

Prayers to the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of Perpetual Help
Archbishop Allen H. Vigneron

INTRODUCTION

Priest: + In the Name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

All: Amen.

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

All: Who made heaven and earth.

Priest: The eyes of all look hopefully to you, O Lord;

All: And you give them their food in due season.

Priest: You open your hand,

All: And satisfy the desire of every living thing. (Cf. Ps. 145: 15-16)

Priest: The Holy Spirit has brought us here to seek the intercession of our Mother Mary in these times of trial, especially the grave financial hardships that cause such pressing anxiety among so many.

Let us begin by recalling the Gospels' witness to the role of the Mother of God in his plan to deliver us and to the place of her prayer in our lives:

- In accepting God's message through the Archangel Gabriel at Nazareth, Mary, the Virgin Daughter of Zion, became for all time the instrument through which the Father gives us his own Divine Son, with all the riches of his graces and favors. (Cf. Lk. 1: 26-38)
- In directing the wedding party at the marriage feast in Cana to do whatever Jesus told them, Our Lady instructs us to look the Lord with unconditional trust, sure in the hope that He will deliver us from all our distress. (Cf. Jn. 2: 1-12)
- In entrusting his Mother to the Beloved Disciple from his cross on Calvary, the Lord Jesus has given us for all ages thereafter his Mother to be our Mother, too. All of us disciples recognize her henceforth as our Mother; and she recognizes us as her beloved sons and daughters. (Cf. Jn. 19: 25-27)
- In her novena of prayers with the Apostles and the other disciples in the Upper Room between the Ascension and Pentecost, the Ever-Virgin Mary, the Immaculate Mother of God and our Blessed Mother, solemnly began

that ardent, unwavering and perpetual prayer which she has never ceased to offer to obtain God's help for us. (Cf. 1 Acts 1: 13-14)

So, with our hearts and minds formed by God's inspired word, let us with full confidence seek the help and support of the prayers of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Our Mother of Perpetual Help.

**PUBLIC PRAYERS
IN HONOR OF OUR MOTHER OF PERPETUAL HELP***

Priest: Most holy and Immaculate Virgin and our Mother, Mary, you are our Perpetual Help, our refuge and our hope.

All: We come to you today. We thank God for the graces received through your intercession. Mother of Perpetual Help, we promise to love you always and to do all we can to lead others to you.

Priest: O Mary, Mother of Perpetual Help, confident of the power of your prayers before the throne of mercy, obtain for us all the graces we need in order to live as your Son's faithful disciples.

All: Ask the Holy Spirit to give us strength to overcome temptation, renewed faith in Jesus Christ, sure hope in Jesus Christ and perfect love for Jesus Christ. And, at last obtain for us the grace of final perseverance and a happy death, so that we, like you, will live with your Son, his Father and their Holy Spirit in perfect bliss for all eternity.

Priest: As the People of God, members of his Church, we join our prayers and petitions and entrusted them in the care of Our Mother Mary, whom all generations continue to call "Blessed," and for whom God has ever done great things.

All: Mother of Perpetual Help, we call upon your most powerful name. Your every name inspires confidence and hope. May it always be on our lips, especially in times of temptation and at the hour of our death. Blessed Lady, help us whenever we call on you. Let us not be content with merely pronouncing your name. May our daily lives proclaim that you are our Mother and our Perpetual Help.

Priest: O Mother of Perpetual Help, with the greatest confidence, we come today before this most venerable and well-beloved picture of you consoling and protecting your Son, Jesus Our Lord. We, too, come to you for consolation and protection in our many needs and trials. We are sure that you will hear our pleading as we recommend to you in the silence of our hearts all our wants, both spiritual and temporal.

(pause)

Prayer in Temporal Wants

Priest: Let us now join to together to pray for the help of the Mother of God in this time of great temporal want.

All: O Mother of Perpetual Help, with the greatest confidence we kneel before you to present ourselves before your in our many afflictions. We implore your help for us and for our neighbors in the problems of our daily lives, especially as we struggle to provide for the well-being of our families. Trials and sorrows often depress us; misfortunes and privations bring misery into our lives, especially in these days of economic distress; everywhere we meet the cross. Comforter of the Afflicted, beg your Son Jesus to strengthen us as we bear our burdens and to free us from our sufferings. Or if it be the will of God that we should suffer still longer, help us endure all with love and patience. May we follow the example of your Son, and through him, with him and in him commend ourselves to the care of our heavenly Father.

CONCLUSION

Priest: Let unite with the Christians of all ages in praising the Mother of God and in committing ourselves to her powerful protection.

All: Hail Mary, *etc.*

Priest: You have been made for us, O Lady, a refuge.

All: A helper in need and tribulation.

Priest: Let us pray. O Lord Jesus Christ, who have given us your Mother Mary, whose renowned image we venerate, to be a mother ever ready to help us, grant, we beseech you, that we who constantly implore her help may merit always to experience the fruits of your redemption. Who live and reign forever.

All: Amen.

THE MEMORARE

All: Remember, O Most Gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection, implored your help or sought your intercession was left unaided. Inspired by the confidence, we fly unto you, O Virgin of virgins, Our Mother. To you do we come, before you we stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not our petitions, but in your mercy hear and answer us. Amen.

Priest: May the peace of Jesus Christ, the Son of God and the Son of the Blessed Virgin Mary descend upon you and dwell in your homes and in the homes of all the Lord's disciples. (Cf. Lk. 10: 6)

* Principle elements of these prayers are taken from "Devotions in Honor of Our Mother of Perpetual Help" (Liguori, MO: Liguori Publications, 2000). These materials are copyrighted by the Redemptorist Fathers and Brothers of Liguori Publications; they are used and adapted with the permission of the copyright holders.