

## Novena to Our Lady of Lourdes and Nine Healing Saints

Dear friends, I offer you this novena to our Blessed Mother Mary under the title of Our Lady of Lourdes during this time of confusion and anxiety surrounding the spread of the COVID-19 virus. This novena includes prayers to nine other Saints (actually ten since two are twin brothers) who either cared for the sick in life or were afflicted by or died due to some sort of plague. All are known to work healing miracles among God's Faithful People. Please join me in praying this novena beginning Monday, March 16<sup>th</sup>. This will allow the ending of the novena to coincide with the great Solemnity of the Annunciation of the Lord on March 25<sup>th</sup>. Prayer is our greatest weapon, not only against worldly evils such as disease, but also against that greater sickness of sin. Our Lady of Lourdes, pray for and heal us for the glory of your Son, Jesus! Amen.

~ Fr. Nick Rottman



*On Feb. 11, the Catholic Church celebrates the liturgical memorial of Our Lady of Lourdes, recalling a series of 18 appearances that the Blessed Virgin Mary made to a 14-year-old French peasant girl, Saint Bernadette Soubirous. The Marian apparitions began Feb. 11, 1858, ended July 16 that year and received the local bishop's approval after a four-year inquiry. Coming soon after the 1854 dogmatic definition of her Immaculate Conception, the Virgin Mary's appearances at Lourdes turned the town into a popular travel destination. Thousands of people say their medical conditions have been cured through pilgrimage, prayer and the water flowing from a spring to which Bernadette was directed by the Blessed Virgin. Experts have verified 69 cases of miraculous healing at Lourdes since 1862.*

**Day 1:** Our Lady of Lourdes, chosen from all eternity to be the Mother of the Eternal Word and in virtue of being the Immaculate Conception, we kneel before you as did young Bernadette at Lourdes and pray with childlike trust in you that as we contemplate your glorious appearance at Lourdes, you will look with mercy on our present petition and secure for us a favorable answer to the request for which we are making this novena.

### St. Raphael the Archangel

*One of the three Archangels mentioned in Sacred Scripture, St Raphael is “one of the seven who stand before the Lord” (Tobit 12:15). His name means, “God heals”. St. Raphael is best known for his appearance in the book of Tobit, in which, disguised as a human, he aids the young Tobiah on a journey to Media. On this journey, St Raphael liberates Sarah, Tobiah’s betrothed, from a demon who killed her seven previous husbands on their wedding night. Upon their return, he heals Tobiah’s father Tobit of his blindness. Due to his role of healing in the Book of Tobit, St. Raphael is traditionally attributed as the Angel of the Lord in John Chapter 5, who moves the healing waters of the pool of Bethsaida. His feast falls on September 29<sup>th</sup>.*

O Glorious Archangel St. Raphael, great prince of the heavenly court, you are illustrious for your gifts of wisdom and grace. You are a guide of those who journey by land or sea or air, consoler of the afflicted, and refuge of sinners. We beg you, assist us in all our needs and in all the sufferings of this life, as once you helped the young Tobias on his travels. Because you are the “medicine of God” we humbly pray you to heal the many infirmities of our souls and the ills that afflict our bodies. We especially ask of you the favor of (healing for those ill with COVID-19 and protection for those not yet ill), and the great grace of purity to prepare us to be the temple of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

### Daily Prayer

O ever-Immaculate Virgin, Mother of Mercy,  
health of the sick, refuge of sinners,  
comforter of the afflicted,  
you know our wants, our troubles, our sufferings;  
look with mercy on us.  
By appearing in the Grotto of Lourdes,  
you were pleased to make it a privileged sanctuary,  
whence you dispense your favours;  
and already many sufferers have obtained  
the cure of their infirmities, both spiritual and corporal.  
We come, therefore, with complete confidence  
to implore your maternal intercession.  
Obtain, O loving Mother, the grant of our requests.  
(especially healing for those ill with COVID-19  
and protection for those not yet ill)  
Through gratitude for your favours,  
We will endeavour to imitate your virtues,  
that we may one day share your glory.  
Amen.



**Day 2:** We give you thanks, Almighty God, for sending your Blessed Mother to the Grotto of Lourdes, saying to Saint Bernadette: I am the Immaculate Conception. O Immaculate Mary, inflame our hearts with one ray of the burning love of your pure heart. Let them be consumed with love for Jesus and for you, in order that we may merit one day to enjoy your glorious eternity. O dispenser of His graces here below, take into your keeping and present to your Divine Son the petition for which we are making this novena.

## St Roch

*St Roch was marked with a red cross on his chest at birth. When his parents died he inherited great wealth which he gave to the poor and devoted his life to helping the plague-stricken and sick. His miraculous powers were known to have cured many with the, "Sign of the cross". He is Patron Saint of plague victims. His Feast Day is 16th August.*

O Blessed St Roch, Patron of the sick, have pity on those who lie upon a bed of suffering. Your power was so great when you were in this world, that by the sign of the Cross, many were healed of their diseases. Now that you are in heaven, your power is no less. Offer to God our sighs and tears and obtain for us the physical and spiritual health we seek:

(healing for those ill with COVID-19 and protection for those not yet ill)

This we ask through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.

(Repeat 3 times): St. Roch, pray for us, that we may be relieved from all diseases of body and soul.

Lord Jesus, may thy will be done.

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that we may one day share your glory.  
Amen.

**Day 3:** O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee. O star of sanctity, as on that day in Lourdes you spoke to Bernadette and a fountain sprang forth from the ground, bringing with it miracles from our Lord. Now I beseech you to hear our fervent prayer and grant us the petition we now so earnestly seek.

## St. Luke

*Hailing from the ancient city of Antioch, Syria, Luke was a Roman whose early conversion to Christianity is evidenced by his membership in the Christian community of Antioch, after meeting Paul. He became the Church's most articulate historian, writing both his Gospel and the Acts of the Apostles. Luke, a physician whose skills healed many of his suffering comrades, joined St. Paul on his second missionary journey, as recounted in the Acts of the Apostles. He was later to display a considerable talent as an artist whose icon of the Virgin Mary he gave to the Mother of God herself and which is now the prized possession of the Patriarchate of Constantinople. Although his skill as a physician and his talent as an artist may have by themselves given St. Luke a small place in history, it was his consummate gift as a writer that made him one of*



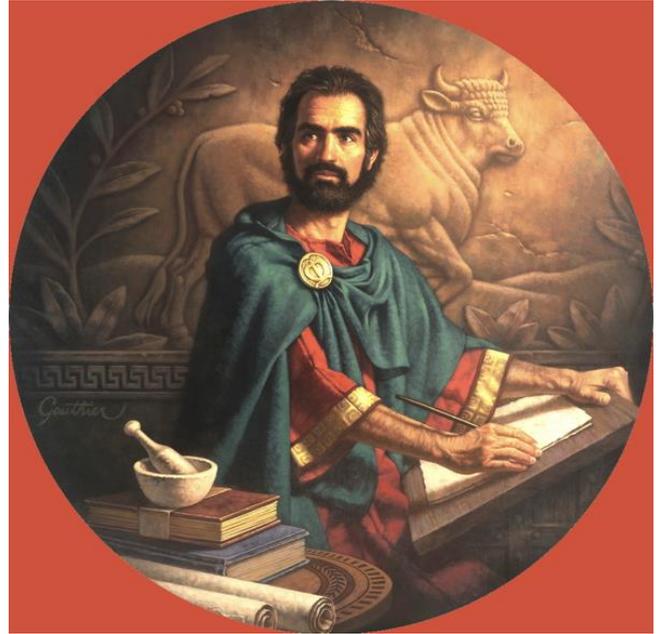
*the greatest figures in all Christendom. It is known that he remained unmarried all of his life, devoting himself to the utmost degree to the cause of Christ. When advancing years curbed his campaigning, he withdrew to write his memorable accounts and died in Thebes at the age of eighty-four. The winged ox, assigned to St. Luke, is a reference to his Gospel, which deals with the sacrificial aspects of Christ's life. St. Luke's Feast Day is October 18<sup>th</sup>.*

Most charming and saintly Physician, you were animated by the heavenly Spirit of love. In faithfully detailing the humanity of Jesus, you also showed his divinity and his genuine compassion for all human beings. Inspire our physicians with your professionalism and with the divine compassion for their patients. Enable them to cure the ills of both body and spirit that afflict so many in our day (especially those ill with COVID-19).

Amen.

Almighty God, who didst inspire thy servant Luke the physician to set forth in the Gospel the love and healing power of thy Son: Graciously continue in thy Church the like love and power to heal, to the praise and glory of thy Name; through the same thy Son Jesus Christ our Lord, who liveth and reigneth with thee, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever.

Amen.



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We will endeavour to imitate your virtues,  
that we may one day share your glory.  
Amen.

**Day 4:** Queen of Heaven, we your wayward children join our unworthy prayers of praise and thanksgiving to those of the angels and saints and your own. We pray the Holy Trinity may be glorified in heaven and on earth. Our Lady of Lourdes, as you looked down with love and mercy upon Bernadette as she prayed her rosary in the grotto, look down now, we beseech you, with love and mercy upon us. Obtain for us the graces from your Divine Son and dispense them to us in our needs, in particular for the special favor we seek in this novena.

Sts. Cosmas and Damian

*Sts. Cosmas and Damian suffered martyrdom in Syria during the Roman persecution of Diocletian, around A.D. 303. Tradition says they were twin brothers and medical doctors, and have been honored since the 6th century. These brothers never charged a fee for their medical services. They are patron Saints of physicians, surgeons, pharmacists, and the sick. Their Feast Day is September 26<sup>th</sup> and their names are in the Roman Canon of the Mass.*

O Physicians of souls, Saints Cosmas and Damian, stand before the Lord of All and ask Him to heal us and all those dear to us of any spiritual ills we may endure.

Drive away from us all sin and sadness of mind, all darkness and despair.

Make us then willing and loving servants of Christ, following your holy example of detachment from the things of this world and care for the needs of our neighbors.

On the glorious day of the Universal Resurrection may we shine with you in the full health of our nature restored by the mercies of Jesus who lives and reigns forever and ever.

Amen.

O glorious martyrs of Christ, Saints Cosmas and Damian, you gave your lives for the love of God, benefiting your fellow man, and crowning your martyrdom with an open and loyal profession of your faith. You taught us to love God above all things, and to love our fellow man as ourselves, professing always, and without fear, the religion of Jesus.

Augmenting amongst the faithful populace many miracles, you are glorious indeed.

Through your intercession, which brings about deliverance of these miracles, we pray to you for your aid in all things.

May your patronage never be far from us in the illness of our body and soul.

O great protectors, Saints Cosmas & Damian, assist us with your love and free us from all evils.

Amen.

#### Daily Prayer

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By appearing in the Grotto of Lourdes, you were pleased to make it a privileged sanctuary, whence you dispense your favours; and already many sufferers have obtained the cure of their infirmities, both spiritual and corporal.

We come, therefore, with complete confidence to implore your maternal intercession.

Obtain, O loving Mother, the grant of our requests.

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Through gratitude for your favours,

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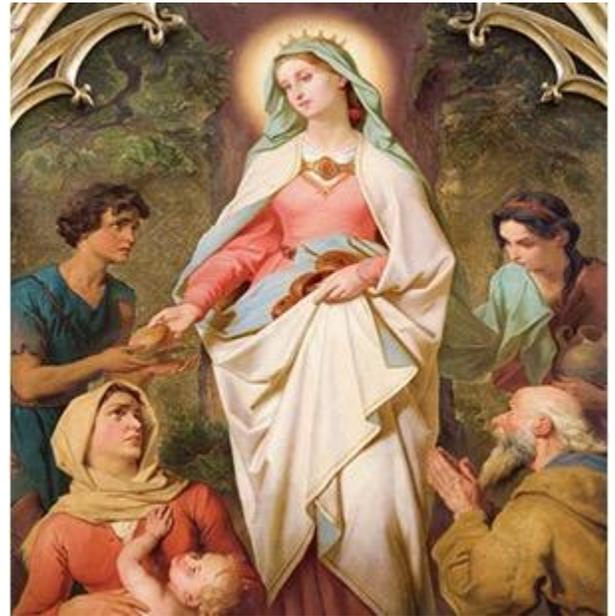
that we may one day share your glory.  
Amen.

**Day 5:** O Mother of God and our mother, from the heights of your dignity look down mercifully upon us while we, full of confidence in your unbounded goodness and confident that your Divine Son will look favorably upon any request you make of Him in our behalf, beseech you to come to our aid and secure for us the favor we seek in this novena.

### St. Elizabeth of Hungary

*St. Elizabeth was born in Hungary in 1207. Her father was the king of Hungary. As royalty, St. Elizabeth's "call" to married life was determined early on. Her marriage to Ludwig IV of Thuringia was decided when she was only four years old. She and Ludwig were married in 1221 and had a loving marriage. They had three children together. St. Elizabeth longed for simplicity, however. She wanted to simply live a quiet life with her family and devote herself to serving the poor. She would deliver bread to the poor each day. She also built a hospital. She even gave away royal clothing to about 1,000 poor people. Six years after they were married, Ludwig died. St. Elizabeth resolved not to remarry but decided to live as a nun would. With the money from her dowry, St. Elizabeth created a hospital and became a Third Order Franciscan. She continued to serve the poor tirelessly until her death at the age of 24 in 1231. St. Elizabeth of Hungary's Feast Day is November 17.*

St. Elizabeth, your heart was moved with compassion for all those who suffered. You even set up two hospitals to care for your beloved poor. We know so many people who are sick or suffering. From the common cold to cancer, it seems like illness is all around us. St. Elizabeth, please intercede on their behalf. Pray to God to ease their pain and bring them comfort. Help them to use their suffering to become closer to Christ. Please also inspire in us a compassionate heart. Encourage us to help all those who are sick. Sometimes it feels like the world's problems must all be solved by a single person, a single cure. Yet we know that even simply offering a kind word, a prepared meal, or a ride to the doctor can be the actions that help change the world. All it takes is one person. God, we know that You work all things for our good, and that You have a plan that we cannot see. We ask for the healing of all of these people, through the intercession of St. Elizabeth of Hungary: (healing for those ill with COVID-19 and protection for those not yet ill). But we will trust in Your will for them. If it is Your will that they do not get better, we beg You for their comfort. May their suffering bring them closer to You! Amen.



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Obtain, O loving Mother, the grant of our requests.  
(especially healing for those ill with COVID-19  
and protection for those not yet ill)  
Through gratitude for your favours,  
We will endeavour to imitate your virtues,  
that we may one day share your glory.  
Amen.

**Day 6:** O Blessed Mother, so powerful under your title of Our Lady of Lourdes, to you we raise our hearts and hands to implore your powerful intercession in obtaining from the gracious Heart of Jesus all the helps and graces necessary for our spiritual and temporal welfare and for the special favor we so earnestly seek in this novena.

### St. Gerlach of Valkenberg

*St. Gerlach of Valkenberg was a 12th-century Dutch hermit. Originally a licentious soldier and brigand, Gerlach became a pious Christian upon the death of his wife and went on pilgrimage to Rome and Jerusalem. At Rome, he nursed the sick for seven years. He also performed rites of penance for the sins of his youth. Upon returning to the Netherlands, he gave up all of his possessions to the poor and took up residence in a hollow oak on his former estate. Legend states that when Gerlach had done enough penance, water from the local well transformed itself into wine three times as a sign that his sins had been forgiven. He died shortly after, barely fifty.*

O glorious St. Gerlach,  
you repented from a life of sin  
and cared for the sick in body and soul.  
Through a life of simplicity and penance  
you traded your earthly life for a heavenly one.  
Obtain for us, we pray you,  
lively faith, firm hope and burning love;  
patience in adversity, humility in prosperity,  
recollection in prayer, purity of heart,  
a right intention in all my works,  
diligence in fulfilling the duties of our state of life,  
constancy in our resolutions,  
resignation to the will of God  
and perseverance in the grace of God even unto death,  
and, by your intercession and your glorious merits  
we entrust to you this special favour we now ask...  
(especially healing for those ill with COVID-19  
and protection for those not yet ill)  
We ask this through Christ our Lord,  
who lives and reigns with God the Father  
and the Holy Spirit, one God for ever and ever.  
Amen.



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that we may one day share your glory.  
Amen.

**Day 7:** Father in Heaven, who by the Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary did prepare a worthy dwelling place for your Son, we humbly beseech you that as we contemplate the apparition of Our Lady of Lourdes, we may be blessed with health of mind and body. O most gracious Mother Mary, beloved Mother of Our Redeemer, look with favor upon us as you did that day on Bernadette and intercede with Him for us that the favor we now so earnestly seek may be granted to us.

#### St. Frances of Rome

*St. Frances was born in Rome in 1384. She was married and had three children. After the plague swept through Rome and left one of Frances' sons dead, she began to turn more to charitable work. Frances gave up all her wealth to the sick and poor and began to go door to door raising money to aid the sick and poor. After the plague claimed Frances' daughter, she opened up a wing of her home as a hospital for the poor. As Frances became more deeply involved in charitable work, she began to realize the great need for it in the world and began to seek permission from the pope to form a charitable society of women to do this work. After setting up the foundation of this society, Frances continued to live with her husband until his death. After his death Frances lived the remainder of her life with the society that she formed. During epidemics it was difficult to find not only doctors to care for the sick, but even priests to provide the Sacraments, so Frances herself would seek out priests and bring them to those disposed to receive the Sacraments of Penance and the Eucharist. In order to have a priest more readily available to assist her in her apostolate, she supported, at her own expense, a priest who would go to the hospitals and visit the sick whom she had designated.*

O almighty and eternal God,  
in Saint Frances of Rome  
You have given us a model of holiness,  
in married life and of monastic conversion.  
By Your hand-maid's aid,  
may we know, love and serve You  
with all perseverance and fortitude,  
so that in all circumstances,  
we may fix our gaze upon You alone,  
follow Your Only-begotten Son,  
and faithfully carry our cross with gratitude.

O glorious Saint Frances of Rome,  
by the abundant merits you gained  
by suffering for Christ and His Church,  
and through your powerful intercession,  
help us gain that knowledge  
which discerns the difference between our own malevolent will  
and the holy will of God.  
Help us gain the wisdom to abhor our own self-love  
and instead desire what God desires.

In particular we ask of you St. Frances,  
that by your selfless intercession...  
(healing for those ill with COVID-19  
and protection for those not yet ill.)

V. Pray for us, O Saint Frances of Rome,  
R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

#### Daily Prayer

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Through gratitude for your favours,  
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Amen.

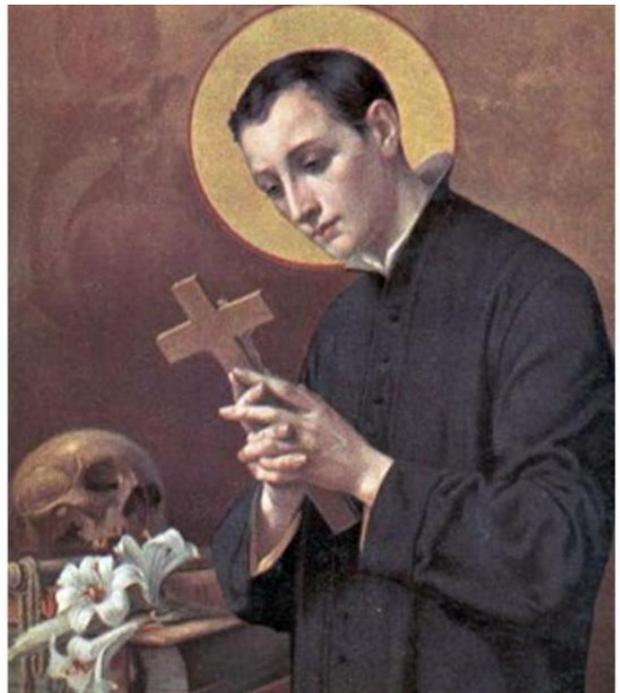


**Day 8:** O Mary our Queen, from heaven itself you came to appear to Bernadette in the Grotto of Lourdes! And as Bernadette knelt at your feet and the miraculous spring burst forth, O Mother of God, we kneel before you today to ask that in your mercy you plead with your Divine Son to grant the special favor we seek in this novena.

### St. Aloysius Gonzaga

*St. Aloysius Gonzaga was born in northern Italy in 1568. He had six younger siblings, and his parents were members of the nobility. Aloysius spent much of his youth witnessing brutality and violence around him, including the murder of two of his brothers. When Aloysius was eight years old, he was sent to serve at the court of the Grand Duke Francesco I de' Medici. During this time, Aloysius became ill with a disease in his kidneys. While ill, he began to read about the saints and to devote time to prayer. It is said that he even took a private vow of chastity when he was nine years old. As he grew older, Aloysius began more seriously considering religious life and the priesthood. He decided to join the Jesuits, and his mother agreed. His father was furious and forbade him to pursue this vocation. Aloysius chose to give up all rights to his inheritance to become a Jesuit priest. As a Jesuit novice in Rome, he began suffering from further health problems, including skin disease, chronic headaches, and insomnia. He took his vows in 1587, and he began studying for his ordination. In 1591, a plague broke out in Rome, and Aloysius' order opened a hospital for the sick. Though Aloysius felt repulsed by the sickened victims, he cared for them diligently. Aloysius' superiors soon forbade him from returning to care for the sick, since many other Jesuits had become infected with the plague. But Aloysius persisted in asking to return until his request was granted. He eventually contracted the disease himself. He died while looking at the crucifix and attempting to say the name of Jesus. St. Aloysius Gonzaga's Feast Day is June 21<sup>st</sup>.*

Venerable old age is not that of long time, nor counted by the number of years: but the understanding of man is grey hairs; and a spotless life is old age (Wisdom 4:8, 9). And therefore, Aloysius, thou dost hold a place of honour, amidst the ancients of thy people! Holiness is the one only thing when one's career is ended, that can be called true again; and holiness is acquired from within. External works count with God, only in as far as the interior breath that inspires them is pure; if occasion for exercising works be wanting, man can always supply that deficiency, by drawing nigh unto the Lord, in the secret of his soul, as much and even more than he could have done by their means. Thus didst thou see and understand the question; and therefore, prayer, which held thee absorbed in its ineffable delights, succeeded in making thee equal to the very martyrs. Furthermore, the Holy Ghost, by setting thee on fire with the flame of divine charity, developed also within thee immense love for thy neighbour: necessarily so, because charity is essentially one; and well was this proved, when thou wast seen sacrificing thy life so blithely for the sick and the pestiferous. Cease not, O dearest Saint, to aid us in the midst of so many miseries; lend a kindly hand to each and all. Aloysius, look compassionately on those who have not imitated thine innocence, and obtain that they may yet follow thee in the example of thy penance. Amen.



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that we may one day share your glory.  
Amen.

**Day 9:** Immaculate Mother of our Lord Jesus Christ, to you we raise our hearts to implore your intercession in obtaining from the benign Heart of Jesus all the graces necessary for our spiritual and temporal welfare, particularly for the grace of a happy death. O Mother of our Divine Lord, graciously pray for us as we conclude this novena for the special favor we seek at this time.

#### St. Teresa of Calcutta

*Mother Teresa was born Gonxha (Agnes) Bojaxhiu in Yugoslavia. She was the youngest, with an other sister and brother. Her father died suddenly when she was only 7. At 18 years old, Gonxha decided to join the Loreto Sisters of Dublin, missionaries and educators founded to educate young girls. When she made her first vows she chose the name Teresa, honoring both saints Teresa of Avila and Therese of Lisieux. One day, she was riding a train on route to a retreat when she said that Christ spoke to her and told her to abandon teaching to work in the slums of Calcutta aiding the city's poorest and sickest people. She began an open-air school and established a home for the dying destitute. She, then, founded a new congregation called the Missionaries of Charity. Mother Teresa's tireless work and service resulted in the establishment of a leper colony, an orphanage, a nursing home, a family clinic and a string of mobile health clinics. Numerous honors had been awarded to her throughout the years. Most notably, she was awarded Nobel Peace Prize in recognition of her work "in bringing help to suffering humanity." She died in 1997 at the age of 87.*

Holy and loving St. Teresa, the love of Jesus on the Cross became a living flame within you, and so you became the light of His love to all those who are sick, elderly, dying and unwanted. Help us to stay with people who are suffering as you did. So that we may have eyes to see the sick, elderly and dying and give us helpful hands to care for them. St. Teresa, as you loved and served Jesus through your work upon earth, we humbly ask that you continue your work in Heaven and intercede for us in our needs... (especially healing for those ill with COVID-19 and protection for those not yet ill). Teach us to allow Jesus to fill us so completely that our lives may also radiate His light and love to others. Amen.

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Amen.

### **Conclusion**

#### Pope Francis' Prayer to Holy Mary during the Coronavirus Pandemic

O Mary,  
you always shine on our path  
as a sign of salvation and of hope.  
We entrust ourselves to you, Health of the Sick,  
who at the cross took part in Jesus' pain, keeping your faith firm.  
You, Salvation of the Roman People,  
know what we need,  
and we are sure you will provide  
so that, as in Cana of Galilee,  
we may return to joy and to feasting  
after this time of trial.  
Help us, Mother of Divine Love,  
to conform to the will of the Father  
and to do as we are told by Jesus,  
who has taken upon himself our sufferings  
and carried our sorrows  
to lead us, through the cross,  
to the joy of the resurrection.  
Amen.  
Under your protection, we seek refuge, Holy Mother of God.  
Do not disdain the entreaties of we who are in trial,  
but deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin.  
Amen.