



Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network



Monday, March 16

Dear friends in the Lord,

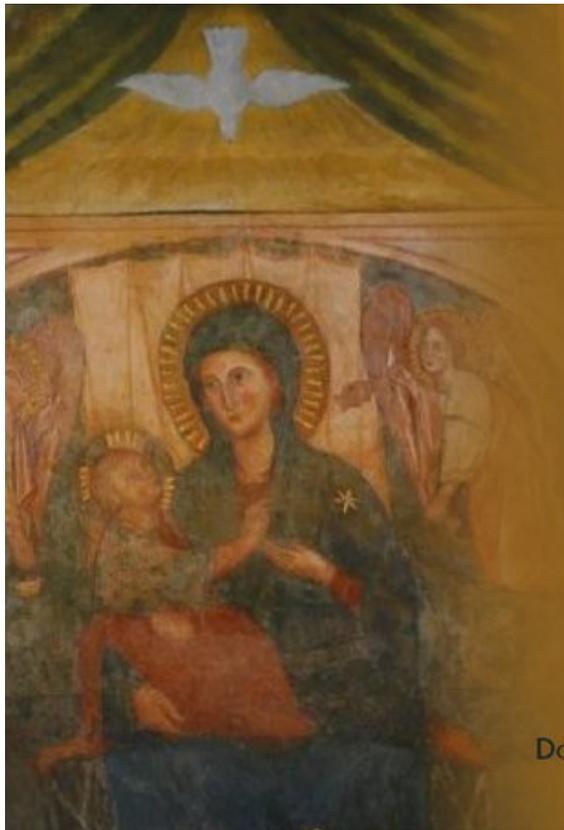
More than ever, in this time of uncertainty and pandemic, it is important to pray for each other, and to put our trust in the Lord. As we know, fear is never a good answer. Compassion is the answer, closeness, opening our hearts to others. It is this path that we propose as the Pope's Worldwide Prayer Network: The Way of the Heart.

This time of Lent and pandemic is a time for prayer. Throughout history there are events that we can experience as signs that invite us to conversion, that is, to change our heart. When Jesus was asked: Why did the tower of Siloam fall and kill those people? He did not give an explanation just about this catastrophe, but as he did on other occasions, he invited us to convert, to live this event as a sign that recalls to us urgency of our conversion. Every catastrophe or situation that causes suffering should awaken our compassion. This is how the wheat and the tares are differentiated. We die when we are locked in our fears, in our self-sufficiency, in our strongholds of money and power. Life is not there, but only in appearance. Everything that happens, including migrations, are signs that call us to change our heart, lest, as Jesus says, "you shall die in your sins" (John 8:21).

This Lent, Pope Francis reminds us of the urgency of conversion, of living with the Lord *«in a heartfelt dialogue between friends. That is why prayer is so important in Lent. Even more than a duty, prayer is an expression of our need to respond to God's love which always precedes and sustains us. Christians pray in the knowledge that, although unworthy, we are still loved. Prayer can take any number of different forms, but what truly matters in God's eyes is that it penetrates deep within us and chips away at our hardness of heart, in order to convert us ever more fully to God and to his will.»* This time of Lent and forced spiritual retreat can be a time of grace opening our hearts.

Several times Pope Francis has prayed for the sick, the hospital staff, the doctors, the sick, the volunteers, etc. Let us be close to all the most fragile and elderly people we know. Let us pray, as the Holy Father invited us Wednesday the 11th, to Our Lady:

"We seek refuge under your protection, O Holy Mother of God. Do not despise our pleas – we who are put to the test – and deliver us from every danger, O glorious and blessed Virgin."



O MARY, YOU SHINE CONTINUOUSLY ALONG OUR JOURNEY
AS A SIGN OF SALVATION AND HOPE.

WE ENTRUST OURSELVES TO YOU, HEALTH OF THE SICK,
WHO AT THE CROSS WERE NEAR TO THE PAIN OF JESUS,
KEEPING YOUR FAITH FIRM.

YOU, SALVATION OF THE ROMAN PEOPLE,
KNOW WHAT WE NEED, AND WE TRUST
THAT YOU WILL PROVIDE FOR THOSE NEEDS SO THAT,
AS AT CANA OF GALILEE, JOY AND CELEBRATION
MAY RETURN AFTER THIS MOMENT OF TRIAL.

HELP US, MOTHER OF DIVINE LOVE,
TO CONFORM OURSELVES TO THE WILL
OF THE FATHER AND TO DO WHAT JESUS TELLS US,
HE WHO TOOK OUR SUFFERINGS UPON HIMSELF,
AND TOOK UP OUR SORROWS TO BRING US,
THROUGH THE CROSS,
TO THE JOY OF THE RESURRECTION. AMEN.

WE SEEK REFUGE UNDER YOUR PROTECTION,
O HOLY MOTHER OF GOD.

DO NOT DESPISE OUR PLEAS — WE WHO ARE PUT TO THE TEST —
AND DELIVER US FROM EVERY DANGER,

It is the time to promote and pray more intensely **the Holy Rosary**, with Our Lady, as Pope Francis invites us to do.

It is time to make **Click To Pray and its prayer wall** known to help us pray for each other, and in these difficult times to experience solidarity and brotherhood in shared prayer.

In the coming days we will make a concrete proposal with Click To Pray, so that we can together, from all countries and cultures, adults and young people, mobilize for prayer.

Fr. Frederic Fornos SJ

With the international team