

**THE MANTLE: The Voice of the Silent Strength Online Prayer Group**

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**Joining in Prayer Under the Mantle of the Blessed Virgin Mary.**

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Send prayer requests to [pray@marianmantle.com](mailto:pray@marianmantle.com) **REMEMBER** put ***“prayer request”*** in the ***subject***

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**++MESSAGE FROM THE COORDINATOR**

**++PRAYER INTENTIONS**

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**Marian Mantle Prayer Group Update For July 27, 2007**

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**++MESSAGE FROM THE COORDINATOR**

Hi, Everyone,

Most of you should have your newsletter by now. Thank you for your feedback. It always helps to know what you think. So far, we have been able to fill all orders for Jay's prints. If you want to check on availability, email me at [maryann@marianmantle.com](mailto:maryann@marianmantle.com)

We are continuing to add to the list of masses that have been requested to be said in your parishes during September for the return of prodigals. What a great way to thank Our Lady of Sorrows (during the month in her honor) for her help and to petition her to continue to carry our prayers to the feet of her Son, Jesus. Please let me know when yours is scheduled and I will add it to the list on the web site

<http://www.marianmantle.com/prayer/massschedule.htm>

also, then I will send you a pack of prayer cards to give to those in attendance that day or to leave in your adoration chapel.

Today Bob and I make our annual trip to the Shrine of Our Lady of Sorrows near Starkenburg, Missouri. We carry with us hearts full of thanksgiving to Our Lady and to the Lord. We are so grateful for prayers that have been answered, for the return of our son to the practice of Catholicism and for all the prayers that have been answered for members of this group. We are especially grateful to God for all of our members who have received the grace of a peaceful heart while praying for a loved one. We thank God for all prodigal Catholics who have found their way home. We persevere in prayers of petition for all those who are searching for the truth, for those whose eyes and hearts are beginning to open and those who have yet to recognize the call of the Lord to them. We are grateful for the knowledge that God IS calling to them, that through our prayers, grace is flooding over them, and continue to trust that someday they WILL return to the arms of Holy Mother Church. We carry with us all the petitions that have been submitted to this group throughout the past year. We also pray that included with those will be all the unspoken petitions in the hearts of our members. We will kneel before the Blessed Sacrament in the shrine church and pray that God will pour His blessings on our prodigal loved ones and on yours. As we make the journey, we pray for strength to continue in this apostolate, for peace when trials come, for wisdom when we have decisions to make, for the right words to speak when visiting with people at talks or on the phone, and that we always keep in mind that it is God and God alone who touches hearts and minds and souls.

I pray that I always recognize that God doesn't need me to carry out this effort—He can do it quite nicely without me. I ask all of you help me to remember that I can do nothing by myself, none of us can. But, with God ALL things are possible. And with God, our loved ones can find their way home.

I have told you before, our son came back. His story has a happy ending—or beginning. However, Bob and I continue to pray for others in our family, who we love just as much, to return to the Faith. We continue to feel your heartache—we continue to cry tears of love and often frustration for them. We rejoice with you when you send us good news of one who is turning back to the Lord. Along with you, we are inspired to once more persevere in prayer with the hope that those for whom we pray will also return one day.

I kept a journal during that painful time with our son. This morning, I re-read my words written on Our Lady's birthday, Sept 8, 2002 while sitting under the trees at the Shrine at Starkenburg. I share some of them with you:

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*As we drive the final miles to the shrine today—a year after our promise to return and after having witnessed such a great miracle in the last six weeks [our son returning to us and to the Faith] it seems almost like a movie script being played out. On the car CD, as if to review the year that had passed, the Jesuits sang “long, cold winter-cold night. Hope is hard to come by...” and now are singing “A Time will come for singing...” We are coming to say thank you to that beautiful, sorrowful mother. She heard my pleas! Drops of rain begin to fall. I think of Our Lady’s tears as her Son endured His passion and crucifixion. More rain now, like grace poured out upon our sons and our daughters. I had begged for my son’s soul to be touched...”Remember, oh most gracious virgin Mary...” How many Hail Mary’s? How many pleas to the Immaculate Conception? to Our Lady of Fatima? How many to the little virgin of Guadalupe? Our Lady of Perpetual Help? Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal? She heard me! She carried my prayers to her Son. I remember pondering Elizabeth’s words, “Who am I that the mother of my Lord should come to me?” But she did, she came and took me by the hand and led me to the feet of her Son, her babe, her child. Now mine has returned. His soul is once more in the hands of God.*

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Let us all please, not give up. Let us persevere in prayer no matter how long we must pray. (Remember St. Monica). God moves in His time—in the time that is best for us. Let us trust Him.

May we all look forward to the day when we can say with great joy, “The child for whom I have prayed, has come home!”

Peace,  
MaryAnn

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**PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR July 27, 2007**

+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.

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**LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

Hi Mary Ann

I ordered your rosary novena booklet, the Way of the Cross, Sorrowful Mother prayer and litany maybe a year ago - not sure. I also received the CD, I did not get around to listening to that until about 8 weeks ago. It was wonderful! - and gave me renewed enthusiasm to continue in prayer. I was cleaning out the storage room as I listened to your CD, and was finding family treasures of my faith-filled parents, grandparents and great-grandparents.

What I love most about the prayers is the help they give to ME to be more like Jesus and Mary and to *trust* more - to remain at peace as we wait for God to act even when we don't see visible results.

Our oldest son is a priest, and very happy and fruitful in his ministry. Our second child was away from the church for a few years, but now [spouse and family] are regular Mass goers. Our fifth and sixth are practicing Catholics and have a strong faith.

My most recent novena was for numbers three and four! [the writer tells of a series of difficult issues including two grandchildren about whom she says “we were upset, but rejoiced that they chose life, and prayed to be a support” I started another rosary novena [which] ended June 15. My intentions were for the one grandchild’s Baptism and for another’s father to be there for him. My ultimate intentions are HUGE! 🙏 - full return to the sacraments for all - including Catholic marriages!

After this last novena – we learned they want to baptize the baby! This came out of NOWHERE! Our son has decided his faith is a part of his life, he will go to church on occasion, and he wants his child to be in Catholic schools and grow up in faith. This was a big change from saying he would never “force” religion on his child, and he could just “choose” at age 18. I literally almost fainted at the news and my husband and I immediately went to church to thank God! He still can't explain how he came to

this decision except that God just "came over him." My husband said with this Baptism - just sit back and "watch the show" of what God will do!

The other child's father has had a complete change of heart and wants to give the child a good life. We will keep praying.

My favorite saints for my prodigals have been Monica, Augustine, St. Jude, St. Rita, St. Therese and her parents and of course the Blessed Virgin most of all. Since becoming a grandmother - I've added St. Anne.

I can't thank you enough for the newsletter, website, prayers and all you do for parents and loved ones of prodigals. Some days my heart just aches for my grandchildren whose parents are not together, or when another Sunday goes by when my son does not go to church. The prayers help so much! I pray for all in Marian Mantle, and know their prayers are helping us.

I keep your family and all in Marian Mantle in grateful prayer!

~Name withheld to protect privacy of all concerned.

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**GOD'S WORD FOR US**

Offer to God a sacrifice of thanksgiving,  
and pay your vows to the Most High;  
and call upon me in the day of trouble;  
I will deliver you, and you shall glorify me."  
~Psalm 50

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**WORDS OF HOPE**

Happy moments, praise God.  
Difficult moments, seek God.  
Quiet moments, worship God.  
Painful moments, trust God.  
Every moment, thank God.  
~Author unknown

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**WISH LIST**

+Stamps

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**FYI**

+If you have good news to share, contact MaryAnn.

+If you would like information about having the Silent Strength presentation come to your parish or Catholic organization, contact 913-526-8977 or [maryann@marianmantle.com](mailto:maryann@marianmantle.com)

+If you no longer wish to receive this update, reply with "unsubscribe" in the body of the email