

Meditations for the rosary



**She is the saint among saints,
the most blessed,
the one who shows us the way to holiness
and who accompanies us.**

Pope Francis

LET US LIVE IN THANKSGIVING

Year of thanksgiving, M. Maria dos Anjos Alves, August 15, 2020



1. Thanksgiving, praise, blessing, are expressions that spring from a good heart, a pure heart, a heart that adores the Triune God, the God who is LOVE. The human heart is created to love, to praise, to bless.

Virgin Mary, our Mother and Guardian, teach us gratitude and praise.

2. The person who knows how to praise, give thanks, bless is able to go out of himself or herself, to go towards others, towards his or her sister and brother, towards God. This person always creates new spaces, frees the spirit and sows unity and communion.

Virgin Mary, our Mother and Guardian, teach us gratitude and praise.

3. In Jesus Christ all is grace, he is the beloved Son. He receives everything from the Father. His life is a manifestation of his gratitude. His whole life is rooted in the Eucharistic attitude of thanksgiving.

Virgin Mary, our Mother and Guardian, teach us gratitude and praise.

4. To live the divine life, to enter into this river of praise and blessing, is to live happiness every day of our lives. This movement of blessing introduces us into the heart of Jesus and, through him and in him, we are in communion with the Holy Trinity. This communion makes us sisters with all our brothers and sisters in humanity.

Virgin Mary, our Mother and Guardian, teach us gratitude and praise.



5. The Virgin Mary offers us her Magnificat. She gives us the audacity to welcome the happiness that comes from the Lord. Marie Rivier received this grace from her loving knowledge of the Virgin Mary. She transmitted it to us and we need to welcome it ever more deeply and to live it every day.

**Virgin Mary, our Mother and Guardian,
teach us gratitude and praise.**

YOU MUST LOVE YOUR NEIGHBOR AS YOURSELF

Fratelli Tutti, Chapter 2, Pope Francis



1. Love shatters the chains that keep us isolated and separate; in their place, it builds bridges. Love enables us to create one great family, where all of us can feel at home... Love exudes compassion and dignity.
62

**Mary, Mother of all,
open our hearts to universal fraternity.**

2. The Samaritan stopped, approached the man and cared for him personally ... most especially, he gave him his time. Without even knowing the injured man, he saw him as deserving of his time and attention. #63

**Mary, Mother of the poor,
give us hearts filled with compassion.**

3. The parable shows us how a community can be rebuilt by men and women who identify with the vulnerability of others, who reject the creation of a society of exclusion, and act instead as neighbours, lifting up and rehabilitating the fallen for the sake of the common good. #67

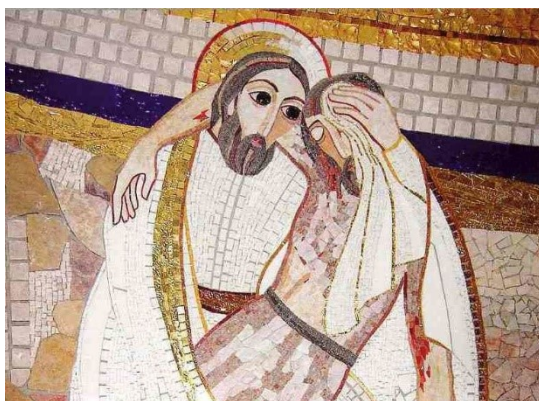
**Mary, Mother fully attentive to each one,
open our hearts to welcome all.**

4. It is the moment of truth! Will we bend down to touch and heal the wounds of others? Will we bend down and help another to get up? This is today's challenge, and we should not be afraid to face it. #70

**Mary, Mother of humanity,
make our hearts courageous in the service of love.**

5. Believers come to know that God loves every man and woman with infinite love and thereby confers infinite dignity upon all humanity. We likewise believe that Christ shed his blood for each of us and that no one is beyond the scope of his universal love. # 85

**Mary, Mother of infinite Love,
incline our hearts to recognize the dignity of every human person.**





OUR LADY OF PROVIDENCE

Now and then someone would speak discretely to Marie Rivier about being prudent when distributing alms. She would smile and gently answer: *"I have my Holy Virgin."* (Mourret)

1. The unshakeable faith of Marie Rivier in Divine Providence is linked to her love for the poor. In 1811, the country lives through a famine, the community of Thueyts suffers. Listen to her:

To help the poor of Jesus Christ, at this time is our first duty. When we have taken what we need, why do we need more? Do we not have Providence to take care of us?

OUR LADY OF PROVIDENCE, you who placed in the heart of Marie Rivier such love for poor children, pray for us. Clothe us with the poverty of Jesus Christ!

2. The unshakeable faith of Marie Rivier in Divine Providence leaned on the prayer of the poor children. No matter how poor her house was, she never refused them admission. Listen to her:

Every time we were in need of temporal things, I promised God to receive one or two more orphans, and I have always been blessed by the prayers of these children.

OUR LADY OF PROVIDENCE, you who placed in the heart of Marie Rivier such love for the poor children, pray for us. Clothe us with the poverty of Jesus Christ!

3. The unshakeable faith of Marie Rivier in Divine Providence does great things with meager means. In 1823, the construction of the Convent at Bourg empties her coffers; there is no more oil. Listen to her:

Go down in the cellar, I am sure that you will find oil there. And when the sisters marvel at this: Can't you see that Providence protects us?

OUR LADY OF PROVIDENCE, you by whom came new oil as a sign of blessing on your poor daughter, pray for us. Clothe us with the poverty of Jesus Christ!

4. The unshakeable faith of Marie Rivier in Divine Providence obtained the miracle of the multiplied wheat for her poor children. In 1825, there are many orphans, few resources. Must we send the children away? Listen to her:

Daughters of little faith, I did not take these children to make them suffer hunger pangs, I forbid you from worrying any more. God will see to it.

OUR LADY OF PROVIDENCE, you who always took under your protection the charitable initiatives of Marie Rivier in favor of the poor, pray for us. Clothe us with the poverty of Jesus Christ!

5. The unshakeable faith of Marie Rivier in Providence obtained everything for her foundation marked from the start with the seal of poverty. Listen to her:

If at important occasions, we have had recourse to human means, to persons in authority and of trust, it is to conform to the orders of Providence, but for me, I have always counted only on prayer.

OUR LADY OF PROVIDENCE, you who lead toward the future, in the light of the graces of the past, pray for us. Clothe us with the poverty of Jesus Christ!



**Mary,
tenderness
for the poor,
pray for us !**

1. Our presence to the world is the presence of Jesus Christ. We are deeply attentive to the true needs of our contemporaries. We make their sufferings our own and constantly bring them before God in a prayer of supplication. (C 112)

Mary, tenderness for the poor;
Mary, wisdom for the weak;
Mary, our Mother, pray for us,
Mary, our Mother, pray for us!

2. Respecting our apostolic priorities and the necessary detachments of our vocation, we do all we can to alleviate their physical, moral and spiritual suffering. Consecrated and sent forth, we are, at the heart of the world, the merciful presence of Jesus Christ. (C 112)

Mary, life-giving light;
Mary, prayer of the world;
Mary, our strength, pray for us,
Mary, our strength, pray for us!

3. The Virgin Mary teaches us that the greatest apostolic fruitfulness springs from the greatest love. (C 113)

Mary, promise for humanity;
Mary, fountain of living water;
Mary, our Source, pray for us
Mary, our Source, pray for us!

4. Mary offers us her motherly assistance to sustain our hope and her powerful mediation for the salvation of all her children on earth.
(C 113)

Mary, presence of a people;
Mary, face of the Church;
Mary, our Queen, pray for us,
Mary, our Queen, pray for us!

5. Because she relied on God, the Spirit overshadowed her, and she gave to our sinful world the eternal Word of the Father. Exemplary disciple of her Son, she was associated more intimately than anyone else to his work of Redemption, her heart pierced like his at the foot of the Cross. She shares his victory over death and stands next to him in the Temple of his glory. (C 113)

Mary, word of celebration;
Mary, silence of the humble;
Mary, our pathway, pray for us,
Mary, our pathway, pray for us!



BEING POOR OF HEART: THAT IS HOLINESS!

Extracts from the Apostolic Exhortation *Gaudete et Exsultate*

1. The Gospel invites us to peer into the depths of our heart, to see where we find our security in life. Usually the rich feel secure in their wealth, and think that, if that wealth is threatened, the whole meaning of their earthly life can collapse. (GE, 67)

Mary, teach us the holiness that is poverty of heart.

2. Wealth ensures nothing. Indeed, once we think we are rich, we can become so self-satisfied that we leave no room for God's word, for the love of our brothers and sisters, or for the enjoyment of the most important things in life. In this way, we miss out on the greatest treasure of all. That is why Jesus calls blessed those who are poor in spirit, those who have a poor heart, for there the Lord can enter with his perennial newness. (GE, 68)

Mary, teach us the holiness that is poverty of heart.

3. This spiritual poverty is closely linked to what Saint Ignatius of Loyola calls “holy indifference”, which brings us to a radiant interior freedom: “We need to train ourselves to be indifferent in our attitude to all created things, in all that is permitted to our free will and not forbidden; so that on our part, we do not set our hearts on good health rather than bad, riches rather than poverty, honor rather than dishonor, a long life rather than a short one, and so in all the rest”. (GE, 69)

Mary, teach us the holiness that is poverty of heart.

4. Luke does not speak of poverty “of spirit” but simply of those who are “poor” (cf. *Lk* 6:20). In this way, he too invites us to live a plain and austere life. He calls us to share in the life of those most in need, the life lived by the Apostles, and ultimately to configure ourselves to Jesus who, though rich, “made himself poor” (2 *Cor* 8:9). (GE, 70)

Mary, teach us the holiness that is poverty of heart.

5. *“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven”*
... Being poor of heart: that is holiness. (GE, 70)

Mary, teach us the holiness that is poverty of heart.

HUMILITY

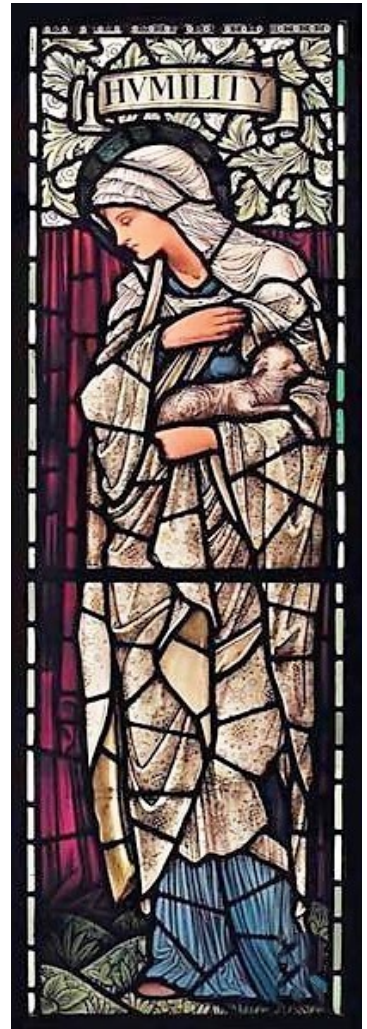
First among the humble and little ones whom God loves is the Virgin Mary. Completely turned towards God, she guides our gaze towards Him. Let us pray to her in the name of all our brothers and sisters in humanity.

1. "It is to the humble that God gives his grace". (1 P 5 : 5).

Holy Mary, you are filled with grace, the Lord is with you. Pray for us: strengthen our hearts in the certainty that the Lord is always present in our lives, that He is always ready to bless us.

2. "The one who humbles himself like this little child will be the greatest in the Kingdom of Heaven." (Mt 18 : 4).

Virgin Mary, the Lord has brought forth in you a "yes" that renews the whole world. Pray for us: out of our weakness and powerlessness, may our unconditional "yes" be spoken, a "yes" that will be salvation for our brothers and sisters.



3. "The greatest among you shall be as the youngest, and he who commands shall be as he who serves." (Lk 22 : 26).

Virgin Mary, you who left in haste to serve your cousin Elizabeth, pray for us: obtain for us a heart that is always ready to render service to anyone and to do so with great love.

4. « The humble see it and rejoice." (Ps 69 : 33)

Mary, at a time when all plans for the future are turned upside down, you sing your joy in your Magnificat. Pray for us: may our prompt obedience to the will of God burst forth in a song of joy and humility.

5. « You listen to the desire of the humble, Lord, and you strengthen their heart." (Ps 10: 17).

Blessed Virgin Mary, you have kept and meditated on the Word sown in your heart and it strengthened your heart for the day when you would be at the foot of the cross of Jesus. Pray for us: create in us a heart that is attentive to the Word that God speaks to us: May it may continually strengthen us and, through us, may it also strengthen our brothers and sisters.

*O Mother, give us
your spirit of prayer.*



So that we might live this intimate relationship with the Father to which Jesus invites us, Blessed Marie Rivier, intercede for us: may we be given a double share of your spirit of prayer.

1. *"Courage, prayer, trust. I would never have believed we would get to where we are today! It is the Blessed Virgin who has led everything, directed everything, done everything. »*

Virgin Mary, we pray to you with the simplicity and filial trust of Marie Rivier. Like her, called to make Jesus Christ known and loved, we want to be attentive to the signs of your tenderness.

2. *"Act with hope. Ask and you will receive, turn to the Blessed Virgin and persevere until your prayers are answered."*

Virgin Mary, at this time in our history, we have renewed our commitment to live our Rule of Life and to help one another on our journey to holiness. To embrace this moment of grace and the zeal of our origins, we turn to you.

3. *"Let us live in hope. It is to Mary that we must always turn. We are sure to find in her at all times a Mother, a protector, a consoler, a sure refuge. »*

Virgin Mary, we are experiencing great poverty, especially the lack of vocations to meet the needs of the mission. But, like Marie Rivier, we believe that you will do everything for us.

4. *"I've never had more confidence than when I had more crosses. I have no doubt, my tender Mother, that you will protect your House in spite of the contradictions and oppositions it may experience. This House is completely yours. »*

Virgin Mary, you have always helped us. In spite of the obstacles, you sent us to evangelize the whole world. Still today, listen to our prayers.

5. *"Be women of faith and trust! Blessed Virgin, our hearts belong to you. Take possession of them in the Name of your Son and make us burn with love for him and for you. »*

Virgin Mary, obtain for us this ardent love that made Marie Rivier free and available to go wherever the Lord called her to go. Unify our lives in the sole desire to procure the greater glory of God.

Become saints, apostles, true disciples of Jesus Christ!

Apostolic Exhortation *Evangelii Gaudium*, n. 120-121

1. In virtue of their baptism, all the members of the People of God have become missionary disciples (cf. *Mt* 28:19). All the baptized, whatever their position in the Church or their level of instruction in the faith, are agents of evangelization.

**R/ Mary, help us to become saints, apostles,
true disciples of Jesus Christ!**

2. The new evangelization calls for personal involvement on the part of each of the baptized. Every Christian is challenged, here and now, to be actively engaged in evangelization; indeed, anyone who has truly experienced God's saving love does not need much time or lengthy training to go out and proclaim that love. **R/**
3. Every Christian is a missionary to the extent that he or she has encountered the love of God in Christ Jesus: we no longer say that we are "disciples" and "missionaries", but rather that we are always "missionary disciples". **R/**
4. If we are not convinced, let us look at those first disciples, who, immediately after encountering the gaze of Jesus, went forth to proclaim him joyfully: "We have found the Messiah!" (*Jn* 1:41). **R/**
5. So what are we waiting for? ... Each of us should find ways to communicate Jesus wherever we are. All of us are called to offer others an explicit witness to the saving love of the Lord, who despite our imperfections offers us his closeness, his word and his strength, and gives meaning to our lives. **R/**

Mary in the mystery of the Church!



1. Let us contemplate Mary, a woman who listens
Mary welcomes the Word with faith; this faith is for her a source of life and certainty. She recalls the events of Jesus' life, gathering them in the depths of her heart.

*R/ O Woman who listens, teach us your silence,
Woman totally attentive to the Word of God.
Hail Mary, full of grace, Hail Mary, Mother of God*

2. Let us contemplate Mary, a woman who prays

She opens her heart by giving glory to God, by expressing her humility, her faith, her hope. Mary's Magnificat has become the canticle of the Church. At Cana we see Mary, a woman of prayer. The Church also prays every day and presents the needs of all of humanity to the Lord.

3. Let us contemplate Mary, the Virgin Mother

By her faith and obedience she begat the Son of the Father by the power of the Spirit. The Church continues Mary's maternity through the sacrament of Baptism: she begets the children of the Kingdom.

4. Let us contemplate Mary, a woman of offering

Offer your son, Blessed Virgin, Saint Bernard said, and present to the Lord the blessed fruit of your womb. Offer him, as the victim pleasing to God, for the reconciliation of all. To perpetuate this sacrifice that saves us, the Church celebrates the Eucharist to which we are associated.

5. Let us contemplate Mary at the Cenacle

With one heart, all were united in prayer, with a few women including Mary, the Mother of Jesus. Even today, Mary continues to pray with Pope Francis, Peter's successor, with the Apostolic College and with all the people of God.

Through Mary, a true community heart



1. Gathered together by the Holy Spirit through faith in the Risen Christ, we live, at the heart of the Church, in fraternal communities. ... we have but one heart and one mind in Christ Jesus.(C 80-81)

Virgin Mary, we entrust to you our desire to have, as Marie Rivier wished, a true community heart, that we might become a truly fraternal community.

2. Mary's prayer teaches us that all true holiness is the holiness the Spirit accomplishes in us when we let ourselves be fashioned by him. ... in order to become prayer, to be, in a permanent way, the worshipers in spirit and in truth that the Father seeks. (C 78-79)

Virgin Mary teach us to know Jesus Christ as you know him, to love him as you love him, to become apostles radiant with his presence everywhere.

3. We are called to live this covenant of love that God's tenderness offers us from moment to moment, in thanksgiving and the ever-renewed joy of Mary's Magnificat. (C 49)

Virgin Mary, we pray to you for all our young people in formation as well as for their formators. We also entrust to you those who have recently committed themselves to following Jesus.

4. The humble Virgin Mary is the inspiration and the guardian of our religious family. Everything in the Congregation is hers *as her property and possession*. In the mystery of her Presentation in the Temple, she is the model of our consecration. (C 11)

Virgin Mary teach us to live like you in a state of adoration and offering before God, walking in love in his Presence.

5. The Virgin Mary teaches us that the greatest apostolic fruitfulness springs from the greatest love. ... She offers us her motherly assistance to sustain our hope and her powerful mediation for the salvation of all her children on earth. (C 113)

Virgin Mary, we entrust to you all our communities called to proclaim the Gospel with zeal. Draw upon them the Holy Spirit: may he help them to become houses of blessing, centers of light, capable of presenting the Gospel of love and unity to the world.



When Faith becomes Fire

1. The world is not healed, O God,
by correct ideas,
or intellectual agreements
on the meaning of doctrine.
No, the world is healed
when faith becomes a fire
that captures our hearts,
that consumes our lives,
and that drives us to actions of love and justice.



**Mary, teach us to be women of faith and of fire
for our world today.**

2. We pray for all believers,
friends and family members,
foreigners and newcomers,
so that our faith might be expressed
in deeds of love and welcome
of inclusion and celebration.

**Mary, teach us to be women of faith and of fire
for our world today.**

3. We pray for all believers,
leaders and followers,
those who have much and those who have little,
so that our faith may be expressed
in deeds of generosity and unity,
of listening and respect.

**Mary, teach us to be women of faith and of fire
for our world today.**

4. We pray for all believers in our world,
those who believe as we do,
and those who believe differently,
so that our faith may be expressed
in deeds meant to restore peace and freedom,
deeds of attention to creation
and deeds filled with hope.

**Mary, teach us to be women of faith and of fire
for our world today.**

5. Our world is not healed, O God,
when faith is only words, ideas or rituals.
But when faith is put into action as Christ did,
healing is not only a possibility,
it is a certainty.
It's just a matter of time.

**Mary, teach us to be women of faith and of fire
for our world today.**

**COMMUNITY
ROOTED IN
THE MYSTERY OF THE TRINITY**



We ask Mary who lives in the heart of the Trinity to intercede for us so that we might enter into this dwelling place of love. May she obtain for us a *true community heart*.

1. **HOLY TRINITY**, you are mystery of perfect relationship in Love. In you, each divine person lives for the other through self-giving, each divine person lives through the other through the gift of acceptance. In you the perfect relationship of gratuity in Love is expressed.

VIRGIN MARY, you who live in the heart of the Trinity, help us to live in community this mystery of self-giving and acceptance, through the humble realities of every day.

2. **HOLY TRINITY**, you are a mystery of total dependence in Love. In you, each divine person finds his joy in his submission to the other, with complete trust. In you, there is no other power but the power of Love.

VIRGIN MARY, you, who live at the heart of the Trinity, help us to live in community this mystery of self-emptying, of mutual trust, in the joy of a life totally surrendered to God and to others.

3. **HOLY TRINITY**, you are a mystery of humility in Love. In you, each divine person marvels and humbles himself before the other: *Here is my beloved Son, listen to him ... The Father is greater than I ... It is good for you that I go ... I will send you the Holy Spirit.*

VIRGIN MARY, you, who live in the heart of the Trinity, help us to live in community this mystery of humility through the acceptance of our limits, the esteem of our sisters and the joy of seeing them complement our limitations.

4. **HOLY TRINITY**, you are mystery of merciful Love. In you, every divine person consents to the Redemption of humanity lost in its sin. In you, Jesus the Incarnate Word introduces us as adopted sons and daughters redeemed by his Blood.

VIRGIN MARY, you who live in the heart of the Trinity, help us to live in community this mystery of merciful love, a love that does not judge, that forgives, that excuses everything, believes everything, hopes everything.

5. **HOLY TRINITY**, you are mystery of perfect communion in Love. In you, each divine person is transparency, openness, availability. In you, everything is light and peace.

VIRGIN MARY, you who live in the heart of the Trinity, help us to live in community this mystery of communion which attests to the presence of the Lord in our midst, makes visible his charity, reveals to the world the great hope of the Kingdom.

Our Lady of Compassion



1. *God proves his love for us in that while we still were sinners Christ died for us. (Rm 5: 8)*

Mary, give us the penetrating gaze of your faith so that we may know how to contemplate the Face of Love crucified that rests in your arms; we may learn from him, in adoration, *to lose ourselves for the salvation of the world.* C 61

Our Lady of Mercy, intercede for us so that we may be given a better understanding of the mystery of the Cross.

2. *The message of the cross is foolishness to those who are perishing, but to us who are being saved it is the power of God. (1 Cor 1 : 18)*

Mary, give us the love of your heart so pure that we may discover in the face of Jesus the great tenderness of the Father. Be close to us at the hour of purification, *when we are rejected because of the Gospel, when we begin to doubt ourselves or to believe that we are useless.* D 56 c

Our Lady of Mercy, intercede for us so that we may be given a better understanding of the mystery of the Cross.

3. *See, God, I have come to do your will. (He 10, 5-7)*

Mary, grant that we might take part with you in Jesus' total offering for the salvation of the world. Teach us *to be in communion with the fundamental attitude of the beloved Son, whose whole life was a loving union to the will of the Father.* C 36

Our Lady of Mercy, intercede for us so that we may be given a better understanding of the mystery of the Cross.

4. *Let each of you look not to your own interests, but to the interests of others. Let the same mind be in you that was in Christ Jesus. (Ph 2: 4-5)*

Mary, after the Passion, you are the recourse of the scattered Apostles, their place of communion and hope. Be with our apostolic communities, always in need of being rebuilt in love, *this miracle of God which comes about through the death of our egoism and through self-renunciation.* C 97

Our Lady of Mercy, intercede for us so that we may be given a better understanding of the mystery of the Cross.

5. *I have decided to know nothing among you except Jesus Christ, and him crucified. (1Co 2: 2)*

Mary, by presenting to us, from the very beginning, your crucified Son, you communicated to us his preference for *the little and the poor, those whom he loved above all* C 8. *Keep us deeply attentive to the true needs of our contemporaries.* C 112

Our Lady of Mercy, intercede for us so that we may be given a better understanding of the mystery of the Cross.

The first one on the Journey

*The Virgin Mary is presented as the model of our hope. From the first awakening of her freedom, in all simplicity, she opened herself without limit to God. Because of her offering, of her total **YES**, she gave us JESUS, the Hope of the world.*

**R/ Mary, witness of hope,
for the Lord, you are there.
At the heart of the people of the Covenant
you call us to move forward, always further...**

- 1.** Only hope can give us the dynamism to accomplish what God expects of us. May we, following Mary, learn to move forward. This is where Life is to be found! **R/**
- 2.** It is through our trial and error that God manifests Himself to us and makes His ways known to us; but we must be careful not to confuse the means with the end. The object of our hope, the end of everything, is Jesus Christ! **R/**
- 3.** The support of our hope is the spirit of prayer and an interior life centered on the Word. Let us allow the Word to act in us so that through the constancy and consolation that the Scriptures give us, we may overflow with hope. **R/**
- 4.** Marie Rivier left us no other program than the study of Jesus Christ, in order to come to think, speak and act like Him. It is by scrutinizing His Face that we will become like Him. This is our hope! **R/**
- 5.** Like for Mary and Marie Rivier, all is grace before us! At every turn of the road, there is a sign of hope if we know how to raise our heads and see with the *enlightened eyes of the heart*. **R/**

THE MYSTERY OF MARY IN OUR RELIGIOUS FAMILY



1. Mystery of the Cross in your life, Virgin Mary; Mystery of Jesus who died in your arms; Mystery of our vocation in Marie Rivier and of our mission in the Church.

Blessed Virgin Mary, obtain for us the grace to believe in the power of the cross and to know how to welcome it with faith.

2. Mystery of your presence, Virgin Mary, of your visitations in the life of Marie Rivier and in ours today.

Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of Mercy, pour the healing oil of your tenderness on the sick.

3. Mystery of your word, Virgin Mary in the heart of Marie Rivier: *"Lead your daughters by humility"*. Mystery of your silent message.

Blessed Virgin Mary, our inspiration, help us understand God's will and dispose our hearts to carry it out humbly.

4. Mystery of your support, Virgin Mary, during the trials of Marie Rivier. Mystery of your oil of joy that revives our fervor.

Blessed Virgin Mary, give courage to those who suffer in their bodies or in their hearts. Give them peace and keep them in your motherly protection.

5. Mystery of your interventions, Virgin Mary, in times of great poverty: wheat multiplied, miraculous oil. Mystery of your vigilant love that comes to assist us in all our distresses.

Blessed Virgin Mary, help our faith in Providence grow; give us love for Jesus poor and his love for the poor: those of our families and of society.

WORLD DAY OF THE POOR

Message of Pope Francis



1. The description of God's action in favor of the poor is a constant refrain in the Holy Scriptures. He is the one who "listens", "intervenes", "protects", "defends", "redeems", "saves" ... In short, a poor person will never find that God is indifferent or silent to his prayer. God is the one who renders justice and does not forget (cf. Ps. 40:18; 70:6); indeed, he is a refuge for him and he will not fail to come to his aid (Ps. 10:14).

Mary, help us to listen with ears that hear the cry of the poor which is a continual outcry against our injustices.

2. It is never possible to evade the pressing call that Sacred Scripture entrusts to the poor. Everywhere we look, the Word of God indicates that the poor are those who do not have what it takes to live because they depend on others. They are the oppressed, the humble, those who prostrate themselves on the ground. And yet, before this countless crowd of the needy, Jesus was not afraid to identify with each one of them: "inasmuch as you did it to one of the least of these my brothers, you did it to me" (Mt 25:40).

Mary, help us to recognize the God that Jesus wanted to reveal: a generous, merciful Father, inexhaustible in his goodness and grace, who gives hope above all to those who are discouraged and cannot see a future.

3. How can we fail to emphasize that the Beatitudes begin with this expression: "Blessed are you poor" (Lk 6:20)? The meaning of this

paradoxical announcement is that the Kingdom of God belongs precisely to the poor, because they are able to receive it. How many poor people do we meet every day! Sometimes it seems that time and the conquests of civilization increase their number instead of decreasing it. Centuries go by and this Gospel beatitude appears more and more paradoxical; the poor are always poorer and today their poverty seems to be even worse.

Mary, help us to recognize the Kingdom that Jesus inaugurated by placing the poor at the center and may we help it move forward with hope.

4. In her proximity with the poor, the Church discovers that she is a people who, scattered among so many nations, has the vocation of making sure no one feels that he or she is a stranger or excluded, because everyone is involved in a common journey of salvation. The condition of the poor obliges us not to distance ourselves from the Body of the Lord that suffers in them. Rather, we are called to touch his flesh in order to commit ourselves personally to an authentic service of evangelization.

Mary, help us to proclaim the Gospel as we live our commitment to reach out to the poor.

5. "The option for the least, for those whom society rejects and sets aside" (EG, 195) is a choice that Christ's disciples are called to pursue as a priority in order not to betray the credibility of the Church and to give effective hope to so many helpless people. Christian charity finds its confirmation in them, for he who has compassion for their sufferings, sharing with them the love of Christ, receives strength and vigor for the proclamation of the Gospel.

Mary, help us to realize that the poor save us because they allow us to encounter the face of Jesus Christ.



**53rd World Day
of Social Communication**

Pope FRANCIS

Introduction: Since the advent of the Internet, the Church has always sought to promote its use in the service of encountering others and solidarity among all. ... If the network is an opportunity to listen more closely to the stories and experiences of beauty or physical suffering of those who are far away, to pray together and seek together what is good in the rediscovery of what unites us, then it is a resource.

1. The *social network community* is not automatically synonymous with community. In the best of cases, *communities* manage to show cohesion and solidarity, but they often remain only aggregates of individuals who identify themselves according to interests or arguments characterized by weak bonds.

**Mary, teach us to be women of communion
and community for our world.**

2. The network is an opportunity to promote encountering others, but it can also reinforce our self-isolation, like a spider's web that can become a trap. Children are the most exposed to the illusion that the *social web* can fully satisfy them on a relational level.

**Mary, teach us to be women of communion
and community for our world.**

3. As Christians, we all recognize ourselves as members of the one Body of which Christ is the head. This helps us not to see people as potential competitors, but to see even enemies as persons. We no longer need an adversary to define ourselves, because the inclusive gaze we learn from Christ helps us discover otherness in a new way, as an integral part and condition of relationship and proximity.

**Mary, teach us to be women of communion
and community for our world.**

4. Our current context invites all of us to invest in relationships, to affirm, also on the network and through the network, the interpersonal character of our humanity. All the more so, we Christians are called to manifest this communion which is the mark of our identity as believers.

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and community for our world.**

5. The image of the body and its members reminds us that the use of the Social Web is complementary to meeting in flesh and blood, an encounter which is lived through the body, heart, eyes, gaze, and breath of the other. If the network is used as an extension or in expectation of such an encounter, then it does not betray itself and remains a resource for communion.

**Mary, teach us to be women of communion
and community for our world.**



A prayer from *Laudato si'*

1. *All-powerful God,
you are present in the whole universe
and in the smallest of your creatures.
You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.
Pour out upon us the power of your love,
that we may protect life and beauty.
Fill us with peace, that we may live
as brothers and sisters, harming no one.*

**Thank you, Lord, for being with us each day.
With Mary, encourage us in our struggle for justice, love and peace.**

2. *O God of the poor,
help us to rescue the abandoned
and forgotten of this earth,
so precious in your eyes.*

**Thank you, Lord, for being with us each day.
With Mary, encourage us in our struggle for justice, love and peace.**

3. *Bring healing to our lives,
that we may protect the world
and not prey on it,
that we may sow beauty,
not pollution and destruction.*

**Thank you, Lord, for being with us each day.
With Mary, encourage us in our struggle for justice, love and peace.**

4. *Touch the hearts
of those who look only for gain
at the expense of
the poor and the earth.*

**Thank you, Lord, for being with us each day.
With Mary, encourage us in our struggle for justice, love and peace.**

5. *Teach us to discover
the worth of each thing,
to be filled with awe and contemplation,
to recognize that we are profoundly united
with every creature
as we journey towards your infinite light.*

**Thank you, Lord, for being with us each day.
With Mary, encourage us in our struggle for justice, love and peace.**



Jubilee for the earth

Pope Francis, September 1st, 2020

1. A time to remember

A Jubilee, then, is a time of remembrance, in which we cherish the memory of our inter-relational existence. We need constantly to remember that “everything is interconnected, and that genuine care for our own lives and our relationships with nature is inseparable from fraternity, justice and faithfulness to others” (*LS*, 70).

**Through the intercession of Mary,
send forth your Spirit, Lord, and renew the face of the earth!**

2. A time to return

The Jubilee calls us to think once again of our fellow human beings, especially the poor and the most vulnerable. We are asked to re-appropriate God’s original and loving plan of creation as a common heritage, a banquet which all of our brothers and sisters share in a spirit of conviviality, not in competitive scramble but in joyful fellowship, supporting and protecting one another. A Jubilee is a time for setting free the oppressed and all those shackled in the

fetters of various forms of modern slavery, including trafficking in persons and child labour. **R/**

3. A time to rest

During the Jubilee, God's people were invited to rest from their usual labour and to let the land heal and the earth repair itself, as individuals consumed less than usual. Today we need to find just and sustainable ways of living that can give the Earth the rest it requires, ways that satisfy everyone with a sufficiency, without destroying the ecosystems that sustain us. ... The pandemic has brought us to a crossroads. We must use this decisive moment to end our superfluous and destructive goals and activities, and to cultivate values, connections and activities that are life-giving. **R/**

4. A time to restore

A Jubilee is a time to restore the original harmony of creation and to heal strained human relationships. It invites us to re-establish equitable societal relationships, restoring their freedom and goods to all and forgiving one another's debts. ... It is a time for restorative justice. ... We also need to restore the land. Climate restoration is of utmost importance, since we are in the midst of a climate emergency. **R/**

5. A time to rejoice

In the biblical tradition, a Jubilee was a joyous occasion, inaugurated by a trumpet blast resounding throughout the land. ... This year should lead to long-term action plans to practise integral ecology in our families, parishes and dioceses, religious orders, our schools and universities, our healthcare, business and agricultural institutions, and many others as well. **R/**



WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR THE INTEGRITY OF CREATION

POPE FRANCIS
September 1, 2019

1. Now is the time to rediscover our vocation as children of God, brothers and sisters, and stewards of creation. Now is the time to repent, to be converted and to return to our roots. We are beloved creatures of God, who in his goodness calls us to love life and live it in communion with the rest of creation.

Virgin Mary, help us to become involved and feel responsible for the safeguarding of creation and give us the courage to do good.

2. This is *the season for letting our prayer be inspired anew* by closeness to nature, which spontaneously leads us to give thanks to God the Creator ... In the silence of prayer, we can hear the symphony of creation calling us to abandon our self-centeredness in order to feel embraced by the tender love of the Father and to share with joy the gifts we have received. We can even say that creation, as a *network of life*, a place of encounter with the Lord and one another, is “God’s own ‘social network’”

Virgin Mary, help us to become involved and feel responsible for the safeguarding of creation and give us the courage to do good.

3. It is also *a season to reflect on our lifestyles*, and how our daily decisions about food, consumption, transportation, use of water, energy and many other material goods, can often be thoughtless and harmful. ... Let us make an effort to change and to adopt more simple and respectful lifestyles! Now is the time to abandon our dependence

on fossil fuels and move, quickly and decisively, towards forms of clean energy and a sustainable and circular economy. Let us also learn to listen to indigenous peoples, whose age-old wisdom can teach us how to live in a better relationship with the environment.

Virgin Mary, help us to become involved and feel responsible for the safeguarding of creation and give us the courage to do good.

4. This too is *a season for undertaking prophetic actions*. Many young people all over the world are making their voices heard and calling for courageous decisions. They feel let down by too many unfulfilled promises, by commitments made and then ignored for selfish interests or out of expediency. The young remind us that the earth is not a possession to be squandered, but an inheritance to be handed down. They remind us that hope for tomorrow is not a noble sentiment, but a task calling for concrete actions here and now. We owe them real answers, not empty words, actions not illusions.

Virgin Mary, help us to become involved and feel responsible for the safeguarding of creation and give us the courage to do good.

5. Our prayers and appeals are directed first at raising the awareness of political and civil leaders. ... The words that Moses proclaimed to the people as a kind of spiritual testament at the threshold of the Promised Land come to mind: *"Therefore choose life, that you and your descendants may live"* (Dt 3:19). We can apply those prophetic words to ourselves and to the situation of our earth. *Let us choose life!* ... Let us inaugurate farsighted processes involving responsible sacrifices today for the sake of sure prospects for life tomorrow.

Virgin Mary, help us to become involved and feel responsible for the safeguarding of creation and give us the courage to do good.



Day of solidarity and prayer

1. "Master, who sinned, this man or his parents, that he was born blind?" Jesus answered, "It is not that he or his parents have sinned, but that the works of God might be revealed in him. »

In this time of crisis, let us exclude no one, especially those most in need, because no one should be deprived of a loving gaze, of attention and of a gesture of kindness.

Salvation of your people, you know what we need.

We are certain that you will provide for us, so that, as in Cana of Galilee, joy and celebration will return after this moment of trial.

2. Jesus spat on the ground and made mud with his saliva. Then he applied this mud to the eyes of the blind man and said, "Go and wash in the pool of Siloam. »

We pray for all health care professionals and volunteers. Mother of Divine Love, keep them safe and give them the courage to continue their healing ministry.

Salvation of your people, you know what we need.

We are certain that you will provide for us, so that, as in Cana of Galilee, joy and celebration will return after this moment of trial.

3. The blind man went, washed himself, and when he returned, he could see. We pray that all people will open their eyes to see that small gestures of kindness, small gestures that sometimes get lost in the routine of daily life, gestures of tenderness, affection and compassion are nevertheless decisive and important.

**Salvation of your people, you know what we need.
We are certain that you will provide for us, so that, as in Cana of Galilee, joy and celebration will return after this moment of trial.**

4. "I know one thing: I used to be blind and now I can see. »
Let our eyes be opened to the things that really matter. May we be present to one another in new ways, comforting and accompanying those who have lost loved ones.

**Salvation of your people, you know what we need.
We are certain that you will provide for us, so that, as in Cana of Galilee, joy and celebration will return after this moment of trial.**

5. « Do you believe in the Son of God ?" ... He said, "I believe, Lord. »

Mother of Divine Love, help us all to find hope, even those who have not yet met God or who find it hard to believe during this time of suffering. May the love and compassion of those around us witness to God's love and give us hope.

**Salvation of your people, you know what we need.
We are certain that you will provide for us, so that, as in Cana of Galilee, joy and celebration will return after this moment of trial.**

**Castel Gandolfo
November 21, 2020**