



Modena in honor of
Our Mother of
Perpetual Help

Novena
in Honor of
Our Mother of Perpetual Help
with
Prayers for Private Use



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(Feast of Our Mother of Perpetual Help)

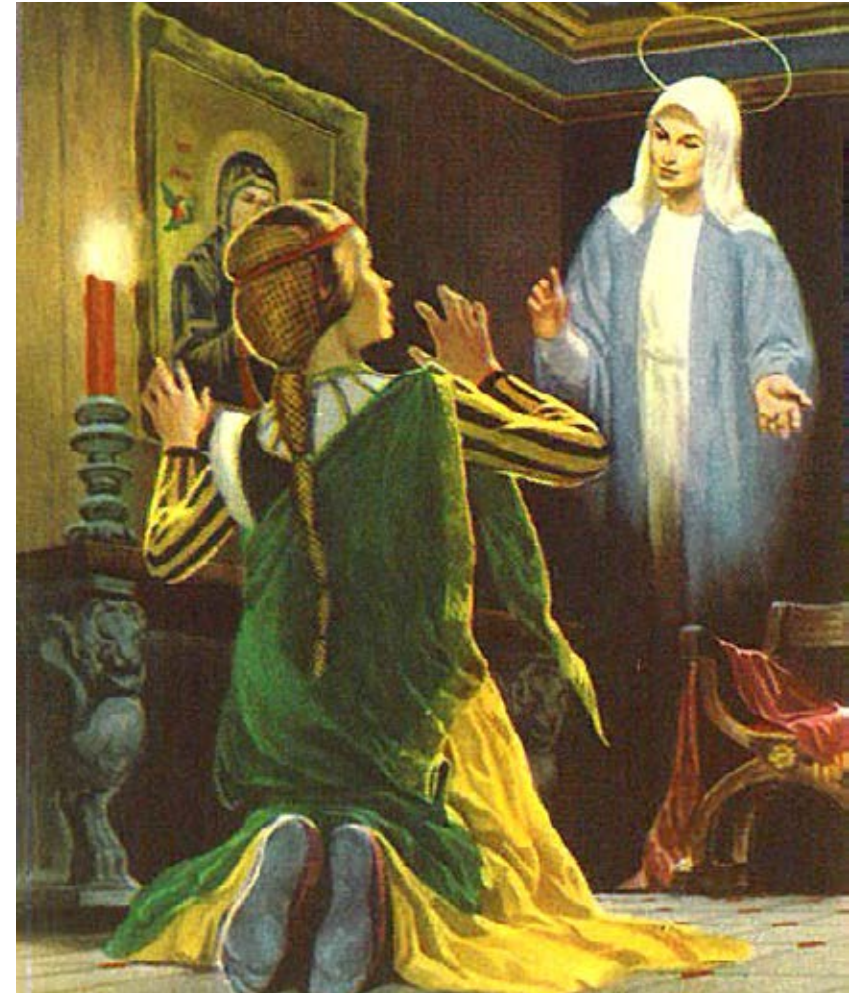
History of the Miraculous Picture

“It is our will that this picture of the Blessed Virgin be returned to the Church between St. Mary Major’s and St. John Lateran’s.”

About the time that Columbus brought the “Santa Maria” to the shores of the Americas, another sailing vessel was bringing this wonder-working image to the shores of Europe. Who painted it, or when, we do not know. It had been venerated in the isle of Crete, and from Crete it came to Rome. There it was retained by a private family until our Blessed Mother herself appeared to the little girl of the household and told her that she wished her picture to be placed in a Church. She even designated the place—“between my beloved Church of St. Mary Major’s and that of my beloved son, St. John of Lateran.”

On March 27, 1499, the picture was exposed for veneration, as she ordered, in the Church of St. Matthew where it remained for three long centuries drawing pilgrims from all parts of the Christian world. In 1798 war demolished the venerable structure, but the picture was not allowed to perish. The good Augustinian Fathers, who all these years had been in charge of St. Matthew’s, took it with them to the new monastery granted them by Pope Pius VII in another part of the city. The very last member of their Order to be professed in old St. Matthew’s was Brother Augustine Orsetti, in his new home he had as a frequent visitor a youth named Michael Marchi, who later became a Redemptorists priest. The Redemptorists came to Rome in 1855 and built a Church in honor of their founder, St. Alphonsus, on the site of the ancient St. Matthew’s. The old Brother had often spoken to the young Michael about the Madonna in the monastery Chapel saying, “Don’t forget now—mind me well—the picture in our Chapel is the one that was venerated in old St. Matthew’s. It was indeed a miraculous picture.”

So when Father Marchi told them of the miracle-working image in the Augustinian monastery, the Redemptorists petitioned Pope Pius IX to have the Image placed in the Church on the spot chosen by Our Lady herself. And the Pope in granting the request said: “It is our will that this picture of the Blessed Virgin be returned to the Church between St. Mary Major’s



and St. John Lateran’s.” At the same time he commanded the Redemptorists to “make her known” all over the world.

On April 26, 1866, a solemn procession carried the miraculous Madonna to her chosen spot in the Church of St. Alphonsus Maria de Liguori, one of Mary’s greatest lovers and defenders. Today the original painting reposes in Rome while millions of replicas bring her and her Perpetual Help to all men everywhere.

“Tell your mother that Holy Mary of Perpetual Help commands that her picture be placed in a Church.”

Novena Services

Mother Dear, O Pray for Me

1.

Mother dear, O pray for me,
Whilst far from Heaven and Thee
I wander in a fragile bark.
O'er life's tempestuous sea.
O Virgin Mother, from Thy throne,
So bright in bliss above,
Protect Thy child, and cheer my path
With Thy sweet smile of love.

Chorus

Mother dear, remember me,
And never cease Thy care,
Till in heaven eternally
They love and bliss I share.

2.

Mother dear, O pray for me
Should pleasure's siren lay
E'er tempt Thy child to wander far
From virtue's path away.
When thorns beset life's devious way
And darkling waters flow,
Then, Mary, aid Thy weeping child,
Thyself a Mother show.



Announcements

Petitions

Thanksgivings



Novena Prayers

To Our Mother of Perpetual Help

(Priest and People) Behold at Thy feet, O Mother of Perpetual Help! ✦ a wretched sinner who has recourse to Thee, and confides in Thee. ✦ O Mother of mercy! Have pity on me ✦ I hear Thee called by all, ✦ the Refuge and the Hope of sinners; ✦ be then, my refuge and my hope. ✦ Assist me, for the love of Jesus Christ; ✦ stretch forth Thy hand to a miserable fallen creature, ✦ who recommends

“Mind, son, this Madonna is the one that was so long venerated in old St. Matthew’s.”

himself to Thee, ✚ and who devotes himself to Thy service forever. ✚ I bless and thank Almighty God, ✚ Who in His mercy has given me this confidence in Thee, ✚ which I hold to be a pledge of my eternal salvation. ✚ It is true, dearest Mother, ✚ that in the past I have miserably fallen into sin, ✚ because I had not recourse to Thee. ✚ I know, that with Thy help, I shall conquer. ✚ I know, too, that Thou wilt assist me, ✚ if I recommend myself to Thee; ✚ but I fear, dear Mother, ✚ that in time of danger, ✚ I may neglect to call on Thee, and thus lose my soul. ✚ This grace, then, I ask of Thee, ✚ and this I beg, with all the fervor of my soul, ✚ that, in all the attacks of hell, ✚ I may ever have recourse to Thee. ✚ O Mary! Help me; ✚ O Mother of Perpetual Help, ✚ never suffer me to lose my God.

9 Hail Marys

O Mother of Perpetual Help! ✚ grant that I may ever invoke Thy most powerful name, ✚ which is the safeguard of the living and the salvation of the dying. ✚ O purest Mary! O Sweetest Mary! ✚ let Thy name henceforth be ever on my lips. ✚ Delay not, O Blessed Lady! ✚ to help me whenever I call on Thee; ✚ ever repeating Thy Sacred Name, Mary! Mary! ✚ O, what consolation, ✚ what sweetness, ✚ what confidence, ✚ what emotion fills my soul ✚ when I utter Thy Sacred Name, ✚ or even only think of Thee! ✚ I thank the Lord for having given Thee, for my good, ✚ so sweet, so powerful, so lovely a name. ✚ But I will not be content with merely uttering Thy name, ✚ let my love for Thee prompt me ever to hail Thee, ✚ O Mother of Perpetual Help. ✚

9 Hail Marys

O Mother of Perpetual Help, ✚ Thou art the dispenser of all the gifts ✚ which God grants to us miserable sinners; ✚ and for this end He has made Thee so powerful, so rich and so bountiful, ✚ in order that Thou mayest help us in our misery. ✚ Thou art the advocate of the most wretched and abandoned sinners ✚ who have recourse to Thee; ✚ come to my aid, dearest Mother, ✚ for I recommend myself to Thee. ✚ In Thy hands I place my eternal salvation, ✚ Count me among Thy most devoted servants; ✚ take me under Thy protection, and it is enough for me. ✚ For, if Thou protect me, dear Mother, ✚ I fear nothing; ✚ not from my sins, ✚ because Thou wilt obtain for me the pardon of them; ✚ nor from the devils, ✚ because Thou art more powerful than all hell together; ✚ nor even

from Jesus, my Judge, ✚ because by one prayer from Thee, ✚ He will be appeased. ✚ But one thing I fear, ✚ that in the hour of temptation, ✚ I may through negligence fail to have recourse to Thee ✚ and thus perish miserably. ✚ Obtain for me, therefore, the pardon of my sins, ✚ love for Jesus, ✚ final perseverance, ✚ and the grace to have recourse to Thee, ✚ O Mother of Perpetual Help.

Priest: Let Us Pray

O Lord Jesus Christ who didst give us Thy Mother Mary, whose renowned image we venerate, to be a Mother ever ready to help us, grant, we beseech Thee, that we who constantly implore her maternal aid may merit to enjoy perpetually the fruits of Thy redemption, Who livest and reignest forever and ever. Amen.

Invocations to Our Lady

Priest: O Mother of Perpetual Help, thou whose very name inspires confidence.

People: Help me, O loving Mother.

Priest: That I may be victorious in the trying time of temptation.

People: Help me, O loving Mother.

Priest: That I may quickly rise again should I have the misfortune to fall into sin.

People: Help me, O loving Mother.

Priest: That I may break asunder any bonds of Satan in which I may become entangled.

People: Help me, O loving Mother.

Priest: Against the seductions of the world, evil companions, and bad books.

People: Help me, O loving Mother.

Priest: That I may soon return to my former fervor should I ever become lukewarm.

People: Help me, O loving Mother.

Priest: In my preparation for the Sacraments and the performance of my Christian duties.

People: Help me, O loving Mother.

Priest: In all the trials and troubles of life.

People: Help me, O loving Mother.

Priest: Against my own inconstancy that I may persevere to the end.

People: Help me, O loving Mother.

Priest: That I may ever love Thee and serve Thee and invoke Thy assistance.

People: Help me, O loving Mother.

Priest: That I may be able to induce others to love, serve and pray to Thee.

People: Help me, O loving Mother.

Priest: O Mother to my last hour, to my last breath do Thou ever watch over me.

People: Help me, O loving Mother.

Prayer for Perseverance

(Priest and People)

O holy Virgin Mary ✦ who to inspire us with boundless confidence ✦ has been pleased to take the sweet name of Perpetual Help ✦ I implore Thee ✦ to come to my aid always and everywhere ✦ in my temptations ✦ after my falls ✦ in my difficulties ✦ in all the miseries of life ✦ and above all at the hour of my death. ✦ Give me, O loving Mother the desire ✦ nay more, the habit ✦ always to have recourse to Thee ✦ for I feel assured that if I invoke Thee with fidelity ✦ Thou wilt be faithful to come to my assistance. ✦ Obtain for me then this grace of graces, ✦ the grace to pray to Thee ✦ without ceasing and with childlike prayer ✦ that I may ensure Thy perpetual help ✦ and final perseverance. ✦ O Mother of Perpetual Help ✦ pray for me now and at the hour of my death. Amen

Sermon



Act of Consecration

(Priest and People)

Desiring to consecrate myself entirely ✦ to the service of the ever Blessed Virgin Mary, ✦ from Whom, after God, ✦ I expect all help and assistance ✦ in life and in death, ✦ I unite myself to the members ✦ of this pious archconfraternity, ✦ which has been erected ✦ in honor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

*“It is our will that this picture of the Blessed Virgin be returned to the Church between St. Mary Major’s and St. John Lateran’s.”
(The Church of St. Alphonsus)*

As my special patron ✠ I choose the glorious St. Alphonsus, ✠ that he may obtain for me ✠ a true and lasting devotion ✠ to the ever Blessed Virgin, ✠ Who is honored by so sweet a name.

I promise moreover, ✠ to renew my consecration ✠ to the Mother of God and to St. Alphonsus ✠ at least once each month, ✠ and frequently to receive the Holy Sacraments. ✠

O Mother of Perpetual Help, ✠ receive me as Thy servant, ✠ and grant that I may ever experience ✠ Thy constant motherly protection. ✠ I promise to have recourse to Thee ✠ in all my spiritual and temporal necessities.

My holy patron, St. Alphonsus, ✠ obtain for me ✠ the grace of an ardent love for Jesus Christ, ✠ and the grace of invoking ✠ the Mother of Perpetual Help.

Blessing of the Sick

Priest: Our help is in the name of the Lord.

People: Who hath made Heaven and earth.

Priest: O Lord hear my prayer.

People: And let my cry come unto Thee.

Priest: The Lord be with you.

People: And with thy spirit.

Priest: Let Us Pray

Look down O Lord upon Thy servants failing from bodily weakness and refresh their souls which Thou hast created that being bettered by Thy chastisements they may presently feel themselves saved by Thy pity. Amen

Grant O Lord we beseech Thee that these Thy servants may enjoy continual health of body and soul and through the glorious intercession of the Blessed Mary ever Virgin be freed from their present sorrow and enjoy eternal gladness through Christ our Lord. Amen

The Lord Jesus Christ be with you to defend you; within you to preserve you; before you to lead you; behind you to guide you; above you to bless you; Who with the Father and the Holy Ghost liveth and reigneth forever and ever. Amen.

The blessing of Almighty God the Father, and the Son and the Holy Ghost descend upon you and remain with you always. Amen.

Blessing of All Present

The Priest blesses the entire congregation with the Miraculous Picture, saying:

Through the intercession of Our Mother of Perpetual Help may the blessing of Almighty God the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, descend upon you and remain with you always. Amen.

O Mother of Perpetual Help

1.

O Mother of Perpetual Help,
To Thee we come imploring help.
Behold us here, from far and near,
To ask of Thee our help to be;

2.

Perpetual Help, we beg of Thee
Our souls from sin and sorrow free;
Direct our wandering feet aright,
And be Thyself our own true light.

3.

And when this life is o'er for me,
This last request I ask of Thee:
Obtain for me in heaven this grace,
To see my God there face to face.



From Crete to Rome, through Rome to the farthest corners of the earth has spread the devotion to this miracle-working image. The title "Perpetual Help" is of Mary's own choosing so that all her children everywhere might feel free to call on Her at all times and in all their needs. The Church celebrates the feast of Mary as the Mediatrix of all graces. Millions recognize this truth when they salute Her as O Mother of Perpetual Help.

O Salutaris Hostia

*O Salutaris Hostia,
Quae coeli pandis ostium!
Bella premunt hostilia;
Da robur; fer auxilium.
Uni Trinoque Domino,
Sit sempiterna Gloria;
Qui vitam sine termino
Nobis donet in patria. Amen.*

Tantum Ergo

*Tantum ergo, Sacramentum
Veneremur cernui.
Et antiquum documentum
Novo cedat ritui;
Praestet fides supplementum
Sensuum defectui.
Genitori Genitoque
Laus et jubilatio,
Salus honor, virtus quoque,
Sit et benedictio,
Procedenti ab utroque
Compar sit laudatio. Amen*

Priest Panem de coelo praestitisti eis; (Alleluia).

People: Omne delectamentum in se habentem. (Alleluia.)

Priest: Oremus: Deus, qui nobis sub Sacramento mirabili Passionis tuae memoriam reliquisti; Passionis tuae memoriam reliquisti; tribue, quaesumus, ita nos Corporis et Sanguinis tui sacra mysteria venerari, ut redemptionis tuae fructum in nobis jugiter sentiamus. Qui vivis et regnas in saecula saeculorum.

People: Amen.

O Salutaris Hostia

*O Saving Victim, opening wide
The gate of heaven to man below!
Our foes press on from every side;
Thine aid supply; Thy strength bestow.
To Thy great name be endless praise,
Immortal Godhead, One in Three!
Oh, grant us endless length of days
In our true native land with Thee. Amen*

Tantum Ergo

*Down in adoration falling,
Lo, the Sacred Host we hail.
Lo, o'er ancient forms departing,
Newer rites of grace prevail;
Faith for all defects supplying
Where the feeble sense fail.
To the everlasting Father,
And the Son Who reigns on high,
With the Holy Ghost proceeding
Forth from Each eternally;
Be salvation, honor, blessing,
Might, and endless majesty. Amen.*

Priest: Thou hast given them bread from heaven.

People: Having in itself all sweetness.

Priest: Let Us Pray: O God, Who under a wonderful Sacrament hast left us a memorial of Thy passion, grant us, we beseech Thee, so to venerate the sacred mysteries of Thy Body and Blood, that we may ever feel within ourselves the fruit of Thy redemption. Who livest and reignest world without end. Amen.

The Blessing

While the priest blesses the people by making the sign of the cross with the Blessed Sacrament say silently, while looking at the Sacred Host:

My Lord and my God.

Indulgence of 7 years. Plenary once a week if recited daily.

The Divine Praises

(Priest and People)

Blessed be God!

Blessed be His Holy Name!

Blessed be Jesus Christ, true God and true Man!

Blessed be the Name of Jesus!

Blessed be his most Sacred Heart!

Blessed be Jesus in the most holy Sacrament of the Altar!

Blessed be the great Mother of God, Mary most holy!

Blessed be her holy and Immaculate Conception!

Blessed be the name of Mary, Virgin and Mother!

Blessed be St. Joseph her most chaste spouse!

Blessed be God in His Angels and in His Saints!

Mother Dearest, Mother Fairest

*Mother dearest, Mother fairest,
Help of all who call on Thee,
Virgin purest, brightest, arrest,
Help us, help, we cry to Thee.*

*Mary, help us, help we pray,
Mary help us, help we pray,
Help us in all care and sorrow;
Mary, help us, help we pray.*

*Lady, help in pain and sorrow,
Soothe those rack'd on beds of pain,
May the golden light of morrow,
Bring them health and joy again.*

*Help our priests, our virgins holy,
Help our Pope, long may he reign,
Pray that we who sing Thy praises,
May in heav'n all meet again.*

*Lady, help the absent loved ones,
How we miss their presence here,
May the hand of Thy protection
Guide and guard them far and near.*

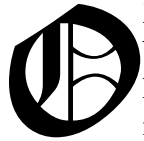


Veneration of the Picture at the altar rail.

Blessing of religious articles.

Prayers for Private Use

Prayer in Spiritual Wants



Mother of Perpetual Help, with the greatest confidence I come before thy sacred Picture in order to invoke thine aid. Thou hast seen the wounds which Jesus has been pleased to receive for our sake; thou hast seen the Blood of thy Son flowing for our salvation; thou knowest how thy Son desires to apply to us the fruit of His Redemption. Behold I cast myself at thy feet, and pray thee to obtain for my soul the grace I stand so much in need of. O Mary, most loving of all mothers, obtain for me from the heart of Jesus, the source of every good, this grace _here mention it). O Mother of Perpetual Help thou desirest our salvation far more than we ourselves; thy Son has given thee to us for our Mother; thou hast thyself chosen to be called Mother of Perpetual Help. I trust not in my merits, but in thy powerful intercession; I trust in thy goodness; I trust in thy motherly love. Mother of Perpetual Help, for the love thou bearest to Jesus, thy Son and my Redeemer, for the love of thy great servant Alphonsus, for the love of my soul, obtain for me the grace I ask from thee. Amen.

Prayer in Temporal Wants

O Mother of Perpetual Help, numerous clients continually surround Thy holy Picture, all imploring Thy mercy. All bless Thee as the assured help of the miserable; all feel the benefit of Thy maternal protection. With confidence, then, do I present myself before Thee in my misery. See, dear Mother, the many evils to which we are exposed; see how numerous are our wants. Trials and sorrows often depress us; reverses of fortune and privations are grievous, bring misery into our homes; everywhere we meet the cross. Have pity, compassionate Mother, on us and our families; especially in this my necessity _here mention it). Help me O my Mother, in my distress; deliver me from all my ills; or if it be the will of God that I should suffer still longer, grant that I may endure all with love and patience. This grace I expect of Thee with confidence, because Thou art our Perpetual Help. Amen.

Prayer for Financial Aid

Realizing, dear Mother Mary, that thou art our perpetual help, not only in spiritual but likewise in temporal necessities, we approach thee with submissive and humble hearts, because we have a child-like confidence in thy power and goodness, beseeching thee to assist us in our present financial worry. Owing to untoward circumstances which have arisen in our lives, we are in dire want and pecuniary embarrassment, being unable to meet our honest debts. We are not asking, dearest Mother, for wealth, if the possession of it is not in accordance with the holy will of God; we merely beg for that assistance which will enable us to satisfy our pressing obligations. We believe, dear Mother, that thou art the Queen of heaven and of earth, and as such the instrument and special dispensation of thy divine Son Jesus Christ; that thou hast acquired by virtue of thy wonderful dignity a sweet jurisdiction over all creation. We believe that thou art not only rich and bountiful, but extremely kind and generous to all thy loving children. We plead with thee then, dear Mother, to obtain for us the help we so urgently need in our present financial difficulty. We thank thee, dear Lady, and promise to publish far and wide the marvels of thy glorious Picture. Amen.

Prayer in Sickness

Dear Mother of Perpetual Help, behold how much I suffer from this my sickness. Together with the body my soul is also afflicted. I have not even strength to say a prayer as I ought to do. Nothing is able to give me any relief. Even the visit and compassion of my best friends does not give me any comfort. Hence, my courage begins to fail; impatience and sadness oppress my soul. In this my great distress I put all my trust in Thee, most tender of all mothers. Thy compassionate heart will certainly have pity on me; yes, most merciful Mother, Thou wilt not forget Thy poor, afflicted child. Obtain, then, for me, courage and strength to accept all these trials from the hand of God with patience and resignation. If it is for the good my soul, grant that I may recover my former health; but if it is the will of God that I should suffer still longer, or that this sickness should lead me to a better life, I am perfectly resigned, for I am sure that Thou, O loving Mother, wilt obtain for me the grace to do whatever God demands of me. Amen.

Prayer for the Conversion of a Sinner

O Mary, Mother of Perpetual Help, thou knowest so well the great value of an immortal soul. Thou knowest what it means, that every soul has been redeemed by the Blood of thy Divine Son; thou wilt not then despise my prayer if I ask from thee the conversion of a sinner, nay a great sinner who is rapidly hurrying on toward eternal ruin. Thou, O good merciful Mother, knowest well his irregular life. Remember that thou art the refuge of sinners, remember that God has given thee power to bring about the conversion of even the most wretched sinners. All that has been done for his soul has been unsuccessful; if thou dost not come to his assistance, he will go from bad to worse. Obtain for him an effectual grace that he may be moved and brought back to God and his duties. Send him, if necessary, temporal calamities and trials, that he may enter into himself, and put an end to his sinful course. Thou, O most merciful Mother, hast converted so many sinners at the intercession of their friends. Be, then also moved by my prayer, and bring this unhappy soul to true conversion of heart. O Mother of Perpetual Help, show that thou art the Advocate and Refuge of sinners. So I hope, so may it be. Amen.

The Memorare

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that any one who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thy intercession, was left unaided. Inspired with this confidence, I fly unto thee, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother. To thee I come; before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions; but in thy clemency hear and answer me. Amen.



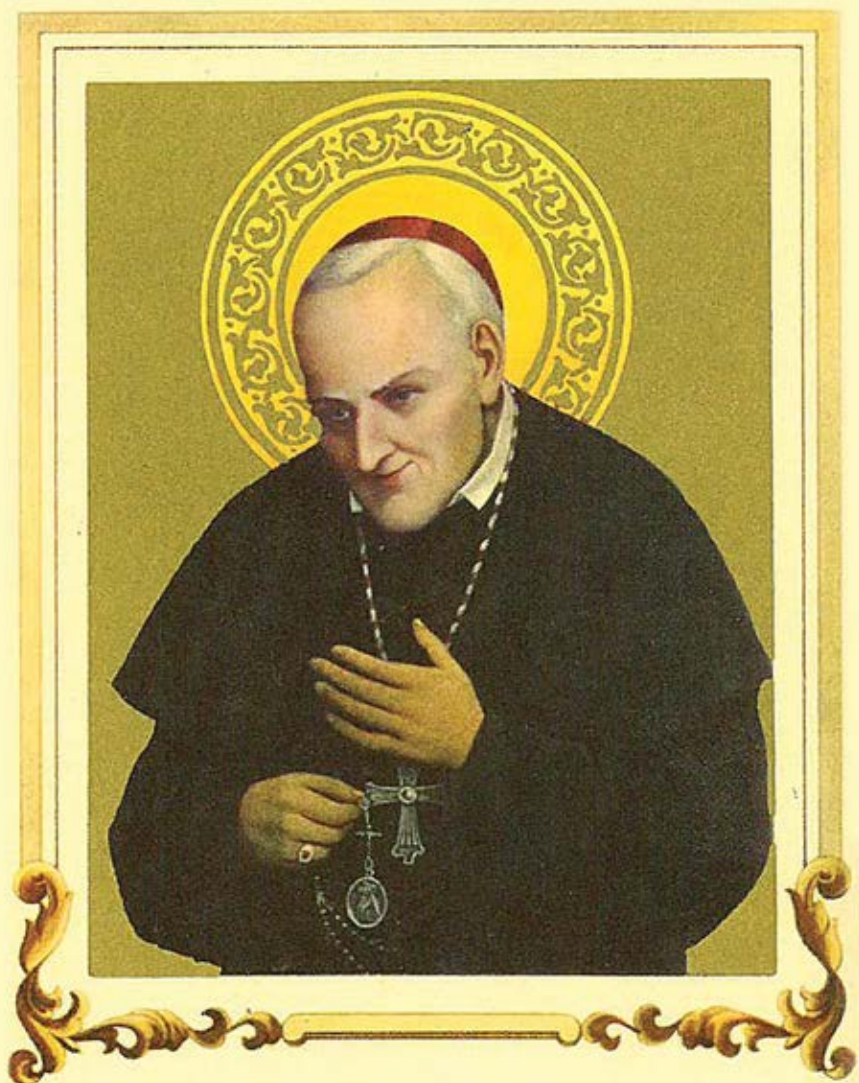
Prayer of St. Alphonsus In Honor of the Blessed Virgin

Most holy and Immaculate Virgin and my Mother Mary, to thee who art the Mother of my Lord, the Queen of the world, the advocate, the hope, and the refuge of sinners, I have recourse today, I who am the most miserable of all. I render thee my most humble homages, O great Queen; and I thank thee for all the graces thou hast conferred on me until now; particularly for having delivered me from hell, which I have so often deserved. I love thee, O most amiable Lady; and for the love which I bear thee, I promise to serve thee always, and to do all in my power to make others love thee also. I place in thee all my hopes, I confide my salvation to thy care. Accept me for thy servant, and receive me under thy mantle, O my Mother of mercy. And since thou art so powerful with God, deliver me from all temptations, or rather obtain for me strength to triumph over them until death. Of thee I ask a perfect love for Jesus Christ. Through thee I hope to die a good death. O my Mother, by the love which thou bearest to God, I beseech thee to help me at my life. Leave me not, I beseech thee, until thou seest me safe in heaven, blessing thee and singing thy mercy for all eternity. Amen; so I hope. So may it be!

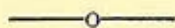
Prayer

“Oh Mary, Mother of Perpetual Help, pray for me.—My Protector, St. Alphonsus, in all my wants make me have recourse to Mary.”





St. Alphonsus Maria de Liguori



IMMACULATE CONCEPTION CHURCH

(REDEMPTORIST FATHERS)

East 150th Street near Third Avenue

New York 55

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