

SAINT JUDE MESSENGER

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ROSARY SHRINE OF SAINT JUDE



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DIRECTOR'S LETTER

Dear Friend of Saint Jude,

I'd like to share with you a story I recently read about Teresa Hernandez, who has a special devotion to Saint Jude. Her uncle and nephew were trapped under the rubble of an apartment building in northern Mexico City after the magnitude 7.1 earthquake in September. Although all seemed lost, Teresa prayed to Saint Jude and her family managed to get out! "I always come to give thanks," she said. "Thanks to God they're still with us."

Devotion to Saint Jude Thaddeus has mushroomed in Mexico City during the past two decades, spreading through word of mouth. As my brother friar Pier Giorgio Dengler, O.P., puts it in his article, "like Saint Jude ... we must bear the image of Jesus to others." Devotion to Saint Jude is strong among the most downtrodden in the Mexican capital. Some people even set aside the 28th of every month (not just October) to celebrate the life of the saint of difficult and impossible causes.

Saint Jude has been answering prayers by people hit by storms in our own country as well. One Saint Jude patron who lives in Florida wrote to me, "Saint Jude had a clear hand in protecting us from Hurricane Irma."

At times Saint Jude rescues us during the storms of life. But Saint Jude is also trying to teach us a greater lesson he learned directly from Jesus in a boat during a storm.

"A gale swept down on the lake, and the boat was filling with water, and they [Saint Jude and the

other apostles] were in danger. They went to Jesus and woke him up, shouting, 'Master, Master, we are perishing!' And he woke up and rebuked the wind and the raging waves; they ceased, and there was a calm. He said to them, 'Where is your faith?' (Luke 8:22-25)

Jesus was teaching Saint Jude to have faith that He is always with us, especially during the darkest moments. Saint Jude experienced first hand the earthquake on Good Friday and all must have seemed lost when Jesus was buried in the belly of the earth for three days, like Jonah. But Saint Jude grew closer to Jesus during this time of trial and was one of the eyewitnesses to the most amazing event that ever took place in human history, the Resurrection of Jesus. Saint Jude knows that God can rescue us from anything and nothing can separate us from His love. Jesus will not allow us to perish, he will bring us safely home to the port of our Heavenly Father.

Through the prayers of Saint Jude, may Jesus Christ keep you safe during the storms and earthquakes of your life.

Yours in Christ,

Fr. Gabriel Gillen, O.P.
Director, Rosary Shrine of Saint Jude



FATHER GABRIEL GILLEN, O.P., WITH BROTHER AQUINAS BEALE, O.P.,
AT THE ROSARY SHRINE OF SAINT JUDE

THANK YOU, SAINT JUDE!

LETTERS FROM PATRONS OF THE ROSARY SHRINE OF SAINT JUDE

Here are just a few of the many letters that we receive at the Rosary Shrine of Saint Jude thanking Saint Jude for his miraculous intercession:

Saint Jude, you helped me when I had no children. I will never forget your great miracle: you blessed me with twins. Thank you!

-Olga

Thank you, Father Gabriel, for the blessed relic of Saint Jude. My prayers were answered.

-Barbara

I was told my baby would be born dead or die shortly after birth. My mother-in-law gave me a medal of Saint Jude. I held the medal of Saint Jude

through the delivery of my baby. She was born eight pounds, beautiful, and healthy. Today she is 56 and the mother of two children. Saint Jude came into my life 56 years ago and is still with me!

-Carmella

I've been with Saint Jude since my Father's passing 30 years ago. Saint Jude, I believe, was shining on me recently for which I am over-the-top grateful.

-Anonymous

Thank you for sending me this gift. Your timing was God's. I had been struggling with a problem for many months, actually more like 40 years. In prayer, I had asked God to recommend a

saint to help me before I went to sleep one night. The next day, the problem was lifted from me, and when I arrived home at the end of the day, still marveling at God's power, there was my Saint Jude relic and medal.

-Chris

As a lifelong Catholic, I have often turned to both Our Lady and Saint Jude in prayer, but I am now reconnecting with my faith. I never completely lost faith, but in recent years I was just going through the motions. I continued to pray and attend Mass, but I wasn't doing it in a very meaningful way. I feel like I am now back on the right path, I have turned away from some bad habits, and I have been praying daily for Mary and Saint Jude to intercede for me.

-Kevin

“SAINT JUDE FOUND ME
AT MY LOWEST POINT
AND TURNED MY LIFE
AROUND.”

My mom had terminal cancer of the colon, a very painful condition. When it was clear that she would not survive, I prayed a novena to Saint Jude. I asked him to please not let her suffer. By the time she passed away at my home with us, all she needed was Tylenol for her pain. We had converted to Catholicism just a year before her diagnosis. I promised Saint Jude I would tell people about him and pray to him because I know this was a miracle (not the only one he has given me).

-Dianne

Our friend Bozena's husband was diagnosed with a heart problem so critical that his doctor informed him he needed nothing short of a miracle. My husband and I assured her that we and our children would pray for him to our patron, Saint Jude. Bozena, who is Polish, said Saint Jude is a common intercessor for the Polish people and was grateful for our prayers. When I saw her again a couple of weeks later, having prayed as promised daily to Saint Jude as a family at the dinner table, she announced with great joy that their doctor had given her husband a clean bill of health. The doctor, who is from Malta and himself Catholic, declared that it was clearly a miracle of God's grace that had worked this healing in her husband.

-Amy

In 2004 I was at my lowest point. I had been suffering from daily headaches for over a year. I had been to many doctors and tried many medications, but nothing helped. I also had an extremely stressful job that was taking a toll on my health, I had recently broken up with my fiancé, and I even found a lump in my breast. One day, I went to church to light a candle and pray to Saint Francis to help me find a permanent home for a dog that I had rescued from the pound. I cannot explain it, but, while I was kneeling, it was as if some unseen force caused me to turn my head and look behind me. There, on a small table, I saw a pile of Saint Jude novenas that someone had left in the church. I took one home with me and began to pray the novena that night. By the end of the nine days, my headaches had stopped. I was also told about a wonderful job opportunity, where I have now been employed for twelve years. After a biopsy, the lump in my breast turned out to be a benign cyst. The Lord even put my fiancé and I on the path to reconciliation. We now have two children, and I gave my son the middle name Jude. Saint Jude found me at my lowest point and turned my life around.

-Melissa



DOCTORS JANET AND WALT GOULET

A LIFETIME OF DEVOTION TO SAINT JUDE

Doctor Walt Goulet and his wife, Doctor Janet Goulet—both retired university professors—have been long-time patrons of the Rosary Shrine of Saint Jude. The Saint Jude Messenger recently sat down with Walt to discuss the changing and surprising ways Saint Jude has been present in his life for over 65 years.

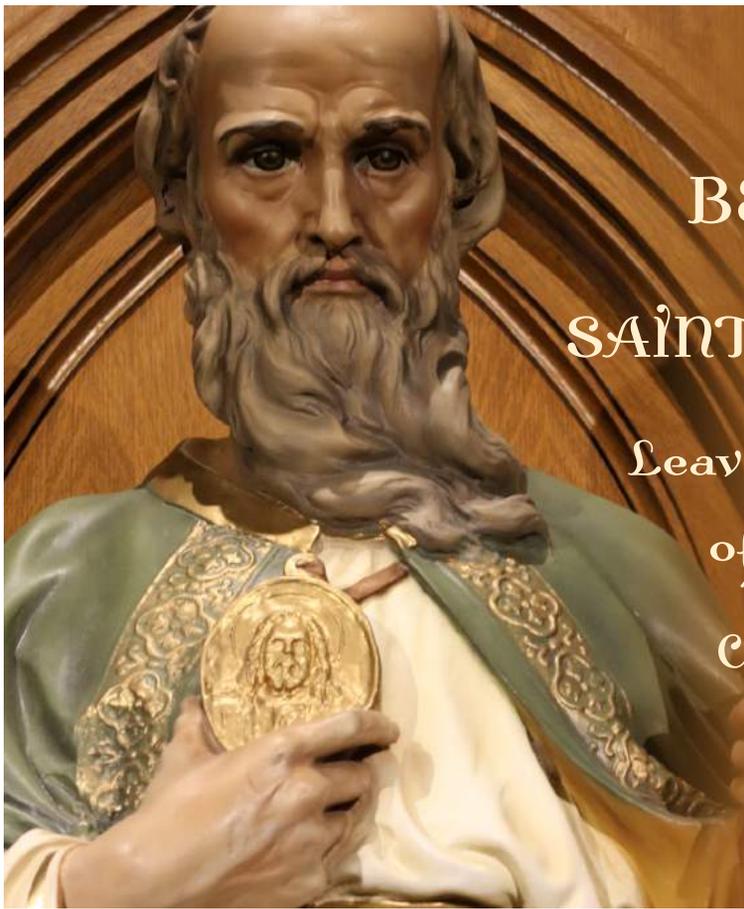
How did you become devoted to Saint Jude?

My mother gave me a pamphlet of Saint Jude prayers when I was only sixteen. So I started to pray to Saint Jude. In the beginning it was “Saint Jude help me do this, help me do that.” I fell in

love with Saint Jude in the first place because he always took care of whatever needs I had: to get a job, to do well in school, etc. Over the years I stopped asking him for much except on behalf of my family or others who are truly in need. I don’t have to ask for material things for myself, because he’s already taken care of me. The spiritual has become more important.

Can you tell us about any specific instances when Saint Jude answered your prayers?

I taught over at Wright State University and we had a Catholic center that was well attended. For a couple years, the priest had been trying to buy a little piece



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of property to expand the center, but he couldn't get ahold of anything because it was state land.

One day we were talking about it, and I said to him, "Well, Father, let me pray on it and talk to Saint Jude." And so I prayed on it and talked to Saint Jude and sent Saint Jude a gift. A couple of days later, the Catholic center was told they had permission to purchase the land. The priest really believed it was a miracle, and I do too.

Every time I've ever prayed to Saint Jude he's answered my prayer. Not always the way I wanted it—usually better. I'll give you an example: one time I wanted to be hired by another Midwestern university and become a chairman there, so I prayed, and prayed, and prayed. It didn't seem to work - I didn't get the job. But a couple of months later I became chairman at the university where I already taught, and then got promoted to associate dean,

and then got to be dean. So Saint Jude didn't grant my specific request, but he gave me a better answer.

How has Saint Jude helped you in your family life?

Just after my wife and I got engaged, we dedicated our marriage to Saint Jude (that was the beginning of my wife's devotion to Saint Jude). We've been married fifty-six years and have four grown children, seven grandchildren, and one great-grandchild. We've been faithful: we still say the prayers to Saint Jude regularly and when we're in Rome we make sure we visit the shrine of Saint Jude there.

The Dominican Friars of the Rosary Shrine of Saint Jude extend our heartfelt gratitude and prayers to the Goulets for their continued generosity!





SAINT JUDE AND OUR LADY: WATCHING OVER OUR NATION'S MOTORISTS

In most parts of the country, we rely on cars to get to work, transport our families, and put food on the table. Driving is an activity we barely think about... until something goes wrong. A catastrophic accident can happen in seconds, and even the loss of a vehicle or a license is major setback for a working family. Thank God for the intercession of Saint Jude and Our Lady, who watch over us where we most need protection—including on the road. Here are three stories of how God helped drivers who are patrons of the Rosary Shrine of Saint Jude.

MY SON SURVIVED A WRECK UNTOUCHED

I have just finished reading my first issue of the *Saint Jude Messenger*. I was also recently sent a Saint Jude relic from the Rosary Shrine of Saint Jude. I have held onto this relic every morning as I pray my Rosary and have begun to ask Saint Jude for his powerful intercession.

In particular, on the weekend of May 6th and 7th, my husband Don and son Matt participated in the driver education portion of an event at a racetrack. They have been involved in this sport for many years and both of them are excellent drivers. I had been praying for them all weekend and in particular with great intensity the morning of the 7th.

On the afternoon of the 7th, my son was involved in accident where he went head first into a cement wall. The car was totaled, but by God's mercy—and, I believe, the intercession of Saint Jude and the Blessed Mother—my son walked away from the accident untouched! The miracle continued with God totally taking care of the financial aspect of the car being totaled. It was truly a miracle and I give glory to God through the mighty intercession of St Jude and our Holy Blessed Mother.

-Sandy

COLLISION AVOIDED

I am a non-Catholic, but I wear the Miraculous Medal and, more recently, I have started wearing an Immaculate Heart of Mary medal that was issued in recognition of Our Lady's apparitions at Fatima. My husband also carries a Miraculous Medal on his key ring, and we keep two Jesus clips on the sun visor of our truck.

Recently, I was driving with my husband and turned off a busy road towards a commercial lot, which required me to cross a double lane of heavy traffic. I thought I was in the clear, when almost out of nowhere I saw a red truck barreling toward us! A white truck was quickly approaching well. My husband shouted at me and I screamed helplessly as there was no way to avoid getting broadsided.

I braced for the worst... but there was no collision. It was almost as if the trucks had vaporized. I had no idea how a crash was avoided.

Then I remembered the holy medals I was wearing and the visor clips with the image of Our Lord on them and I knew at that moment how we were spared. Our Lord and Lady were with us and protected us. I praise our Lord and Lady and thank them for being with me and saving our lives.

-Sandra



TRUSTING IN JESUS AND SAINT JUDE

Last month, my wife's car broke down. After taking it to a mechanic, we got the bad news that it was going to cost over \$5,000 to fix. I have not been working for over a year because of a back injury from an automobile accident, so we did not have the means to fix our vehicle. We still had my vehicle to use for our family of five, but it was 14 years old and needed work. Soon it too broke down and we were without transportation.

While this vehicle was in the shop, my wife and I decided we would be able to afford payments on a newer, pre-owned vehicle with a warranty. The big catch was that we did not have strong credit as we made late payments on several bills due to my being injured and out of work. It absolutely broke my heart that I caused this, while my wife has been nothing but supportive, kind, and loving.

When we went to the used car lot, I took along a Saint Jude relic that my mother had given me. I held it in my hand and prayed the whole time we were at the lot. We found a good car but, because it was late in the day, the dealership did not hear anything back from the bank. We left with no new vehicle.

Once home, I told my wife, "Maybe they didn't want to hurt our feelings. Maybe we got denied." The next day my wife applied for a loan at our local bank and was in fact denied. At this point, I started to cry. I was angry at myself and ashamed that I could not financially help my family.

I took the Saint Jude relic out of my pocket and sat it on my dresser and I thought to myself, 'I am going to tell my mother not to give me these religious trinkets anymore.' I was losing my faith. It seemed that life was nothing but bad luck for me.

I sat on my bed and started to cry, feeling an incredible sadness in my heart. Then I spontaneously prayed out loud to Jesus. I said to him, "I give up, I relinquish any control I have over myself and give it to you!" I felt as though I was speaking directly to Our Lord Jesus Christ. I also told him I wanted a purpose in life and that I was afraid of going down a dark path. I spoke to him as if he was standing in front of me.

I then turned to my Saint Jude relic, I prayed to Saint Jude, told him of my prayer to Our Lord, and said, "I leave the fate of this vehicle with you, Saint Jude. I will accept the outcome, whether bad or good." Not even two seconds after I said "amen" my phone rang. It was the car dealership calling to tell us we got the loan!

What I learned from all this was to pray often and with trust. From now on, I will accept any outcome without losing my faith. As long as I have faith, Jesus will take care of me.

-Sunny



THE ROSARY CONFRATERNITY: SOLIDARITY IN PRAYER

AN INTERVIEW WITH FATHER ATHANASIUS MURPHY, O.P.

The Rosary is one of the most beloved Catholic prayers and a trusted means of calling on Our Lady's powerful assistance. Imagine if you could amplify the power of the Rosary thousands of times. That is just what the faithful are doing through the Confraternity of the Most Holy Rosary (sometimes known also as the Rosary Altar Society in the United States). The Saint Jude Messenger sat down with Father Athanasius Murphy, the Promoter of the Confraternity for the Dominican Province of Saint Joseph, to discuss this enduring devotion.



MAN PRAYS ROSARY AT THE ROSARY SHRINE OF SAINT JUDE

What effect does regularly praying the Rosary have on a person's life?

Praying the Rosary allows one to dwell within the mysteries of Christ's life through the lens of Mary. The more we pray the Rosary, the more we see how transparent Mary became

to her Son, Jesus, and we begin to see our own lives in a similar way. We see ourselves not as independent from God, but dependent upon Him and how He wishes to change us through His grace.

What does membership in the Confraternity add to the practice of praying the Rosary?

The confraternity allows us to be a part of a community of the faithful who are intentionally praying for each other throughout the entire world, a community that has been established by the Catholic Church for this reason. It's like a "Google doc" of grace, where you can have multiple people contributing at the same time. In the Confraternity, each member contributes prayers for the others, so that there is a treasury of grace that God is giving to all.

Why is the Rosary so often described as a spiritual weapon?

Our prayer life is about growing closer to Christ. But in order to do that, sacrifice is required: sacrifice offered in a love that imitates the suffering of Jesus, who came to save us from our sins by rescuing us from the hands of the Evil One. In this sense, the Rosary can be seen as a tool for fighting spiritual opponents, but at the same time it's about drawing us more deeply into love with the Source of Love.

To join the Rosary Confraternity of the Province of Saint Joseph (eastern United States), visit RosaryConfraternity.org.



ST. JUDE AND PERSONAL TRANSFORMATION IN GRACE

BY BROTHER PIER GIORGIO DENGLER, O.P.

Even though Saint Columbanus or Saint Frances of Rome are the patron saints of motorcyclists, you're far more likely to see Saint Jude riding a Harley – generally on a biker's bicep. With the exception of Jesus Himself and His Blessed Mother, Saint Jude is the saint most likely to appear on tattoos. Maybe this has to do with Saint Jude's penchant for bling – he is usually depicted wearing or holding a huge medal bearing the image of Jesus. As the patron of “hopeless cases,” of lost causes, of the impossible, many of us embrace devotion to Saint Jude when we are most desperate, when we cannot outrun or outride reality's most dreadful grief. Saint Jude offers hope to the hopeless, a ray of light to those most beset with darkness – he offers nothing less than Jesus Himself.

Yet why should only Saint Jude be shown holding the image of Christ? Holding a medallion recalls the question he asked Jesus in the gospel: “Lord, what has happened that You will reveal Yourself to us and not to the world?” (John 14:22). Essentially, Saint Jude asks Jesus why He is not manifesting Himself to everyone in the world at once; why Jesus is choosing to allow the relatively small number of apostles to get to know Him, and then rely on them to spread the word about who Jesus is. Indeed, it would seem that a simple media blitz, broadcast to everyone in the world would be the most efficient way to let everyone on earth know Jesus. Why shouldn't Jesus have come in the current millennium, at a time when He could broadcast the Beatitudes over Twitter or post a photo of His Transfiguration to Instagram so that everyone would get the point already?

Because this could never suffice. Jesus' answer makes it clear why this could never be enough

to save actual souls. He clearly states that what is necessary is love, and that He will in fact manifest Himself to any and all who love Him. Mass media can have an image blanket millions of screens in a matter of seconds, but only a person can give and receive love. Only personal witness can reach hearts and present Jesus in a way that inspires love. Only the Incarnate Word, who speaks with love in a heart-to-heart dialogue, could begin to put a creature in touch with the Creator.



Our heart must be touched, and touching requires a personal contact. Touching reaches a particular person, in a particular place and circumstance – it is perfect for the way God loves an individual sinner. Like a tattoo, God's touch considers the contours of our individual person – His grace comes tailor-made to our individual weaknesses, strengths, needs, and gifts. Yet all the while calling us to something more: inviting us to find our final end in Himself. As with tattoos, His grace penetrates below the surface and leaves His image under our skin. And like Saint Jude with his mega-medallion, we must bear the image of Jesus to others – they should recognize us when they see us showing off Christ. Let us pray that we embrace the call to “put on Christ” (Gal 3:27), that through the imitation of Jesus we might “keep [our]selves in the love of God and wait for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ that leads to eternal life” (Jude 1:21).



NEW!
SAINT JUDE
NEW YEAR'S NOVENA:
JANUARY 2-10

START THE YEAR WITH SAINT JUDE!
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THE ENCLOSED ENVELOPE OR VISIT
ROSARYSHRINEOFSTJUDE.ORG.

**PRAYER FOR THE INTENTIONS
OF ROSARY SHRINE
OF SAINT JUDE PATRONS**

"For all the intentions entrusted to the intercession of Our Lady of the Rosary and Saint Jude the Apostle: that the Lord will ease the burden and suffering of those in difficult and desperate circumstances and give them grace and peace."

This prayer is included at all weekend (Vigil/ Sunday) Masses at Saint Dominic's Church in Washington, DC, where the Rosary Shrine of Saint Jude is located.

The Rosary is also prayed daily for the intentions of patrons of the Rosary Shrine of Saint Jude, and on Fridays there is veneration of the first-class relic of Saint Jude following the midday Mass.

**CHRISTMAS NOVENA
IN THE HOLY LAND!**



Beginning on December 25th, the Dominican Friars in Jerusalem will offer a Christmas Novena of Masses at the Church of Saint Stephen for the patrons of the Rosary Shrine of Saint Jude.

**Submit your prayer intentions
using the enclosed envelope or visit
rosaryshrineofstjude.org**

