



THE SAINT JUDE MESSENGER

BROUGHT TO YOU BY THE ROSARY SHRINE OF SAINT JUDE

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St. Jude, pray for us!



DIRECTOR'S LETTER

Dear Friends,

The Church asks us to live through Lent for one reason—so that we can be led to Easter. In other words, Lent is a season for hope. The Resurrection of Jesus Christ helps us to believe through tough times, and also gives us a magnificent reason to celebrate—for 50 days, 10 days longer than Lent!

Brother Raphael Arteaga, O.P., is a great example of how God continually renews our hope. He will soon be ordained to the priesthood, and in this newsletter, he writes about his years of formation, and how he approaches looking forward to many years of fruitful priesthood. We know that God is constantly calling new men to serve Him—please pray for him and all of our brothers in formation. Each generation carries the torch of Christian faith, and I hope that you will enjoy hearing from him in his own voice.

How could we forget our namesake, St. Jude! One of our staff writers has contributed a short reflection on St. Jude and the virtue of hope. Hope is what helps us to weather the difficulties of life, and we know that we can depend on all our great saints to intercede on our behalf, whenever we feel the need for more of it. I encourage you to keep praying at all times, even in small ways, “step by step,” as the little article says.

As we transition into and out of the Easter season, keep hope in your heart. God has you in His hand, and wants to show you His faithfulness and love. Listen for His voice, and continue to pray with child-like trust and love. You certainly will not regret it.

I hope you enjoy this edition of The Saint Jude Messenger!

In Christ, Our Lady, and St. Jude,

Father John Paul Kern, O.P.
Director, The Rosary Shrine of Saint Jude



PRAYING FOR HOPE WITH SAINT JUDE

BY DREY CARR, STAFF WRITER



In the long marathon of Christian life, prayer is our constant ally whenever we need to renew our courage, or when our hope seems to be fading. When our own strength threatens to fail, one holy instinct is to lean on our friends and family who are stronger than ourselves. Our friends in heaven, the saints, certainly matter as well. Our readers will know that St. Jude is often one of those friends. While St. Jude is known as a wonderful intercessor for desperate

situations and so called “lost causes,” it is because of these patronages that he is also the Apostle of Hope! We can rely on the intercession of this great saint at our lowest moments—not just because he understands our pain, but because he points the way to our greatest hope—eternal life. Like Mary, St. Jude is a mirror of Jesus Christ’s holiness, reminding us of His Resurrection and His promises, even in the face of our weakness.

“But you, beloved, building yourselves up on your most holy faith, praying in the Holy Spirit, keep yourselves in the love of God, waiting for the mercy of our Lord Jesus Christ unto eternal life.”

— Epistle of St. Jude 1:20–21

When we think about it, each of our lives can be described as a “desperate situation.” No matter what wealth or accomplishments we have stored up, we know that original sin tempts us away from Christ. So where can we find hope?

The Resurrection of Jesus Christ is the strong foundation for our hope in happiness. Prayer, even of the wordless, most simple kind, should remind us of that Resurrection. Whenever we collect ourselves in silence, or in short prayers like “Jesus I trust in you,” we make a connection that helps us to believe in hope.

One of my favorite prayers to St. Jude is one I can humbly say I wrote all by myself—it goes like this: “St. Jude, help me!”

“I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness.”

— Second Epistle of St. Paul to Timothy 4:7-8

If you have ever run a race, or even walked down the street, you know that it is a simple matter of one step after another. If we focused on taking big,

long, impressive steps at every moment, we would quickly tire ourselves out, and even going to the grocery store would be a chore. We should keep this in mind when we think about prayer! A life of prayer taken step by simple step will help us to finish our Christian race with a loving strength—but feel free to break into a run when the Spirit takes you! Saying Jesus’ name, or asking for the quick intercession of St. Jude as we pass out of a church, are faithful ways for us to keep our courage and our hope gathered together through all the days of our lives. We build up our hope, and our faith, step by step.

“Hope comes from love, because people always trust in those they love.”

— St. Catherine of Siena, O.P., Letter T352

It can be difficult to hope when things are not going well. But as St. Catherine of Siena says, hope can be found through love. It is through our basic love and trust of God that we can then turn to hope. It can be helpful to examine your heart and see where even your shortest prayers, born out of love or faith, can lead to the unexpected gift of hope. Traditionally known as the three theological virtues, faith, hope, and love all intermingle and reinforce each other. If you are feeling low on hope, try love! If you trust St. Jude enough to ask for his intercession, try to see where your trust in him turns into hope, even when your prayers are asked in tears. I believe that you will find a strong ally in the Apostle of Hope.



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Washington, DC | Saturday, Sept. 26, 2026

Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception

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IT'S BECAUSE GOD IS GENEROUS

BY BR. RAPHAEL ARTEAGA, O.P.



As I have prayed and reflected on why God has called me to be a Dominican priest, I think there is only one explanation: **it's because God is generous.**

It's because God is generous that not only did He know me from all eternity, He chose to give me life, to form me in my mother's womb, to love me into existence at a particular time and in a particular place.

It's because God is generous that I exist at every moment from conception unto eternity.

It's because God is generous that I was born into a Catholic family.

It's because God is generous that His Church welcomed me as an infant into her embrace.

It's because God is generous that His Church renounced sin and professed faith on my behalf.

It's because God is generous that He sent His Spirit to unseal for His Church the font of baptism by whose waters I died to sin and rose to new life in Christ.

It's because God is generous that when I have sinned, when I have not lived according to the grace of my baptism, Christ's mercy sought me out and restored me to friendship by the confession of my sins.

It's because God is generous that He, by His Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity, hidden under the veil of bread and wine, heals and unites my flesh and spirit to His.

It's because God is generous that even when I had received the fullness of His Spirit's gifts in baptism, He sealed me with the oil of gladness to become a soldier and witness of His love.

It's because God is generous that He called and consecrated me through the religious profession of vows so as to follow Him more closely and live with Him more deeply.

It's because God is generous that He configured me to Christ Who did not come to be served but to serve and to become a ransom for many.

It's because God is supremely generous that He configures men, sinful and unworthy as we are, to Christ the High Priest to offer the one perfect sacrifice of Christ to the Eternal Father, to restore life by the forgiveness of sins, and to form the mystical body through

the preaching and personal living of the Word of Life.

If one searches for the reason as to why God bestows upon us the gifts of both our natural and supernatural life, I think the only answer that suffices is that it is because God is generous.

God gives gifts freely, lavishly, and according to His own eternal designs. He is pure generosity; He is pure generosity because He is pure goodness and true goodness always seeks to share itself. If God is generous to us, then, it is because God is His own reason for His generosity. He is generous because that is simply Who He is.

If the only answer to the question, "why does God give me gifts and graces," is because of His generosity, the only response to this generosity is gratitude. This means that we both thank God in prayer and we seek to use His gifts and graces well. True gratitude for God's generosity draws out and strengthens our own generosity.

As I reflect on the Lord's generosity to me, I offer Him in gratitude my life in union with the chalice of salvation. I pray that this Spirit inspired gratitude makes me a generous Dominican priest in the image of Christ, and unto life everlasting in the Father's house.



THE PRICELESS GIFT OF FRIENDSHIP

DOMINICAN FRIARS FOUNDATION



If there is one Dominican saint who wants to be your friend, it is St. Pier Giorgio Frassati.

While the Church raises up saints as models because of their “heroic virtue,” Christians can learn from St. Pier Giorgio how virtue is practiced in ordinary ways, like the witness of joy or simply a smile.

St. Pier Giorgio (1901-1925) was a magnetic character, attracting a wide circle of devoted and loyal friends. Reading their letters to each other when he died suddenly at age 24 reveals just how much they were captivated by him: by his teasing, his antics, his kindness—and especially by his faith.

His faith was nurtured, in no small measure, by the witness of the Dominican Order. He made his profession as a Lay Dominican in 1922, at the young age of 21. St. Catherine of Siena—another Dominican known for cultivating a circle of devoted followers—inspired him, and he avidly read her *Dialogue*, a lengthy conversation between her and

God the Father on Divine Providence. He also undertook a systematic study of St. Thomas Aquinas’ *Summa Theologica*. St. Pier Giorgio often carried a 15-decade Rosary, praying it loudly while walking around his hometown of Turin, Italy.

He had a clear vision of his role in society. He spent countless hours visiting the needy, relieving their suffering—much to the frustration of his well-off and well-connected parents. As the political situation of Italy deteriorated, St. Pier Giorgio was more and more intent on his work for social reform. He turned to the example of the preaching Dominican Friars for inspiration and nourishment, and courageously defended the Church’s social teaching as Fascism was on the rise in Italy. He did not hide his piety under a bushel basket.

“Yet piety did not stifle the flame of his glance, did not cloud his brow, did not extinguish the smile on his face,” wrote Bishop Martin Stanislaus Gillet, O.P., who was present when St. Pier Giorgio made his profession as a Lay Dominican and who later became Master of the Order. “On the contrary, everything about him shone with joy, because he let his beautiful nature flower in the sunlight of God.”

His joy was evident to those he met. He dubbed the group of his most intimate friends the “Company of Shady Characters,” and they delighted in amusing each other—one writes to another about having Pier Giorgio

“laughing like a crazy person”—with the farcical rules and regulations of the “Company.”

Frassati’s social bridge-building points to a higher goal on the ladder of friendship; not the lowest rung of pure pleasure, nor the middle rungs of social usefulness: St. Pier Giorgio was always aiming for the highest heights of union with God.

His “Company of Shady Characters” was a case in point. His younger sister Luciana would write in *I giorni della sua vita* (*The Days of His Life*), that he “devised the group and created it as a way to do good without even the members of the group being fully aware of it.”

For instance, he would invite his friends for a hike—and then have them go to Mass as part of the deal, sometimes going so far as to arrange for a priest to meet them at a chapel along the route.

He “gathered everyone under the magical sign of his smile,” his sister explained, and his “preferred weapon,” was joy. “Only in this way was it possible to maintain such distinct individuals united.”

“What was important was to be together as much as possible, under the great banner of the faith,” Luciana wrote, and the testimonies of his friends confirmed this, as they remembered how one minute he was making them laugh, and the next minute was settling down to pray the Rosary. They spoke of the “miracle of sanctity” in him—a “joyful, unworried, innocent, and renewing” holiness, “like the waters of the mountain streams.”

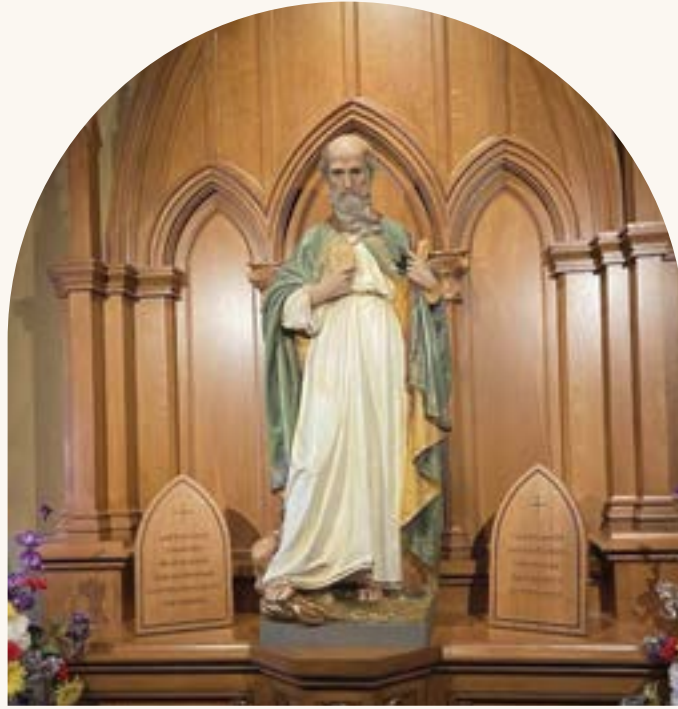
In keeping with this unique character, he died a grace-filled and sacrificial death. While visiting the poor in late June 1925, he contracted polio, which caused debilitating pain. When his maternal grandmother died on July 1, he deflected attention from his own suffering. On July 3, he had his sister send medicine to the poor. He died a day later, comforted by the words of a priest who assured him he would still share his faith with his family from heaven, just as he did on earth.

The multitudes of the poor who turned up to his funeral showed that his friendship was extended to all. St. Pier Giorgio’s friends and even his whole city knew the treasure they had in him, though as is often the case, their affection became uniquely evident after his death.

St. Pier Giorgio continued to inspire his friends after death. As Clementina Luotto wrote in a letter two days after his death, “He will give us the active love we ought to have, above all because he gave us the priceless gift of his friendship. Let us cling to the cross and love each other in his memory as if and more than if he were still with us. Perhaps that way we shall see his smile shine among us again.”

As one of the Church’s newest saints, St. Pier Giorgio Frassati is united with us in prayer. From his heavenly vantage point, he can lead us again into an appreciation of the truth in friendship, to a deep resolve to take up his weapon of joy, and yes, to remember the power of a smile.

St. Pier Giorgio Frassati, pray for us!



THANK YOU, SAINT JUDE!

Stories from Patrons of The Rosary Shrine of Saint Jude

Craig from Maryland prayed to St. Jude for help finding the reliable transportation that he and his mom needed. “I’m not of the Catholic faith, but my faith and prayers in St. Jude were answered. Prayer does change things.”

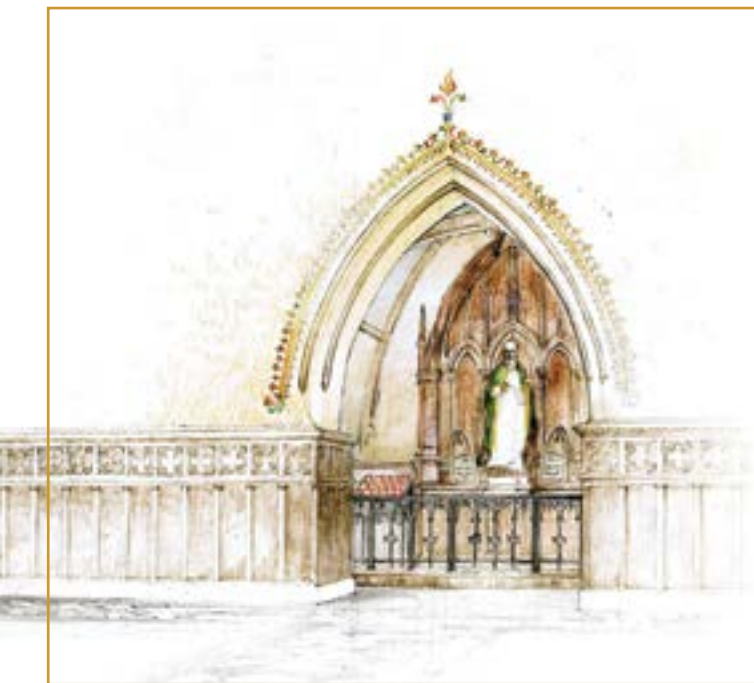
Jacob from Oklahoma was freed from detainment in a foreign country on the day after finishing a novena to St. Jude.

A donor from Tennessee recovered their lost luggage from a stranger after praying to St. Jude while on a trip.

Jennifer from Pennsylvania asked for St. Jude to protect her mother from dementia after a spell of forgetfulness—her MRI and blood tests came back healthy.

Jim from Florida prayed for financial relief, and was helped with a lower mortgage rate. “I had asked St. Jude for help, not this specifically. St. Jude, Jesus and Lord Almighty, thank you!”

Another donor from Pennsylvania prayed to St. Jude for help with a situation causing her worry and anxiety, which was peacefully resolved.



UPCOMING NOVENAS & SPECIAL EVENTS

May 2 – 10: Mother's Day Novena

June 13 – 21: Father's Day Novena

July 18 – 26: Saint Anne's Feast Day Novena

September 8 – 16: Blessed Mother's Birthday Novena

September 29 – October 7: Holy Rosary Novena

October 20 – 28: Saint Jude Feast Day Novena

All November: Poor Souls Mass Remembrance

December 16 – 24: Christmas Novena

PRAYER FOR THE INTENTIONS OF THE 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 St. Dominic Church in Washington, DC, where The Rosary Shrine of Saint Jude is located.

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



LEAVE A LEGACY OF HOPE



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

To request more information, please complete the enclosed reply card or contact:

plannedgiving@dominicanfriars.org