

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 Nov 30, 2007

++MESSAGE FROM THE COORDINATOR

Hi, Everyone,

Much to talk about so I will get right to it.

New List Software

Today I am using list management software to send this out. Hopefully, this will end our problems of updates getting marked as spam not getting delivered. Some of you may not have received this update in a long time. If so, I am sorry it happened but I had no way to control it. Welcome back! If you wish to be removed from the list, reply to this message and place the word REMOVE in the subject.

If you have prayer requests or wish to email me for any other reason, DO NOT reply to this email. Instead, [click here](#) or use the normal email address pray@marianmantle.com

My Request for Help

I thank those who have already responded to my request for a little financial help. You have sent your prayers and kind words along with your gifts have been received with joy and thanksgiving. As I said in my letter, with the growth in membership, and phone and internet access no longer free, I am turning to you to help me continue in the efforts of this apostolate. I promise I will only ask you to do this once a year. Beginning next year, I will be asking for your help during September, the month dedicated to Our Lady of Sorrows. Since we all have different circumstances, one of our board members wisely suggested that I also tell you that donations will be welcomed anytime of the year, but we will only be asking in September from now on.

When I think of those of you who have found peace through praying together and through sharing your heartache (many of you tell me you find comfort in knowing you are not alone in this sadness) I am humbled by the thought that our meager efforts are bearing such fruit. The MMG is, first of all, dedicated to helping you find peace if you are hurting because of a prodigal loved one, because we know with peace, comes a renewed ability to pray more effectively. It is even more humbling when you tell of a loved one who has heard the Lord's call to return to His Church and the fullness of faith found in the Eucharist. What joy those words bring to our hearts! How thankful I am that we are all praying together!

Your kindness and generosity is the only way this apostolate has survived since 2003. I thank you for any amount you can contribute, for your stamps, your time, and your talent. Remember, we can now accept credit card donations online at <http://www.marianmantle.com/sp/donate.htm> or click on the "Make a Gift" link at the top of the home page.

If you prefer to use the postal mail, send to Marian Mantle Group, PO Box 434, Gardner, KS 66030.

Christmas Novena

I posted two Christmas Novenas on the web site that we all might pray together for our prodigals' return. One begins today, Nov 30 on the feast of St. Andrew and continues until Christmas Day. The other begins on Dec 17-25. Won't you join us in praying one or both of these novenas? You will find them at <http://www.marianmantle.com/prayer/novenas/christmas.htm>

Christmas Gifts

If you are looking for unique, meaningful gifts, remember the Crisafulli prints and prayer card collections. These, and the book *Through Her Eyes and Other Meditations on the Mysteries of the Rosary* are only available here, and are gifts for anyone, not just those praying for prodigals. As in years past, if you will get your orders to me by email or phone, I will try to get them in the mail to you within 48 hours or less so you have them when you need them.

Answers to Prayer

I plan to compile a comprehensive list of those reports of answered prayer that you have shared with me this past year. If your prodigal has returned, or is taking steps toward returning, please let me know so I can include it. Every time someone shares their pain with us we all pray together to come to their aid. Every time someone shares their joy with us we all gain strength and hope and realize that someday our prayers, too, will be answered. Your sharing helps all of us persevere—and as long as we are helping each other we are doing the work that the Lord has asked of us. We all know He is the Light that came

into the world, the Light that we prepare for during the coming Advent Season. You can help bring His Light to others by bringing all of us a little more hope. Share your story! Remember, we ALWAYS keep your identity private.

New Members

We welcome those who have just recently joined us in praying for our prodigals loved ones and for each other. May you feel comfort, support, and peace as a member of this group.

Just One Little Advent Story

During the Advent season there is always talk about how materialistic Christmas has become.

We tend to forget that it is a time for prayer and preparation for the Light of the World to be born again in our hearts. We may long for a simple, less-expensive, given-from-the-heart-not-the-wallet kind of Christmas. My youngest son often manages to find that simplicity. He has always known his own mind. As he grew up, he and I seemed to disagree about something almost every single day. However, his tender heart is also blessed with the ability to touch the hearts of others, in simple, but memorable, ways. When he was 12, he gave me a little Christmas gift with a note attached that said, "This gift has a gold bow on it because my mother is golden to me." He has repeated this every Christmas since, so I'm expecting that among the gifts from him this year will be one with a golden bow. The Christmas he was seventeen, Bob and I were led into the kitchen where a huge cardboard box sat (a wardrobe box used for moving). On top was a big red bow. When we opened the box, there sat our son who reached his arms up at us and said, "I didn't know how else to wrap up I love you!"

2000 years ago you and I received a golden gift in the form of a little child who brought hope to our world, and light to our darkness. 33 years later, He reached out his arms to give us the greatest gift of all, His body and blood, His life, our Salvation.

Lord, this year may we each find simple ways to "wrap up our love" for those we love—especially our beloved prodigals.

As we enter the season of Advent, 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 Nov 30, 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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++LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dear Bob and MaryAnn, Thank you for working on the frontline in this ignored area of Catholic children away from the faith. Still praying for my son. ~Kansas

Dear Mary Ann, Your work is very important work. You have helped me personally both in your prayers for my son and for my husband and I. I am enlightened and hopeful because of your group, and the fact that the sorrowful mother led me to you is all the better! May God continue to Bless all Abundantly! Please continue to pray for my son. Thank-you! ~Illinois

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GOD'S WORD FOR US

The wolf shall dwell with the lamb, and the leopard shall lie down with the kid, and the calf and the lion together, and a little child shall lead them.

They shall not hurt or destroy in all my holy mountain; for the earth shall be full of the knowledge of the LORD as the waters cover the sea. Isaiah 11:6,9

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WORDS OF HOPE

It is true that God's power triumphs over everything, but humble and suffering prayer prevails over God Himself. -- St. Padre Pio of Pietrelcina

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WISH LIST

- +Stamps
- +Volunteers to pray from their home or chapel 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. If you think you might want to do this, take it to the Lord in prayer. If you then wish to continue, contact MaryAnn for assistance.

+Presentations MaryAnn will be speaking on Feb 17, 2008 at Savior Pastoral Center, 12601 Parallel Pkwy, Kansas City, KS 66109, for more information Phone: (913) 721-1097 or email: savior@archkck.org For information about bringing the Silent Strength presentation to your parish or Catholic organization, contact 913-526-8977 or maryann@marianmantle.com