

PRAYERS IN THE PEW™ MONTHLY

FAITH IN ACTION CALENDAR / HIGHLIGHTS

MON SEP 12	Feast of the Holy Name of the Blessed Virgin Mary
WED SEP 21	St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist
FRI SEP 23	St. Padre Pio, Priest

Faith Formation Companion to Prayers in the Pew™

→ MONTHLY SYNOPSIS ←

September 2022 – The month of September is full of magnificent feast days of saints, so let us, like them, make every attempt to be faithful to our Eucharistic devotions and to be mindful of the sick and underprivileged in our midst. It's not politicians who make the greatest contributions to culture – it's people who strive to be saints!

PRAYER FOR THE SICK

It is a little-known fact that the Catholic Church is largely responsible for what today we call *hospitals*. The Latin word *hospes* means “guest” or “traveler”, and it was the work of the Church – from the very beginning – to provide hospitality and charity to those who were in need of it.

What was the motivation for Christians to provide health-care to others? Simply, the words of Jesus: “*For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me drink, a stranger and you welcomed me, naked and you clothed me, ill and you cared for me, in prison and you visited me*” (Matthew 25:35-36).

Based on these convictions, the record shows that Christians organized care of the sick throughout every age of history since the time of Jesus, particularly in times of great need such as when plagues (read: pandemics) wrought havoc on their populations.

Many great saints like St. Basil, St. Jerome, and St. Cyprian established hospitals in their areas for care of the sick and suffering. The Council of Nicea (325 AD) even ordered that every city which had a cathedral should also have a hospital.

Over time, lay and religious orders formed in the Church that were dedicated exclusively to the care of the sick (such as the Knights Hospitallers, the Alexians, some branches of the Benedictines, Franciscans, Carmelites, the Missionaries

The average Christian who is not a healthcare professional may not be able to care directly for the sick and suffering, but we can all pray for those who are ill as one of the Christian works of mercy.

The Church gives us a simple Prayer for the Sick in the following words that we may pray any time we are concerned about the health and wellbeing of another:

Father in heaven, grant N. comfort in his/her suffering. Give him (her) courage when afraid, patience when afflicted, hope when dejected, and when alone, assure him (her) of the prayerful support of your holy people. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Since sickness is part of a fallen world and will always be with us, we often need to ask for peace of heart to deal with it. Many times illness is stronger than we are.

In times of sickness, problems, or upheaval, we should recall St. Paul's consoling words to the Philippians to ask for peace and to remind us that nothing is stronger than Christ's love for us: “*Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God. Then the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard your hearts and minds in Christ Jesus*” (Philippians 4:6-7).

SPIRITUAL CHALLENGE

I challenge you this month to identify those around you who are sick or suffering, especially those who are in the hospital or grieving the recent loss of a loved one. Reach out to them if possible, even if it is just a word of support and sympathy. Most importantly, include them in your prayers and the prayers of your family so that they may receive the spiritual consolation the Church provides.

- CA State Chaplain, Father John P. Grace, OSA



James 1:2-4 "Consider it all joy, my brothers, when you encounter various trials, for you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. And let perseverance be perfect, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking in nothing."

John 16:33 "I have told you this so that you might have peace in me. In the world you will have trouble, but take courage, I have conquered the world."

Romans 8:28 "We know that all things work for good for those who love God, who are called according to his purpose."

FAITH FUNDAMENTALS



The Corporal Works of Mercy

The term "corporal" signifies bodily needs, and these works of mercy are anything that helps people overcome their material sufferings of this world. The Church's description of the Corporal Works of Mercy comes directly from the famous passage of the Sheep and Goats in Matthew 25, where Jesus claims that *"whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me"* (Matthew 25:40).

The parable includes six actions and the Church adds a seventh – to bury the dead – since it was a paramount religious observance of the Jews. Here is the Church's list of the seven Corporal Works of Mercy:

1. To feed the hungry
2. To give drink to the thirsty
3. To clothe the naked
4. To visit the imprisoned
5. To shelter the homeless
6. To visit the sick
7. To bury the dead

We can never practice these good works too often.

CATECHISM CONNECTION



1505 Moved by so much suffering Christ not only allows himself to be touched by the sick, but he makes their miseries his own: "He took our infirmities and bore our diseases." But he did not heal all the sick. His healings were signs of the coming of the Kingdom of God. They announced a more radical healing: the victory over sin and death through his Passover. On the cross Christ took upon himself the whole weight of evil and took away the "sin of the world," of which illness is only a consequence. By his passion and death on the cross Christ has given a new meaning to suffering: it can henceforth configure us to him and unite us with his redemptive Passion.

Pope St. John Paul II, *Salvifici Doloris* (n. 12) – Suffering must serve for conversion, that is, for the rebuilding of goodness in the subject, who can recognize the divine mercy in this call to repentance.

CALENDAR OF FAITH | SEPTEMBER

SEP 3 Sat	St. Gregory the Great, Pope and Doctor
SEP 8 Thu	Feast of the Birth of Mary
SEP 9 Fri	St. Peter Claver, Priest
SEP 12 Mon	Feast of the Holy Name of the Blessed Virgin Mary
SEP 14 Wed	Feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross
SEP 15 Thu	Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows
SEP 16 Fri	Sts. Cornelius, Pope and Martyr, and Cyprian, Bishop and Martyr
SEP 17 Sat	St. Robert Bellarmine, Bishop and Doctor
SEP 19 Mon	St. Januarius, Bishop and Martyr
SEP 21 Wed	St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist
SEP 23 Fri	St. Padre Pio, Priest
SEP 26 Mon	Sts. Cosmas and Damian, Martyrs
SEP 28 Wed	Sts. Lorenzo Ruiz et al., Martyrs
SEP 29 Thu	Michael, Gabriel and Raphael, Archangels
SEP 30 Fri	St. Jerome, Priest and Doctor

THE SCHOOL OF SAINTS



"Earth has no sorrow that heaven cannot heal."
~ St. Thomas More

"Suffering is a great grace; through suffering the soul becomes like the Savior; in suffering love becomes crystallized; the greater the suffering, the purer the love." ~ St. Faustina

"Love consists not in feeling great things but in having great detachment and in suffering for the Beloved." ~ St. John of the Cross

"There is no better wood for feeding the fire of God's love than the wood of the Cross." ~ St. Ignatius of Loyola

- FAITH IN ACTION -

FEATURED PROGRAM

SPECIAL OLYMPICS

The Knights of Columbus has a unique partnership with the Special Olympics and has helped disabled athletes train for and compete in games around the world. Knights of Columbus councils have assisted with all aspects of the program from fundraising to feeding the athletes, organizing and judging events, and providing equipment and awards. Without the support of the Knights, participants would not be able to train for the events that they love. Participating councils provide at least \$2,000 in donations or 200 service hours in a fraternal year. Consider assisting your local K of C council this year in their partnership with our most special brothers and sisters.