

## My Mother, My Confidence!

Dear Pro Sanctity Family and Friends,

We know it's been a difficult and trying year for all in some way. We have encountered many disappointments, losses, and fears. The future is unpredictable and unknown. And yet, we still have a choice: do we give in to despair or do we trust God? Do we trust Him sometimes or with everything? Perhaps you are thinking, "Everything seems upside-down and crazy and it is hard to trust!" You are not the only one with this belief. It is hard to trust when we try to do things with our own strength. Our Founder, Bishop Giaquinta, has directed us to follow a worthy model of trust, Our Lady of Trust. He said, "*Where does Mary find her trust and where do we find our trust, our serenity, and our certainty? By being fully open to what the Lord asks from us: the root of our serenity lies in this openness, in this acceptance.*" Trust is a gift we can ask for in abundance from our generous and loving Father in Heaven. Our Lady wants to accompany us and teach us her way of trust that leads to her Son who makes all things new.

We are now being offered the opportunity to pray together and ask for the gift of trust not just for ourselves but for our brothers and sisters who live in fear and darkness. Please join us on Feb. 5th-13th for the Novena for the Feast Day of Our Lady of Trust.

Here are some ways you can participate:

- ◆ Pray the novena in your home, with family or friends
- ◆ Join us online at 7:00 PM Pacific Time to pray together (the meeting link can be found at: <https://caprosanctity.org/events/> or send an email requesting the link to: [caprosanctity@prosantcity.org](mailto:caprosanctity@prosantcity.org))
- ◆ Join us online on Sunday, February 14th, at 7:00 PM to share the graces received from the Novena or email graces received to: [caprosanctity@prosantcity.org](mailto:caprosanctity@prosantcity.org)
- ◆ Invite others to pray the Novena and give away the image of Our Lady of Trust and prayer (ask for supplies from the Pro Sanctity Center!)

United in the Hearts of Jesus and Mary,  
The Apostolic Oblates, Joan, Renee, and Cathy

*O Immaculate Heart of Mary, true model of every holiness,  
give trust to become saints!*

# Our Lady of Trust Novena

2021



PRO SANCTITY MOVEMENT

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

|  |    |
|--|----|
| Prayer to Our Lady of Trust.....                         | 4  |
| Why We Celebrate Our Lady of Trust.....                  | 5  |
| How We Celebrate the Feast of Our Lady of Trust.....     | 8  |
| A Meditation on Our Lady of Trust.....                   | 9  |
| Novena Day 1: <i>Model of Trust</i> .....                | 10 |
| Novena Day 2: <i>Docile to the Holy Spirit</i> .....     | 12 |
| Novena Day 3: <i>Trustworthy Disciple</i> .....          | 14 |
| Novena Day 4: <i>A Mother Who Does Not Abandon</i> ..... | 16 |
| Novena Day 5: <i>Our Smiling Mother</i> .....            | 18 |
| Novena Day 6: <i>Our Mother in Every Age</i> .....       | 20 |
| Novena Day 7: <i>Model of Contemplation</i> .....        | 22 |
| Novena Day 8: <i>Our Patroness and Queen</i> .....       | 24 |
| Novena Day 9: <i>Source of Confidence</i> .....          | 26 |

## PRAYER TO OUR LADY OF TRUST

Drawn by the need of your help in the many trials that  
engulf us in this life,  
we come to your feet, O Virgin of Trust,  
to pour out to the heart of a mother our wishes and failings.

Although it is our duty to strive for perfection,  
it is also true that our mortal body  
makes the path difficult,  
and the enemies of our soul  
cease not from their attacks,  
while everywhere we are enticed to leave  
the difficult and straight way known by only a few travelers.

And all the while, our suffering along the way,  
our own interior weakness and temptations  
press heavily to torment us and produce in our souls  
a feeling of faintness and sadness,  
which means only one thing: distrust,  
in ourselves, in our ideal, in the means to attain it.

But your motherly look which follows us,  
and your Immaculate Heart,  
which your Son points out to us,  
open our souls to a new feeling:  
the assurance of your help.

And we want it, O Mary.  
We ask it of you, we beg for it, O loving Mother.

When sin entices us, stay with us and be our strength.  
When mediocrity absorbs us, do not leave us.  
When the ascent to the perfection of the Father leaves us weary,  
whisper a word of help, O Mary: trust!

If we will listen to this word of yours,  
the way will be easier, the goal closer,  
and our confidence more certain that we shall reach sanctity.  
So repeat this word often: trust.  
Repeat it to us and to everybody, O Mary,  
because all people must become saints. Amen.

## WHY WE CELEBRATE THE FEAST OF OUR LADY OF TRUST

Our Lady of Trust has long been the Patroness of the Apostolic Oblates and of the Pro Sanctity Movement. The gift of her protection and guidance was fostered by the deep devotion of our founder, Bishop Guglielmo Giaquinta. As a seminarian in the Major Seminary of St. John Lateran in Rome, he encountered the image and cultivated this devotion. In a homily given on February 20, 1977, Bishop Giaquinta provided material for meditation expressed through his own thoughts on Our Lady of Trust:



*“It seems to me that the trust of Our Lady has its roots in a poverty open to acceptance. The Madonna knows she is a poor creature, but exactly for this reason she can count on the omnipotence of God: God, the all-powerful, has chosen her precisely because she was poor, and Our Lady has at the same time the awareness both of her poverty and of her richness that comes from trusting in the omnipotence of God.*

*The second element is openness to acceptance because the Madonna has the certainty that nothing happens by chance. Our Lady does not conceive of life’s events as happening by chance or that she has met up with blind fate. Chance does not exist – rather, there is the grand reality of the love of God, to this God who makes himself sweetly or strongly part of her life, and SHE LETS HIM TAKE OVER.*

*Here we have the source of trust in Our Lady: her poverty, the richness of God, the certainty that what befalls her is an expression of love, an expression of the will of God. When all problems increase, when injustice seems obvious, how is it possible to think that also in these cases there is the will of God and His*

love that weaves through our life? To believe is the source of trust. These thoughts on Our Lady are not just words, because they are expressed concretely in her existence, an existence that one sees turned inside out by the word and will of God.”



The devotion to the Mary of Trust image is generally attributed to the Venerable Sister Clair Isabella Fornari. Sister Clair was born in Rome on June 25, 1697 and died on Dec. 9, 1744. Throughout her life Sister Clair received the gift of many mystical experiences and had a special devotion to sacred images, especially those with Mary with the Child Jesus. Devotion to the image, later known as *Madonna della Fiducia*, *Our Lady of Confidence*, was promoted by Father Gazali, a spiritual director of Sister Clair. She gave him an image of Our Lady and the Infant Jesus with his index finger pointing to the heart of Mary. The image is oval in shape and framed with pewter. The image was kept in a glass-faced pewter box. Within the container, along with the image, were relics of saints and the Wood of the Cross. Father Gazali carried the image with him when he traveled and found a great sense of peace and consolation from it. This image remained with Father Gazali until his death on July 29, 1762. After his death, the image was given to the Sisters of the Monastery of St. Francis of Todi where it remains today.

Father Crivelli, a Jesuit, was also a spiritual advisor to Sister Clair, as well as being a spiritual director to the seminary of the German College in Rome. When Father Crivelli was seriously ill, Sister Clair sent him the original painting and he was immediately healed. He was so moved by this healing that he immediately wanted a copy of the painting, which he then took to the local seminary in Rome. Devotion to the image grew at the seminary so that by the 1830's Our Lady of Confidence became the patroness of the Major Seminary and the prayer: "My Mother, My Confidence" became popular.

Multiple graces were received through this devotion. In 1837, an outbreak of cholera ravaged the country. The seminarians and their families placed themselves under the protection of Our Lady



of Confidence, and not one of them contracted the disease. As an act of thanksgiving, two crowns were fashioned in gold and placed on the painting by Cardinal Carlo Odescalchi, who at the time was the general vicar of Pope Gregory XVI.

As Italy entered into World War I, the seminarians in the military entrusted their protection to Our Lady of Confidence. All but one seminarian returned unharmed from the war. The Major Seminary honored Our Lady by adding the gold frame around the image.

In the 1930's, Guglielmo Giaquinta, a young seminarian for the diocese of Rome, fell in love with the image of Our Lady of Confidence at the Major Seminary. Giaquinta entrusted his vocation, his family, and all of his cares to the heart of Our Lady. Throughout the years, his love for Our Lady deepened as he discerned and received the charism to form the Pro Sanctity Movement and its associated institutes (Apostolic Oblates, Apostolic Sodales, and Social Animators). Bishop Giaquinta eventually made Our Lady of Trust the patroness of both the Apostolic Oblates and the Pro Sanctity Movement. He asked an artist to repaint the image, removing the crowns, and most notably, arranging Jesus' hand to point directly at the radiating heart of Our Lady. Highlighting her Immaculate Heart, Bishop Giaquinta reveals the secret to growing in holiness: *trust*. Our Lady of Trust not only wants to be our model of trust, but also our mother who teaches us how to entrust everything to her Son. The feast day of Our Lady of Trust of the Immaculate Heart is universally celebrated on the Sunday before Ash Wednesday.



*O Immaculate Heart of Mary, true model of every holiness,  
give trust to become saints!*

## HOW WE CELEBRATE THE FEAST OF OUR LADY OF TRUST

- Placing the image in a prominent place of honor in the home
- Praying the Novena
- Praying the prayer to Our Lady of Trust
- Spreading devotion by telling people about it and giving away the image of Our Lady of Trust
- Praying the Rosary
- Gathering with other Pro Sanctity Members on the feast day, the Sunday before Ash Wednesday each year
- Sharing the Graces received from the novena and through Our Lady's intercession

## NOVENA IN PREPARATION FOR THE FEAST OF OUR LADY OF TRUST

Consider your intentions and ask for Our Lady's intercession

Read the Words from the Founder

Pray the Rosary

Pray the Prayer to Our Lady of Trust

Notice the graces received: how you grow in trust under Our Lady's guidance and how she is with you

Share these graces and devotion with others

## A MEDITATION ON OUR LADY OF TRUST



Our Lady of Trust is the Madonna of tenderness. Mary receives and accepts the enthusiastic embrace of the Baby who with His right arm tenderly clasps His mother's neck and with His left points to her heart.

The focal point of the composition is the space between the faces of Jesus and Mary and between their hearts. This space is an iconographic representation of the "Breath" of the Holy Spirit that rests on the Word made man, the Son of Mary, and that is poured out upon us.

The dark background of the painting represents the dimension of the divine that goes beyond time and space. The flowing robes of our Lady with their vibrant colors convey the honor that is given to her as the Theotokos, the God-bearer. The blue mantle symbolizes the Divinity; the red dress identifies Mary as the Mother of God; and the white scarf around Mary's neck represents her acceptance of the mystery of salvation and the plan of God. Although the Baby Jesus is naked, He is warmed by the reassuring arms of His mother who wraps and covers Him with the white cloth.

In its strong yet gentle features, the face of the Theotokos is the face of Mother Church generating and molding God's people into the image of her Son. In the heart of every person, in joyful moments as in sorrowful ones, two old affections are associated; two dear words are united to each other: Mother and Trust. These two words intertwine almost instinctively in a prayer: My Mother, My Confidence!

(Giuliana Spigone, former General Moderator of the Apostolic Oblates, March 2, 2003)

## NOVENA DAY 1

### *Model of Trust*

*Consider your intentions and ask for Our Lady's intercession*

**From the Writings of Bishop Giaquinta:** *I want instead this morning to just touch on another theme: why do we turn to Our Lady of Trust? Certainly because we have trust in her, because we have need of her help, but at the same time because she is for us, the model of trust. She is the model for the trust she had in God: "Ecce, Behold, Fiat, Be it done to me." Are signs of her abandonment to the Lord and therefore of her trust. Our Lady certainly more than St. Paul could say, "I know in whom I have believed." But I want to make you note another aspect: the trust that God has been able to have in Mary. God has been able to count on her. Our Lady then appears to us as someone on whom God had been able to depend, in whom He has placed His trust. I make this point to go on its application to us: let us ask ourselves if God can count on us, can have trust in us. He has had trust in the Madonna because the Madonna has lived in a way so that He could. Above all, in the moment in which His plan from all eternity met with, we could say, a fragile free-creature—at least Mary could have been able to say "No"—God was not disappointed; He could count on Mary; His trust had a positive result. (Feb. 2, 1977)*

**Rosary: Rosary #43 WHISPER A WORD...TRUST (Rosary Collection, 2001)**

*Trust is the theme of our Rosary and Mary is the model of Trust on whom we will meditate. She is the model of trust because she knew how to risk and risk everything out of love for Jesus. And so we turn to Mary and we ask her to whisper that sacred word in our hearts, trust -- repeat it often Mary until we become saints!*

**FIRST MYSTERY:** Many of us think that when the Blessed Virgin gave her "Fiat, be it done to me" that she already had the clear plan of what of what her life would become. This is not true. Our Lady lived with a certain amount of understanding of salvation, but she also lived by faith. There

were many things she did not know. She did know one thing for sure, how to accept with love the risk of faith.

**SECOND MYSTERY:** Risk in faith is a participation in the unconditional love of Jesus for the Father and all persons: this is the real motive for which we accept it, rather, choose and love it. Mary said it and accepted it first: "Behold...be it done to me as you say."

**THIRD MYSTERY:** Risk in faith is proof of our love for the Lord. Mary did not know what was going to happen to her but she said yes anyway, this was her act of love for the Lord: for love she faced the greatest of risks, the loss of her integrity before others.

**FOURTH MYSTERY:** There was no "earthly" security in Mary's life that would assure her that everything would turn out all right. Mary had to trust and in order to trust she had to draw the strength from deep within her being. She dug deep and responded peacefully and positively to the Lord.

**FIFTH MYSTERY:** Mary risked everything in order to be obedient to the Lord's request. She renounced her own will, judgment, vision and experience in order to immerse herself in the reality of faith and the mystery of trust.

**CLOSING PRAYER:** Mary, we are in need of your help. Our lives are filled with trials that cause us to mistrust ourselves, others and especially our God. We come to you Mary, mother, friend and companion and we pour out our needs, our wishes and admit our failings. Help us now, intercede for us and whisper a word of Trust in our hearts. We love you Mary and we want to trust as you trusted: "Be it done to me according to your will."

Close with *Prayer to Our Lady of Trust*, pg. 4

*Notice the graces you receive today and how Our Lady is with you:*

## NOVENA DAY 2

### *Docile to the Holy Spirit*

*Consider your intentions and ask for Our Lady's intercession*

**From the Writings of Bishop Giaquinta:** *We can think of the Holy Spirit, of the ceaseless interior motions He has had within Mary—we know it implicitly, we could say, we have knowledge of it from the mystery of the Spirit's action in souls—the effect of leading this woman, a creature like all others, fragile, who could be crushed by all the great events that befall her, from the beginning, to the top of Calvary. The Immaculate, she who adhered fully to the plan of the Father, could not but follow faithfully the single movements of the Spirit who therefore had trust in her, who could count on her. (Feb. 2, 1977)*

**Rosary: Rosary #41 RISK, Bishop Giaquinta's meditation on "Risk" (Rosary Collection, 2001)**

**FIRST MYSTERY:** Let us meditate on what it means to risk, to dare, to let go and let God, to lay ourselves on the line and declare "Your will be done, use me as you will."

**SECOND MYSTERY:** Let us meditate on how we can be instruments that are docile to the action of the Holy Spirit. To risk is an act of faith in the Holy Spirit working in our lives.

**THIRD MYSTERY:** Let us pray in this mystery for the courage to risk and look at the real needs of others, of the Church and of the world. We pray also for strength to respond positively to what we find.

**FOURTH MYSTERY:** Entering into a committed life is a risk of love! Let us pray again for the courage to wholeheartedly commit us to God's project of love.

**FIFTH MYSTERY:** Finally we ponder over the example that Mary, a woman who dared to risk, gave to us. May she inspire in us her same dedication and love in our call to risk it all for God's plan of love.

Close with the *Prayer to Our Lady of Trust*, pg. 4

*Notice the graces you receive today and how Our Lady is with you:*

## NOVENA DAY 3

### *Trustworthy Disciple*

*Consider your intentions and ask for Our Lady's intercession*

**From the Writings of Bishop Giaquinta:** *And Christ? Christ goes before, I would say, with a giant step and the Mother follows: one would be tempted at times to think that she precedes Him, as for example in the episode of the wedding at Cana, where she almost pushed her Son on, so that from being somewhat anonymous He was launched into public life, into things prestigious and miraculous. Christ can count on the fidelity of Mary; He can have trust in her. (Feb. 2, 1977)*

#### **Rosary: Our Lady of Trust Rosary**

**First Mystery:** Let us contemplate Mary in the scene of the annunciation: (Luke 1: 26-38). Mary is the model of trust. She is the model for the trust she had in God: "Ecce, Behold; Fiat, be it done to me" are signs of her abandonment to the Lord.

**Second Mystery:** Let us contemplate the last words of Elizabeth to Mary: "Blessed is she who trusted the Lord's word to her would be fulfilled" (Lk. 1:45). Our Lady then appears to us as someone on whom God has been able to depend in whom He has placed His trust. Let us ask ourselves if God can count on us, can have trust in us.

**Third Mystery:** Let us contemplate Mary before the Christ Child in the manger: "Mary treasured all these things and reflected on them in her heart." (Lk. 2:19) We can think of the Holy Spirit, of the ceaseless interior motions he had within Mary, she who adhered fully to the plan of the Father, could not but follow faithfully the single movements of the Spirit who therefore had trust in her, who could count on her.

**Fourth Mystery:** Let us contemplate Mary at the wedding of Cana, (Jn. 2:1) Christ goes before, I would say with a giant step and the Mother follows. Christ can count on the fidelity of Mary, He can have trust in her.

### **Fifth Mystery**

Let us contemplate Mary at the foot of the cross of Christ: (Jn. 19:25-27). Even though Our Lady had reasons not to trust, Mary accepts with faith, with serenity, and with trust...she had trust in the love of God, and she was open to acceptance of the mystery, open in every moment, from the encounter with the angel to the encounter with the cross.

Close with the *Prayer to Our Lady of Trust*, pg. 4

*Notice the graces you receive today and how Our Lady is with you:*

## NOVENA DAY 4

### *A Mother Who Does Not Abandon Us*

*Consider your intentions and ask for Our Lady's intercession*

**From the Writings of Bishop Giaquinta:** *From these simple considerations the application to us are obvious: what is the degree of trust that the Father, the Spirit, the Son can have in us? What is the degree of trust the Church has, the world, the Institute, in each of us? These are questions undoubtedly strong and demanding, that in general we usually answer out of our poverty—certainly a fascinating theme, but that gives also the possibility of escaping the reality of the problems: we are poor, we are miserable, we are creatures not yet finished, we are in the time of “not yet” and the Lord is merciful...All very true, theologically: however, there remains the reality of an unfulfilled duty, the fact that God cannot count on us. The problem of trust becomes therefore a problem of great responsibility. Our Lady of Trust then appears to us under the other aspect, as a Mother who helps us carry out our responsibility in a way that the Lord can have trust in us. (Feb. 2, 1977)*

**Rosary: Mary, Mother of the Word (All meditations are taken from Benedict XVI's Verbum Domini)**

**In the first mystery, we contemplate Mary's obedient faith and our call to this faith, by which Christ transforms the world.** *The human reality created through the word finds its most perfect image in Mary's obedient faith. Her obedient faith shapes her life at every moment before God's plan. A Virgin ever attentive to God's word, she lives completely attuned to that word; she treasures in her heart the events of her Son, piecing them together as if in a single mosaic (cf. Lk 2:19,51) (VD, 27).*

**In the second mystery, we contemplate Mary's communion with the Word and our call to ever-increasing interiority so we can respond with Mary: fiat.** *Here we see how completely at home Mary is with the word of God, with ease she moves in and out of it. She speaks and thinks with the word of God; the*

word of God becomes her word, and her word issues from the word of God. Here we see how her thoughts are attuned to the thoughts of God, how her will is one with the will of God. Since Mary is completely imbued with the word of God, she is able to become the Mother of the Word Incarnate" (VD, 28)

**In the third mystery, we contemplate Mary's attentiveness as she eagerly seeks the Word in every moment and our call to receptivity and responsiveness.** *Mary is the image of the Church in attentive hearing of the word of God, which took flesh in her. Mary also symbolizes openness to God and others; an active listening which interiorizes and assimilates, one in which the word becomes a way of life (Benedict VD, 27).*

**In the fourth mystery we contemplate Mary's authentic witness to the presence of Christ's Word and our call to respond maximally to the demands of the Gospel with lives of holiness.** *And it is the Church's gift and inescapable duty to communicate that joy, born of an encounter with the person of Christ, the Word of God in our midst... There is no greater priority than this: to enable the people of our time once more to encounter God, the God who speaks to us and shares his love so that we might have life in abundance (cf. Jn 10:10) (VD, 2).*

**In the fifth mystery, we contemplate Mary's devotion to quenching the thirst of Christ for souls and the thirst of souls for Christ and our call to respond to the maximum to this law of love.** *We cannot keep to ourselves the words of eternal life given to us in our encounter with Jesus Christ: they are meant for everyone, for every man and woman. Everyone today, whether he or she knows it or not, needs this message. May the Lord himself, as in the time of the prophet Amos, raise up in our midst a new hunger and thirst for the word of God (cf. Am 8:11). It is our responsibility to pass on what, by God's grace, we ourselves have received (VD, 91).*

Close with the *Prayer to Our Lady of Trust*, pg. 4  
Notice the graces you receive today and how Our Lady is with you:

## NOVENA DAY 5

### *Our Smiling Mother Along the Way*

*Consider your intentions and ask for Our Lady's intercession*

**From the Writings of Bishop Giaquinta:** *In all our chapels there is always a picture of Our Lady of Trust. For us this aspect of the divine motherhood present in our midst is essential; we are all born of a mother both in the natural order and in the supernatural order. And, as being born of a mother in the natural order gives a certain manner, a certain tone, should at least give a certain lifestyle, so also being spiritually born by the heavenly mother, by the Madonna, must give us a particular tone, though still in an incarnate way. In various ways Our Lady must influence us and not simply in the abstract but on a concrete level, because grace is a concrete reality, even if not visible, because we need an incarnated spirituality. (Our Style Retreat, 1987)*

**Rosary: Mary, Star of Evangelization**

**First Mystery: Our Missionary Journey with Mary**

We recognize in the Virgin Mary who goes to visit her kinswoman Elizabeth the clearest example and the truest meaning of our journey as believers and of the journey of the Church herself. The Church is missionary by her very nature, she is called to proclaim the Gospel everywhere and always and to pass on the faith to every man and woman, and to every culture. (Benedict XVI, May 31, 2010)

**Second Joyful Mystery: Mary Accompanies Us**

"Mary arose and went with haste into the hill country, to a city of Judah" (Lk 1: 39). Mary's is a real missionary journey. It leads her far from home, impels her into the world to places alien to her daily habits; in a certain sense it stretches her to her maximum capacity...And it is once again the Lord who sets us on this path beside Mary as our travelling companion and caring mother. She reassures us, for she reminds us that the Son, her Jesus, is always with us as he promised: "I am with you always, to the close of the age" (Mt 28: 20).

(Benedict XVI, May 31, 2010)

**Third Joyful Mystery: Mary Witnesses to Us**

May Our Lady escort each of us daily, as we also go in "haste" to bring Jesus to those we live with, then to others we encounter in the simple things of everyday life. May Our Lady help us to see Jesus in others and care for them, as if we are caring for Jesus Himself. (Benedict XVI, May 31, 2010)

**Fourth Joyful Mystery: Mary's Gift to Us**

Yet Mary's charity does not stop at material assistance but reaches its summit in giving Jesus himself, in "favoring an encounter with him". Once again, it is St Luke who emphasizes this: "When Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb" (Lk 1: 41). We are thus at the heart and culmination of the evangelizing mission. We have come to the truest meaning and most genuine purpose of every missionary journey: to give people the living and personal Gospel which is the Lord Jesus himself. (Benedict XVI, May 31, 2010)

**Fifth Joyful Mystery: Mary Invites Us to Respond**

Jesus is the only true treasure to give to humanity that we possess. It is for him that the men and women of our time have a deep longing, even when they seem to ignore or to reject him...Let us live it with joy and commitment, so that ours may truly be a civilization in which truth, justice, freedom and love prevail, the fundamental and irreplaceable pillars of a true orderly and peaceful coexistence. Let us live this responsibility by devoting ourselves to listening to the word of God in brotherly union, to the breaking of bread and the prayers (cf. Acts 2: 42).

Close with the *Prayer to Our Lady of Trust*, pg. 4

*Notice the graces you receive today and how Our Lady is with you:*

## NOVENA DAY 6

### *Our Mother in Every Age*

*Consider your intentions and ask for Our Lady's intercession*

**From the Writings of Bishop Giaquinta:** *Our Lady, precisely because she is our mother, must help us in this particular trait to be acquired, in this human tone, so that on the one hand we feel we are children and on the other that we are brothers in our communities because we all have this common mother who is Our Lady of Trust. Go to India, go to Belgium, go to America, and always find our Lady of Trust. It gives us a style, a tone, a unity, it makes us feel like brothers, children; besides the fact that this Marian trait shows us some virtues, some aspects that are essential in our spirituality (think for example of humility, gentleness, generous giving that we find in the Madonna) and that must characterize our life...But for the sake of Our Lady we can become such. It is the Madonna who teaches us to be like herself. (Our Style Retreat, 1987)*

#### **Rosary: Our Lady of Joyful Trust**

##### **First Joyful Mystery: The Annunciation**

God does not command the impossible: *God is faithful* {1 Cor. 1-9}. Therefore we can do His will with trust and with a supernatural spirit, not to show off, or because others see us, or hold us in high esteem, or judge us well. All these things are foolishness because the Lord alone is the One who is to judge us well. Thus let us do everything for Him with a supernatural spirit, with generosity, total self-offering and with all our strength. (Charity, Giaquinta) *Consider the heart of Mary when she hears the angel's words, "for nothing will be impossible for God."*

##### **Second Joyful Mystery: The Visitation**

Charity is benevolent; it does 'good' out of love for our Lord and not for self-interest....Charity does not become discouraged; it knows how to wait, it knows how to hope; it does not stop to look at obstacles nor spend time creating obstacles. Charity hopes, trusts, overcomes difficulties, and

bears all. (*Charity, Giaquinta*) Consider the heart of Elizabeth when she cries, “And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?”

### **Third Joyful Mystery: The Birth of Our Lord**

Mary has towards us—as well as toward Jesus, toward God—a love that started in time but that has never ended. Just as she was our mother then, so too today she is our mother who continually assists us. This is why we have so much trust in her, and we invoke her and call her mother, because in reality she is our mother who has given us birth spiritually. (*Charity, Giaquinta*) Consider the heart of the shepherds when they went in haste and found Mary and Joseph, and the infant lying in the manger.

### **Fourth Joyful Mystery: The Presentation in the Temple**

Mary accepts what seems humanly absurd – indeed it is so! - with faith, serenity, and trust, and she abandons herself to the Lord. The mystery of God Who empties Himself; of His love for humanity that moves Him to choose a strange, humanly unimaginable way, strikes Mary who meditates, tries to go deeper, and trusts....Where does Mary find her trust and where do we find our trust, our serenity, and our certainty? By being fully open to what the Lord asks from us: the root of our serenity lies in this openness, in this acceptance. (Feast of Our Lady of Trust, February 20, 1977) Consider how your heart has been pierced in union with Jesus.

### **Fifth Joyful Mystery: The Finding of Jesus in the Temple**

What do we call in common, everyday language the awareness of the impoverished choice made by God and the awareness that the mission entrusted to us is beyond our abilities? The name is very simple: humility—that is, the perception of our own littleness, of our own nothingness and, therefore, referring all to God: He is all; He chooses, and He chose me. (*The Witness, Giaquinta*) Consider the Heart of Jesus as He does the will of His Father.

Close with the *Prayer to Our Lady of Trust*, pg. 4

Notice the graces you receive today and how Our Lady is with you:

## NOVENA DAY 7

### *Model of Contemplation*

*Consider your intentions and ask for Our Lady's intercession*

**From the Writings of Bishop Giaquinta:** *Furthermore, I should not forget this important element: Trust in Our Lady. But most of all in the Lord. It is rather strange - you see - the fact that we love Our Lady - Our Lady of Trust - believe in the Eucharist, receive communion every day and then... Where is the help, the strength, the energy and the enthusiasm that should come from our contact with the Eucharist, our prayer to Mary, the rosary, etc.? We have just recited a marvelous rosary, but who is thinking of it anymore? What was its impact in our life? What about our prayers to the Lord? That prayer that should always be with us...I have highlighted these points: We do not "lock ourselves into the room" in order to rattle prayer after prayer, words after words; rather, we enter there because it is there that the Lord sees us as we fulfill, so to speak, the three moments of our prayer: the waiting, the desire to speak with the Father and then our prayerful gazing - a simple and trust-filled gazing: "I look at Him and He looks at me." And finally, the abiding sense of longing to see Him face-to-face. This is prayer. But how much of our prayer consists of these three moments? (Mystery Retreat, 1992)*

**Rosary: Mary, Teach Us How to Pray the Rosary** (Meditations taken from: John Paul II, *Rosarium Virginis Mariae*)

**First Mystery:** "And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun" (Mt 17:2). The Gospel scene of Christ's transfiguration, in which the three Apostles Peter, James and John appear entranced by the beauty of the Redeemer, can be seen as *an icon of Christian contemplation*. To look upon the face of Christ, to recognize its mystery amid the daily events and the sufferings of his human life, and then to grasp the divine splendor definitively revealed in the Risen Lord, seated in glory at the right hand of the Father: this is the task of every follower of Christ and therefore the task of each one of us.

**Second Mystery:** In contemplating Christ's face we become open to receiving the mystery of Trinitarian life, experiencing ever anew the love of the Father and delighting in the joy of the Holy Spirit. Saint Paul's words can then be applied to us: "Beholding the glory of the Lord, we are being changed into his likeness, from one degree of glory to another; for this comes from the Lord who is the Spirit" (2 Cor 3:18).

**Third Mystery:** The contemplation of Christ has an *incomparable model* in Mary. In a unique way the face of the Son belongs to Mary. It was in her womb that Christ was formed, receiving from her a human resemblance which points to an even greater spiritual closeness. No one has ever devoted himself to the contemplation of the face of Christ as faithfully as Mary. The eyes of her heart already turned to him at the Annunciation, when she conceived him by the power of the Holy Spirit.

**Fourth Mystery:** In the months that followed she began to sense his presence and to picture his features. When at last she gave birth to him in Bethlehem, her eyes were able to gaze tenderly on the face of her Son, as she "wrapped him in swaddling cloths, and laid him in a manger"(Lk2:7). Thereafter Mary's gaze, ever filled with adoration and wonder, would never leave him. At times it would be a questioning look, as in the episode of the finding in the Temple: "Son, why have you treated us so?"(Lk 2:48); it would always be a penetrating gaze, one capable of deeply understanding Jesus, even to the point of perceiving his hidden feelings and anticipating his decisions, as at Cana.(Jn 2:5)

**Fifth Mystery:** At other times it would be a look of sorrow, especially beneath the Cross, where her vision would still be that of a mother giving birth, for Mary not only shared the passion and death of her Son, she also received the new son given to her in the beloved disciple (cf. Jn 19:26-27). On the morning of Easter hers would be a gaze radiant with the joy of the Resurrection, and finally, on the day of Pentecost, a gaze afire with the outpouring of the Spirit (cf. Acts 1:14).

Close with the *Prayer to Our Lady of Trust*, pg. 4  
Notice the graces you receive today and how *Our Lady* is with you:

## NOVENA DAY 8

### *Our Patroness and Queen*

*Consider your intentions and ask for Our Lady's intercession*

**From the Writings of Bishop Giaquinta:** *Next to our devotion to Jesus, there is our devotion to Mary, our Heavenly Mother. The special aspect under which we love to consider and to invoke her is contained in the invocation, "Mater Mea, Fiducia Mea" – "My Mother, My Confidence!" Mary is our mother and, therefore, our trust. She is the mother of our Institute, its patroness, and its queen, as she is mother, patroness, and queen of each individual Oblate. The above invocation is the summary of our feelings of love and gratitude for Mary who, as our Mother, is the source of our supernatural life; as our patroness, may do with us whatever she pleases; and as our queen, is at the center of our spiritual life. Let no one think, however, that this aspect of Trust - under which we honor the Blessed Virgin - is simply the result of tradition or of an idea issued by the one who conceived and founded the Institute. The devotion to our Blessed Mother of Trust constitutes one of the essential foundations of our life as Oblates. To invoke the Blessed Virgin with confidence is to admit our helplessness and to become rooted in holy humility. (Program of Spiritual Life)*

### **Rosary: Contemplating the Maternal Heart of Mary**

*(Meditations adapted from Eucharistic Prayer of the votive Mass for the Immaculate Heart of Mary.)*

### **The First Mystery: The Annunciation**

Father, "You gave the Blessed Virgin Mary a wise and obedient heart, that she might perfectly carry out your will". Through her intercession, may we too, ponder the Will of God with docility and respond to His requests with trust in His love.

### **The Second Mystery: The Visitation**

Father, You made Mary's heart a "spotless mirror" and the "image of your goodness". (cf. Wis. 7:26). Sanctify Christ in our hearts so we may magnify the gift of Your eternal love,

and with Mary, proclaim to our brother and sisters the “reason for our hope” (cf. 1 Pt. 3:15).

### **The Third Mystery: The Birth of Christ**

Father, “You gave [Mary] an undivided and pure heart, that she might be worthy to be the Virgin Mother of your Son and to rejoice to see you forever.” Make our hearts pure and transparent so that we may “remain in You” (cf. Jn. 15:5) and be truly available to Your plan of love.

### **The Fourth Mystery: The Presentation**

Father, You gave Mary “a new and gentle heart, in which you were well pleased and on which you inscribed the law of the New Covenant.” Make us attentive to the Word of God, inscribed on our hearts, through the gift of the Eucharist.

### **The Fifth Mystery: The Finding of Jesus in the Temple**

Father, “You gave her a steadfast and watchful heart, so that she could endure without fear the sword of sorrow and await in faith the resurrection of her Son.” With Mary, may we enter into the “sentiments of the heart of Jesus” and find “that in Him, the Incarnate Word, everything functions for the sake of others.” (Bishop Giaquinta)

Close with the *Prayer to Our Lady of Trust*, pg. 4

*Notice the graces you receive today and how Our Lady is with you:*

## NOVENA DAY 9

### Source of Confidence

*Consider your intentions and ask for Our Lady's intercession*

**From the Writings of Bishop Giaquinta:** *We need our Mother because we are helpless; we need to turn to her with confidence as to the One who can supply strength against our helplessness. Paraphrasing one of St. Paul's statements we say, "I am not alone, but the grace of her is with me" (Cf. 1 Cor 15:10). Of this grace we are not merely hopeful, but certain, because we know that Mary has a great maternal love for us. We are sure about her love, and most of all, sure of the powerful mediation she exercises on behalf of the Mystical Body and consequently on our behalf. On this foundation of Mary's love and powerful intercession for us we base the confidence we need not only for our own sanctification but also for our programs of holiness and apostolate for others. Moreover, the devotion to our Mother of Trust must be regarded as the remedy for discouragement, sadness, and depression - factors that may easily happen in spiritual life. We shall call these states of heart the poison of spiritual life, for they undermine its very essence. We may confidently turn to Mary for the help we need to overcome these attitudes, for Mary will supply the strength that we lack and the courage we need for the journey - she will be our dear Mother and companion. We wish to root in Mary our program of the universal call to holiness as well. This is why our official invocation is based on the principle of Trust, "O Immaculate Heart of Mary, true model of every holiness, give trust to become saints". May the Most Holy Mary bestow upon us, and upon all souls, the confidence that we can truly reach holiness. Finally, so that our devotion to our Mother of Trust - though very deep and real - will not remain just an interior devotion but be expressed externally, we wish that wherever possible the image of our Mother of Trust be displayed in our Chapels and Churches. Furthermore, each Oblate shall cherish in her own room the image of our Mother of Trust. The Feast of Trust shall be celebrated on the Sunday preceding Ash Wednesday as one of the most solemn occasions for us - being the feast of our Queen. (Program of Spiritual Life)*

**Rosary: Rosary #3 Mary's Magnificat (Rosary Collection, 2001)**

**First Mystery:** 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. *Let us pray that all we do personally, and as an Institute, may give glory to God.*

**Second Mystery:** From this day all generations will call me blessed, and holy is his name. *Let us pray for a deep interior life, which is the foundation of our ministry to others. We cannot give what we do not first possess.*

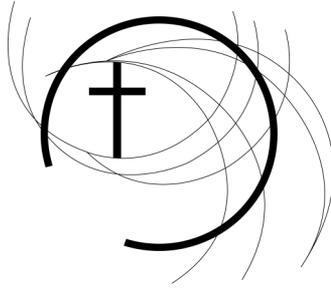
**Third Mystery:** He has shown the strength of his arm, he has scattered the proud in their conceit. He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, and has lifted up the lowly. *Let us pray that we help others by giving ourselves generously to the ideal of the apostolic oblation for the Revolution of Love (Sowers of Hope).*

**Fourth Mystery:** He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty. *Let us pray that we may respond to others without measure, knowing that God will take care of all our needs.*

**Fifth Mystery:** 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 forever. Let us pray to be true helpers of the Redeemer by abandoning ourselves to Christ's redemptive mission.

Close with the *Prayer to Our Lady of Trust*, pg. 4

*Notice the graces you receive today and how Our Lady is with you:*



**Please contact one of our centers for more  
information about the Pro Sanctity Movement.**

**Pro Sanctity Movement National Center**

11002 North 204th Street Elkhorn, NE 68022  
402.289.1938 | [prosantcity@prosantcity.org](mailto:prosantcity@prosantcity.org)  
[www.prosantcity.org](http://www.prosantcity.org)

**Pro Sanctity Movement East**

4530 195th Street Flushing, NY 11358  
718.649.0324 | [nyprosantcity@gmail.com](mailto:nyprosantcity@gmail.com)  
[www.nyprosantcity.org](http://www.nyprosantcity.org)

**Pro Sanctity Movement West**

205 South Pine Drive Fullerton, CA 92833  
714.449.0511 | [caprosantcity@prosantcity.org](mailto:caprosantcity@prosantcity.org)  
[www.caprosantcity.org](http://www.caprosantcity.org)