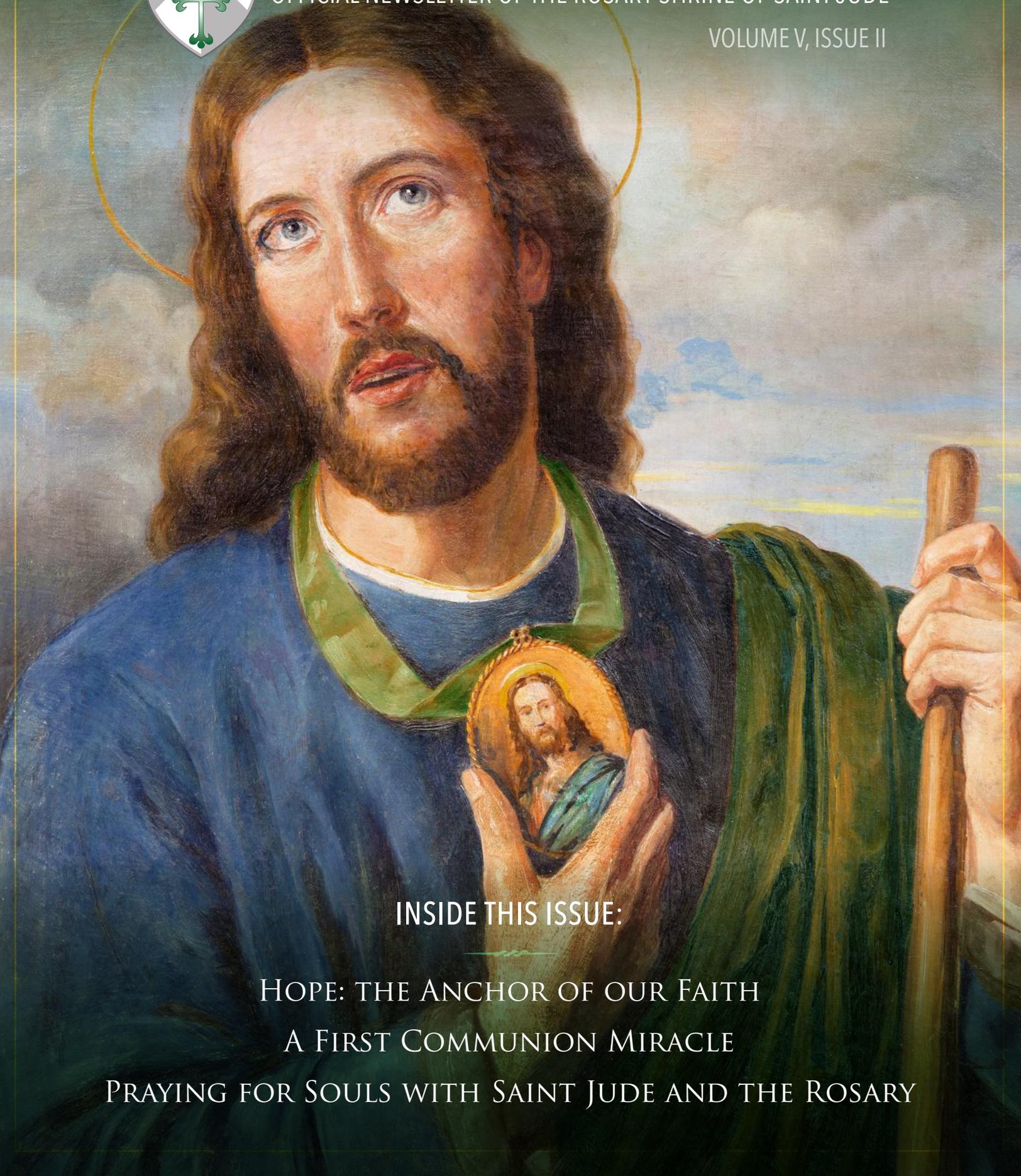




# SAINT JUDE MESSENGER

OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE ROSARY SHRINE OF SAINT JUDE

VOLUME V, ISSUE II

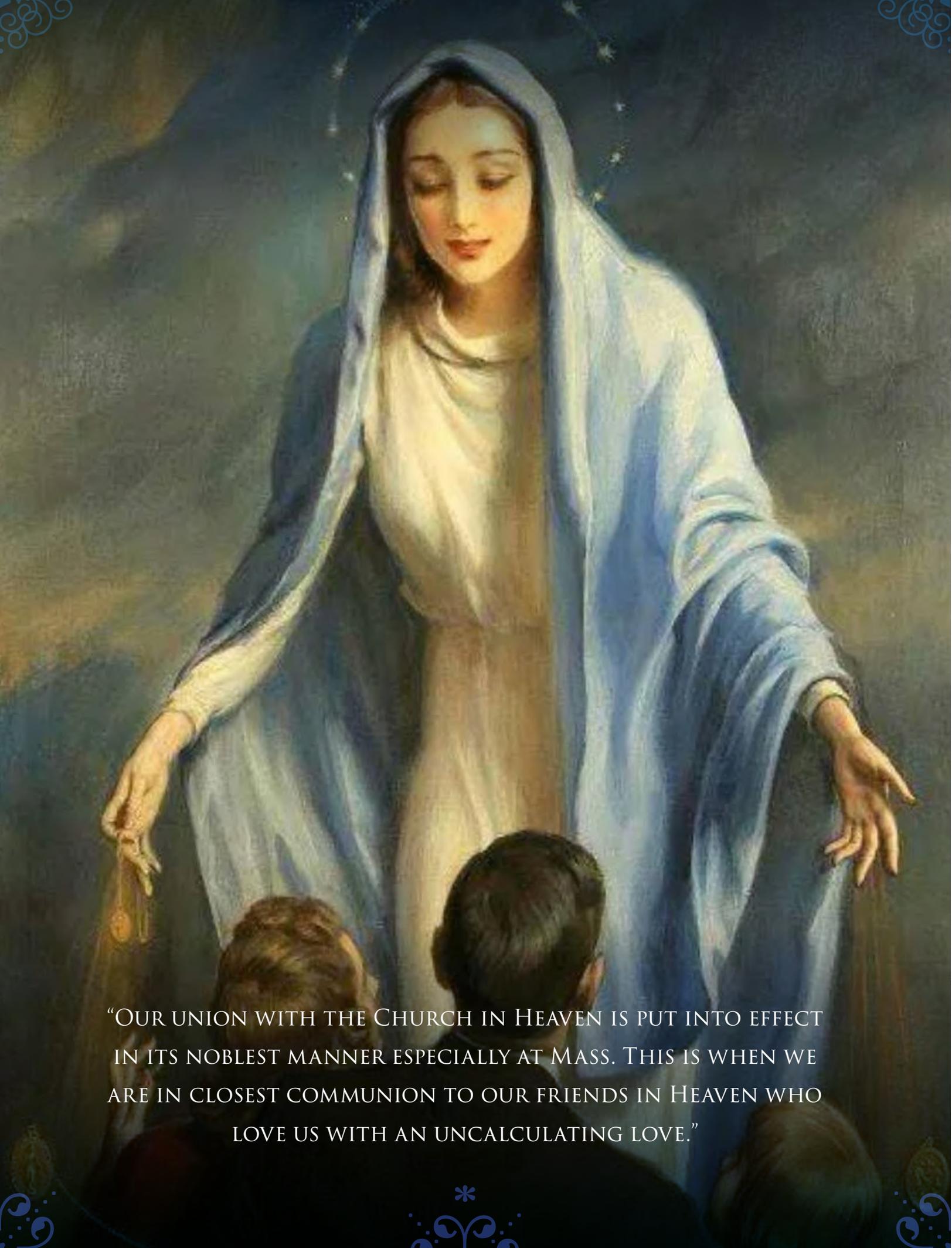


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“OUR UNION WITH THE CHURCH IN HEAVEN IS PUT INTO EFFECT  
IN ITS NOBLEST MANNER ESPECIALLY AT MASS. THIS IS WHEN WE  
ARE IN CLOSEST COMMUNION TO OUR FRIENDS IN HEAVEN WHO  
LOVE US WITH AN UNCALCULATING LOVE.”



# DIRECTOR'S LETTER

Dear Friend of Saint Jude,

**A** Peanuts cartoon showed Peppermint Patty talking to Charlie Brown. She said, "Guess what, Chuck. The first day of school, and I got sent to the principal's office. It was your fault, Chuck." He said, "My fault? How could it be my fault? Why do you say everything is my fault?" She said, "You're my friend, aren't you, Chuck? You should have been a better influence on me."

While Peppermint Patty was seeking to pass the buck, she was in a very real sense right. We should be a good influence on our friends and family. We certainly have an influence, for good or for bad. The bad news is that we are all in danger of being sent to the "principal's office" of Purgatory, but the good news is that we have friends, namely the saints, in high places with great influence. They truly want to be, as Pope Benedict XVI once put it, our "travel companions for life."

My Dominican brother Saint Thomas Aquinas carried Saint Agnes's relics with him whenever he went on a journey. One time his companion, Reginald, fell ill with a strong fever. Saint Thomas applied Saint Agnes's relics to him and prayed for his healing. By Heaven's intercession, Reginald was cured, and to commemorate this cure, Saint Thomas inaugurated an annual dinner with his students on the feast of Saint Agnes.

Most Catholics are used to the idea of the intercession of the saints. If you lose something, ask Saint Anthony. If you have throat issues, seek Saint Blaise. And if a problem seems hopeless, go to Saint Jude. Such intercession is powerful, but Saint Jude wants to show us something more:

friendship. This idea of friendship with the saints appears in the Vatican II document *Lumen Gentium*:

"IT IS SUPREMELY FITTING,  
THEREFORE, THAT WE LOVE  
THOSE FRIENDS AND COHEIRS  
OF JESUS CHRIST [I.E., THE SAINTS  
IN HEAVEN], WHO ARE ALSO OUR  
BROTHERS AND EXTRAORDINARY  
BENEFACTORS."



Underlying our prayer intentions, there should be love. Saint Thomas carried Saint Agnes's relics with him, not like a lucky rabbit's foot, but as a special remembrance of a friend he loved and walked with every day of his life. When Reginald became sick, Saint Thomas turned to Saint Agnes, displaying his trust in her friendship. And the annual dinner served as an ongoing thank-you to her.

Our union with the Church in Heaven is put into effect in its noblest manner especially at Mass. This is when we are in closest communion to our friends in Heaven who love us with an uncalculating love. If we knew how much they loved us we would cry for joy.

*Father Gabriel*

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

# THANK YOU, SAINT JUDE!

LETTERS FROM PATRONS OF THE ROSARY SHRINE OF SAINT JUDE

*For generations, Catholics have publicly thanked Saint Jude for favors received through his intercession. In these pages, patrons of the Rosary Shrine of Saint Jude carry on the tradition!*

Our house had been on the market for almost a year. My sister suggested we say a novena to Saint Jude. After nine days, we had a viewing and an offer!

-Alexander

**Judith** Saint Jude helped me find a great job, in a great location, and at a salary that I never ever expected 🥰🙏

## KEEP THE FAITH

Prior to my Novena to Saint Jude, I had lost hope that the troubles I had been experiencing would ever cease. Once I prayed to Saint Jude, read the

scriptures, and strengthened my faith in Our Lord, miracles and blessings began to occur. I began receiving multiple requests for interviews in addition to two job offers at the same time. I was given options in order to keep my home and overwhelming support from prayer warriors.

Prayers and Novenas do bring results as long as you keep faith and continue to believe. In Christ Jesus' name, Amen!

-Maria

## PRAYING FOR A CALL

I prayed a Novena to Saint Jude that my mom would receive a call or some form of communication from my brother, who we have not heard from in several years. That Novena was answered! She received a phone call from a nurse of a state hospital stating she had been going through my brother's past medical files and she found a number and said, "well, let's try this one," and the number was my mom's. Praise Be To God and Saint Jude! Thank you for being an intercessor to Jesus on my behalf.

-Patricia

## REPOSSESSED

Some years ago, our car was repossessed. We had two young children, my husband needed to get to work three hours away, and we didn't have money for a downpayment. We didn't know where to turn, so we started praying to Saint Jude. We found a used car salesman down a ways from our house. My husband and I walked there, talked with the owner and explained our situation. At first all he could say was "no," but he told us to come back after he talked to his wife. We did and drove away with a car. My husband got back to work. Amen.

-Anonymous



I had concerns about my job that were causing me a lot of anxiety. I was doing all I could, but things weren't working. After completing a Novena to Saint Jude, everything turned around in a dramatic fashion! It provided the greatest relief and sense of security, and after a very difficult year last year I really needed it. I'm not quite out of the woods yet, but I will never forget the favor from Saint Jude.

-Donald



**Maria Elena** Thanks, Saint Jude, for hearing my prayers to pass the licensure examination for teachers. ❤️🙏

### BEYOND HOPELESS

My son was 24, had no aspirations, and wasn't motivated to do anything with his life. He had several jobs that would last for a few weeks before he got fired for showing up late... or not at all. I was beyond hopeless when I decided to turn to Saint Jude for guidance. A few months after I said a Novena to Saint Jude, my son enlisted in the Navy out of the blue. He eventually graduated from boot camp and tech school and started a career in the Navy! It truly was divine intervention. Thank you, Saint Jude!

-Anonymous

### SAINT JUDE DID NOT FORGET

Forty-five years ago when my son-in-law Alan was career navy, he stopped practicing his faith, and I gave him to the care of my friend, Saint Jude. I did not tell anyone about my petition, and in time forgot about it, but Saint Jude did not. When Alan died two years ago, the funeral was at the Church of Saint Jude in Maryland where he lived. During the Mass I suddenly experienced great peace of mind as I recalled my petition. Thank you Saint Jude for all the favors granted through your intercession!

-Ruth

### PROM DATE

I asked Saint Jude to alleviate my daughter's social anxiety so she can make sincere friends. Now she is attending her prom with a date and has been invited by friends to go together. She is still nervous, but has come a long way! Thank you, Saint Jude!

-Anonymous

### SAINT JUDE OIL

Saint Jude is one of my favorite saints. Many years ago, my Mother started me on my devotions as she used to take me to the Shrine and she would get bottles of Saint Jude's precious oil to give to people for his blessings.

Since she passed in 1988, I have continued her tradition and have seen some marvelous things happen.

I was an EKG technician in a hospital until I retired when I was 62. I was going through the halls when a patient came towards me in tears. I asked her what was wrong and she told me she was just informed that she had a brain tumor. I asked her if she would allow me to give her some Saint Jude oil and she said yes. The next day I brought her the oil. The very next week, she came to me and told me they could no longer see the tumor.

-Mary

### 100% BETTER

I would like to thank Saint Jude and my Lord Jesus Christ for saving my son Miguel.

On May 10, 2019, Miguel took a bottle of

pills to kill himself. He was in a coma for three days, then in the ICU for three more days under suicide watch. The hospital did an MRI of his brain, because when the cops got to the house he had no pulse. With one of the cops doing CPR, they started his heart again. After six days in the hospital, they transferred him to rehab.

Miguel was in there for one week. I kept praying to Saint Jude and Jesus for him to come home in a normal state of mind. On May 20, his dad and I went to pick him up from rehab, and now he is 100% better thanks to Saint Jude and my Lord Jesus.

*-Edna*

### RAGING DRUG ADDICTION

Saint Jude does perform miracles. My son had a raging drug addiction for 15 years. I prayed to Saint Jude every night. Never give up. Four years ago my prayers were answered. My son is healthy and happy. I will forever be grateful to Saint Jude!

*-Darnel*

### WORRIED ABOUT LOANS

I was very worried about my school loans this year! It seemed like nothing I did got through to the people in the loan agency, and I was starting to panic because my income is too low to pay the full amount and I needed to apply for an income-based loan.

I wrote three letters with no response at all, and I was never able to get through by email, phone, or online.

Finally I started praying to Saint Jude to help me, and within a week things got straightened out! I promised if he helped me I would advertise his assistance. Thank you, Saint Jude!

*-Martha*

### IMPOSSIBLE?

I was told in 1993 I could not have children. The doctor said it was impossible. I prayed to Saint Jude every day. In 2001 I had a son. I never gave up. Saint Jude made the impossible possible.

*-Annette*



### FOREVER GRATEFUL

I began praying to Saint Jude almost 15 years ago when my attention was drawn to a copy of a Saint Jude Novena that someone had left in the church. At the time, I had been suffering from chronic daily headaches for about two years, and no medications helped. By the end of the Novena, the daily headaches were gone, and, without my asking, Saint Jude also blessed me with a new job opportunity, allowing me to leave my extremely stressful job. I have now been at the new job for almost 15 years. During the same Novena, Saint Jude also mended my troubled relationship with my then fiancé, now husband. After 10 years and two children, my husband and I began to have serious problems again about four years ago. Although still living under the same roof, we led completely separate lives and barely spoke. I felt that divorce was the only option. However, after praying the Saint Jude Novena, I was filled with peace and a clear understanding that God wanted me to remain in the marriage. About six months later, by the intercession of Saint Jude and the grace of God, my husband and I started speaking to one another again and completely reconciled. Saint Jude has done so much for me, I will forever be grateful to him.

*-Melissa*

Share your Saint Jude story by using the reply envelope attached to this issue, emailing [rssj@dominicanfriars.org](mailto:rssj@dominicanfriars.org), or contacting us on Facebook at [facebook.com/rosarysaintjude](https://www.facebook.com/rosarysaintjude).



# HOPE: THE ANCHOR OF OUR FAITH

BY PAM SPANO

THIS ARTICLE ORIGINALLY APPEARED IN CATHOLICMOM.COM.  
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Whenever I think of hope, I think of this passage from Jeremiah:

For I know well the plans I have in mind for you; plans for your welfare and not for woe, so as to give you a future of hope.  
(Jeremiah 29:11)

The traditional symbol of hope in our Catholic faith is the anchor. I'm sure many of you have seen pendants with a cross, anchor, and heart depicting faith, hope, and charity.

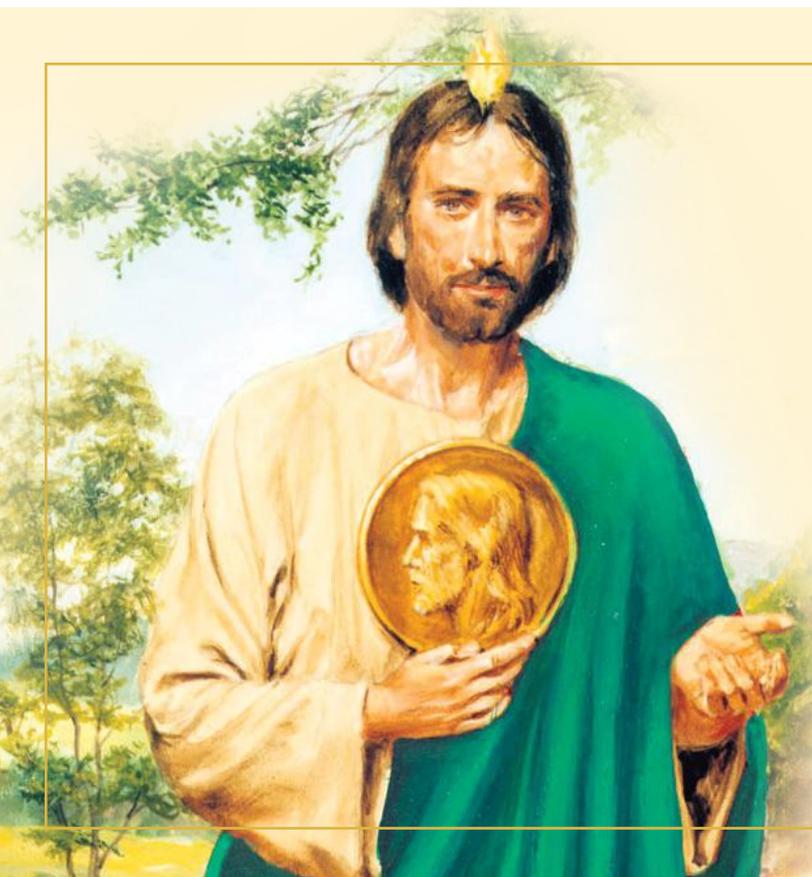
Hope is the anchor of our faith.

Why is hope important? Without hope we would be desolate in the face of life's trials. How can we not pray without hope of a good outcome?

And what if the outcome isn't what we expected? We unite our will with God's and have hope that God has a better plan for us despite the pain and hardship we may endure.

Hope does not disappoint, because the love of God has been poured out into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us. (Romans 5:5)

We often forget about God's love for us through His Advocate. We sometimes feel abandoned during difficult trials of life, but hope is God's promise through His risen Son, a promise of something beyond our understanding.



## LEAVE A LEGACY OF HOPE



Help us continue our mission  
of spreading devotion  
to Saint Jude through a gift in your will.

To learn more, contact Diana Kilarjian,  
Director of Gift Planning:

(646) 350-0108

[diana.kilarjian@dominicanfriars.org](mailto:diana.kilarjian@dominicanfriars.org)



# A FIRST COMMUNION MIRACLE

BY RACHEL (LAST NAME WITHHELD)

**“FOR MANY YEARS WE PRAYED FOR LUCY'S FIRST HOLY COMMUNION. BUT AS THE YEARS PASSED, I THINK WE WERE ALL STARTING TO GIVE UP HOPE.”**

**W**hen Lucy was born in 2005, it was something of a miracle that she survived. Her intestines were outside of her body. She was baptized by her father and then rushed off for surgery. The surgery was successful but left her with an extremely impaired digestive system. As time went on, she tolerated fewer and fewer foods. Among other exclusions, she couldn't eat fruit or grain. Therefore, she could not make her First Holy Communion. For many years we prayed for Lucy's First Holy Communion. But as the years passed, I think we were all starting to give up hope.

On March 14th, 2019, I heard a sermon about the prayer of Queen Esther. Father asked if we had ever tried praying prostrate from morning to evening. I didn't think that was possible for me but I decided that I would kneel down as often as I could every day and pray the Ask, Seek, Knock prayer to the Infant of Prague. My primary intention was always Lucy's First Holy Communion.

Towards the end of March, Lucy was talking about her desire to be a Dominican Sister. But she said that she didn't think she could ever

be one because of her health. I thought, I need to put her under the protection of the Dominicans. I decided to pray to Saint Vincent Ferre I entirely forgot that his feast was April 5th yet I began on March 27th a Novena before his feast. (I did not realize this till after we had the wonderful news.)

After I received Holy Communion on March 31st, God told me to ask for a sample of altar wine in order to test Lucy on it. I was somewhat resistant since Lucy had tested allergic for wine in the past and currently couldn't eat any fruit. But I decided to do it. Later I found out that Lucy (although she had kind of given up hope) had begged God at this same Mass to let her make her First Holy Communion.

On April 1st, we went to Mass. It was the fourth anniversary of my mother's death and we asked for her intercession. After Mass, our



LUCY ON THE DAY OF HER FIRST HOLY COMMUNION

pastor gave us a sample. He promised to pray. About an hour or two later at her test, no allergy showed up!

We were all amazed. Lucy was told to pick a day. She decided to take a day to prepare and so the date would be April 3rd. Our pastor announced what was happening before Mass. It felt like we were surrounded by the spiritual joy of everyone there. Lucy was so happy. After Mass, she received many warm congratulations and even some last minute gifts. One lady gave Lucy her own special Rosary.



SAINT VINCENT FERRER,  
WONDERWORKER

Receiving Holy Communion is the joy of Lucy's life. We are grateful to our merciful Father and to all who prayed for Lucy. We especially thank Saint Vincent Ferrer for his intercession during his 600th anniversary year. May he continue to intercede for her so that perhaps one day she will be able to become a member of his Order. Praised be Jesus Christ!

*Please Pray for Lucy's continued healing so she can pursue her dream of becoming a Dominican Sister!*



## PRAYING FOR DEPARTED SOULS WITH SAINT JUDE AND THE ROSARY

BY BROTHER ANTHONY VANBERKUM, O.P.

Every November, the Church asks us to extend our commemoration of All Souls' Day throughout the entire month. She invites us to offer prayers and sacrifices for all the poor souls in Purgatory, especially for our own friends and family. Our devotions to the Holy Rosary and to Saint Jude are a particularly appropriate and powerful way of doing this.

As we meditate on the mysteries of the Rosary, we slowly pass through the whole story of

Christ's life, remembering the Son through the eyes of His mother. It's remarkable to notice how many of these mysteries have to do with death—and, through the power of the Resurrection, with what comes after death. For example, in the joyful mysteries, the wood of the manger foreshadows the wood of the Cross. Likewise, every one of the glorious mysteries celebrates Jesus's marvelous power over death. A good theme for our praying of the Rosary this month might be to think about



BROTHER ANTHONY VANBERKUM, O.P., IS THE NEW DEACON OF THE ROSARY SHRINE OF SAINT JUDE AND PRAYS FOR YOUR INTENTIONS AT THE SHRINE.

how each mystery relates to the saving power of Jesus's Death and Resurrection. We could then ask Him to apply that power to a specific member of our families who has passed away.

The souls in Purgatory are assured of their eventual entry into Heaven, so it might seem that Saint Jude, the patron of desperate causes, wouldn't be the best patron for the souls in Purgatory. However, we know that Saint Jude was a faithful follower of Christ, so his goal is the same as our Lord's: to bring us to eternal life in Heaven. With this in mind, we can bring our deceased loved ones to Saint Jude in a special way this month, and he will join his powerful intercession to our own small prayers for their sake.

We know that all of us must eventually pass through death, but it can sometimes be easy to forget this. Helping us to remember is part of the Church's plan for this month. Our foremost goal is to assist our departed brothers and sisters through the charity of our prayers. But

we ourselves, who are still living, can also receive a benefit from these prayers. Our prayers for the dead should remind us to prepare spiritually for our own death.

“EVEN AS SAINT JUDE INTERCEDES TO OBTAIN FOR US ALL KINDS OF MARVELOUS GIFTS—HEALING, FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE, COMFORT, OR WHATEVER THE CASE MAY BE— HIS REAL FOCUS IS ALWAYS ON OBTAINING FOR US THE GRACE OF DYING WELL AND ENTERING INTO ETERNAL LIFE WITH GOD.”



The Rosary and the prayer to Saint Jude are especially useful for this. With every Hail Mary, we ask our Lady to be there with us “at the hour of our death.” We see something similar in the prayer to Saint Jude. When I visit the Saint Jude shrine to pray for your intentions every day, I recite the prayer provided on the card there. I ask him to bring visible and speedy help for all of your needs, but then the prayer concludes by asking Saint Jude to pray for us that we may praise God with him and with all the saints forever. Even as Saint Jude intercedes to obtain for us all kinds of marvelous gifts—healing, financial assistance, comfort, or whatever the case may be—his real focus is always on obtaining for us the grace of dying well and entering into eternal life with God.

The Lord in His mercy allows our prayers during this month of November to serve a twofold purpose. First of all, He really does shower His mercy upon the souls of our loved ones in Purgatory in response to our prayers. But He also uses this opportunity to help us prepare to spend all eternity in heaven with Him, in the company of Saint Jude and our Blessed Mother.

## JOSEPH CONRAD BECK (1928-2019): REMEMBERING A FRIEND OF SAINT JUDE

BY MARY CLERGET



“HIS MOTHER MADE A NOVENA TO SAINT JUDE THADDEUS, THE PATRON SAINT OF HOPELESS CAUSES. JOE MADE A FULL RECOVERY AND THE FAMILY ADOPTED SAINT JUDE AS THEIR CHAMPION SAINT.”

Joe graduated from Notre Dame with a degree in engineering and had a master’s degree in Rocket Science from Purdue University. A veteran of the Korean War, he piloted the B-29 bomber and was a member of the 52 Charlie Training Class. He retired from the U.S. Air Force as a full Colonel. He worked at both Union Camp and Southern Paper Box Company. His wife Janet was the love of his life and they were married for 57 years. He was devoted to his family and thrived on big family celebrations, most of which included toasting with champagne.

Joe was a man of faith and it guided his entire life. At 16, he fell into a coma from spinal meningitis and was not expected to recover. His mother made a Novena to Saint Jude Thaddeus, the patron saint of hopeless causes. Joe made a full recovery and the family adopted Saint Jude as their champion saint. Joe named his first son Joseph Thaddeus after Saint Jude. He was President of the Serra Club, and he and his wife,

Janet, were members of Knights and Ladies of the Holy Sepulchre. As an active member of the Christ the King Catholic Church, he attended Mass daily. He enthusiastically volunteered for assignments no one else wanted, including the 1 a.m. adoration hour for the Blessed Sacrament, two nights a week.

He was a loyal friend and confidant, an incredible role model, and an eternal optimist. He had a beautiful active life. He loved adventure, travel and most of all flying--which he enjoyed well into his 80s. He and his three brothers were avid Notre Dame alumni, and all recently traveled to South Bend for his 70-year college reunion with their sister, Margie, and his daughter, Mary. Joe will be missed by all those who knew him.

*The Dominican Friars would like to honor Joseph Beck for his life of faith and his generosity to the Rosary Shrine of Saint Jude. He will be in our prayers and Masses at the Shrine and at our House of Studies in Washington, DC. Many thanks to his daughter, Mary Clerget, for sharing this reflection.*



SEND US YOUR INTENTIONS  
FOR OUR CHRISTMAS NOVENA  
OF MASSES:  
DECEMBER 17-25

## 2020 WINTER/SPRING NOVENAS

JAN 2 - 10: SAINT JUDE NEW YEAR'S NOVENA

JAN 14 - 22: INFANT OF PRAGUE NOVENA

FEB 3 - 11: OUR LADY OF LOURDES NOVENA

FEB 26 - APR 9: LENTEN MASS REMEMBRANCE

APR 4 - 12: EASTER NOVENA

MAY 2 - 10: MOTHER'S DAY NOVENA

JUN 13 - 21: FATHER'S DAY NOVENA

## 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.



## SPECIAL SAINT JUDE TOTE BAG OFFER

**Get ready for the holidays with this stylish tote bag featuring our patron saint!**

Use the enclosed reply envelope to place your order. A donation of \$5 or more is kindly requested to cover shipping.

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