



1ST SATURDAY DEVOTION NEWSLETTER

September 2015

OUR LADY OF SORROWS

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September 15th is the Memorial of Our Lady of Sorrows. It is a longstanding tradition in our church to wear a medal of Our Lady of Sorrows. Many people, in fact, have been wearing this particular sacramental for years, and would never be parted from it.

When they experience difficulties, they gaze on Mary's sorrowful image. Almost instinctively, they knew that she would understand, help them, and give them peace. They would all testify that it was never a waste to flee to her protection, implore her help, or seek her intercession.

What do these people know? That disciples of Christ are not immune to sorrow, and that they can always look to Mary for help. Whether they are caused by the natural course of life or have their roots in our own fallen nature, our sorrows do cause us pain. Wounded relationships, broken promises, financial difficulties -- so many things can make us feel sad, betrayed, or hurt. But Mary shows us that the real question is not how often, or how much, we suffer. The real question is how we should respond when we are visited by suffering. And this is where Our Lady of Sorrows can help us the most.

Whenever you are experiencing any kind of sorrow, Mary can help you. Let her teach you how to react to trying, painful circumstances -- what types of things to ponder, what to pray for, and how to persevere as a disciple of her son. Let her teach you never to jump ahead of the Lord or try to figure everything out on your own. Let her quiet, surrendered heart move you to trust in God's providence and in his ability to work in your life.

Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI once said: "The Virgin Mary, who believed in the word of the Lord, did not lose her faith in God when she saw her son rejected, abused and crucified. Rather she remained beside Jesus, suffering and praying until the end. And she saw the radiant dawn of his resurrection. Let us learn from her to witness to our faith with a life of humble service, ready to pay the price of staying faithful to the gospel of love and truth, certain that nothing that we do will be lost."

"O Mary, Lady of Sorrows, help us to be courageous and faithful to Jesus. Teach us by your witness to be overcomers. Help us believe that our Father can turn our sorrows into joy." □

Behold, your mother.

(John 19:27)



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(This article is adapted from a Meditation that originally appeared in the September 2011 issue of the Word Among Us Magazine.)

OVERVIEW FOR THE MONTH

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The month of September is dedicated to Our Lady of Sorrows, whose memorial the Church celebrates on September 15. September falls during the liturgical season known as Ordinary Time, which is represented by the liturgical color green.

During September, as in all of Ordinary Time (formerly known as Time After Pentecost), the Liturgy does not focus on one particular mystery of Christ, but views the

mystery of Christ in all its aspects. We follow the life of Christ through the Gospels, and focus on the teachings and parables of Jesus and what it means for us to be a follower of Christ. During Ordinary Time we can concentrate more on the saints and imitate their holiness as Christ's followers. ☐

FEASTS FOR SEPTEMBER

The feasts on the General Roman Calendar celebrated during the month of September are:

- | | | | |
|----|---|----|---|
| 3 | Gregory the Great, Memorial | 26 | Cosmas and Damian, Opt. Mem. |
| 6 | Twenty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time, Sunday | 27 | Twenty-Six Sunday in Ordinary Time, Sunday |
| 8 | Birth of Mary, Feast | 28 | Wenceslaus; Lawrence Ruiz and Companions, Opt. Mem. |
| 9 | Peter Claver (USA), Memorial | 29 | Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, Feast |
| 12 | Most Holy Name of Mary, Opt. Mem. | 30 | Jerome, Memorial |
| 13 | Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Sunday | | |
| 14 | Exaltation of the Holy Cross, Feast | | |
| 15 | Our Lady of Sorrows, Memorial | | |
| 16 | Cornelius and Cyprian, Memorial | | |
| 17 | Robert Bellarmine, Opt. Mem. | | |
| 19 | Januarius, Opt. Mem. | | |
| 20 | Twenty-Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Sunday | | |
| 21 | Matthew, Feast | | |
| 23 | Pio of Pietrelcina, Memorial | | |

The feasts of St. John Chrysostom (September 13), St. Andrew Kim and Companions (September 20) and St. Vincent de Paul (September 27) are superseded by the Sunday liturgy. . . ☐

OUR CENACLE CORNER

*Seeking a deeper relationship with God
through meditation of passages from Holy Scriptures*

The Power of God's Words in The Scriptures

Hebrews 4:12

Jeremiah 23:29

2 Timothy 3:16-17

Matthew 4:4

Ephesians 6:17

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE MONTH

THE BIRTH OF THE VIRGIN MARY

WE FOLLOW HER EXAMPLE

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For centuries, God had been promising his people a Savior, one who would “shepherd his flock” and whose greatness would “reach to the ends of the earth” (Micah 5:3). And over the generations, countless Jews waited, trusting that God’s promises would be fulfilled. That’s why the birth of Mary was such a momentous event: It signaled the era of fulfillment.

The church has celebrated Mary’s birth since the sixth century, not only to honor her as the Mother of God but also to mark a unique moment in salvation history. As the Fathers of the Second Vatican Council put it: “After a long period of waiting, the times are fulfilled in her, the exalted Daughter of Zion, and the new plan of salvation is established” (On the Church, 55).

This feast tells us that our God always keeps his promises. Both Mary and Joseph knew this truth. What a shocking message the angel Gabriel delivered when he told Mary that she, a virgin, was to bear God’s Son! She



didn’t know how it would happen, yet she believed. And when Joseph learned in a dream that Mary’s child was conceived through the Holy Spirit, he too trusted God’s word and acted in faith by marrying her (Matthew 1:20-21). And neither of them was disappointed.

It is a great day to rejoice in God’s faithfulness and love. It’s a day to celebrate that love as it was manifested in the Virgin Mary. We see that love, first of all, in her immaculate conception. But we also see it in every episode of her life. Naturally we want to honor her for saying yes to the angel at the annunciation. But that yes was the culmination of years of humble openness to the Lord. And for all those years we should rejoice and praise the Lord.

It is also a great day to imitate Mary with our own yes to God. It’s a great day to tell him that we want to try our best to follow Mary’s example. We may not be perfectly sinless, but Christ still lives in us. Let’s honor him today by taking his own mother’s advice: “Do whatever he tells you” (John 2:5).

“Father, I trust in your faithfulness. Give me the grace to believe that you will fulfill all your promises in my life. Mary, Mother of God, pray for me to have the same trust that you did.” □

(This article is adapted from a Meditation that originally appeared in the September 2009 issue of the Word Among Us Magazine.)

THE FEAST OF THE EXALTATION OF THE HOLY CROSS

THE INSTRUMENT OF OUR SALVATION

By Scott P. Richert

The Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross celebrates three historical events: the finding of the True Cross by Saint Helena, the mother of the emperor Constantine; the dedication of churches built by Constantine on the site of the Holy Sepulchre and Mount Calvary; and the restoration of the True Cross to Jerusalem by the emperor Heraclius II. But in a deeper sense, the feast also celebrates the Holy Cross as the instrument of our salvation.

History of the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross

After the death and resurrection of Christ, both the Jewish and Roman authorities in Jerusalem made efforts to obscure the Holy Sepulchre, Christ’s tomb in the garden near the site of His crucifixion. The earth had been

mounded up over the site, and pagan temples had been built on top of it. The Cross on which Christ had died had been hidden (tradition said) by the Jewish authorities somewhere in the vicinity.

According to tradition, first mentioned by Saint Cyril of Jerusalem in 348, Saint Helena, nearing the end of her life, decided under divine inspiration to travel to Jerusalem in 326 to excavate the Holy Sepulchre and attempt to locate the True Cross.

A Jew by the name of Judas, aware of the tradition concerning the hiding of the Cross, led those excavating the Holy Sepulchre to the spot in which it was hidden.

Three crosses were found on the spot. According to one tradition, the inscription *Jesus Nazarenus Rex Iudaeorum*

("Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews") remained attached to the True Cross. According to a more common tradition, however, the inscription was missing, and Saint Helena and Saint Macarius, the bishop of Jerusalem, assuming that one was the True Cross and the other two belonged to the thieves crucified alongside Christ, devised an experiment to determine which was the True Cross.

In one version of the latter tradition, the three crosses were taken to a woman who was near death; when she touched the True Cross, she was healed. In another, the body of a dead man was brought to the place where the three crosses were found, and laid upon each cross. The True Cross restored the dead man to life.

In celebration of the discovery of the Holy Cross, Constantine ordered the construction of churches at the site of the Holy Sepulchre and on Mount Calvary. Those churches were dedicated on September 13 and 14, 335, and shortly thereafter the Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross began to be celebrated on the latter date. The feast slowly spread from Jerusalem to other churches, until, by the year 720, the celebration was universal.

In the early seventh century, the Persians conquered Jerusalem, and the Persian king Khosrau II captured the True Cross and took it back to Persia. After Khosrau's defeat by Emperor Heraclius II, Khosrau's own son had him assassinated in 628 and returned the True Cross to Heraclius. In 629, Heraclius, having initially taken the True Cross to Constantinople, decided to restore it to Jerusalem. Tradition says that he carried the Cross on his own back, but when he attempted to enter the church on Mount Calvary, a strange force stopped him. Patriarch Zacharias of Jerusalem, seeing the emperor struggling, advised him to take off his royal robes and crown and to dress in a penitential robe instead. As soon as Heraclius took Zacharias' advice, he was able to carry the True Cross into the church.

For some centuries, a second feast, the Invention of the Cross, was celebrated on May 3 in the Roman and

Gallican churches, following a tradition that marked that date as the day on which Saint Helena discovered the True Cross. In Jerusalem, however, the finding of the Cross was celebrated from the beginning on September 14.

Why Do We Celebrate the Feast of the Holy Cross?

It's easy to understand that the Cross is special because Christ used it as the instrument of our salvation. But after His Resurrection, why would Christians continue to look to the Cross?

Christ Himself offered us the answer: "If any man will come after me, let him deny himself, and take up his cross daily, and follow me" (Luke 9:23). The point of

taking up our own cross is not simply self-sacrifice; in doing so, we unite ourselves to the sacrifice of Christ on His Cross.

When we participate in the Mass, the Cross is there, too. The "unbloody sacrifice" offered on the altar is the re-presentation of Christ's Sacrifice on the Cross. When we receive the Sacrament of Holy Communion, we do not simply unite ourselves to Christ; we nail ourselves

to the Cross, dying with Christ so that we might rise with Him.

"For the Jews require signs, and the Greeks seek after wisdom: But we preach Christ crucified, unto the Jews indeed a stumbling block, and unto the Gentiles foolishness . . ." (1 Corinthians 1:22-23). Today, more than ever, non-Christians see the Cross as foolishness. What kind of Savior triumphs through death?

For Christians, however, the Cross is the crossroads of history and the Tree of Life. Christianity without the Cross is meaningless: Only by uniting ourselves to Christ's Sacrifice on the Cross can we enter into eternal life. □



The Discovery of the True Cross, by Italian painter Agnolo Gaddi c.1350-96. Fresco, c.1385. Basilica di Santa Croce, Florence, Italy.

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GOD TOUCHED ME

PUTTING GOD 1ST IN YOUR LIFE

Matthew 6:33

By Maria Sheets, a devotee

As a child, my parents took us to Sunday mass at The Holy Trinity Church in Estrada, Manila, where the magnificent statue of the Holy Trinity is enshrined at the center altar. I grew up adoring the Holy Trinity, however, the statue of God The Father looked strict. I know He loves me for He created us in His image; yet, I feared Him; thinking He will punish me if I disobeyed Him. I thought He was unapproachable and unforgiving. I was wrong!

I have always felt the presence of God and Our Blessed Virgin Mary in my heart because my parents, who were devout Catholics, raised us observing the Angelus daily and all religious Holy days. During my teen years, I joined the D'Legioners Club, dedicated to our Lady of Fatima and was active in all the group's religious and spiritual activities. I longed to know more about the Catholic faith so after graduating from a public high school, Araullo High School, I decided to finish my college education from a Catholic school, St. Paul's College, Manila

My faith grew stronger and along with it, opportunities for personal growth and career advancement also expanded. In spite of the material success, I remained faithful and dedicated to God; helping my family and others to complete college education so they can have better lives for themselves and their families. I shared my blessings to those in need without expecting anything in return. I was happy I could do something that alleviated the pain or suffering of others. It was a joy for me to be always available to my parents whenever they needed me; in happy occasions or in poor health and handling family conflicts. I always gave thanks to God, acknowledging that I am nothing without His love, mercy and grace. I loved God above all and always called out His Name in trials and tribulations and especially, in triumph.

I always dreamt of relocating to the USA, live the good life and travel all over the world. I did it through hard work, good deeds and unrelenting prayers to Our Lord Jesus Nazarene of Quiapo Church. As a testament to my faith in the glory of Our Lord Jesus Nazarene, I took His sacred image with me on my flight from Manila to Los Angeles, placing Him in a nice hand-carry bag, with a smaller image of Our Mother of Perpetual Help and Sto. Nino. I was nervous but calm, not wanting to be reprimanded by the stewardess for what looked like an oversized bag. Lo

and behold, the middle seat next to my aisle seat was vacant! Our Lord Jesus Nazarene journeyed with me peacefully in His own seat! We touched down at LAX on Thanksgiving Day! Praise, honor, and glory to God Almighty, in Our Lord Jesus' name, through the loving intercession of Our Lady of Fatima.

Life in the USA is good but hectic and competitive. I worked hard and prayed for career stability and reliable pension plan that would secure my retirement years. I prayed faithfully to marry a Catholic man who would share my faith and belief in God. In addition to my devotion to Our Lord Jesus Nazarene and Our Blessed Virgin Mary, I sought the aid of St. Jude Thaddeus to help me realize my dreams and aspirations. My prayers were answered. Thanksgiving, praise, honor, and glory to God Almighty and Our Lord Jesus Nazarene, and for the intercessions of Our Blessed Virgin Mary and St. Jude Thaddeus!

A successful career with the Los Angeles City government provided me the opportunity to collaborate with high ranking government officials and their staff, various City and County departments, schools, community and faith based organizations and business entities, on many community projects to improve neighborhoods and lives of children and their families. A busy work schedule, coupled with civic/social affiliations and travel with my husband, family and friends took a lot of my time, leaving very little time for prayers. During challenging times, I turned to God, trusting Him completely to carry me through. I took each challenge as a renewal of my faith. There was a void in my heart for community based prayers; and to be part of a community effort to serve God, spread the faith, and spread His Word.

In June, 2012, I was invited to a prayer meeting organized for Sr. Eva Maamo, MD, SPC, the President of the Our Lady of Peace Mission based in the Philippines, whose mission is to help the poor and the sick. PowerPoint presentations were shown of various projects in rural areas to help impoverished children & their families and rebuild communities. Most of all, we watched how over 500 families living in the mountains of Baguio were brought to Gala, Zambales in a resettlement area where they were evangelized through Sr. Eva's hard work and dedication to God. These families were baptized; a church and school were built in their own community and they thrived through livelihood programs.



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SPIRITUAL ARMY NEWS DISPATCH

CELEBRATING THE FEAST OF THE FATHER OF ALL MANKIND

The warm weather and cloudless sky could not have been more perfect for the devotees of God the Father as they eagerly prepared for The Spiritual Army of God the Father ministry's annual Eternal Father celebration on the 1st Sunday of August (August 2) in Los Angeles, CA and Las Vegas, NV.

In Los Angeles, the celebration was highlighted by floral offerings, music and Liturgical service officiated by Fr. Vincent Hughes. The number of people who graced the occasion at the Monastery of the Angels has been increasing for the past 13 years. A testimony that God's glory is being known, honored, and loved by all men. It is also a day of the final consecration to the Father of all Mankind, offering a white scapular representing the purity of our hearts when we face our Creator. Lunch was served and it was indeed an apparent reflection of how all the devotees pulled their resources to share that sumptuous food to each and every hungry soul. **Thank you LA devotees for your never-ending generosity!**

The Las Vegas celebration was joined by another God the Father prayer group and some parishioners of St. Bridget Roman Catholic Church of Las Vegas. Highlight was the procession of the picture of God the Father, candles and floral arrangement offering. Two little girls sang "Glorify Thy Name" during the procession. This was followed by floral offering by everyone, short prayers to Eternal Father, and Liturgical service celebrated by Fr. Frank Yncierto. During the offertory, the two girls, dressed in white carrying some yellow roses, joined the offerors of the bread and wine. The celebration was concluded by praying the 8th day Holy Octave of Consecration to God the Father. ☐

THE 800 OUR FATHER DEVOTION

The 800 Our Father Devotion, launched in July, 2015, was convened again this August to emphasize our love for our Creator in this month of our consecration to Him. The ministry plans to alternately pray the 800 Our Father Devotion with its 2000 Hail Mary's throughout the year. With this, we can assure that our devotion to Eternal Father will definitely provide its fitting devotional exposure to the faithful who have been seeking novena prayers solely dedicated to Eternal Father. It will be very soon, that the said Novena will be available for download at our website, www.spiritualarmyofgod.org. ☐

LAS VEGAS LAUNCHES MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP AND SACRED HEART OF JESUS FOR HOLY SOULS IN PURGATORY DEVOTIONS

Our Las Vegas devotees have initiated a Mother of Perpetual Help devotion every Wednesday that started on August 5, 2015, the 1st Wednesday of August, at St. Francis de Sales church. On the same week, August 7, 2015, the 1st Friday of August, they launched the Sacred Heart Devotion for Holy Souls. These devotions will focus on the mission for each of the devotee's spirituality. One can contemplate the ever-giving God Almighty through our dearest Mother who is our foremost intercessor after our Lord Jesus Christ before the throne of Eternal Father; while the other focuses on the merciful heart of Jesus that pours in the blood of salvation on the holy souls in purgatory.

The devotions are here with us so we can be more resolved in strengthening our intimacy with God through our Blessed Mother and our Lord God Jesus Christ. ☐

UPCOMING EVENTS

TOY DRIVE FOR THE LOS ANGELES CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL

PLEASE DROP OFF
YOUR NEW UNWRAPPED TOYS
EVERY 1ST AND 3RD SATURDAYS
AT THE CONVENT OF THE SISTER
DISCIPLES OF THE DIVINE MASTER

JOURNEY TO HOLY SITES IN SANTA FE, NEW MEXICO

ST. JOSEPH'S MIRACULOUS STAIRCASE
SANTUARIO DE CHIMAYO -- THE
LOURDES OF AMERICA
SEPTEMBER 4-7, 2015
DAILY ACTIVITIES AND OTHER
INFORMATION AVAILABLE AT
WWW.SPIRITUALARMYOFGOD.ORG

TENTH SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA DIVINE MERCY CONGRESS

SEPTEMBER 12 – 13, 2015
CHRIST THE KING CHURCH
617 N. ARDEN BLVD.
LOS ANGELES CA 90004
Registration online @:
www.divinemercury.opoka.org
or by phone (323)393-4144

FEAST OF THE INFANT JESUS

SATURDAY, JANUARY 16, 2016
ST. FRANCIS DE SALES PARISH
1111 MICHAEL WAY | LAS VEGAS, NV

SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT RECOMMENDED

FAITH: WHAT IT IS, WHAT IT'S NOT IT'S IMPORTANT TO KNOW THE DIFFERENCE

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Quite often, we can find ourselves wishing that we had as much faith as someone we admire -- perhaps a saint like Francis of Assisi or maybe a member of our parish whose witness never ceases to build us up.

We feel like the disciples, who asked Jesus, "Increase our faith," or like the father who cried out, "I do believe, help my unbelief!" But Jesus would probably say the same thing to us that he told his disciples: "If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you would say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you" (Luke 17:5-6; Mark 9:24).

Jesus wasn't telling his disciples that they didn't have enough faith. And neither was he telling them that just the right amount of faith could turn them into tree-moving magicians. In fact, faith isn't quantifiable -- it's not something that can be measured in the same way we might measure a pound of rice or a cup of water. It isn't really an object that we collect but a disposition, an attitude of heart.

God gives faith equally to everyone, and he invites all of us to develop this faith. Every one of us can become just as holy and faith-filled as the greatest saint. It's like the way a weight lifter develops his muscles. He doesn't have more muscles in his body than anyone else; he has simply exercised them to the point that they have become bigger, stronger, and more noticeable.

So rather than asking, "How much faith do I have?" it is better to ask, "How am I using the faith that God has given me?" Remember, Jesus promised that we would be able to do even greater things than he did once he returned to his Father (John 14:12). But we have to believe in him -- that is, exercise the faith he has lavished upon us.

Faith in What? It is a common misconception that faith is little more than an intellectual exercise. No, it is a matter of the heart just as much as it is a matter of the intellect. This means, too, that faith is intensely personal, because it is a gift that God has planted in the deepest part of our hearts. So at its foundation, faith is not about facts but about something far more vibrant. It is about who we are and about how we stand before our loving Father.

When he met with young people and seminarians at St. Joseph Seminary in New York in 2008, Pope Benedict XVI described the call to live by faith this way: "Dear friends, truth is not an imposition. Nor is it simply a set of rules. It

is a discovery of the One who never fails us; the One whom we can always trust. In seeking truth we come to live by belief because ultimately truth is a person: Jesus Christ."

In these few words, the Holy Father captured the heart of faith. At its core, faith is not a matter of various truths that we string together and use to build a philosophy of life. Rather, faith is a matter of a relationship with Jesus as a person. It is a relationship in which his philosophy becomes our philosophy. It is a relationship in which we are able to touch his perfect, eternal life and begin to experience that life in our own hearts and minds. It is a relationship in which we are moved to entrust our lives to his care, knowing that we can rely on him in every situation.

A Leap of Faith? Another misconception holds that faith has to do with believing in something that we can never know for sure. On one hand, there is something to the concept of a "leap of faith," or "blind faith." After all, God is a mystery, and we will never really be able to grasp the fullness of his wisdom. And so in a sense, we must believe without seeing, just as Jesus said (John 20:29). But on the other hand, it is a misconception to think that faith is nothing but a leap into the darkness -- or to think that this leap is all there is to faith. One of the foundational tenets of Christianity is the concept of revelation.

Rather than a blind leap into the darkness, faith is a kind of certainty that comes because God is showing -- revealing -- himself to us. Rather than our having to convince ourselves of something, or leaping into something that makes no logical sense, faith is an inner conviction that comes from the Holy Spirit. It doesn't rely solely on external proof, because we have plenty of interior evidence that comes from turning to the Lord in prayer. Where once there was fear, doubt, or anxiety, now there is peace, hope, and security. We can echo, along with St. Paul: "I know him in whom I have believed and am confident that he is able to guard what has been entrusted to me until that day" (2 Timothy 1:12).

Faith and Prayer. We often think that we need active faith in order to pray, or active prayer in order to have great faith. This makes us doubt that God will hear us, either because we think our faith is weak or because we don't pray as often as we should. While it is true that deeper faith leads to deeper prayer and vice versa, it is also true that many came to Jesus with little faith and no

prayer, and he never turned them away. Prostitutes, swindlers, pagans, rabble-rousers -- they were all just as welcome as honest fishermen and humble homemakers. Jesus welcomed everyone because he wanted everyone to know his love and to accept his message of salvation. He embraced everyone who came to him because he knew what was in their hearts. He knew that they all needed his forgiveness, and he was not about to reject them.

Obviously, those with deeper faith do have a deeper prayer life. And it is just as true that those who have a deep prayer life also have greater faith. But the misconception is that the rest of us -- we who feel our faith is not strong enough or that we do not pray enough -- are left out in the cold.

Don't believe it! Every one of us can discover the same thing that Matthew, Zacchaeus, and Mary Magdalene discovered when they first encountered Jesus -- that everyone is welcome. We can all come to our heavenly Father in prayer, and he will give us greater and greater "evidence of things not seen" (Hebrews 11:1). And that evidence will move us to greater faith. And that greater faith will move us to deeper surrender. And that deeper surrender will move us to a greater desire for God. And that greater desire for God will move us to deeper prayer -- and the whole cycle will start all over again, on a deeper level. ☐

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God Touched Me

As mysterious as the ways of the Lord, I was drawn not into the mission of Sr. Eva but to that of her sister, Carmelita Maamo-Canoy, Founder of Our Lady of Lourdes Ministry based in Chatsworth, CA. We were seated next to each other but only started to talk in length during the fellowship portion. When Carmelita mentioned that her mission is to help save mankind through prayers for the forgiveness of sins, conversion of sinners, redemption of souls in purgatory, I was moved. It is a personal choice on my part to always include the redemption of the souls in purgatory in my daily prayers. I believe that the living can help the poor souls in purgatory go to heaven by praying for God's mercy to forgive them and grant them everlasting life.

Joining the Our Lady of Lourdes Ministry with my husband was a path for us to be involved with a faith based organization dedicated to honoring Our Lord Jesus Christ who died on the cross for the salvation of mankind. With the intercession of Our Lady of Lourdes, First Saturday Devotion, 2000 Hail Mary's Prayer, Our Lord of Pardon Devotion Prayer, Feeding of the Homeless, and Retreats, devotees continuously pray for mankind's salvation.

Through the 2000 Hail Mary's Prayer held sometime in August 2014, I met Lilia Tuazon, a devotee of The Spiritual Army of God The Father. She invited me to attend the First Sunday Devotion to God The Father. I

was profoundly silent but my heart was beating so fast. It was the first time I ever heard of a devotion to God Our Father, whom I adored and yet, feared, during my childhood. I was overjoyed with this invitation. Since attending the First Sunday Mass at The Monastery of the Angels, I have strongly felt the love, kindness, generosity, protection, blessings, and mercy of God Our Father. It felt like there was no moment in my life that God The Father has ever abandoned me. Truly, there was no reason for me to think and feel that He is strict and unforgiving. Memories of times when I was down and out filtered back knowing that God Our Father was there with me, like a devoted father helping his child.

God The Father touched me since I was born and through all the phases of my life, and now, during retirement years with my husband. Both of us are touched by God The Father's love, blessings, protection, mercy, and compassion.

Gary and I thank you, God Our Father, for giving us a beautiful home to dwell in, surrounded with a community of faith who knows You, honors You, and loves You. We thank you for dwelling in our home, in our hearts and in our souls.

We give ourselves to you, O loving Father. We shall serve you all the days of our lives. ☐

"I am pleased when you offer your contrite hearts to me, I will not reject.

Fruitful you will be in my graces of bounty."

*- I AM
08152015*

*If you have any personal articles
or God's miracle in your life
you want to share with the devotees,
we may be reached at
the following e-mail addresses
and phone numbers:
evelyn.pua@spiritualarmyofgod.org
alice.a@spiritualarmyofgod.org
(702) 274-4315 and/or (213) 385-7798*

THANK YOU

... a small and simple phrase that comes from a grateful heart!

Psalm 106:2

THE 2000 HAIL MARY DEVOTION

The Spiritual Army of God the Father acknowledges with thanks our generous September sponsors of the 2000 Hail Mary Devotion. We are grateful that we have merited their partnership and support in providing a venue of spirituality and fellowship for the devotees of God the Father.

Las Vegas, Nevada

Billy and Nicet Santos

Los Angeles, California

Bless Buan | Regina Lim

Alice Ng | Carolina Pineda

Aida Terashima | Aida Tuason

FOR PRAYERS HEARD AND PETITIONS GRANTED

Thank you, Eternal Father, for Your Will that transformed our sorrow into joy, our tears of anguish into tears of thanksgiving. Our physical and spiritual re-creation, through Your Healing Hands, kept us enclosed and revived in our hope for renewed lives as we look up to the heavens praising You, in Jesus' most Holy Name, through the intercession of Mary, our Blessed Mother, and of the angels and saints.

Thank you, God, for your fidelity. You have shown me every image in my past when you were always present, even though I never noticed or felt it at that time. I thank you for the memory - every image and feeling, even the painful ones, even those times when I was not grateful, even if it involved some unpleasant experience which I did to myself or to others. You were always there, my Lord and my God, loving and forgiving me all throughout my life, from birth until now and for always. Thank you, my loving and merciful God.

- Fed

We thank God for all the graces and blessings we receive day after day -- for the gift of life. For our two wonderful grandchildren, Alexa and Reece; for Alexa's recovery from her fears and anxieties from losing her mom; for Hannie and Jon's coming home permanently after years of study in a foreign land; for the continuous support [spiritual and otherwise] of Wena's wonderful friends and all the devotees of the Spiritual Army of God the Father; for the guidance JJ receives each day in raising Alexa and Reece in line with God's perfect plans for them. For all these, we thank God and we thank you all!

- Lou & Adel

I have much to be thankful for! But most of all, I'm thankful for every day God gives to me to be able to pray to him, talk to him, and thank him. He has given me so many blessings...more than words can describe.

- Xenia

I want to thank God for enabling me to purchase the house that meets all of my family's needs. What's more – it is one block away from the church! God knows what's good for us.

- Kevin

God Our Father, we love Thee, honor Thee, and thank Thee for taking us to a peaceful place, a new beginning in our life together as retirees; so that we may spread the faith; so we may touch the hearts of others with Thy Word.

Thank you, God Our Father, in the name of Thy dearly beloved Son, Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ, and through the intercession of our Blessed Virgin Mary, for allowing us to dwell in a beautiful home, in a peaceful community surrounded with the love and support of Thy children, devotees, family and friends of the Spiritual Army of God The Father Ministry, Our Lady of Lourdes Ministry and St. Elizabeth Ann Seton Catholic Church. With reverence and gladness in our hearts, we are deeply grateful for your strong presence in our life and in our home.

God Our Father, in praise, in thanksgiving, in offering, in repentance, in our inheritance, in saying our "Yes", in fidelity, and in consecration, we love Thee and give ourselves to Thee. Amen.

- Gary & Maria Sheets

The Las Vegas chapter thanks the devotees who have donated their time, talent and treasure to make the Eternal Father celebration a success: Mila Lumba, Guada Eugenio, Gary & Maria Sheets, Joyce Ulmer and Cora Agudo.

Thank you Isabel, our printing shepherd.

DEVOTION SCHEDULE



THE SPIRITUAL ARMY OF GOD THE FATHER

cordially invites you to the following devotions:

IN LOS ANGELES:

1st Saturday Devotion

The Convent of the Sister Disciples of the Divine Master | 501 N. Beaudry Avenue | (213) 250-7962
Holy Mass starts at 8:30 A.M. | 1st Saturday Devotional Prayers follow.

Devotion to God the Father

Every 1st Sunday of the Month | The Monastery of the Angels | 1977 Carmen Avenue on Gower | (323) 466-2186
12:30 P.M. - Rosary to the Father | 1:15 P.M. - Holy Mass
2:00 P.M. - Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

The 2000 Hail Mary Devotion – September 19, 2015

at the Convent of the Sister Disciples of the Divine Master | starting at 8:30 a.m.
Please call Victor at (213) 385-7798 if you wish to become a Sponsor of the 2000 Hail Mary Devotion.

IN CHINO HILLS:

Sacred Heard Devotional Group for Departed Souls

Every 1st Friday of the Month | 16657 Tourmaline Street | Chino Hills, CA 91709
Devotional Prayers start at 8:30 P.M.

IN LAS VEGAS:

1st Saturday Devotion

at Saint Frances de Sales Parish | 1111 Michael Way | Las Vegas, NV 80108 at 8:00 AM
Devotional Prayers follow.

AND

at The Cenacle House in The Enclave | 8455 West Sahara Avenue #172, | Las Vegas, NV 89117 at 1:00 PM
Cenacle will be at 10:00 AM before the devotional prayers.

Please call Evelyn at (702) 274-4315 for entry to The Enclave or for more information.

Devotion to God the Father

Every 1st Sunday of the month from 2:00 to 3:30 P.M.
at The Cenacle House in The Enclave | 8455 West Sahara Avenue #172, | Las Vegas, NV 89117

The 2000 Hail Mary Devotion – September 12, 2015

*Please call (702) 255-9616 or (702) 274-4315 for
dates and venues for the coming months or for more information or if you wish to Sponsor the Devotion.*

Mother of Perpetual Help Novena & Rosary Prayers

Every 1st Wednesday of the month after the 7:30 AM Mass
St. Francis de Sales Parish | 1111 Michael Way | Las Vegas, NV 89108

IN SAN DIEGO

Rosary to the Father

Monday – Saturday after the 8:00 A.M. Mass [Look for Iris Haj]
St. Mary's Church | 1160 S. Broadway | Escondido, CA 92025

IN THE PHILIPPINES

2000 Hail Mary Devotion - Metro Manila Area

Letty Rollan has organized the 2000 Hail Mary Devotion in various areas of Metro Manila through the members of the "Mother Butler." Please call her U.S. Vonage phone (510) 779-6652, text her at Manila #916-384-9300, and/or call her Manila landline 939-4677. Mention Mila Lumba's name to be recognized.