

THE MANTLE: The Voice of the Silent Strength Online Prayer Group

Joining in Prayer Under the Mantle of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Send prayer requests to pray@marianmantle.com **REMEMBER** put **“prayer request”** in **the subject**

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Marian Mantle Prayer Group Update For Oct 19, 2007

++MESSAGE FROM THE COORDINATOR

Hi, Everyone,

Once more we welcome all new members who have joined us in prayer for our loved ones.

Karen, who formats all the prayer intentions for this update, is traveling today and sent them along with this note for all of us: *“Sending these requests from the Blue Ridge Mountains in North Carolina. It is so beautiful here! I have never seen such color and beauty! God is good! Peace, Karen”*

October is certainly a month of beauty here in the Midwest. The leaves are beginning to burst into the colors of autumn and often that sign of hope, a rainbow, appears when the sun peeks through after drenching showers. The crisp mornings awaken our spirits and prepare us to recognize God’s blessings all around, especially since October is also the month of the Holy Rosary.

This week I sat and listened to a mother and father discussing their prodigal son. They talked about his growing up and how Jesus and Mary had been part of his life. The Bible they had given him in eighth grade at his Confirmation had been used much throughout his teenage and college years. He especially turned to it and went to the Adoration chapel when problems arose. He always turned to his Mom when trouble came and asked her to pray for him.

Eventually, the influences of the world around him brought his spirituality to the point where it is today. He believes in Jesus and has a great confidence in God. However, he doubts the Real Presence. He does not find it necessary to attend Mass or receive the Sacraments, but he still calls Mom and asks her to pray for his intentions. He often discusses religion with his parents. These discussions are always initiated by the son and are usually about some practical aspect of theology. Often he asks, “How does the [Catholic] Church feel about...?”

His parents answer his questions honestly. They continue to share with him those moments when God’s presence is felt in their own lives. They tell him they pray for him.

Their son lives a good, wholesome life. He never hesitates to help those around him who are in need. He has a heart for those who are downtrodden. In his home he displays a cross, a picture of Jesus, and a statue of Mary.

His parents long for the day he will return to the practice of the Faith. They pray for him every day. They ask the saints and angels and the Blessed Mother to watch over him and help him find his way home.

With an aching heart, his mother asked, “Do you think he figures we are praying for him so he doesn’t have to be concerned?”

Her husband answered, “I think he is relying on the Mercy of God that his mother told him about all those years while he was home with us.”

As I listened to these parents talk, I made mental notes about their son. He is confused, but spiritual. He has a good heart and a kind spirit. The Lord and His Church are often in his thoughts and on his lips. But, something is keeping him from taking that final leap of Faith. A closed door stands between him and the Eucharist.

I also noted things about his parents. They love him. They are trying to be patient. They are not preaching. They are not nagging. They are not arguing. They are calmly answering his questions. They are telling him the truth. They are trusting God for the soul of this child they love so much. And they are praying.

One prayer they are faithfully praying every day is the rosary novena. Perhaps it is this prayer that prompts the son to ask another question about religion when he is with them. Perhaps it is their rosaries that are slowly opening that door that leads back to the Eucharist.

In this month of the Holy Rosary, I pray that door will finally be completely opened and their son, and many more of our sons and daughters, will find the grace to walk through. What joy there will be in our homes and in heaven when they do!

As we pray together, may we each continue to have the perseverance of St. Monica and the unconditional love of the father of the prodigal son until that glorious day when we, too, can say, "Rejoice with me! The prodigal for whom I have prayed has come home!"

Peace,
MaryAnn

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PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR Oct 19, 2007

[Prayer intentions submitted to this group are shared only in the semi-weekly email update sent to members of the online prayer group. Please keep all of us and our prodigals in your prayers--just as we will pray for you.]

- +Our Lady of Sorrows, pray for us and for our children.
- +St. Benedict, pray for us.
- +St. Jude, pray for us.
- +St. Monica, pray for us.
- +For all our prodigals to find the truth and return to the Lord and His church.
- +For all those unspoken intentions in our hearts known only to us and to God, and for all previous intentions of this list.

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GOD'S WORD FOR US

If my people, will humble themselves and pray
I will hear from heaven and heal their land."
~2 Chronicles 7:14

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WORDS OF HOPE

"One day through the Rosary and the Scapular I will save the world"
~Traditionally recognized as spoken to Saint Dominic by Our Lady~

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WISH LIST

- +Stamps
- +Volunteers to pray during talks
- +Help with operating expenses

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FYI

- +For help with starting a Silent Strength prayer group to pray for the return of prodigal Catholics** contact 913-526-8977 or maryann@marianmantle.com. To help you get started you will receive the documents, "Guide to Forming a 'Silent Strength' Prayer Group", Tips from 'Silent Strength' Prayer Group Leaders, and more. MaryAnn is always available to visit with you about any concerns or questions through email or phone. If you think you might want to do this, take it to the Lord in prayer. If you then wish to continue, contact MaryAnn.
- +Presentations** For information about bringing the Silent Strength presentation to your parish or Catholic organization, contact 913-526-8977 or maryann@marianmantle.com
- +Orders for prayer booklets or recordings** may be placed through email or by phone.

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