

# News of the Director General

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## *Holy Spirit, Blessed Mother Mary and Pandemic*

We are in the Easter Season and in the middle of experiencing resurrection and ascension of our Lord Jesus and coming of the Holy Spirit. Key words coming to my mind are sadness, fear, confusion, doubt, etc. and then peace, strength, courage, conviction, etc. The early Christians especially the apostles and the disciples were afraid after the death of Jesus, were confused with the teachings of Jesus and lived in despair about what would happen to them in future. They opened their eyes became true witnesses after they received the Holy Spirit. They challenged even the Jewish and Roman authorities with faith and started leading a peaceful life.

We have completed with sadness one year anniversary of the birth of COVID-19. There are over 147,325,436 confirmed cases and 3,112,206 deaths caused by this virus in the world. First, second and third waves are over and now variant virus is on the move. Almost after one year, all the experts have struggled and found vaccines. Each name is confusing, and each brand is causing doubts. Vaccines do not guarantee that no one would be affected by virus but would protect lives without at least causing deaths. The reality is again sad and frightening. There are few who have taken the first vaccine and waiting for the second and some both vaccines but still virus affected them and killed them.

This is the month of Blessed Virgin Mary and in this month Father Parent obtained his reward of Eternal Life following the footsteps of Virgin Mary at the annunciation. She is the one who was able to unite all the apostles and disciples together to receive the Holy Spirit. Mary was chosen by God to bring salvation to the whole creation through Jesus Christ. She discerned God's will at the moment of Annunciation, gave Holy Spirit not only to Elizabeth but also to John the Baptist who was able to be born without sin by the power of the Holy Spirit. Finally she walked with the early Christians to obtain peace, strength, courage and conviction of the resurrected Christ to stand for truth against all the negative power. Our Holy Father, having discerned the powerful intercession of Mary, requested the whole world to pray during this month of May to end the pandemic.

As we profess, that *we believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord, the giver of life. He proceeds from the Father and the Son, and with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified. He spoke through the prophets, He is the breath of our lives, He sanctifies us and leads us towards holiness and He keeps joyful by giving us internal peace. It is in this month of May we celebrate the feast of Pentecost. Let us all pray with Blessed Mother Mary as Pope requested to invoke the power of the Holy Spirit. As angel Gabriel uttered to Mary, when Holy Spirit is there, "nothing will be impossible for God".*

Therefore, let us not fear, be worried, be sad or be in doubt. We shall pray with Blessed Mother Mary to stand firm in faith with our trust in God, very specially praising Him for having given us life until today in spite of all negative power of the virus that attacked and killed millions of lives . It is also our obligation to pray for those died to obtain eternal rest in God and for the affected persons to receive healing with the grace of God.

I am attaching herewith as Appendix *the request of Pope Francis* for our reference which will help us pray with the universal Church.

### *Thought of Father Parent*

“Let us ask to have a Gospel spirit in order to follow the will of the Father in all things by allowing ourselves to be guided by the Holy Spirit.” (*Louis-Marie Parent, o.m.i.*)

### *News from the DG*

As you know, on May 17th, we will mark the 11th anniversary of the death of our Founder, Father Louis-Marie Parent. On this special day, let us be united in prayer for the repose of his soul and for the strengthening of the spiritual heritage that he left us.

Our next meeting of the Central Council will take place via videoconference on May 24, 2021. We thank you in advance for your prayers for the success of this meeting.

### *Birthdays*

May 18, *Johny Puthenveetil*, Director of the Region of Kerala (India).

May 18, *Mario Laroche*, of Canada, former Director General.

May 28, *Rory Murphy*, United Kingdom and Councillor of the Central Council.

I invite you to pray for these persons as well as for all other members who celebrate their Birthdays in May. May God continue to bless them and accompany them on their life journey.

S. James Dunstan I.V.Dei  
Director General

PONTIFICAL COUNCIL FOR PROMOTION  
OF THE NEW EVANGELIZATION



**“Prayer by the Church was  
fervently being made to God”**

*(cf. Acts 12:5)*

*Let us pray for the end of the pandemic united in the recitation of the  
Holy Rosary together with the Shrines around the world.*

**Liturgical Guide**

May 2021

## INTRODUCTION

Pope Francis is requesting that during this month of May the entire Church invoke the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary for the end of the pandemic and, in a special way, he is inviting all of us to pray fervently for those most closely affected by it.

During each day of May, guided by a calendar with specific intentions, all the Shrines around the world, united in a communion of supplication, will lift up their prayers, which, like the fragrance of incense, will rise up to heaven.

Thirty Marian Shrines will take turns leading this prayer throughout the Church and offering the faithful a series of prayer moments for them to participate throughout the entire day.

- **The Shrine's Morning Prayer** will begin with the symbolic gesture of the *lighting of the candle* and placed in front of the image of Our Lady. Immediately afterwards, the passage of Scripture taken from chapter eighteen (18) of Saint Luke's Gospel, from which this sign takes its name, will be proclaimed. The celebrant will then explain the meaning of this gesture and of the day, and will end by praying, with the faithful present, the ancient prayer *Sub tuum praesidium* addressed to the Virgin Mary.
- **The Holy Rosary:** the highlight of the Shrine's day of prayer will be *the Recitation of the Holy Rosary*, prayed according to local traditions and customs, for the end of the pandemic and for the particular daily intention entrusted by Pope Francis, according to the directions provided in the *Prayer Calendar*.

- **At the end of the day**, all the faithful, gathered at the Shrine, will address a farewell greeting to Mother Mary, ideally, handing over to the next Shrine the prayer baton.

It is important to emphasize that, in addition to the recitation of the Holy Rosary, Shrines are invited to promote during the entire day other moments of prayer. Before each act of worship, the celebrant should remind the faithful of the significance of this initiative, including an intention in the prayer of the faithful at Mass.

Each Shrine should arrange for the participation of the faithful in the various celebrations proposed, following the health regulations in force, exhorting them also to pray in their own homes and families where attendance is impossible.

## SHRINE PRAYER OUTLINE

### LIGHTING OF THE CANDLE

*In the morning, the Celebrant begins the time of prayer with the liturgical greeting. He himself, or a designated member of the faithful, lights the candle placed before the image of Our Lady. At the conclusion of this gesture, a reader proclaims the scheduled passage of Holy Scripture.*

### READING

*God will do justice to his elect who cry out to him.*

**From the Gospel according to Luke**

**18:1-8**

Then Jesus told them a parable about the necessity for them to pray always without becoming weary. He said, "There was a judge in a certain town who neither feared God nor respected any human being. And a widow in that town used to come to him and say, 'Render a just decision for me against my adversary.' For a long time the judge was unwilling, but eventually he thought, 'While it is true that I neither fear God nor respect any human being, because this widow keeps bothering me I shall deliver a just decision for her lest she finally come and strike me.'" The Lord said, "Pay attention to what the dishonest judge says. Will not God then secure the rights of his chosen ones who call out to him day and night? Will he be slow to answer them? I tell you, he will see to it that justice is done for them speedily. But when the Son of Man comes, will he find faith on earth?"

The Word of God.

*After a brief moment of silence, the Celebrant continues with these or similar words:*

**D**ear brothers and sisters, the time of pandemic has deeply affected our lives. This trial is an opportunity to witness to our faith, to nurture hope and to make gestures of charity through corporal and spiritual works of charity.

So many are marked by grief because they have lost a loved one or have been unable to accompany them at the time of their passing and burial. Family and social relationships have been severely tested; the economic crisis and the lack of work cause fear due to the increasingly uncertain future of one's family.

In this experience, we feel like the first Christian community, which the text of the Acts of the Apostles describes with this beautiful expression: "*Prayer by the Church was fervently being made to God*" (Acts 12:5). We, too, wish to join together in raising our prayers to God so that He may hear our petitions.

In this month of May we gather around the Holy Father, who asks the entire Church, to raise together with the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of God, supplications for the end of this trial.

The candle that has just been lit will remind our community that we have been called to pray for the end of the pandemic and in particular for *[see as indicated in the text of the appendix]*.

We ask you to keep vigil in this Shrine and invite those throughout our nation, who cannot be present, to join us in prayer, for the duration of this day, from their homes, workplaces, and parish communities

Let us pray together:

**W**e fly to thy protection,

O holy Mother of God.

Despise not our petitions in our necessities,

but deliver us always from all dangers,

O glorious and blessed Virgin.

Amen.



## THE RECITATION OF THE HOLY ROSARY

*The prayer of the Holy Rosary may begin with the lighting of a few candles from the previously lit candle before the image of Our Lady. The celebrant explains the meaning of the gesture and the day's prayer intention in view of the pandemic and the particular needs of that geographic region. The following text may be used, adapting it according to the needs of the place and situation.*

**D**ear Brothers and Sisters, in communion with the Holy Father following the example of the first Christian communities in this time of great trial, we lift up to the Lord through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, unceasing supplications for the end of the pandemic.

Today, in particular, at this Shrine of *[insert name of Shrine]* we wish to pray for *[insert prayer intention found in the appendix]*.

May these candles, lit from the candle that burns before the image of Our Lady, may illuminate and transform this moment of darkness into an aurora of new light.

We invite all those who follow us through our web channels to join spiritually to the recitation of this Holy Rosary with their families.

*The recitation of the Holy Rosary according to the local tradition follows. At the end, after the singing of the Salve Regina and the recitation of the Litanies, the celebrant and the faithful present address the following prayer to Our Lady:*

**W**e fly to your protection, O Holy Mother of God.

**I**n the present tragic situation, when the whole world is prey to suffering and anxiety, we fly to you, Mother of God and our Mother, and seek refuge under your protection.

**V**irgin Mary, turn your merciful eyes towards us amid this coronavirus pandemic. Comfort those who are distraught and mourn their loved ones who have died, and at times are buried in a way that grieves them deeply. Be close to those who are concerned for their loved ones who are sick and who, in order to prevent the spread of the disease, cannot be close to them. Fill with hope those who are troubled by the uncertainty of the future and the consequences for the economy and employment.

**M**other of God and our Mother, pray for us to God, the Father of mercies, that this great suffering may end and that hope and peace may dawn anew. Plead with your divine Son, as you did at Cana, so that the families of the sick and the victims be comforted, and their hearts be opened to confidence and trust.

**P**rotect those doctors, nurses, health workers and volunteers who are on the frontline of this emergency, and are risking their lives to save others. Support their heroic effort and grant them strength, generosity, and continued health.

**M**ary, Consolation of the afflicted, embrace all your children in distress and pray that God will stretch out his all-powerful hand and free us from this terrible pandemic, so that life can serenely resume its normal course.

**T**o you, who shine on our journey as a sign of salvation and hope, do we entrust ourselves, O Clement, O Loving, O Sweet Virgin Mary. Amen.

## FAREWELL GREETING TO MOTHER MARY

*At the conclusion of the day, the Celebrant addresses the faithful present with these or similar words:*

**D**ear Brothers and Sisters at the end of this day we entrust into the hands of the Blessed Virgin Mary the people touched by the pandemic and in particular *[insert prayer intention found in the appendix]*, that she may entrust them to her Son: May He hear and grant our petitions.

Let us invoke her together:

**R**emember, O most gracious Virgin Mary,  
that never was it known  
that anyone who fled to thy protection,  
implored thy help, or sought thy intercession,  
was left unaided.

**I**nspired by this confidence  
I fly unto thee,  
O Virgin of virgins, my Mother.

**T**o thee do I come,  
before thee I stand,  
sinful and sorrowful.

**O** Mother of the Word Incarnate,  
despise not my petitions,  
but in thy mercy hear and answer me. Amen.

## APPENDIX

### SHRINE LIST AND DAILY PRAYER INTENTIONS

Day	Sanctuary	Daily Prayer Intention
	<i>Vatican Basílica</i>	For the entire world wounded by this pandemic
1	<i>Our Lady of Walsingham (England)</i>	For all the deceased
2	<i>Jesus the Saviour and Mother Mary (Nigeria)</i>	For all those who have not been able to say goodbye to their deceased loved ones
3	<i>Our Lady of Czestochowa (Poland)</i>	For all those infected with the corona virus and all the sick
4	<i>Basilica of the Annunciation (Israel)</i>	For all expectant women and their unborn babies
5	<i>Blessed Virgen del Rosario (South Korea)</i>	For all children and adolescents
6	<i>Our Lady of Aparecida (Brazil)</i>	For all young people
7	<i>Our Lady of Peace and Good Voyage (Philippines)</i>	For all families
8	<i>Our Lady of Luján (Argentina)</i>	For all communication workers
9	<i>Holy house of Loreto (Italia)</i>	For all seniors
10	<i>Our Lady of Knock (Ireland)</i>	For all people with disabilities
11	<i>Virgin of the Poor (Belgium)</i>	For all the poor, the homeless, and the economically distressed
12	<i>Our Lady of Africa (Algeria)</i>	For all people who live alone and those who have lost hope
13	<i>Blessed Virgen del Rosario (Portugal)</i>	For all prisoners

<b>14</b>	<i>Our Lady of Health (India)</i>	For all scientists and medical research institutions
<b>15</b>	<i>Our Lady Queen of Peace (Bosnia)</i>	For all migrants
<b>16</b>	<i>St. Mary's Cathedral (Australia)</i>	For all victims of violence and human trafficking
<b>17</b>	<i>Immaculate Conception (U.S.A.)</i>	For all world leaders and for all heads of international organizations
<b>18</b>	<i>Our Lady of Lourdes (France)</i>	For all doctors and nurses
<b>19</b>	<i>Mother Mary's House (TurKey)</i>	For all people at war and for world peace
<b>20</b>	<i>Our Lady of Charity of Copper (Cuba)</i>	For all pharmacists and health care personnel
<b>21</b>	<i>Our Lady of Nagasaki (Japan)</i>	For all social workers
<b>22</b>	<i>Our Lady of Montserrat (Spain)</i>	For all volunteers
<b>23</b>	<i>Our Lady of Cap (Canada)</i>	For all law enforcement and military personnel and for all firefighters
<b>24</b>	<i>To be confirmed</i>	For all those who provide essential services
<b>25</b>	<i>Basilica of the Blessed Virgin of Ta'Pinu (Malta)</i>	For all teachers, students and educators
<b>26</b>	<i>Our Lady of Guadalupe (Mexico)</i>	For all workers and entrepreneurs
<b>27</b>	<i>Mother of God (Ukraine)</i>	For all the unemployed
<b>28</b>	<i>Black Madonna of Altötting (Germany)</i>	For the Holy Father, bishops, presbyters, and deacons
<b>29</b>	<i>Our Lady of Lebanon (Lebanon)</i>	For all consecrated men and women
<b>30</b>	<i>Blessed Virgin of the Holy Rosary of Pompeii (Italia)</i>	For the Church
<b>31</b>	<i>Vatican Gardens</i>	For the end of the pandemic and the resumption of our social and economic life