

**“The Family That Prays
Together Stays Together”**

Vol. 14

Num. 3

September 2020



*“Because of the daily family
rosary, my home was for me a
cradle, a school, a university,
a library, and most of all, a
little church”*

~ Ven.Fr. Patrick Peyton

The Rosary Priest

The fervent Marian devotion of Ven. Fr. Patrick Peyton can be traced back to his formative years in Ireland. He was greatly influenced by his devout Catholic parents and the Marian devotion of the Irish people.

Every evening, his mother would call the family to prayer, and his father would lead the family rosary in the home.

During his time as a seminarian in the United States, after his healing from tuberculosis took place, his love for Mary turned into an apostolate. He understood his mission in life to be spreading devotion to Mary and her rosary, writing several books and addressing crowds across the world.



Mary was his princess. He was honored to bring solid teaching about his princess to every nation, and often referred to himself as “Mary’s donkey.” The famous actress Loretta Young once made the remark that she had never met a man so in love with a woman as Fr. Peyton was in love with the Blessed Virgin Mary.

His Marian devotion inspired many people all over the world to pray the rosary as a means of peaceful resistance to dictatorial regimes. For example, in 1986, during the People Power Revolution that overthrew the oppressive dictatorship of President Ferdinand Marcos in the Philippines, it was the message of Fr. Patrick Peyton that gave the Filipino people tremendous strength and heroic courage sufficient to enable them to stand in front of armed tanks and pray the rosary. On the famous EDSA freeway, the people were encouraged to stand their ground and pray the rosary when they saw the huge billboards for Fr. Patrick Peyton’s Rosary Crusades that lined the street. The billboards read: “The family that prays together stays together” and “A world at prayer is a world at peace.” The rosary brought about a peaceful revolution; not a single shot was fired.



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EDITORIAL

Come September and the Catholics of West Coast - Mangalore and Goa - get set to celebrate Monthi Festh, a festival connected with the birth of Mary and the beginning of harvest season. It is celebrated with the traditional nostalgic 'Kobu' (sugar cane), 'Fulam' (flowers), 'Randhoy' (vegetables) and 'Novem' (freshly harvested and blessed rice corns).

The devotees at various places, particularly at Vailankanni, throng to the shrine to celebrate this event with great fervour. The month of September also witnesses another feast of Mary – Our Lady of Sorrows on the 15th day of the month reminding us of the journey of our dear Mother and in turn igniting in us a spark to spare a thought for our beloved mothers too.

Mother Mary! - not just an icon of Motherhood but a connect of loving relationship to Catholics across the globe. What relationship can ever replace the love of a mother? Who else can be of such inspiration for women to realize that the love, guidance and influence they bring about upon their children are distinct and invaluable?

Mothers who wish to be true to their genuine calling need only to look to the Woman who became the greatest mother of all. Born into a humble family, she was called by the Most High to be the mother of the Son of God. The intervention of God in her life did not take Mary out of the context of ordinary human lives and day today world. And yet, what an enduring commitment she displayed in her obedience to the call throughout her life! Indeed, Mary, the mother of Jesus, our mother, stands tall as a model of motherhood. Therefore Saint-Pope John Paul II in *Redemptoris Mater* describes, "In the light of Mary, the Church sees in the face of women the reflection of a beauty which mirrors the loftiest sentiments of which the human heart is capable – the self-offering totality of love, limitless fidelity and tireless devotion to work."



Hail Mary, full of grace!

Mary is also addressed as 'Stabat Mater' – Mary standing at the foot of the Cross. We are to remember her in relation to Christ, Our Lord. The profound sufferings she endured during the passion of Our Lord are particularly meaningful and an inspiration for many today to live out their life amidst the tosses and temptations of one's sailing. Widows, single mothers, divorced mothers, mothers forced to work out of necessity,

"Let it be done according to your word, not according to my troubled thoughts."

grandmothers raising grandchildren endure challenges despite not being respected, understood, emotionally isolated and unjustly criticized.

This September issue of Family Light presents to us the connect our families have in relation to Mary while living our unique life journeys.

May we all find in Mary, our Blessed Mother, the faith, hope, love and fortitude to stand firm at the foot of the cross. Praying for the grace to unite our suffering to the cross of Jesus let us be living icons of the tenderness of God.

Fr. Royal Nazareth C.S.C
Director, HCFM, Bengaluru

Dear Reader

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Help us connect with you through social media forum as well.

"Countless families the world over invite Mary to their homes through family rosary. She comes. They sense her presence. They solve their problems because where Mary is present there is Christ, her Divine Son".

-Ven. Patrick Peyton

“Clutching my Rosary brought me strength”

Mother Mary began praying for me even before I was born. My parents married in 1974, and for 6 long years they waited and prayed for the gift of a child. In December 1980, my mother's sister (or Ammi as I called her) made the novena to *Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception* asking Mother Mary to intercede for my parents.



In thanksgiving,
my parents named
me Velany after
*Our Lady of
Vailankanni.*

A month later, my mother conceived. I was born in October 1981 – thanks to Ammi's prayers and my heavenly mother who interceded for me even before I knew her. In thanksgiving, my parents named me Velany after *Our Lady of Vailankanni*.

From an early age, my parents instilled a love of Mary in my heart. We made the novena to *Our Lady of Perpetual Succour* every year, standing in long queues that stretched out on the roads just to stand in front of her image and thank her or seek her intercession. We prayed the rosary daily and my mother always reminded me that Mary was most happy when we grew closer to Jesus.

I received all my sacraments in a church dedicated to her and studied in a school under her patronage. At the age of 10, I joined the Legion of Mary and served in it for 10 years. During my time in the Legion, I came to understand just how amazing Mary's humility and obedience were – it certainly isn't easy to imitate her when serving others. Her patience and trust are qualities I am still trying to imbibe!

As I grew up, I turned to her often when I was scared. When I walked through lonely streets or crowded places, I would clutch my rosary and say, “I'm clutching your hand dear Mother. Take me safely through this place.”

I am sure she was there, walking beside me with my guardian angel.

Mary continued to work in my life as I entered adulthood. She drew my attention to a certain young man who prayed daily at her grotto after Mass. For me, his devotion to her set him apart from the crowd. He was the man I would go on to marry.

Our families wanted us to get married early in May, due to the possibility of rains towards the end. But the hall was unavailable on every date, except for the 24th of May. And so, we got married on the 24th of May – the day of the feast

of Mary Help of Christians! I am certain it was she who chose our wedding date.

Diagnosed with PCOS (Polycystic Ovarian Syndrome) at a young age, doctors said it would be difficult for me to have children. But through Mary's intercession and the goodness of our God, we have been blessed with three

energetic and loving children. Today, as a family, we pray the rosary daily, contemplating the life of our Lord with her as we go through the mysteries. Our children are still learning how to meditate on the mysteries, but surely, they will get there soon with her help. Every intention that we have taken to Mary during our family rosary has been answered. There is so much to admire and love about Mary – her trust in God, her humility, her sacrifice. But what I love most about her is this: She comes to help us even when we do not ask her to. So even during times in my youth when I did not think of her as often, she was always there, praying for me, for protection and grace – just as she rushed to help Elizabeth or interceded with Jesus for the wedding family at Cana without being asked to do so.

After all, she's a mother. She doesn't need her children to ask. Even when we don't know, even when we don't ask, our Mother is always making haste to pray for us, always interceding that we may grow in faith, ever closer to her Son. That is where she wants us to be, near Jesus.

-Mrs. Velany Rodrigues

St Louis Parish

Dahisar West, Mumbai



From a shepherd's diary...

On one of the evenings during the Easter season, as part of my regular family visits, I visited a family. Of course, these visits were special because they were happening at a time of pandemic when churches were closed, the movements were restricted and the people were in panic. The fact that most of them are daily wage laborers added to their miseries as they were not able to move out for any work.

As I was approaching this family, I realized that they were already in prayer. So, without making much noise, I just entered the house and silently joined them in prayer.

To my great surprise I saw all of them, from grandparents to the little ones, on their knees praying in a loud voice with outstretched arms. In the conversation that ensued after the prayer, they began to share their difficulties and struggle

to survive on a daily basis. Despite the fact that they had no work, no income and were unable to go out to meet friends and relatives, they looked cheerful and happy. They said, 'Father, we attend daily mass on television. It does not give the real satisfaction of having attended the mass in the church, yet we get the strength to face the situation from reciting the Holy Rosary thrice a day and seeking the help of our Heavenly Mother'. All of them from the grandparents to the grandchildren find time to pray together! Each one held a rosary and believed that when the Holy Mother is by their side interceding for them, there is no reason to worry.

Let me share one more experience. There is a girl from my parish who is a nurse by profession. Recently she returned from Kuwait where she was working. On her return, she went to quarantine for 14 days as per the Covid-19 protocol. During quarantine she was

tested positive, but after the treatment she returned home.

To her surprise no one was at home, not even her parents. She had to literally manage everything by herself. There was no one to help her. All of them, including family members and neighbors, avoided her and kept a good distance out of fear.

One day she shared her experience with me. She said being sick was bearable but not the way people treated her. Then I just asked her how she was able to overcome the traumatic experience. She said while spending time in prayer and reading the Holy Bible she realized that the best person to rely on is our Heavenly Mother as her entire life she experienced the most traumatic experiences.

Therefore, praying the Rosary strengthened her to move on.

The month of September is very important for those who seek the intercession of our Heavenly Mother. Two significant events of her life



are recollected during this month - her birth and her sorrows. Soon after the solemnity of the Exaltation of the Cross, we reflect on the sorrows of our Mother. This would definitely strengthen everyone to face the hard realities of life. Having a close look at her life we would find that she had every reason to be lost in her life. But those moments were prepared and assigned by God the Father to be united with her son in his passion and death. Her life journey filled with painful experiences, but she kept everything so close to her heart. She never gave up, never complained, yet always submitted to the will of the Father!

Rev. Fr. Jijo Kudilil C.S.C
Parish Priest, St. Joseph's Church
Chengalam, Kerala

"I found real consolation from the intercession of Mary especially through the Holy Rosary"

"Happy is he who lives and dies under the protection of the Blessed Virgin Mary"
- St. John Vianney

A Mother with such an experience would definitely understand each of our situations and will help us. When I look at my personal life, I have a special liking towards our Heavenly Mother from the very beginning. In all situations, in my needs, difficulties and in my struggles, I found real consolation from the intercession of Mary especially through the Holy Rosary. In my entire life, particularly in my priestly life, I have experienced the love and care of the Heavenly Mother.

At times we may feel praying the rosary is out of fashion! But praying the rosary and seeking the help of the Holy Mother is really powerful. May the intercession of our heavenly mother keep us and all the families always safe especially during this time of Pandemic.

Fr. Jijo Sebastian C.S.C
Parish Priest,
St. Joseph's Church, Kerala

My Devotion to Mother Mary

Mother Mary is the reason I belong to Christ. "To Jesus, through Mary" is an adage that has been my life's biggest truth.

At the age of 4, when I was in Nursery School, I fell in love with Mamma Mary when I saw her picture in my classmate's school diary! It was Our Lady Help of Christians and she was the most beautiful sight I had ever seen! My school was Auxilium Convent - Baroda, a Salesian Institution and I owe my Faith to them and of course, to Don Bosco - a famous devotee of Our Lady in his own right.

Since those days, I have always turned to her for any need, great or small, and she has always responded to me in her own way, thereby increasing my Faith manifold! A great aid to me has been the Flos Carmeli, the Prayer to Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, that has never been known to fail.

The Brown and Green Scapulars and the Miraculous Medal are among my all-time favourite sacramentals. The consolation they afford is incomparable and I highly recommend these devotionals to one and all.

FLOS CARMELI

A PRAYER TO OUR LADY OF MOUNT CARMEL

O most beautiful Flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine, splendour of truth, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this my necessity. O Star of the Sea, help me and show me herein that you are my Mother.

O Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and earth, I humbly beseech you from the bottom of my heart to succour me in this my necessity. There is none that can withstand your power. O show me herein that you are my Mother.

O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us that have recourse to thee. (3 times)

Sweet Mother, I place this cause in your hands. (3 times)

This Prayer has never been known to fail.

The Merits of the Most Holy Rosary are no secrets and we all know how powerful it is. And each and every one of her Fifteen Promises is True. Over the years, I have received numerous

Signal Graces from the Blessed Mother, not the least of which is that I have smelt roses so often, her favourite flower, even when there are no roses around! This is not to say that I deserve them in any way, I'm a sinner too! It's just that she's so good and always responds to us, if we reach out to her! Try it any day, she's always true to her word to each of us!

The day I discerned that Mary is the Beloved Daughter of God the Father, the Cherished

Mother of God the Son Jesus and the Adored Spouse of God the Holy Spirit, was of utmost significance in deepening my devotion to her. That was the day I realized that since she is so closely related to each of the three Persons of the Most Holy Trinity, it will be very easy for us to reach God through her intercession! Let us pledge to be close to her always and by her prayers fulfil God's plan for us in our earthly life and praise Him for all eternity in the next!

Yours in Christ and Mamma Mary,

Pragya Jain, St. Patrick's Church, Bengaluru.



Mary protects my job

I vaguely remember 20th of March wherein my office boy walks in with a carton of bubble wrap and asks us to pack our desktops as the lockdown had been declared along with the work from home policy implemented officially by the government due to the deadly corona virus.

I was so chuffed about the idea of being home 24/7 with the entire family, having delicious home cooked meals together, working from home, taking as many breaks as I could, having no bosses and colleagues to face, it was like a fairy-tale come true.

Things went on as desired during the first month as all of us thought the lockdown would get over within a month but it was not to be so. The lockdown kept on extending and so did life start to get a bit topsy-turvy

I believe and feel blessed that I have been brought up in a very religious, God fearing environment where in my parents attended the Mass daily, recited the Rosary daily and strongly believed that 'with God nothing is impossible'. They inculcated the same values in my brother as well as in me. Pre-lockdown, it was practically impossible for us siblings to attend the Mass or recite Rosary daily due to our work schedule but during the lockdown daily Mass and Rosary became a part our daily routine and our eyes were open to various little miracles and wonders.

Due to the financial slow down, I was hinted thrice by my managers at work that I would be released from my current project but each time they did, I raised this concern to Mother Mary during the Rosary and surprisingly the very next day my managers would extend my allocation.

I had to undergo an eye surgery for which I was asked to take a 15- days break. I was very reluctant to inform my managers about the same as I feared losing my allocation of the current project.

Yet again I asked Mother Mary to intercede for me and miraculously the very next day my managers upfront asked me to take a month's break if needed. My surgery was also successful by God's grace.

Although un-employment is at its peak, I believe through the intercession of Mother Mary my brother was unexpectedly promoted to a higher position. My mother was also asked to get an MRI done as she suffered headaches frequently and yet again the reports were very normal all because of Mother Mary's intercession.



“Thrice I was hinted about axing my job...each time I raised the concern to Mother Mary, my job remained secure.”

During this lockdown a lot of times we have been anxious, frightened, uncertain about the future and health. There have been differences of opinion and minor misunderstandings between us but the moment we pray the rosary every single time things have turned in our favour and life has become peaceful and joyful. In this way I could pen down multiple simple instances wherein Mother Mary has made the life of my family much more meaningful. During this lockdown one thing we as a family can rightly and confidently believe is that a family that prays the Rosary together always stays together and also with God and through Mother Mary's intercession nothing is impossible.

~Rachel Ferrao

St. Louis Church, Dahisar, Mumbai



“We must hold fast to the treasure of the rosary, the gift of Our Blessed Mother”.

~ Venerable Patrick Peyton

Family Prayer is our bonding glue

From my early childhood I have a great devotion to Mother Mary. She has always been my mother, refuge, help, protector and intercessor in heaven. I got this devotion from my grandparents (mother's parents) when I used to visit their home in Mangalore.

My mother has 10 siblings - 5 brothers and 5 sisters and I remember my grandfather used to wake us all up at 7.00 am sharp to pray the Angelus, then

"Praying the Angelus every morning before I start my day has kept me and my family from all harm and dangers"

again prayers at 1.00 pm before lunch and Rosary in the evening. It was a great joy to see all prayerfully coming together and this has kept the whole family together in love even now after so many years.

At home my dad is a great devotee of Mother Mary and a very prayerful person involved in many social and spiritual activities. He instilled in us the devotion to the Rosary and daily prayer. We have Rosary every day in our house. There is no excuse from reciting the Rosary even if we had gone for a function and came home late. Our house was called a house of prayer by all our neighbours.

We are a family of 10 members. My younger brother and I got married on the same day - 28th November 1998. Ever since we are living together as a joint family. I have 2 sons and my brother has a son and a daughter.

We stay along with my parents in one house. When our family was growing, we were looking for a bigger house. We looked for many flats but they were either not fitting our budget or we didn't like them. One evening my dad and I went for the first Friday Mass and after Mass my dad took me to see a bungalow which was for sale. It belonged to my dad's good friend who was also a part of a prayer group in IC Church, Borivali West. It was a huge bungalow, ground plus 2 floors, and the best part was that

it had a big room dedicated as a prayer room with a big Cross and a Mother Mary Grotto. They used to have prayer services and night vigils very often in that room. We liked the bungalow so much that we decided to buy it. We sat for negotiation and the owner was led by the Holy Spirit to sell the house to us at a very reasonable price along with all the furniture. He said someone had already given him a token post-dated cheque which he had to

encash the next-day, but he returned the cheque to them. If we had been late by one day, we wouldn't have got the bungalow. He also said he was happy that a prayerful family was buying his house.

This was indeed a great miracle for our entire family; it looked as if God had reserved this bungalow only for us. I dedicate this miracle to the Immaculate heart of Mary and Sacred Heart of Jesus because we always recite the consecration prayer every first Friday after rosary.

Even when there was a bomb blast in Mumbai a few years ago in trains, at Trade Centre and various parts of Mumbai, we were quite safe. I reached my work place and my wife reached home and the blast happened 15 minutes later.

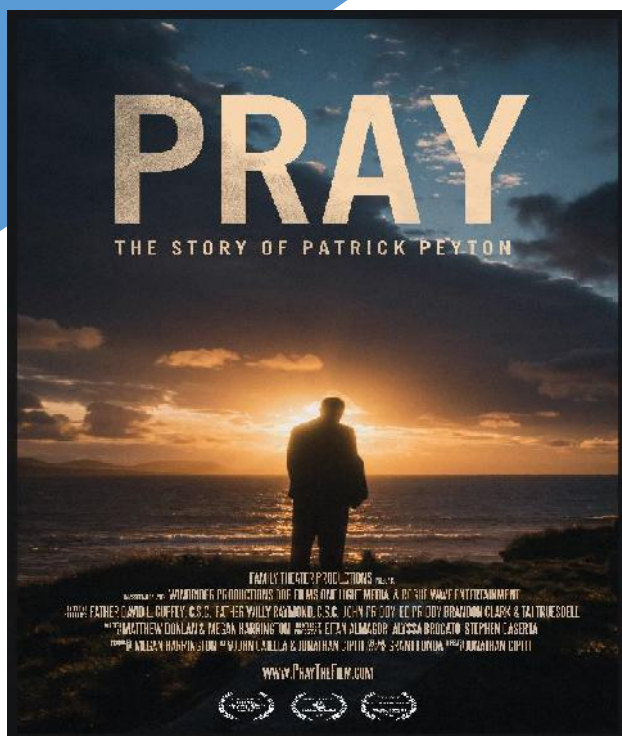
"I reached my work place and my wife reached home and the bomb blasts happened 15 minutes later".

Rosary has brought us very close to God and His Word. My dad and my mom have been a part of the Konkani prayer group for years spreading the Word of God and being a part of Intercessory Ministry. I am also a prayer group leader of St Louis Church prayer group.

The Rosary contains prayers that are strung together, for the glory of God. It is powerful, because it is the Word - the Sword of the Spirit. Anyone who goes to Mary and prays the Rosary cannot be touched by Satan. So, let's pray and spread this devotion of Mary, prayer and rosary to all families starting with our own homes.

Allwyn Menezes.

St Louis Church, Dahisar, Mumbai



ABOUT THE FILM

PRAY: THE STORY OF PATRICK PEYTON is an inspiring documentary about a poor, uneducated Irish immigrant who sets sail for America in 1928 with nothing but his faith and dreams of becoming a millionaire. Arriving in Pennsylvania and unable to find work, he accepts the position as a janitor at the cathedral, which rekindles his long lost desire to become a priest and changes the course of his life. Nearing ordination, his life takes a radical turn when he is stricken with tuberculosis. Facing certain death, he sinks into despair. A visit from his mentor, who delivers a simple message to pray, lifts the darkness. Taking his advice to heart, Patrick prays fervently to Mary, the Mother of Christ, for her intercession and he experiences a miraculous recovery. Feeling deep gratitude, he dedicates his life to telling all the world about the power of prayer and encourages families everywhere to bring prayer into their homes. Never taking "No" for an answer, he convinces Hollywood's biggest stars to help him spread the message, "The family that prays together stays together," through the power of mass media including radio, television, and film. Father Peyton's fame spreads around the world and audiences in the millions flock to his public prayer rallies. This is the story of a tireless missionary, an unlikely hero, and one of history's greatest advocates for family prayer.



**Wishing our every reader
A Blessed Feast of the Nativity
of Mary, Our Mother
&
Blessed Feast of Our Lady of
Seven Sorrows**

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