

Act of entrustment to Mary Help of Christians

At the end of the extraordinary novena to Mary Help of Christians, prayed throughout the Salesian world, I invite you to make an Act of entrustment, renewing with the heart of Don Bosco, our trust in Mary Most Holy, in this hour of trial and suffering due to the Coronavirus pandemic.

We live this moment in unity with Pope Francis who calls the whole Church, men of all faith and goodwill, even those who do not feel the love of God, to "respond with the universality of prayer, of compassion, of tenderness. Let us remain united. Let us make our closeness felt toward those persons who are most lonely and tried. Our closeness to doctors, health workers, nurses and nurses, volunteers ... Our closeness to the authorities who must take tough measures, but for our own sake ... Closeness to all." (*Angelus* of March 22, 2020).

Today March 24, monthly Commemoration of the Help of Christians, let us pray the Rosary together.

At the end we will make the **Act of entrustment** before the picture of the Help of Christians in this Basilica of the Sacred Heart, where Don Bosco celebrated Mass on May 16, 1887, interrupted fifteen times from tears, for understanding the meaning of his dream as a 9-year-old.

Like Don Bosco, we too believe that Mary is our Mother and our help, especially in the hour of trial and tribulation.

First sorrowful mystery: Jesus prays in the Garden of Olives:

Let us pray for all believers in Christ and for all men and women of good will: so that in this hour of trial for all humanity, they rediscover in the faith the values of compassion and solidarity with those who are most tried and needy.

"Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be" - Hail, Holy Queen

Second sorrowful mystery: Jesus is scourged:

Let us pray for doctors and healthcare professionals who are working hard to assist coronavirus sufferers, some even to giving their lives. May the Spirit of the Lord support and comfort them in their service and mission.

"Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be" - Hail, Holy Queen

Third sorrowful mystery: Jesus is crowned with thorns:

Let us pray for the Authorities: called to make decisions for the common good. Let the Spirit of the Lord enlighten them about the choices to be made and may they feel accompanied and supported by the prayers of the people.

"Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be" - Hail, Holy Queen

Fourth sorrowful mystery: Jesus climbs Calvary loaded with the Cross:

For all families who live this time of hardship: may the Lord help them to discover new ways, new expressions of love, of coexistence, in this new situation. It is a beautiful opportunity to find true affections with creativity within the family. Let us pray that relationships in the family at this time always flourish for the good.

"Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be" - Hail, Holy Queen

Fifth sorrowful mystery: Jesus dies on the Cross and Mary is given to us as Mother:

Let us pray for all those affected by Covid-19 and for the numerous victims, including members of our Salesian Family also: men and women who live sickness and death in solitude: may the communion in faith and Mary's intercession be comforting and of support.

"Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be" - Hail, Holy Queen

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*O Mary Help of Christians,
just as our father Don Bosco did with the boys of the Valdocco oratory,
on the occasion of the cholera epidemic,
we too, in a world affected by the Coronavirus epidemic,
want, as a Salesian Family,
to express our filial entrustment to your Motherly Heart
Comfort the sick and their families.
Support doctors, nurses and all healthcare professionals.
Help all members of society and its governors.
Welcome everyone who has died from this epidemic.
Above all, renew in each of us,
in our communities and families.
our faith in your Son, the risen Jesus Christ,
Making Don Bosco's words our own, we say:
O Mary, powerful Virgin,
great and illustrious support of the Church,
wonderful Help of Christians,
terrible as an army deployed in battle;
you alone overcome every heresy and falsehood;
in our anxieties, in our struggles, in our hardship
defend us from all harm now,
and at the hour of our death receive us into Heaven.
Amen.*