

PPPG NEWSLETTER

The Thankful Leper

For the year of 2020, our prayer group is blessed to have the whole year booked with the prominent keynote presenters including our own Archbishop J. Michael Miller, CSB, from the Archdiocese of Vancouver who is scheduled to come in July 2020. Having different presenters add different characteristics and dynamics to the prayer group which attract many people from our own parish and the surrounding parishes.

I love dealing with different presenters, each one of them is unique and wonderful. I look forward to every prayer meeting. Meeting our presenters and our members bring me special delight. Sometime though a presenter might need to cancel due to health reason or an emergency that cannot be averted, then a replacement must be found or try to find a different way to fill in the time, if in any case all efforts were in vain, then the prayer meeting has to be cancelled. So far, God always provided me with a presenter needed for that particular month, He provides the replacement speaker. Praise God. I have never had to cancel a prayer meeting. But that was before COVID19 outbreak!

I have been delaying in announcing the cancellation of our prayer meetings. I feel that if I just wait, there may be breaking news of discovery of a cure, and everyone can be nursed back to health again and soon this COVID19 virus nightmare is history.

Also, I have been racking my brain to be creative. For example, perhaps to replace a prayer meeting with a mini reflection video clip, so that all members can watch this at the comfort of their own homes, to reflect or meditate. In order to make that happen, I am going to need a material that can be put together into a meditative clip. After several attempts I realized that this isn't likely to happening. No temporary replacement of the prayer meeting will become a reality.

In the meantime, as part of the monthly preparation of a PPPG prayer meeting, I begun to

make presentations again, this time with a very mixed feelings knowing that there is likely to be no prayer meeting for the foreseeable future. I want to use this time as productively as possible. I read the materials and transfer them into presentation slides as usual. One slide after another, tears coming down my eyes. I feel a deep sense of thanksgiving in my heart. Lord, thank you for giving me three years to promote Padre Pio, your beloved Saint and at the end to promote You. I hope I did not disappoint You. I thank you Lord, for the people whom you sent to be part of this prayer group, who love you and Padre Pio. I thank you for giving me many creative ideas, for the kind-hearted presenters, and all the beloved volunteers and members of the prayer group. As I prepare for future prayer meeting, it's not in vain, when the chance arise, I will be ready.

A few months ago, I taught my young-adults group ministry about the Ten Lepers (Luke 17: 11-19). We want to be the one leper who came back to Jesus to give thanks, not only in good times but in bad times too. Let us all to be the One Leper who give thanks to our Lord, for his generous blessings including all trials to help us learn and get to know Him. I want to be the one leper that returns to Him. With a heavy heart I posted in our Facebook page and website that the prayer meetings will be cancelled until further notice. If you are always a Martha in your life, perhaps now it is the time to be Mary. Let us continue to pray the Rosary together with the prayer intentions of the month and remember to give thanks. God has cleared up our busy schedules and we have only one appointment left with God in our calendar. If He chooses to cleanse us again, thank Him, if not, thank Him anyway.

Have you thanked Him today?

Written by Lucy Rodjito on the Feast of St. Joseph on March 19, 2020, *sometime after the announcement that all Masses are to be offered without a public congregation, until further notice.*

PRAYER INTENTIONS

April 2020

1 | Ministry of Confession

We pray for creative ways to offer Confessions (*during social-distancing*). Dear Father, our churches are closed, and the pews sit empty due to the coronavirus. We, the faithful Catholics, miss our time of worship and prayer and we suffer to be away from your presence in your dwelling place. In absence of this, we watch the celebration of mass on-line and television making it possible to spiritually be united to you dear Lord and we are so grateful for having the availability of technology! Bless our priests especially at this time who are facing difficulties in not being able to offer the sacraments (*as freely as before*) including confessions but whom are still very present in listening to our concerns. Let us come to you Lord and confess our sins asking for forgiveness with a contrite heart and humility as we are confined in our homes. Thank you, Lord, for never leaving us alone.

St. Padre Pio, please pray for us!

2 | For those who contracted the coronavirus.

We pray for care and healing.

Almighty God, we turn to you united in prayer in this turbulent storm. Flood our heart and mind with courage and hope as we bear the weight of this heavy cross. We beg for your mercy and ask for your divine healing of everyone infected by the coronavirus. Keep your presence alive in our broken and sad world and bring serenity back to our existence. Grant all the patients the necessary care and treatment as they are hospitalized with deep suffering, feelings of abandonment and fear.

We pray that you restore them physically, spiritually and emotionally. Comfort all the families, medical workers, friends and the world who live in fear of contracting this infectious disease. Keep distant all the devastating effects of anxiety, trauma and depression from our mind during this time of self-isolation. We turn to you in this time of great suffering and pray that you revive our faith, reawaken our hope and be rekindled in the presence of the Holy Spirit. Bless the world, have mercy on us Dear Lord and help us not to be afraid.

St. Padre Pio, please pray for us!

3 | For those families who are facing difficult decisions between getting food on the table and risking public safety during this coronavirus crisis.

We pray for policies that will recognize their plight.

Lord, we are scared and we are sorrowful. Send us your peace and overwhelming presence. We love you, we trust you, we need you. Stay with us. Help us through these times of uncertainty and dread. Guide our decisions, our thoughts, and our actions that we may return to you with our whole hearts throughout this ordeal.

St. Padre Pio, please pray for us!

4 | For those who do not have adequate health insurance.

We pray that no family will face financial burdens alone.

Jesus, we thirst for you. You chose to enter this world as a vulnerable baby. Be with the most vulnerable now. We know that you are the divine physician, the healer of all. And so we ask that you bring your loving and healing presence to those who are sick and suffering right now. Please comfort them and their families that they do not dwell on bleak economic realities but on you alone. Grant them the peace that surpasses all understanding and stir the faithful to pray diligently on their behalf.

St. Padre Pio, please pray for us!

NO PRAYER MEETING FOR MAY 2020

5 | For public officials and decision-makers.

We pray for wisdom and guidance.

Father in heaven, have mercy on us and on the whole world. We come to you today with our fears and concerns--you know what is in our hearts. In a time when we have lost control over our livelihoods, our freedom of movement, the privilege of partaking of the Eucharist, we surrender all to you. Thank you for the reminder that you know best what we need and that you will never forsake us. May your spirit rest on our public servants that any policies passed will stem out of compassion and love rather than on politics or expedience.

In this time of self-isolation, transform and renew the world, Father, Son and Holy Spirit. Unite us through prayer and supplications that we may long for the eternal things and diligently prepare ourselves for the return of the King.

St. Padre Pio, please pray for us!

Do you want us to pray for you? Email us: PPPG.Prayer.Request@gmail.com