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

My Mother, My Confidence!

Dear Pro Sanctity Family and Friends,

“There is no fear in love, but perfect love drives out fear because fear has to do with punishment, and so one who fears is not yet perfect in love. We love because he first loved us.” (1 John 4:18-19)

This truth from Sacred Scripture gives us insight about how to live our lives in the year 2022. We all carry fears and disbelief in our hearts. Even Our Lady expressed fear when the Angel greeted her. Let us keep our eyes on Mary because she shows us what to do when we are afraid. Mary knows she is loved by God, and therefore, she responds with a free and total “YES” to all that is asked of her, although she did not completely understand God’s plan. Mary’s trust allows God to use her as His instrument so He can accomplish His Divine plan. Our Founder, Bishop Giaquinta, taught that while God could have chosen to act directly, He chose human instruments to collaborate with so in order to bring about His plan of love. Our vocation to holiness is part of this amazing plan. Let us remember the words of our Founder:

“Applying the laws of the human instrumentality to the supernatural instrumentality, we cannot but realize that it is our duty to perfect ourselves as instruments and to train ourselves in the techniques of apostolate. Hence the organization of the Pro Sanctity groups which fits perfectly into our spirituality, according to the principle: ‘Perfection in the apostolate, for the apostolate of perfection.’

Everything must be perfect, then. We are instruments in the hands of God and of Jesus and must achieve a perfection that is not only internal, but also external, that is to say, technical, in the field of apostolate, in order to help Jesus accomplish through ourselves, the greatest supernatural effect within the souls of our brothers and neighbors. The task to which we are called is so important that we may at times be assailed by a fear of failure and so become discouraged.

For our solace, here is the final point, the seal, the final gem: the devotion to our Mother of Trust. From her high place in heaven, she smiles down upon us, giving us confidence. Do not abandon us, O Mother, but look down upon us and let your Immaculate Heart, which Your Divine Son indicates to us as a fountain of hope, be our refuge in uncertainty. We may then repeat with joy, ‘My Mother, My Confidence!’”

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

3. “Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety.” (Read Lk. 2:41-50)

Any parent who has had a lost child can identify with Mary’s words to Jesus upon finally seeing him in the temple after three days of searching for him amidst the throngs of pilgrims in and around Jerusalem for the Passover feast. Parents take their responsibility to safeguard the safety and welfare of their children very seriously, not just as a duty, but out of deep love. Jesus’ response to Mary seems to be his gentle way of preparing her that his divine Sonship will take precedence over his earthly family.

4. “Do whatever he tells you.” (Read Jn. 2:1-12)

Mary, ever-thoughtful of the needs of others, notes that the wine has run out and knows that this will not only lead to embarrassment for their hosts but also cut short the wedding celebration. After mentioning it to Jesus, he says, “...how does your concern affect me?” This seems to be a pivotal moment between the two. Jesus is prompting Mary to assume her role as intercessor. Her words to the servants, Mary’s last recorded words in Scripture, apply to us as well, to “do whatever He tells you”.

5. “Woman, behold your son.” (Read Jn. 19:25-28)

As Jesus was hanging on the cross, His love and recognition of the elevated status of His mother are brought forth in this brief passage. He gives us Mary as our mother. She has gone from being a young maiden from a small village to the mother of God to the mother of all Christians. Once again, a pivotal event has occurred, one that perhaps at the time, only Jesus recognized its immense significance. Note that immediately following Jesus’ words to Mary and John, v. 28 begins with the words...After this, aware that everything was now finished...”. This tells us how integral Mary is to God’s plan for salvation.

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

Our Lady of Trust

Consider your intentions and ask for Our Lady's intercession

Introduction: As Pro Sanctity members, we have often called upon Mary under the title of Our Lady of Trust. Perhaps we've had the notion that Mary had fully developed character traits since birth. We must keep in mind that Mary, like us, was fully human and grew sequentially and developmentally as we do. Her fiat at the annunciation already demonstrates great trust in Our Lord, but let us consider today how that trust came to full maturation as she pondered on the events of her life.

1. "Mary was greatly troubled" (Read Lk. 1:26-37)

When Gabriel first appears to Mary, she is perplexed by his greeting until he reassures her that she has found favor with God. Her reaction to Gabriel's salutation is indicative of her true humility. Later, when she inquires as to how the events of Gabriel's message will unfold, she demonstrates wonder rather than skepticism. Gabriel's final words to her, "for nothing will be impossible for God", will remain with her for the rest of her life.

2. "and you yourself a sword will pierce" (Read Lk 2:22-35)

Simeon's prophetic words take place early in the life of the baby, Jesus. Mary, after her period of 'lying in' travels from Bethlehem to Jerusalem with Joseph for ritual purification at the temple (Lv. 12: 2-8). Imagine the couple, traveling by foot with an infant, entering the crowded city and then going to the temple to hear such mysterious words from an old man. Joseph, as the family's protector and provider must have been very concerned to hear the words Simeon directed to Mary. Imagine him looking a young Mary beside him, a girl from his village that he has known all his life to be kind, considerate and innocent. To hear that a sword shall pierce her beautiful heart must make him sick with worry. But as he continues to gaze upon her face, he sees a soft countenance of acceptance that is palpable and thus, reassuring.

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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.

NOVENA DAY 8

The Mysteries of the Immaculate Heart of Mary

From the Writings of Bishop Giaquinta

Consider your intentions and ask for Our Lady's intercession

First Mystery: The BEAUTY of the Heart of Mary in her immaculate conception.

*O Virgin Mary,
Endless Delight,*

I feel transformed when you glance upon me.

Second Mystery: The TREMBLING of the Immaculate Heart in the moment of the Annunciation.

I admire the sunrise;

I am awed by the sunset --

*nothing in the world, though,
is as radiant as you.*

Third Mystery: The THRILL of the Heart of Mary in revealing her Son Jesus.

*You are my model and guide
Along the steps of my life.
You are my certainty
In the world to come.*

Fourth Mystery: The SUFFERING of the Immaculate Heart pierced by the sword beneath the cross.

*Mother of Trust,
My strength and my delight,
Look upon me, your child;
Never leave me alone.*

Fifth Mystery: The MATERNITY of the Heart of Mary who even in her glory thinks of us her children.

*When evening comes and I dream new ways,
may your radiance, Mother, light my way.
I want to meet you. I want to honor you.
I want to place my head on your heart
And there find rest.*

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

Mary, Taking Us Deeper into Relationship with Jesus

By Marion Escalante, Pro Sanctity Friend, Whittier, California

Consider your intentions and ask for Our Lady's intercession

First Mystery: The Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan

I believe I am a beloved child of God. I reflect on how Mary prepared her life for and with Jesus. Am I trusting Jesus and Mary by following their guidance with the mission God is calling me to carry out?

Second Mystery: The Wedding at Cana

Mary's intervention at the wedding in Cana aids me to trust and have faith in Jesus' abundant gifts. At times when the wine is gone from my life, I pray to Mary to increase my trust in Jesus. How can I open my heart and become fully alive trusting Mary?

Third Mystery: Jesus' Proclamation of the Kingdom of God

I reflect on Mary's humble trust to draw me closer to Jesus through the sacrament of reconciliation. How can I trust like Mary in my ministry to exercise mercy more?

Fourth Mystery: The Transfiguration

The reality of God takes possession of Jesus in the transfiguration. By listening to Jesus in scripture, I see how Jesus belongs in God. I ask for the desire to remain in God's light so I can give light to others, as Mary has shown me. Both Mary and Jesus help me see them reflecting the light of God, without fear, despite my brokenness and weakness.

Fifth Mystery: The Institution of the Eucharist

The call of the disciples, from the beginning to the end, reminds me to trust in Jesus when He calls me. I reflect on the Eucharist as a deep relationship between Jesus' presence and absence. Do I trust that being with Him also means to be without Him on earth? Through trust and faith, I know Jesus is filling me with His presence in the Eucharist.

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

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

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

for Jesus to begin his public ministry had not yet come, but by acceding to His mother's request, still another chain of events was set in motion. Now the ministry of the Son had indeed begun, and he would leave the familiar surroundings of Nazareth to preach the good news to all people. At the same time, and ironically at her own urging, He would also leave Mary. She was now in the care of His heavenly father, as the son takes the first step that will inevitably lead to Calvary.

Fourth Mystery – Mary of Calvary

Standing at the foot of the cross were the steadfast few who understood all too well about the demands of love. There were Mary His Mother, His Mother's sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, Mary Magdalene and the disciple John. As Jesus looks down upon His weeping mother, He presents her new son and, in turn, presents His own mother to John. Jesus intended that the mother who gave Him life would not be without protection and support as she neared the end of her own life. John would see to that. But the new motherhood Jesus bestowed on Mary was not for John alone. This was the introduction of His mother to the world as the mother of all mankind. Jesus, the Son who was dying to redeem the world, would not do so until he had given to the world both His Father and His Mother.

Fifth Mystery – Mary of Jerusalem

After Jesus ascended into heaven, the apostles returned to Jerusalem where they gathered with Mary and others in the Upper Room and devoted themselves to constant prayer. How fitting that Mary be among those who eagerly awaited the promised gift of the Holy Spirit. For she alone already had received the Holy Spirit and had been His spouse since the day of the Annunciation. Mary, the first to believe, the mother who continued to believe during the darkest hours of Good Friday, led the way to Pentecost for those whose faltering faith had newly been revitalized after the Resurrection. Mary's mission was unique. As the only one with knowledge of the hidden life of Christ, and indeed, the only who was present at the birth of Christ and at the birth of His Church, Mary was the single witness to the mystery of Jesus. Thus, now, as on the first Pentecost, when the Church contemplates the mystery of the Incarnation, it approaches Jesus through Mary.

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

Mary, Witness of Jesus

Consider your intentions and ask for Our Lady's intercession

First Mystery – Mary of Nazareth

“Rejoice, O highly favored daughter! The Lord is with you. Blessed are you among women. Do not fear, Mary, you have found favor with God.” What did all this mean? Even Mary did not know. She did not know that her redemption had been accomplished from the moment of her own conception. She certainly did not know how she could fulfill the angel's next prediction that she would conceive and bear a son, yet still remain a virgin. Assured the Holy Spirit would come upon her, Mary asked no more. God had great plans for her. The decision was hers. At that moment, this little teenage girl held the fate of mankind in her hands. Her response – swift, sure, simple – “Let it be done to me according to his word.” And so it was done. The Word became Flesh, God became man, and Mary of Nazareth was his dwelling place.

Second Mystery – Mary of Bethlehem

Jesus was conceived in love. First in the love of God, the Father, for mankind – this Father who loved the world so much that He gave us His Only Begotten son; in the love of the Father for his daughter, Mary – this Father who had done great things for her; in the love of the daughter for the Father – expressed as she unquestioningly accepts His will; in the love of the Holy Spirit who transformed God's will into living Flesh within this maiden; and in her love, in turn, for her spouse – this life-giving Spirit and source of her Divine Maternity. If the surroundings at Bethlehem were more primitive than Mary and Joseph had hoped to provide for the birth of the redeemer, they were not in a position to alter the situation. God's will for His Son was again being manifested to Mary ... and again she did not know where it would lead her next. But again, she was ready to accept it as she “treasured all these things in her heart.”

Third Mystery – Mary of Cana

Cana was a time of joy for Mother and Son as they attended a wedding feast. Then, with the depletion of the wine, several things began to happen. The story's happy ending shows that neither her faith nor her trust in Jesus was misplaced. The time



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 seminary's image of Our Lady of Confidence. 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 and Apostolic Sodales). 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

- Place the image in a prominent place of honor in the home
- Pray the Novena
- Pray the prayer to Our Lady of Trust
- Spread devotion of honoring Our Lady by telling people about it and giving away the image of Our Lady of Trust
- Pray the Rosary
- Gather with other Pro Sanctity Members on the feast day, the Sunday before Ash Wednesday each year
- Share Graces received from the novena 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

NOVENA DAY 5 MARY, ACCOMPANYING JESUS ALONG THE WAY OF THE CROSS

By Ian Gaston, Seminararian for Diocese of Orange

Consider your intentions and ask for Our Lady's intercession

First Mystery: When Jesus beheld all the sins of the world in His agony, perhaps the ones that most pierced his Sacred Heart were all those we committed because we did not trust in His goodness. But He would never have beheld His mother—she who in all things, even in those most dark nights, trusted in the goodness of God.

Second Mystery: “The plowers plowed upon my back; they made long their furrows” (Psalm 129.3 RSVCE). Surely Mary would have trembled as she saw the words she had prayed with her son in His boyhood fulfilled in His manhood. But at the same time, she would have remembered other words from the same psalm which they had prayed together, and trusted that these too would be fulfilled: “Yet they have not prevailed against me” (Ps. 129.2).

Third Mystery: Mary sorrowed over her son's crown and also for the sinfulness of us who gave it to Him. And with her sorrow was a deep desire for our redemption, which caused her to catch her son's eye as he looked down from Pilate's side and say with all the might her vision could muster, fully confident, much like a holy woman of old: “Accept death, so that in God's mercy I may get you back again, with all these whom you will redeem” (see 2 Macc. 7.29).

Fourth Mystery: Mary beheld the truth of Psalm 89 as her son stumbled to Calvary: “O Lord, how your servant is scorned...they mock the footsteps of your anointed” (Ps. 89.51-52). But she would not have failed to recite the next lines of the psalm, full of confidence that Jesus, “God saves”, could not be untrue to His name: “Blessed be the LORD forever! Amen and amen” (Ps. 89.52).

Fifth Mystery: Jesus was dead; but He had prepared Mary for His three days in the tomb after He had been three days missing as a child. Then He had said: “Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?” (Luke 2.49). Now, she recalled and believed.

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

Mary, Mother of the Beatitudes

(From *Our Prayer*, Apostolic Oblates)

Consider your intentions and ask for Our Lady's intercession

First Mystery

"How blest are the poor in spirit: the kingdom of God is theirs."

Let us contemplate the Virgin Mary who humbly accepts the invitation to become the Mother of God's Son. (Lk 1:26 ff)

Second Mystery

"Blest are the meek; they shall inherit the land."

Let us contemplate Mary who accepts with docility God's plan when searching for Jesus in sorrow. (Lk 2:41 ff)

Third Mystery

"Blest are they who show mercy; mercy shall be theirs."

Let us contemplate Mary, who at the wedding feast in Cana, is attentive to the needs of others. (Jn 2:1-11)

Fourth Mystery

"Blest are the sorrowing; they shall be consoled."

Let us contemplate Mary, who at the foot of the Cross, shares in Christ's redemptive suffering. (Jn 19:25-27)

Fifth Mystery

"Blest are the single-hearted for they shall see God."

Let us contemplate in Mary the image of the heavenly Jerusalem. (Rev 21:1-5)

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

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



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

Through the Eyes of Mary

By Joan and Dan Kash, Pro Sanctity Friends, Omaha, NE

Consider your intentions and ask for Our Lady's intercession

First Mystery: Agony in the Garden

Jesus told me of a time when He felt abandoned by those who loved Him the most. I told Him that I knew from the very beginning of His life that in addition to great joy that His life and mine would be filled with great sorrow. I told Him that I would never abandon Him, that when I said yes to the angel I knew it was a life long commitment. I also reminded Him that His friends truly loved Him and to trust that the response of fear and exhaustion was only temporary and that God will bring them back to His side to continue to spread His plan of love.

Dear Jesus and Mary, help me to trust that even in the most difficult trial I face today that I can follow Your example and pray fervently and remain by Your side.

Second Mystery: Scourging at the Pillar

I was there. Not nearly as close to my Son as I wanted to be but I saw every dreadful blow and heard every faint cry and groan as He was scourged. I felt each and every pain in my own body. I saw the boy I had loved from the moment of His conception until now beaten almost to death. It was almost impossible to watch because my tears were unceasing. I knew that even now as they were beating Him, He was praying to His Father asking Him to forgive them. The only thing that allowed both of us to endure this agony was the trust that somehow this horror would merit an even greater good.

Dear Jesus and Mary, I know myself too well. At the thought of the slightest pain my first instinct is to run. Knowing what you endured for me fills me with inexpressible gratitude. Help me during this Lenten season to trust that every sacrifice will bring me closer to You and help my brothers and sisters to find you as well.

Third Mystery: The Crowning with Thorns

My Son's face was the most beautiful thing I had ever seen. I grew to know every curve of it from the time I spent nursing Him as an infant and holding it in my hands when we embraced. To see it now barely recognizable was almost more than I could bear. His face and head were completely covered in blood. It took every ounce of strength I

supernatural life to souls, making her our mother in the order of Grace..." since all graces come from Christ as from a head. All descend into the Body of the Church through Mary, as through a neck, whereby the head vivifies its members. He goes on to write, "From the Father to Christ, from Christ to the virgin, from the Virgin to us." (Sermon 6, 1, in fest BMV. De Annun. A. Its,2).

4th Mystery: Assumption

Union with her Son; By reason of the gift and role of divine maternity, by which she is united with her Son, the Redeemer, and with His singular graces and functions, the Blessed Virgin is also intimately united with the church. St Ambrose writes, "The Blessed Virgin stands out in eminent and singular fashion as exemplar both of virgin and mother. By her obedience and trust in receiving the word of God in faith, she becomes herself a mother to all the faithful." (*Lumen Gentium*, 63)

5th Mystery: Coronation

Queen of Heaven; "In the interim just as the Mother of Jesus, glorified in body and soul in heaven is the image and beginning of the Church, as it is to be perfected in the world to come, so too does she shine forth on earth, until the day of the Lord shall come, as a sign of sure hope and solace to the people of God during its sojourn on earth." (*Lumen Gentium*, 68)

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

Mother of the Church

By Teresa Pauls, Apostolic Oblate, Wichita, KS

Consider your intentions and ask for Our Lady's intercession

1st Mystery: Resurrection

Triumph and Glory; The maternity of Mary in the order of grace began with the consent which she gave in faith at the annunciation and which she sustained without wavering beneath the cross. (LG 62) We can only think of Mary and her fiat, "Let it be done unto to me according to your will." Her fiat set into motion Christ's redeeming love and resurrection for man. Her trust and faith is an example of the greatest glory we can give to God; to do his will in everything. (*Uniformity to God's Will*, Ligouri, p.3).

2nd Mystery: Ascension

Hope; We must contemplate Mary's silence...Mary's silence was one of perfection, where "passions obey reason and reason obeyed God." (Ligouri, *Uniformity to God's will*, p. 9), even as she losses her Son a third time. Mary's perfection is one of charity whereby perfect love wills the same as the one she loves, her Lord. By her grace to ponder everything in her heart, she came to the perfection of charity. "We need to practice the art of listening, which is more than simply hearing. Listening, in communication, is an openness of heart which makes possible that closeness without which genuine spiritual encounter cannot occur." (*Evangelium Gaudium*, 171).

3rd Mystery: Descent of the Holy Spirit

Graces abound; Predestined from eternity by Divine Providence...the Blessed Virgin was on this earth, ever Virgin, Mother of the Redeemer. She conceived, brought forth, and nourished Christ. She presented Him to the Father in the temple and was united with Him in suffering as He died on the Cross. In this singular way, she cooperated by her obedience, in faith, hope, and burning charity in the work of the Savior. St. Leo writes, "Through these acts, she gives

had to trust that even now God's plan was at work to accomplish the salvation of the world through these horrifying events.

Dear Jesus and Mary, you truly are King and Queen, but I seldom treat you as such, too often putting what I want ahead of your desire for me. Help me to truly become your subject- bringing every thought word and action to you for approval, trusting that when I do it is for my best good and your greater glory. Knowing that you allow me to participate with you in the plan of salvation is knowledge too wonderful for me.

Fourth Mystery: The Carrying of the Cross

After my Son had been scourged, he barely had the strength to stand, let alone walk and carry the heavy beam that was to be used as an instrument of his execution. There were those who told me He actually kissed His cross and thanked His Father for it. I was close enough to truly see His face only once, and again I could barely recognize it. My heart was completely broken. To be able to be there in that moment, I had to trust the angels and all the powers of heaven that the all consuming hatred I saw would finally be defeated by all-consuming love.

Dear Jesus and Mary, the effort I make to carry crosses such as concern for others, disappointment, grief and pain is too minimal to even mention. As I meditate on your sufferings, I can hear you crying out for me to do what I have left others to do. Help me listen more carefully for your voice, trusting that as I follow your lead, more people will know of your infinite love for them.

Fifth Mystery: The Crucifixion

Watching my Son whose hands and feet I had washed and kissed countless times, have those same hands and feet nailed to a cross caused me inexpressible agony. At the same time, however, I heard Him console the good thief and ask God to forgive His executioners, I was filled with immense love. As His death was drawing near, I wanted nothing more than to die with Him. Even at the point of my deepest grief I trusted that life would go on and death would not hold Him. As much as I wanted to be with Him, I knew He had more children for me to love when He gave John to me through him, the whole Church, to watch over with maternal care.

Dear Jesus and Mary, you sacrificed everything for us to bring about salvation, and only by staying united to You can we do the same. Please help us to never be separated from you again.

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

Contemplating the Maternal Heart of Mary

(Quoted material is from the Eucharistic Prayer of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.)

Consider your intentions and ask for Our Lady's intercession

Introduction: "O Virgin Mother, may the Church of America be the Church of hope. May we have imprinted in our hearts the maternal sentiments of your heart to be instruments of life. May America be the continent of life."

(John Paul the Great, last papal visit to the US, 2008)

(John Paul the Great, last papal visit to the US, 2008)

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 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 the Child 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 adopt the attitudes of the heart of Jesus and respond to the Father's love with confidence.

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

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