrows,  
you readily accepted the crosses offered to you by God  
so that we could be saved.  
You were not embarrassed to be a virgin mother.  
You were not insulted when your son spoke harshly to you at Cana.  
You were not destroyed by the agony of your son's death.  
Pray for us,  
that we may have the strength

to pick up our crosses daily and follow Jesus.  
Help us to see that we must lose our lives for the gospel  
in order to gain life eternal.

Hail Mary...

Virgin most sorrowful pray for us.

## **THE FIFTH SORROW: JESUS DIES ON THE CROSS**

Reflection: *recited by the leader.*

Mary stands at the foot of the cross upon which Jesus hangs. She is comforted by some of her relatives and friends. Jesus painfully addresses her with the words "Woman, behold your son." She hears the echo of the strong voice that once said: "Woman, my hour has not yet come," and realizes that this is the hour of which he was speaking. Her sorrow is complete when she hears him utter: "It is finished," and watches him breathe his last breath.

Prayer: *recited by all.*

Mary, Mother of consolation, as you stood at the cross,  
close to your son until the end,  
you remembered the harsh words of Simeon  
many years before:  
"a sword will pierce through your own soul also."  
You patiently watched for the day  
when the Word of God would be revealed in full glory.  
Yet your hope seemed to be shattered  
at the cruel death of your son.

Help us to be ever faithful to our Lord.  
Teach us to join with you in proclaiming:  
"I am the handmaid of the Lord:  
let it be done to me according to your word."

Hail Mary...  
Virgin most sorrowful, pray for us.

### **THE SIXTH SORROW: MARY RECEIVES THE DEAD BODY OF JESUS IN HER ARMS**

Reflection: *recited by the leader.*

Joseph of Arimathea takes the dead body of Jesus from the cross. He carefully wraps Jesus in a shroud. The funeral procession to the tomb begins. Mary watches Joseph and his companions perform this sad task. She remembers the joy that was in her heart when she wrapped her son in swaddling clothes on the day of his birth. The happenings of a life-time run through her mind as she follows the hastily gathered pallbearers to the cemetery.

Prayer *said by all.*

Mary, cause of our joy,  
as you made your painful way from Calvary to the grave,  
you carried the suffering of your son in your heart.  
You once carried his helpless body in your womb;  
now you follow his lifeless body to the tomb.  
Help us to open our eyes  
to the treasures God has given us, before they slip away from us.  
Help us to realize that God is with us in the desert of this life.

Pray that our hope in the resurrection will strengthen us  
as we carry our afflictions in patience.

Hail Mary...  
Virgin most sorrowful, pray for us.

### **THE SEVENTH SORROW: JESUS IS PLACED IN THE TOMB**

Reflection: *recited by the leader.*

The funeral procession arrives at the cemetery. Joseph of Arimathea lays the body of Jesus in a rock-hewn tomb, where no one had ever yet been laid. The women who had traveled with Jesus from Galilee return to their lodgings in order to prepare the spices and ointments for embalming. No doubt a certificate of death has been quietly filed. As far as men are concerned, the last chapter of Jesus' life has been completed. As far as God is concerned, the best chapter is yet to come.

Prayer: *said by all.*

Mary, help of Christians,  
your whole life was characterized by your deep faith in God.  
Yet it was this same faith  
that gave you such grief. At every turn of your life  
there was a painful surprise. Nevertheless, you seemed to sense





- L. You have come to rejoice at Mary's feast. May you be filled with the joys of the Spirit and the gifts of your eternal home.
- A. Amen.
- L. May almighty God bless you, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.
- A. Amen.

## SECTION II

### COMMEMORATIONS OF MARY IN THE LITURGICAL YEAR

#### Introductory Verses

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you;  
-Blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.

In the Name of the Father, and of the Son,  
and of the Holy Spirit.  
-Amen.

*Use the appropriate antiphon before praying the Magnificat:*

#### Antiphons

##### *Advent*

Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and cried out: Blessed are you, for you trusted that the Lord's words to you would be fulfilled.

##### *Christmas*

Blessed are you, Mary, for when you heard the message of the angel you became Mother of the divine Word. Blessed are you, for when you kept these words in your heart you became his disciple.

##### *Lent*

Eve shut all her children out of Paradise;  
the Virgin Mary opened wide its gates

##### *Easter*

Rejoice, O Mother of the Light: Jesus the Sun of Justice, conquering the darkness of the tomb, has enlightened the whole world, alleluia.

##### *Ordinary Time*

Hail, Holy Mary, the glory of Christ; we, your servants, cry out to you, O Blessed Virgin.

Blessed are you, holy Mary, the spotless mirror! In you the Church sees the image of its future glory.

O Blessed Virgin Mary, you are the Queen of mercy and the hope of the world; hear your children who call upon you.

Mary, model of virtue, star of the sea, and harbor of safety, has raised up the children whom Eve had betrayed.

**The Magnificat**

**Luke 1:46-55**

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord,  
my spirit rejoices in God my Savior

for he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed:  
the Almighty has done great things for me,  
and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him  
in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm,  
he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones,  
and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things,  
and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel  
for he has remembered his promise of mercy,  
the promise he made to our fathers,  
to Abraham and his children for ever.

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.

*Add the following appropriate prayer:*

**January 1 - THE SOLEMNITY OF THE MOTHER OF GOD**

Father,  
source of light in every age,  
the virgin conceived and bore your Son  
who is called Wonderful God, Prince of Peace.

May her prayer, the gift of a mother's love,  
be your people's joy through all ages.  
May her response, born of a humble heart,  
draw your Spirit to rest on your people.  
Grant this through Christ our Lord.

### **February 11 - OUR LADY OF LOURDES**

God of mercy,

we celebrate the feast of Mary,  
the sinless mother of God.  
May her prayers help us  
to rise above our human weakness.

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.

### **March 25 - THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE LORD**

Almighty Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,  
you have revealed the beauty of your power  
by exalting the lowly virgin of Nazareth  
and making her the mother of our Savior.  
May the prayers of this woman  
bring Jesus to the waiting world  
and fill the void of incompleteness  
with the presence of her child,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.

### **Friday of the Fifth Week of Lent - THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY AT THE CROSS**

God our Father,  
in the mystery of your love you bring the Passion of your Christ  
to its fulfillment in the suffering of his members.  
Grant that, as his compassionate Mother  
stood at the cross of her dying Son,  
we, as her servants, may stand at the crosses  
of our suffering brothers and sisters  
to bring comfort and healing love.  
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.

### **May 8 - THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, MOTHER AND MEDIATRIX OF GRACE**

Lord our God,  
in the great mystery of your provident care,

you gave us Jesus, the source of life and grace,  
through Mary, his Mother.  
You willed that she would share in his work of redemption at the cross.  
We ask her motherly intercession  
to obtain for us your gifts of life  
and to lead us to the fullness of redemption.  
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.

**Saturday following the Second Sunday after Pentecost -  
IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY**

Father,  
you prepared the heart of the Virgin Mary  
to be a fitting home for your Holy Spirit.  
By her prayers may we become  
a more worthy temple of your glory.  
Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ,  
our Son,

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.

**May 31 - THE VISITATION**

Eternal Father,  
You inspired the Virgin Mary, mother of your Son,  
to visit Elizabeth and assist her in her need.  
Keep us open to the working of your Spirit,  
and with Mary may we praise you for ever.  
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.

**July 16 - OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL**

Father,  
may the prayers of the Virgin Mary protect us and help us to reach Christ her Son

who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

**August 5 - DEDICATION OF ST. MARY MAJOR**

Lord,  
pardon the sins of your people.  
May the prayers of Mary, the mother of your Son,

help to save us,  
for by ourselves we cannot please you.  
Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.

### **August 15 - THE ASSUMPTION OF MARY**

Father in heaven,  
all creation rightly gives you praise,  
for all life and all holiness come from you.  
In the plan of your wisdom  
she who bore the Christ in her womb

was raised body and soul in glory to be  
with him in heaven.  
May we follow her example in reflecting your holiness  
and join in her hymn of endless life and praise.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

### **August 22 - THE QUEENSHIP OF MARY**

Father,  
you have given us the mother of your Son  
to be our queen and mother.  
With the support of her prayers  
may we come to share the glory of your children in the kingdom of heaven.  
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.

### **September 8 - THE BIRTH OF MARY**

Father of mercy,  
give your people help and strength from heaven. The birth of the Virgin Mary's Son was the dawn  
of our salvation.  
May this celebration of her birthday bring us closer to lasting peace.  
Grant this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.

### **September 15 - OUR LADY OF SORROWS**

Father,  
you willed that Mary  
should stand by the cross of your Son.  
May we who share with her the suffering of Jesus,  
also share with her the joy of the resurrection.

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.

### **October 7 - OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY**

Lord,  
fill our hearts with your love,  
and as you revealed to us by an angel  
the coming of your Son as man,  
so lead us through his suffering and death  
to the glory of his resurrection,  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.

### **November 21 - THE PRESENTATION OF MARY**

Eternal Father,  
we honor the holiness and glory of the Virgin Mary,  
May her prayers bring us  
the fullness of your life and love.

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.

### **December 8 - IMMACULATE CONCEPTION**

Father, the image of the Virgin is found in the Church.  
Mary had a faith that your Spirit prepared  
and a love that never knew sin,  
for you kept her sinless from the first  
moment of her conception.  
Trace in our actions the lines of her love,  
in our hearts her readiness of faith.  
Prepare once again a world for your Son  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit  
one God, for ever and ever.

### **December 12 - OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE**

God of power and mercy, you blessed the Americas at Tepeyac  
with the presence of the Virgin Mary of Guadalupe.  
May her prayers help all men and women  
to accept each other as brothers and sisters.  
Through your justice present in our hearts

may your peace reign in the world.

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.

**ON SATURDAYS IN THE ADVENT SEASON:**

Father,

in your plan for our salvation your Word became man, announced by an angel and born of the  
Virgin Mary.

May we who believe that she is the Mother of God receive the help of her prayers.

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.

**ON SATURDAYS IN THE CHRISTMAS SEASON:**

Father,

you gave the human race eternal salvation  
through the motherhood of the Virgin Mary.

May we experience the help of her prayers in our lives, for through her we received the very source  
of life, your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one  
God, for ever and ever.

**ON SATURDAYS OF LENT:**

God of mercies,

your only Son, while hanging on the cross,

appointed Mary, his mother, to be our mother also. Like her, and under her loving care, may your  
Church grow day by day,

rejoice in the holiness of its children,

and so attract to itself all the peoples of the earth. 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.

**ON SATURDAYS IN THE EASTER SEASON:**

God our Father,

you give joy to the world by the resurrection of your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ.

Through the prayers of his mother, the Virgin Mary, bring us to the happiness of eternal life. 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.

Or

God our Father,

you gave the Holy Spirit to your apostles

as they joined in prayer with Mary, the mother of Jesus. By the help of her prayers keep us faithful  
in your service



and let our words and actions be so inspired  
as to bring glory to your name.

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

**ON SATURDAYS IN ORDINARY TIME:**

Lord,  
take away the sins of your people.  
May the prayers of Mary, the mother of your Son help us, for alone and unaided we cannot hope to please you. 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.

**Closing Verses**

May our Lady protect us and guide us on the way of life.  
Amen.

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

**Sub tuum praesidium**

We turn to you for protection,  
holy Mother of God.  
Listen to our prayers  
and help us in our needs.  
Save us from every danger,  
glorious and blessed Virgin.

**SECTION III:**

**DEVOTIONS IN HONOR OF SERVITE SAINTS AND BLESSED**

*Witnesses to the life and spirituality of the Order*

It is not easy to describe the spirituality of an Order whose life extends over seven and a half centuries.

Certainly every religious order is a school of spiritual life within the Church and necessarily shares with the others the essential elements of Catholic spirituality: a life directed to God, the Father of all, to Christ the supreme Teacher, to his Gospel and to the “life of the apostles” as the first rule of life, to the divine mysteries and prayer as the means to achieve holiness, and to service in the Church, a service which is open to communion with all peoples.

The rise of each order is due to holy people, who, driven by the Holy Spirit and endowed with the charism of spiritual parenthood, have been able to transmit to others, their “children,” especially by the witness of their lives, their own ideal of the following of Christ. For this reason the holy founders of each order hold a privileged place, and it is necessary always to refer back to them each time one wishes to discern or give new life to the spirituality of their order.

The Order of Friar Servants of Saint Mary arose through the efforts of the Seven Holy Founders in the commune of Florence in the thirteenth century, in a time characterized by movements for Christian peace. While still living with their families, they embraced a penitential life, expressed in works of perfection: prayer, simplicity of life style, witness to peace, and works of charity. They were also members of a lay association, the Greater Society of Our Lady. In this Society, “putting themselves for the honor of God at the service of the Virgin, His Mother, they wished from that moment to be called ‘Servants of Saint Mary,’ and they took on a rule of life according to the counsel of wise people” (*Legenda de origine Ordinis*, 18).

They withdrew to Cafaggio and then to Monte Senario, where their example soon attracted other men who were searching for God. These asked to be received into the small community in order to share a life which was fraternal, humble, poor, prayerful, and devoted to Our Lady.

Thus was born the “Order” (that is a group organized and directed by a Rule) of the “Servants of Saint Mary.” This Order slowly extended its presence to the cities of north-central Italy, characterizing itself by a life lived in community and by sharing the apostolic life of preaching and of bringing comfort and reconciliation to the people.

Groups of lay men and women who wished to share this same spirituality gathered around the Servite churches, which were generally dedicated to Our Lady. Down through the centuries of the Order, saints and blessed, men and women, religious and lay became the best and most concrete expression of Servite spirituality.

Thus in the years immediately following the foundation of the Order, Saint Philip Benizi was regarded as the perfect follower of the Founders, “Father” with them and model of service to Mary. His life, spent in the service of the Order, preserved the humility, poverty, and devotion to the Virgin of the first Fathers. He became the vigilant and zealous father and shepherd of his friars, an apostle inspired by zeal for God and gospel love.

After him, in Siena, two blessed echoed the same message: Blessed Joachim, a humble man with a keen sense of community life, was compassionate toward the sick to the point of being willing to take on the illness of others. The second was Blessed Francis, whose eloquent preaching and loving care of souls flowed from an intense devotion to the glorious Virgin Mary.

In these same years, at Forlì, another holy follower of St. Philip, St. Peregrine Laziosi, became an admirable example of penance and prayer.

Holy women also wished to share the spirituality of the Servants of Mary. They frequented the Servite churches, bringing a new richness of love for Jesus Christ, especially in the Blessed

Sacrament, a luminous chastity, an intimacy with Our Lady, and a prayer-filled interior life. Such were Saint Juliana of Florence, Blessed Elizabeth Picenardi and many others less famous.

In the following centuries, reform movements within the Order have always restated the traditional spirituality, especially in the lives of holy men and women: liturgical and community life, poverty, an orientation toward Mary, prayer, penance, and a love for holy things.

Servite spirituality can be identified above all as “incarnated” in the resplendent and numerous witnesses, rather than in a doctrinal exposition. The present Constitutions of the friars attempt a synthesis by stating: “Moved by the Spirit, we commit ourselves, as did our First Fathers, to witness the gospel in fraternal communion and to be at the service of God and all people, drawing abiding inspiration from Mary, Mother and Servant of the Lord” (art. 1).

Servites offer to the Church and to the world religious and secular communities, in continuity with the charism of the fathers:

- These communities strive to live liturgical prayer and daily work in communion and happiness in Christ; they are sustained by humility, austerity, and love of prayer.
- These communities are open to the world, with a love which brings concern, hospitality and service to others and spiritual and material comfort for the suffering.
- These communities are dedicated to Our Lady, the Mother loved by God and by men and women. Her life, from the Annunciation to Calvary and to Pentecost, is a pattern and guide for her Servants to follow.

The Secular Order is also called to live this spirituality. It is one of the “expressions of the shared vocation of the Servite Order.” Therefore “it shares in the same ideal, commitment to evangelical, apostolic life and piety towards the mother of God; with the Servite Order it constitutes a single family (*Rule of Life*, art. 6).

# LITURGICAL CELEBRATIONS IN HONOR OF SERVITE SAINTS AND BLESSED

## INTRODUCTION

*Each commemoration of a Servite saint or blessed follows this pattern: First there is a common part, which is found immediately below. This consists of a hymn, an antiphon, and a psalm. Then there is a proper part, which consists of a short life and a prayer of the saint or blessed.*

*The outline therefore is the following: 1) hymn, 2) antiphon, 3) psalm, 4) life of the saint, 5) prayer.*

\* \* \* \* \*

### 1. HYMN

Our Order's saints their light diffuse  
On us, to bring the hope of dawn.  
To God we sing our praise, by whose  
Most Holy Spirit they were drawn.

With Mary, they had sown in tears,  
United by the Cross of Christ.  
In heaven now they reap the sheaves

Of joyfulness through sacrifice.

Sign of communion they would live  
For God in Jesus and his kin.  
Prayer, love and service saw them give  
All things to win God's world from sin.

All glory to the Father bring  
Through Christ the Savior and the Son,  
Servants of Mary praises sing  
United by the Spirit, one. Amen.

Melody: Old 100th L.M.      Text: Paul Addison, O.S.M.

*[Or another appropriate hymn may be sung.]*

### 2. ANTIPHON

The Lord shows his Servants the path of life and lasting happiness.

### 3. PSALM

Psalm 112

Happy the man who fears the Lord,  
who takes delight in all his commands.  
His sons will be powerful on earth;

the children of the upright are blessed.

Riches and wealth are in his house;  
his justice stands firm for ever.  
He is a light in the darkness for the upright:  
he is generous, merciful and just.

The good man takes pity and lends,  
he conducts his affairs with honor.  
The just man will never waver:  
he will be remembered for ever.

He has no fear of evil news;  
with a firm heart he trusts in the Lord.  
With a steadfast heart he will not fear;  
he will see the downfall of his foes.

Open-handed, he gives to the poor;  
his justice stands firm for ever.  
His head will be raised in glory.

The wicked man sees and is angry,  
grinds his teeth and fades away;  
the desire of the wicked leads to doom.

4) Reading of the life of the saint (to be found in the pages which follow).

5) Prayer of the saint (to be found in the pages which follow).

**SAINT ANTHONY MARY PUCCI**  
**January 12**

Anthony Pucci was born in 1819 in Poggiolo, in the diocese of Pistoia, Italy. He entered the Servite Order at the age of eighteen. After ordination to the priesthood he was sent to Viareggio where he was soon made pastor, an office he held for forty-five years, until his death. He was animated by a keen sense of his responsibility as a priest and was sustained by his ardent love of the Eucharist and his devotion to Our Lady of Sorrows. He spared no effort to instruct the faithful, to convert sinners, to comfort the sick, and to aid the poor.

His charity put him in the forefront of the movements of his time. He was among the first in Italy to found seaside colonies for children. The name of “Curatino” (Little Parish Priest), which he was commonly called, shows both the affection of the people and the humility of the Saint. Notwithstanding his untiring pastoral work, Saint Anthony did not neglect studies and earned the degree of Master of Sacred Theology.

He was both conventual prior and provincial of the Tuscan province; in these offices he distinguished himself by the wisdom of his governing and his spirit of fraternity.

He was canonized by Pope John XXIII in 1962.

**PRAYER**

Lord God,  
you made Saint Anthony Pucci  
an outstanding Servant of Mary  
and pastor of your people.  
Through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary,  
may we dedicate our lives to extend the Reign of Christ Jesus  
who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit,  
one God, for ever and ever.

**BLESSED JAMES OF CITTÀ DELLA PIEVE**  
**January 15**

Blessed James was born in Città della Pieve, in central Italy, about 1270. From his youth he often visited churches and strove to grow in virtue. He studied literature and law and became knowledgeable in both disciplines. As a lawyer he assumed the defense of hospitals and of the poor. Because of his love of evangelical poverty he received the habit of the Third Order of Servants of Mary. At his own expense he restored a church and hospice, then in disrepair, situated outside the gate of Vecciano near the priory of the friars. There he dedicated himself to the care of the poor of Christ and the sick. When he was informed that the possessions of the hospice had been usurped by a powerful man in nearby Chiusi, he brought the case before the law courts and won. But his adversary took revenge and had him killed as he returned to Città delle Pieve from Chiusi (1304). His body was discovered in a woods along the road and was then brought to the hospice where it was held in great veneration by the townspeople. They gave him the name of “Almsgiver” and built a church in his honor.

**PRAYER**

Lord God,  
strengthened by the power of your love,  
Blessed James was not afraid to risk his life  
in defending the rights of the poor.  
Grant us the courage  
to face every difficulty  
in our pursuit of justice and love.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

## **BLESSED JOACHIM OF SIENA**

### **February 3**

Joachim was born about 1258 in Siena, Italy. Because of his great devotion to the Mother of Jesus, he entered the Order of Servants of Mary as a young man. He was received by Saint Philip Benizi, and except for a short period in Arezzo, he spent the rest of his life in the Servite monastery in Siena.

His first biographer recounts a story that took place while Joachim was at Arezzo. This episode came to characterize his life. One night Joachim and a companion took refuge from the rain in an inn. They found there a sick man who had been suffering for a long time. Blessed Joachim heard his lament with compassion and said to him: "Brother, have patience; this illness will be your salvation." But the sick man replied: "Good friar, it is easier to praise infirmity than to bear it." Joachim then said: "I beseech Almighty God to free you from this illness and give it to me, His servant. May death alone release me from this infirmity. So shall I bear continually the suffering of Christ in my body." The sick man got up from his bed forthwith; he was completely healed. The friar remained in his place, the victim of epilepsy.

He returned to Siena where his life was distinguished by humility, service, obedience, and prayer. He died on Good Friday, 1305, at the age of forty-seven.

### **PRAYER**

Lord God,  
you made Blessed Joachim  
a faithful follower of your Son

and a servant of his Mother;  
you taught him to care for the needs of others  
and even to take on the burden of their infirmities.  
May we learn from his example  
to acknowledge our own weakness  
and so be compassionate and understanding  
of the weaknesses of others.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

## **SEVEN HOLY FOUNDERS OF OUR ORDER**

**Triduum in preparation for the feast: February 14-16.**  
**Feast: February 17.**

### *INTRODUCTION*

*The prayers for the three days of preparation for the feast of the Seven Holy Founders follow this order: the hymn, antiphon, and psalm, as for the celebrations of the other saints and blessed. Then there follows the Invocation, which is proper each day and the Litany in Honor of the Seven Holy Founders.*

**First day: February 14**

Hymn

Antiphon

Psalm

Invocation:

We turn to you,  
our first Fathers,  
as children, disciples and friends  
to learn from you  
how to be followers of Christ,  
how, together, to sing the praises of God  
and share the bread of life  
as children gathered at their father's table,  
how, in silence,  
we can hear the voice of the Spirit  
and in listening give words to our faith,  
How we can live without attachment  
to clothes, food or home,  
seeking only the Kingdom of God  
and its justice,  
how, living, suffering and dying for the Church,

we can announce the Gospel of peace.  
O Holy Fathers,  
may your example of searching for God  
and of service to Mary,  
remain with us,  
and may your prayer support us  
today and all the days of our life. Amen.

**LITANY IN HONOR OF THE SEVEN HOLY FOUNDERS**

Lord, have mercy

**Lord, have mercy**

Christ, have mercy.

**Christ, have mercy**

Lord, have mercy.

**Lord, have mercy**

Christ, hear us.

**Christ, graciously hear us.**

Father in heaven,

**Have mercy on us.**



Son, Redeemer of the world,  
Holy Spirit, Paraclete,  
Holy Trinity, one God.

Holy Mary, Mother of God,  
Holy Virgin, handmaid of the Lord,  
Holy Virgin, Woman of sorrow,  
Queen of your servants,

**Pray for us**

Saint Joseph  
Saint John the Baptist,  
Saints Peter and Paul,  
Saint Augustine,

Seven Holy Fathers,  
Holy founders of our Order,

Servants of the Word,  
Servants of Holy Mary,  
Servants of your brothers and sisters,  
Servants of the poor,

Good servants,  
Faithful servants,  
Watchful servants,  
Merciful servants,

Searchers for God,  
Adorers of the Father

Disciples of Christ,  
Voices of the Spirit,

Dwellers in solitude,  
Men of penance,  
Men of silence,  
Men of prayer,

Messengers of the Gospel  
Builders of the Kingdom,  
Promoters of friendship,  
Workers of peace.

**PRAYER:**

Loving God,  
you provide for the needs of your children with love.  
Hear our prayer today,  
for we are confident of the intercession of our Seven Holy Fathers.

May the wealth of your mercy shine on us  
and may we feel the power of your comforting hand.  
We pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**Second day: February 15**

Hymn

Antiphon

Psalm

Invocation:

We come to you,  
our first Fathers,  
as children, disciples and friends,  
to learn from you  
how to be followers of Christ,  
how we can love God above all things  
and spend our lives in the service of others,  
how we can respond to every offence with pardon  
and return good for the evil done to us,  
how we can help the needy,  
ease the pain of the afflicted,  
and open our hearts in friendship,  
how we can build a life together,  
united in heart and mind,  
in the home of our Father.  
O Holy Fathers,  
may your example of fraternal communion  
and of service to Mary,  
remain with us,  
and may your prayers support us

today and every day of our lives. Amen.

Litany of the Seven Holy Fathers and Prayer (as above)

**Third day: February 16**

Hymn

Antiphon

Psalm

Invocation:

We turn to you,  
our first Fathers,  
as children, disciples and friends  
to learn from you  
how to be followers of Christ,  
how we can serve God in joy,  
with innocent hands and pure heart,  
how we can serve Christ  
in following him to the cross

to reign with him in glory,  
how we can be faithful to the command  
to bear one another's burdens  
and freely serve one another,  
how we can live like the Lord's humble Handmaid,  
making our lives

a service of love to the Son of God  
and our brothers and sisters.  
O Holy Fathers,  
may your example  
of service to God and holy Mary  
remain with us,  
and may your prayer support us,  
today and all the days of our life. Amen.

Litany of the Seven Holy Founders and Prayer (as above)

### **Feast of the Seven Holy Founders February 17**

Bonfilius, Bonajuncta, Manettus, Amadeus, Hugh, Sostene, and Alexis are the names with which were canonized the seven men who, around the middle of the thirteenth century, founded the Order of Friar Servants of Saint Mary in Florence. The Church and the Order venerate them with the title of the Seven Holy Founders. They were lay men and merchants; some were married, others single or widowed. They were animated by a strong desire for Christian perfection and belonged to the Greater Society of Our Lady. As members of this Society they served God and Our Lady by practicing works of charity and penance. Their desire to serve God eventually led them to leave their homes and businesses and to form a community outside the city walls. About the year 1245 they moved to Monte Senario, about twelve miles from Florence, where they built a small church and dwelling. Soon other men, desirous of prayer and solitude, joined them. Because of the holiness of their lives, the seriousness of their religious commitment, and the esteem of the people, they obtained first the approval of the bishop of Florence, Ardingo, and then that of the Apostolic See. From Monte Senario the Seven and their followers returned to Florence to engage in apostolic work, and at Cafaggio they built a church, the first nucleus of the present basilica of Santissima Annunziata.

Historical data about the Seven Holy Founders are not numerous; even their names, except for Bonfilius and Alexis, are uncertain. But the spiritual characteristics of their life are certain, as told in the *Legenda de origine Ordinis*, the oldest account of the work of the Seven Saints, transmitted by an uninterrupted tradition. These characteristics are an ardent love of God and Our Lady, humility, a spirit of service, a disposition to harmony and pardon, and an active desire to promote peace.

The Seven Holy Founders were canonized as a group by Pope Leo XIII in 1888. Their mortal remains are venerated in the basilica of Monte Senario.

## PRAYER

Merciful God,  
guided by your care,  
Mary, our glorious Mother,  
called seven holy men to found  
the family of her servants.  
Grant that by our devotion to Mary  
we may more generously serve you and each other.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

## BLESSED ELIZABETH OF MANTUA

### February 19

Blessed Elizabeth Picenardi was born in Cremona in 1428. Shortly after her birth, her father, steward of the Marquis Gonzaga, was transferred to Mantua, and the family lived in a house near the Servite priory and church of St. Barnabas. It was through contact with these friars that Elizabeth formed her spirituality: a life of virginity, penance, love for the Eucharist, devotion to Our Lady, and a disposition toward liturgical prayer as shown by her practice of reciting the entire Divine Office every day.

Information about Blessed Elizabeth has been handed down to us, not only by the records of the priory of St. Barnabas, but also by a *Legenda* which was written just a few years after she died. From this *Legenda* we learn that after her father's death, Elizabeth went to live with her sister who was married to a nobleman of Mantua. Her room in her sister's house was next to the Servite church, and she lived there until her death. In the meantime she had received the habit of the Servants of Mary.

The townspeople of Mantua frequently sought her advice, and through her prayers to Our Lady she obtained many favors and graces. Many young people were attracted by her example and formed a group of the Servite Third Order. Elizabeth died in 1468. She was beatified in 1804, and her body lies now in Tor de' Picenardi, near Cremona.

## PRAYER

Lord God,  
during her life on earth  
Blessed Elizabeth enjoyed the special favor  
of the Mother of your Son.  
Now that she is with you in heaven,  
may she help us by her prayers  
to find favor with you.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

## SAINT PEREGRINE OF FORLI

May 4

In 1283 Saint Philip, Prior General of the Friar Servants of Saint Mary, attempted to lead back to obedience to the Apostolic See the citizens of Forlì then under interdict. He was driven out of the city with insults and violence. While this true follower of Christ was praying for his persecutors, one of the crowd, an eighteen year old by the name of Peregrine of the Laziosi family, repented and humbly asked Philip for forgiveness. Philip received him with love. A few years later, guided by Our Lady, he received the Servite habit in the priory of Siena where he dedicated himself to her service.

Peregrine returned to his native Forlì and passed his life as a friar in prayer, in devotion to Our Lady, in penance, and in helping the poor. Struck with a cancerous sore on his leg, he was miraculously healed while in prayer before an image of the Crucified Christ. Because of this his intercession is sought with great faith by the sick, especially by those with incurable illnesses.

Servites see realized in Peregrine in a striking way their ideals: service, prayer, devotion to Our Lady, and love of others, especially the poor.

Peregrine was canonized in 1726. His body is venerated in the Servite church in Forlì.

#### PRAYER

Lord our God,  
you made Saint Peregrine an outstanding example  
of penance and patient suffering.  
By imitating his virtues  
and trusting in his prayers,  
may we too learn to endure the trials  
of this life with courage  
and so enter into our heavenly reward with joy.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

#### **BLESSED BENINCASA OF MONTEPULCIANO**

**May 11**

Benincasa was born around the year 1375, most probably in Montepulciano, Italy. As an adolescent he took the Servite habit, and at the age of twenty-five he withdrew to a grotto on Monte Amiata near Siena, very close to where Saint Philip is said to have spent some time in penance.

Benincasa is among those men whom the Spirit has frequently raised up within the Order, men called to more intense contemplation in solitude and silence. While living the life of hermits, they maintained the bond of fraternity with the Order.

He died in 1426 at the age of fifty. He was beatified by Pope Pius VIII in 1829. The remains of Blessed Benincasa are venerated in the parish church of St. Leonard in Monticchiello, a town not far from the grotto where he had lived.

#### PRAYER

Lord, our God,  
your Son's example led Blessed Benincasa  
to a life of solitude and work.  
Strengthened by prayer and penance,

may we more effectively  
fulfill the demands of Christian life.

We ask this through Christ our Lord..

**BLESSED FRANCIS OF SIENA**  
**May 12**

Francis was born in Siena in 1266. His life is told in the *Legenda* written by his close friend, Fra Christopher of Parma. From this writing we learn that Francis felt the calling to religious life at an early age, but he judged it his duty to help his blind mother. After her death, Francis, then twenty-two years of age, entered the Servants of Mary in Siena. Three years later he was ordained to the priesthood. He was known for his obedience, zeal in preaching and, above all, for his love of the Eucharist and his devotion to Our Lady. Francis showed a constant concern for his confreres, for the needy and for the suffering whom he sought to counsel and console. He celebrated Mass with great devotion every day and honored Our Lady with many acts of reverence, and he dedicated to her all his actions as priest and friar.

His actions on the last day of his life form a wonderful synthesis of his spirituality: a loving concern for others, because of which, he went to visit his friends and those dear to him, although he sensed his imminent death; an affection toward his confreres, with whom he wished to eat a last meal; his love of the Eucharist, which he celebrated that same day, the vigil of the Ascension; his zeal in preaching and his obedience, for he started out toward the village of Prisciano, where he was to preach, even though he was weak and fainting; his love for Our Lady, before whose small altar he genuflected while he placed a bouquet of roses there in her honor. He was brought back to the priory, where he died. It was May 26, 1328. Francis was beatified by Pope Benedict XIV in 1743. His body is venerated in the Basilica of S. Maria dei Servi in Siena.

**PRAYER**

Fill us, Lord God,  
with the same dedication and gentleness  
with which Blessed Francis  
devoutly served the Mother of God

and provided spiritual direction for your people.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**BLESSED JAMES PHILIP OF FAENZA**  
**May 30**

Blessed James Philip Bertoni was born in Faenza, Italy, in 1454. As a young boy he entered the Servite priory in his native city, because his father had promised to consecrate his son to the service of the Lord if he would be cured of epilepsy. When he was old enough he was ordained a priest. In the Servite priory he held various offices, among which was procurator. He was fond of reading classical authors and the fathers of the Church, especially St. Jerome. But he was most avid in his study of Sacred Scriptures and showed a special love for the celebration of Mass. He led a life of penance and asceticism. By character he was gentle and affable if somewhat taciturn. He was prudent and chaste in language.

He died in 1483 at the age of twenty-nine, perhaps from tuberculosis, as early pictures of him suggest. For they represent him with a very emaciated face, the skin almost clinging to the bones of his face. Miracles were worked as he lay in state and afterward at his tomb. Devotion which was given to him immediately after death was approved by Clement XIII in 1761. His body is venerated in the cathedral of Faenza.

His biographer, Nicolò Borghese, a humanist and statesman of Siena (+1500) had himself been healed through the intercession of Blessed James Philip.

#### PRAYER

Lord God,  
you endowed Blessed James Philip  
with exceptional understanding of your truth  
and filled him with a spirit of devotion  
when he celebrated the sacred mysteries.  
Grant that we, too, may have an unquenchable thirst for you,  
the only source of wisdom and love.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

#### SAINT JULIANA OF FLORENCE

##### June 19

Juliana was born in Florence in the second half of the thirteenth century. According to tradition she belonged to the same Falconieri family to which Saint Alexis, one of the Seven Founders of the Servite Order, is said to have belonged. The central event of her life was her conversion at the age of fifteen while listening to Saint Alexis preach about the final judgment. From that time on Saint Juliana directed her mind and heart solely to God, and although she remained at home she practiced a life of penance and prayer after the example of the first Servite friars. She frequented the church of Saint Mary of Cafaggio, the future basilica of Santissima Annunziata, and there, together with the friars, she prayed the Divine Office and sang praises to Mary.

Juliana's spirituality was characterized by a love of the Eucharist. When she was dying, her weakness prevented her from receiving the Body of the Lord, and so the Host was placed over her heart. A pious tradition holds that it miraculously penetrated her chest. According to tradition she died in 1341.

Juliana was venerated as blessed in the Order at least from the fifteenth century and she was canonized by Clement XIII in 1737.

Juliana did not found a religious congregation, although Servite women, secular, religious sisters, and contemplative nuns, who in the course of the centuries have dedicated themselves to the service of Mary in the Servite Order have recognized her as their mother and teacher.

Members of the Servite Secular Order also see in Juliana the first of a long line of lay men and women who lived in friendship with the Servite friars and shared with them the ideal of service of God, of Our Lady, and of their brothers and sisters.

#### PRAYER

Lord God,

Saint Juliana was a model of chastity and penance  
and through her you raised up  
a community of consecrated women

within the Family of the Servants of Mary.  
Grant that your Church remain always faithful  
to the love of its Bridegroom  
and continue to burn brightly  
with the flame of love consecrated to you alone.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**BLESSED THOMAS OF ORVIETO**  
**June 27**

Thomas of Orvieto was drawn to enter the Servite Order by his great love of Our Lady and his desire to reach heaven. Because of his humility he asked to be admitted among the lay brothers. Often he was given the task of going from house to house seeking alms. In this way he showed his great love.

Artistic representations of Blessed Thomas picture him carrying a knapsack with a fig branch in his hand, offering, in the middle of winter, a bunch of figs to a pregnant woman who had desired them. It seems that the artists wanted to depict both the solicitude of this man of God toward those who had recourse to him as well as the power of his intercession with God which was expressed by miracles.

He died in Orvieto and was buried in the Servite church there. In 1768 Clement XIII confirmed his cult.

**PRAYER**

Lord God,  
you extend your mercy to the humble  
who call out to you.  
Grant that the prayers of Blessed Thomas  
obtain for your servants  
the comfort of your love in this life  
and the possession of eternal joy  
in your presence forever.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**BLESSED UBALD OF BORGIO SANSEPOLCRO**  
**July 4**

Ubaldo was born in Borgo Sansepolcro, Italy, around the middle of the thirteenth century. He entered the Order of Servants of Mary and was ordained a priest. As a Servite friar he was noted for the holiness of his life and works. He was a close friend of Saint Philip. It is said that when Philip was dying Ubaldo came to his friend's bedside; Philip regained consciousness for a moment and then died in Ubaldo's arms. Ubaldo died at Monte Senario in 1315. Pope Pius VII approved the devotion to him in 1821.



## PRAYER

Lord God,  
you are the source of pure and consecrated love.  
Through the example of Blessed Ubald,  
may we, your servants, give you glory  
through the holiness of our bodies,  
and our singleness of mind and heart.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

## SAINT CLELIA BARBIERI

**July 13**

Clelia Barbieri was born on February 13, 1847, at Le Budrie in the diocese of Bologna, Italy. Her early years were passed in great poverty. In 1868, together with three companions, she founded a community to care for abandoned girls, and to provide for their education. She died at the age of twenty-three on July 13, 1870, at Le Budrie where her body is venerated. She was canonized by Pope John Paul II on April 9, 1989. From the small group at Le Budrie was born the religious family of the Minims of the Sorrowful Virgin.

## PRAYER

Lord God,  
in Saint Clelia Barbieri  
you gave the Christian community  
an example of Gospel life, in joyful service of others.  
Grant that our humble following of Christ  
bring us to the glory of your heavenly Reign.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

## SAINT PHILIP BENIZI

**Triduum in preparation for the feast: August 20, 21, and 22**

**Feast: August 23**

### *INTRODUCTION*

*The prayers for the three days of preparation for the feast of Saint Philip follow this order: the hymn, antiphon, and psalm, as for the celebrations of the other saints and blessed. Then there follows the Invocation, which is proper each day.*

### **First day: August 20**

Hymn

Antiphon

Psalm

Invocation:

Blessed are you, Lord, God of glory:

in your loving plan  
you gave the family of Servants  
the brilliant light of Saint Philip Benizi.  
In his humility  
the servant of your handmaid  
sought to conceal this light  
but you who raise up the lowly

wonderfully revealed it.  
His was a light of knowledge and understanding  
in the study of sacred doctrine;  
of wisdom and prudence  
in the direction of the Order entrusted to his care;  
of sanctity and grace  
in the service of others.  
Through the intercession of Saint Philip,  
grant us, Father,  
love for your Word,  
which enlightens us on our journey through life.  
Grant us, Lord,  
genuine faith,  
confident hope,  
and respondent love.  
Lord, watch over the family of Servants of Mary;  
may it walk in the light of Christ  
and fulfill its mission  
of service and witness to Christian community.  
To you, Father, source of all light,  
through Christ, the sun of justice,

in the Spirit who renews all things,  
all glory and honor forever. Amen.

**Second day: August 21**

Hymn

Antiphon

Psalm

Invocation:

We bless you, Father,  
for you guide all men and women  
toward their true destiny  
and in your infinite love  
you sent us your Son Jesus Christ.  
He is the living rock  
from which living water flows,  
the grain of wheat  
that in dying bears much fruit,  
the bread of life  
that is broken and nourishes.

We bless you, Father,  
because you gave us Saint Philip Benizi  
and made him a servant of life  
according to the image of your Son.  
He was a brother serving others,  
a father feeding his children,  
a friend to those in need.

Lord,  
through the intercession of Saint Philip  
grant that we may serve life  
with our words and with our deeds.  
Grant that we be compassionate,  
sensitive to the expectations of others,  
and unhesitating in our response to the needy.  
Make us defenders of justice  
and agents of peace.  
Father, grant that we may serve life:  
at its innocent beginning  
and as it grows and flourishes;  
when it is wounded and oppressed,  
and as it passes from this world  
to enter into your glory.  
To you, Father, source of all life,  
through Christ who conquered death  
in the Spirit who renews all things,  
all glory and honor forever. Amen.

**Third day: August 22**

Hymn  
Antiphon  
Psalm  
Invocation:

We glorify you, Father, and we thank you;  
in your goodness  
you have given us Saint Philip  
as a model in our service to the Blessed Virgin.  
We are her servants  
in constant reverence and confident prayer,  
in faithful love and total self-giving.  
We are servants like her  
in fulfilling your will  
and serving our sisters and brothers.  
We are servants with her  
in listening to the Word,  
praising your glory,  
proclaiming your salvation  
and standing near the cross of Christ.

By your grace, Lord,  
Saint Philip was a disciple of the Seven First Fathers  
and learned to harmonize in his life  
authority and service,  
discipline and compassion,  
prayer and apostolate.  
Through the intercession of Saint Philip,  
grant, Lord, that we may  
follow Christ your Son,

witness to the Gospel  
and dedicate our lives to the coming of your Kingdom.  
Lord, may we be always  
open to the voice of your Spirit,  
and attentive to his presence,  
to be in our day  
instruments of his joy and peace.  
Father,  
may we always be inspired  
by the life of the Blessed Virgin, Our Lady,  
and offer her our service of love.  
To you, Father, source of all life,  
through Christ your faithful servant  
and in the Spirit who renews all things,  
all glory and honor forever. Amen.

**Feast of Saint Philip**  
**August 23**

Philip was born in Florence in the early thirteenth century. He entered the Order and was ordained a priest. In 1267 he was elected prior general and remained in office almost until his death. He served with wisdom, developed excellent laws, and fought to keep the Order from being suppressed. Recognized for his holiness, he inspired many to enter religious life and follow his example of Gospel values and service to Mary. Because of his strong influence, he has been considered a “father of the Order.” He died in 1285 at Todi and was canonized in 1671.

**PRAYER**

Lord God,  
in you the lowly are exalted.  
Through the work of Saint Philip  
you cared for the Family of Servants of Mary  
by nurturing its growth and confirming its way of life.  
By faithful service of Our Lady, may we,  
like Philip, proclaim with apostolic zeal  
the Reign of your Son,  
who with you and the Holy Spirit,  
lives and reigns, one God, for ever and ever.

**BLESSED ANDREW OF BORGO SANSEPOLCRO**  
**August 31**

Andrew was inspired by a sermon of Saint Philip Benizi and so asked to receive the habit of the Servants of Saint Mary in 1278 in the Servite priory in Borgo Sansepolcro. He withdrew immediately to a hermitage near Borgo to live a life of penance and solitude. Both by his counsel and his works, he drew many other hermits to the Order of Servants. Blessed Andrew was their moderator. He died in 1315 while he was at prayer. Pope Pius VII in 1806 confirmed the veneration which had been paid to him.

**PRAYER**

Lord God,  
through Blessed Andrew you called many hermits  
to the Order of Servants of Mary,  
and made them one in their devotion to Mary  
and in their love for one another.  
Grant that in serving Our Lady  
we, too, may be united in heart and action.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**BLESSED JOAN OF FLORENCE**  
**September 1**

Joan was born in Florence. She lived during the first century of the Order. When she received the habit of the Third Order of the Servants, she pledged herself to the Virgin Mary. She lived a life of chastity and penance. Several ancient images represent Joan as one of the more distinguished blessed of the Order. Pope Leo XII confirmed the devotion to her in 1828.

**PRAYER**

Lord God,  
your grace enabled Blessed Joan  
to preserve her innocence through the simplicity of her life.  
Through her intercession,  
grant that the difficulties and sacrifices of our lives  
may lead us to serve you with pure hearts.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**BLESSED BONAVENTURE OF FORLI**  
**September 6**

Bonaventure was born in Forli about 1410. He entered the Order of Servants and became a Master of Theology. In his preaching he was noted for his courage and wisdom. He held many positions within the Order and was known for his prudence. He lived a life of penance, loved solitude and fostered the regular observance. He died in Udine in 1491. His body is venerated in the church of Santa Maria delle Grazie in that city. Pius X approved his cult in 1911.

**PRAYER**

Lord God,  
may the tears of our conversion  
soften the hardness of our hearts  
as we draw inspiration from the example and preaching  
of your servant Blessed Bonaventure.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**BLESSED JOHN ANGELO PORRO OF MILAN**  
**October 25**

John Angelo Porro was born in the Duchy of Milan in the year 1451. After he had received the habit in the Order of Servants of Mary, he lived for a time in the priory of St. Mary, Milan, and later was sent to the priory in Florence. Later still, he withdrew to Monte Senario so that he might give his whole life to penance and contemplation. After living at Monte Senario for almost twenty years he returned to Milan where he engaged in the careful preparation of young children in Christian doctrine. He died on October 23, 1505. Pope Clement XII entered the name of John Angelo in the catalog of the blessed in 1737.

**PRAYER**

Lord God,  
through the intercession of Blessed John Angelo  
may our hearts be so centered on you  
that we persevere in following the Gospel  
and in apostolic service,  
as he was faithful in his religious life  
and zealous in teaching Christian doctrine.  
We pray through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**MEMORIAL OF ALL THE SAINTS OF THE ORDER**  
**November 16**

As the Church celebrates the Feast of All Saints, so too does the Servite Family celebrate the memory of all the holy friars, nuns, sisters, and brothers and sisters of the Secular Order who have made the Order pleasing to Our Lord and Our Lady in their own time and are a continuing inspiration for others throughout the centuries to serve Our Lord and Our Lady faithfully.

**PRAYER**

Almighty God,  
graciously sustain in us the same spirit of service  
which you so generously gave  
to the holy men and women  
of the Order of Servants of Mary.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**BLESSED JEROME OF SANT'ANGELO IN VADO**  
**December 10**

Jerome was born in Sant'Angelo in Vado, Italy, at the beginning of the fifteenth century. While still a youth, he entered the Servite monastery in his native town, and after completing his studies he served there as a priest. Jerome is best known for his love of silence and solitude, his spirit of prayer, and his ability as a spiritual director. He died about 1468 and his cult was approved by Pius VI in 1775.

**PRAYER**

Lord God,  
you poured out the gifts of the Holy Spirit  
on Blessed Jerome.  
May he intercede for us,  
so that, filled with the wisdom of Christ,  
we may always act with prudence and discretion.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**BLESSED BONAVENTURE OF PISTOIA**  
**December 15**

Bonaventure was born in Pistoia, Italy, about 1250. Inspired to lead a holy life by the example of St. Philip, he entered the Servite Order and was ordained a priest. As prior of various monasteries, he showed great understanding and wisdom in directing their affairs. While he was prior in Montepulciano he received the profession of St. Agnes, a young woman of that town, and help her found a convent for nuns. He died in Orvieto about 1315. His body is venerated in the Servite church of Santissima Annunziata in Pistoia. Pius VII confirmed his cult in 1822.

**PRAYER**

Almighty God,  
grace our hearts  
with the gift of wise counsel  
so manifest in the life of Blessed Bonaventure,  
who was a spiritual guide  
for your dedicated servants.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

**SECTION IV**

**PRAYER FOR PARTICULAR OCCASIONS**

**AT MEETINGS AND FRATERNAL GATHERINGS**

We praise you, Father and Friend of all people. With Mary, Your Son's disciples received the gift of Your Spirit as they remained firm in unity and prayer.  
We bless Your Name for gathering us together as brothers and sisters.  
Renew Your love in our hearts  
and keep us strong in friendship,  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

AMEN.

## **PRAYER OF DEDICATION TO A LIFE OF PERFECTION AND SERVICE**

Lord and Friend,  
I rededicate myself as a Servant of Mary  
to a life of prayer and worship of You.  
May a song of praise be the constant melody of my heart.  
I recommit myself to serve the needs of those around me  
and the needs of all the world.  
May I find my salvation here at this time  
and in this place where now live.  
May my union with those who share my commitment  
be a source of confirmation and inspiration to me.  
AMEN.

## **PROMISE**

O God, every generous commitment has its origin in you.  
You make us Yours in Baptism and call us to follow  
the Lord Jesus in the religious family of Servants of Mary.  
Bless us.  
We ask that as Servants of Mary  
we can continue to learn from Mary  
to give witness to the Gospel.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
AMEN.

## **DAYS OF RETREAT**

O God of mysterious and hidden depth,  
You called your people to the desert  
to speak to their hearts  
and showed yourself on a mountain apart.  
Bless us.  
During this time of retreat  
show us your loving Plan of Life  
and the splendor of your face.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.  
AMEN.

## **PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS**

Heavenly Father, your divine Son taught us to pray to the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into his vineyard. We earnestly beg you to bless our Order and our world with many priests and religious who will love you fervently, and gladly and courageously spend their lives in service to your Son's church under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. We pray that their lives may be always centered on our Eucharistic Lord, that they be always faithful to the Holy Father, and that they may be devoted sons and daughters of Mary, our mother, in making you known and loved that all may



attain heaven. Bless our families, and our children and choose from our homes those whom you desire for this holy work. We ask this in Jesus' name. Amen.

### **FOR THE MISSIONS**

God our Father,  
you will all men to be saved  
and come to the knowledge of your truth.  
Send workers into your great harvest  
that the gospel may be preached to every creature  
and your people, gathered together by the word of life  
and strengthened by the power of the sacraments,  
may advance in the way of salvation and love.  
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.  
Amen.

### **FOR THE SICK**

All-powerful and ever-living God,  
the lasting health of all who believe in you, hear us as we ask your loving help  
for the sick;  
restore their health,  
that they may again offer joyful thanks in your Church.  
Grant this through our Lord  
Jesus Christ, your Son,  
who lives and reigns with you  
and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.  
Amen.

### **FOR THE DEAD**

**Ant. My soul counts on the word of the Lord because with the Lord is mercy  
and forgiveness.**

#### *Psalm 130*

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

If you, O Lord, should mark our guilt,  
Lord, who would survive?  
But with you is found forgiveness;  
for this we revere you.

My soul is waiting for the Lord,  
I count on his word.

My soul is longing for the Lord  
more than watchmen for daybreak.  
Let the watchman count on daybreak  
and Israel on the Lord.

Because with the Lord there is mercy

and fullness of redemption,  
Israel indeed he will redeem  
from all its iniquity.

**Ant. My soul counts on the word of the Lord because with the Lord is mercy and forgiveness.**

*All pray in silence for a while.*

*Prayer*

Lord,  
you have revealed that you forgive us even  
when we cannot forgive ourselves.  
Do not consider the hidden faults  
of our departed brothers and sisters,  
but hear our voice that cries to you from the depths.  
Grant our brothers and sisters  
the light that they longed for  
more than watchmen count on daybreak.  
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

All: Amen.

May the Lord receive our departed brothers and sisters into his light and peace.

All: Amen.

**REAFFIRMATION OF THE PROMISE**

Trusting in the Lord's grace,  
I promise to God  
to live the commitment of my baptismal consecration more intensely.

I will be faithful  
to my family and social obligations,  
and observe the Rule and Statutes  
of the Secular Order of Servants of Mary,  
in order to share the Servite vocation  
of service and loving union,

drawing inspiration always from Mary,  
Mother and Servant of the Lord.

May the intercession of Our Lady,  
and the love of my community  
support me in this commitment.

## **PRAYERS TO BE SAID AT ELECTIONS**

Then they prayed, “you, Lord, who know the hearts of all, show which one of these you have chosen...(Acts 1:24)

Inspired by the faith and trust of the disciples, we also pray that the Lord will lead us to select those whom he has chosen.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of your faithful, and kindle in them the fire of your love. Send forth your Spirit and they shall be created and you shall renew the face of the earth. O God, who did instruct the hearts of the faithful by the light of the Holy Spirit, grant us to be open to the promptings of the same Spirit and thereby be led to elect those whom he has chosen. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

## **Section V**

### **BIBLICAL REFERENCES**

### **TEACHINGS ABOUT - SOME OF LIFE'S PROBLEMS**

#### **Extravagance**

I Tim. 6:7-12..

#### **Pride**

I John 2:15-17.

#### **Falsehood**

Rev. 21:8 .....

#### **Revenge**

Matt. 5:43-48..

#### **Faultfinding**

Matt. 7:1-5 ...

#### **Self-exultation**

Luke 14: 11 ...

#### **Fear**

Luke 12:5 ....

#### **Self -righteousness**

Luke 18:11, 12.

**Flesh**

Rom. 13:14

**Sin**

John 8:34-36

**Greed**

Luke 12:15-31.

**Submission**

I Peter 2:13-17.

**Hatred**

Matt 5:43-48

**Swearing**

Colos. 3:8

**Intemperance**

Prov. 20: 1

**Judging**

Matt. 7:1

**Temptation**

I Cor. 10:13..

**Tribulation**

1 John 2:15-17.

**WHERE TO FIND HELP, When**

Afraid

Psalm 34:4

Matt. 10:28

II Tim. 1:7

Heb. 13:5, 6

Anxious

Psalm 46

Matt. 6:19-34

Phil. 4:6

I Peter 5:6, 7.

Bereaved

Matt. 5.4

II Cor. 1:3, 4

Bitter or Critical

I Cor. 13

Depressed  
Psalm 34

Disaster Threatens  
Psalm 91  
Psa. 118:5, 6  
Luke 8:22-25

Discouraged  
Psalm 23  
Psa. 42:6-11  
Psalm 55:22  
Matt. 5:11, 12.  
II Cor. 4:8-18  
Phil. 4:4-7

Doubting  
Matthew 8:26  
Heb. 11.

Facing a Crisis  
Psalm 121  
Matt. 6:25-34 .  
Heb. 4:16

Friends Fail  
Psa. 41:9-13  
Luke 17:3, 4  
Rom. 12:14, 17,  
11 Tim. 4:16-18

Lonely  
Psalm 23  
Heb. 13:5, 6

Needing Guidance  
Psalm 32; 8  
Prov. 3:5, 6

Needing Peace  
1John, 14:1-4  
John 16:33  
Rom. 5:1-5  
Phil. 4:6, 7

Prayerful  
Psalm 4  
Psalm 42  
Luke 11:1-13  
John 17

I John 5:14, 15

Sick or in Pain

Psalm 38

James 5:14-15

Rom. 8:28, 38 - 39.

2 Cor. 12:9-10

I Peter 4: 11, 13, 19

Sorrowful

Psalm 51

Matt. 5:4

John 14

II Cor. 1: 3, 4

I Thes. 4:13-18

Tempted

ADVANCE \d1Psalm 1

Psa. 139:23, 24

Matt. 26:41

I Cor. 10:12-14

Phil. 4:8

James 4:7

11 Peter 2:9

11 Peter 3:17

Thankful

Psalm 100

I Thes. 5:18

Heb. 13:15

Worried

Matt. 6:19-34.

I Peter 5:6, 7