

PRAYER WARRIORS

The call of *Unleash the Gospel* for us to become “a band of joyful missionary disciples” is challenging. Living rightly can be a real **battle** against a culture that pushes faith to the margins and worships power and fame. We can falter when illness and growing weakness seem to unfairly afflict us and our loved ones, and when our own tendencies to sin distract us from our mission.

Waging such a battle can be difficult indeed, especially if we try to go it alone. So let's **not** go into battle alone! **Let us band together in prayer.** Call into action the “special forces” of our Guardian Angels, the Blessed Virgin Mary, and the whole Communion of Saints! We are each other's comrades-in-arms. Prayer and the Sacraments are our weapons. Consider joining the STM Intercessory Prayer Team each month. This May, consider joining in praying a daily Rosary with Deacon Chris (at 6:30 am at STM), or anytime at home. The Rosary is a particularly powerful weapon. Consider these invitations to take up this weapon and become a prayer warrior:

- “The Rosary is the ‘weapon’ for these times ... Pray the rosary, for ... [it] is the weapon against the evils of the world today.” St. Padre Pio
- “Give me an army saying the Rosary and I will conquer the world.” Pope Blessed Pius IX
- “The holy Rosary is a powerful weapon. Use it with confidence... [because it] can destroy every seed of vainglory and pride.” St. Josemaria Escriva
- “The Rosary is a powerful weapon to put demons to flight and to keep oneself from sin...” [and to bring] peace in your hearts, in your homes, and in your country.” Pope Pius XI
- “The Rosary is the book of the blind, where souls see and there enact the greatest drama of love the world has ever known; it is the book of the simple, which initiates them into mysteries and knowledge more satisfying than the education of other men; it is the book of the aged, whose eyes close upon the shadow of this world, and open on the substance of the next. The power of the rosary is beyond description.”
Archbishop Venerable Fulton Sheen

“With all prayer and supplication, pray at every opportunity in the Spirit. To that end, be watchful with all perseverance and supplication for all the holy ones.” (Eph 6:18)