

Prayers to Mary, Mother of Justice

The prayers and images found on the following pages explore the many ways in which Mary is a model of grace, hope and intercession. Use the prayers and images for individual or group prayer, reflection and devotion along with the rosary.

Introduction:

“May is a month that is loved and its arrival is welcome for several reasons. In our hemisphere spring advances with so many and colorful blossoms; the climate is favorable for walks and excursions.

For the liturgy, May always belongs to the Easter Season, the season of the "alleluia," of the revelation of the mystery of Christ in the light of the Resurrection and of the Easter faith; and it is the time of expectation of the Holy Spirit, who descends with power on the nascent Church at Pentecost.

With both these contexts, the "natural" and the liturgical, the tradition of the Church is well in tune in dedicating the month of May to the Virgin Mary.

She is, in fact, the most beautiful flower to blossom in creation, the "rose" that appeared in the fullness of time, when God, sending his Son, gave the world a new spring. And she is at the same time humble and discreet protagonist of the first steps of the Christian community: Mary is its spiritual heart, because her very presence in the midst of the disciples is a living memory of the Lord Jesus and pledge of the gift of his Spirit.”

—Pope Benedict XVI,
Address, Vatican City, May 9, 2010



*Hail Mary, full of grace,
the Lord is with thee...*



Our Lady of Divine Grace, Artist: Br. Michael O'Neill McGrath. Used with permission

Prayer to Our Lady of Spring Time

O Mary, Queen of Spring, guide us to recognize and to appreciate the gift of earth's renewal each year, and to be thankful for the rain that brings new growth. Help us to realize the fragility of God's Creation, and to do our part in keeping our environment green and growing. May we respond with positive advocacy to the challenges of environmental degradation, climate change, deforestation and all threats to Creation. Amen.



Our Lady Star of the Sea, Artist: Br. Michael O'Neill McGrath. Used with permission

Prayer to Our Lady for the Waters of Creation

O Mary, Star of the Sea, who watches over all of Creation, guide us to recognize how our oceans and our water supplies are being threatened. Help us to remember that water is the source of life and that the Baptismal waters we experienced have called us to be responsible stewards of this gift of God. Amen.

Prayer to Mary for Solidarity

Mary, mother of the whole human family, guide us as we seek to be present to our sisters and brothers, especially those suffering from poverty, from oppression, from environmental destruction. May we become supportive family members, growing in solidarity and compassion, and working together to build the Kingdom your Son call us to.

Prayer to Mary for the Common Good

Mary, you who opened your arms and relinquished your beloved son for the common good of humankind, guide us to love in the same way. May we move beyond our self love so we can contribute to the common good and to the fullness of life for all members of the global human family.

Prayer to Mary on the Option for the Poor

Mary, you who gave birth to your Holy Child in the poverty of a stable, guide us to be sensitive to all those who struggle against the indignities of poverty. May we engage our hearts and minds fully to learn more about those in poverty and to be moved to respond to their plight.



The Presentation, Image by Korean artist O-Sek Bang

Prayer to Mary for the Promotion of Human Dignity

Mary, you who were treated with great dignity by your cousin Elizabeth even when the world did not understand your acceptance of God's will, guide us to treat all members of the human family as beloved and acceptable. May we recognize that every human being is a child of God and has God-given dignity that we must respect. Amen.



Virgin and Child, Image by Tom Dusterberg



Extended Family, Image by Malaika Favorite - Louisiana

Prayer to Mary on Respect for all Life

Mary, you accepted the gift of a child and cherished your Son all through his life, guide us to protect all lives from conception to death. May we develop and nurture respect for life in all its stages, cherish all our children as they grow, and provide care and consolation to those who suffer in adulthood and as they near their human end. Amen.



Our Lady of Peace, Artist: Br. Michael O'Neill McGrath. Used with permission

Prayer to Our Lady for Peace in the Mid-East

O Mother of Peace, you walked the Holy Land with your family, guide us to understand the complex history of the Mideast and to respect the human rights of all those involved. Help us to advocate for a just resolution of the conflict and the end to violence on all sides. Amen.

Pray to Our Lady for Africa

O Lady of Africa, beloved mother of this vast continent, guide us to understand the needs of the many poor African countries struggling with Debt, with violence, with the increasing problems of climate change, and with development challenges. Help us support all those who work for people-centered development in Africa, for Debt forgiveness, for the cessation of violence and the promotion of human rights for all African peoples. Amen.



Our Lady of Africa



Prayer to Mary on Work and Workers

Mary, who worked in the home and supported the work of your husband, Joseph, and the ministry of your son, Jesus, guide us to respect all workers and to advocate for dignified work with fair pay. May we remember all those workers around the world, children as well as adults, who toil for bread and for meaning and dignity in their lives. Amen.

Prayer to Our Lady for Immigrants

O Lady of Guadalupe, you who came to a hill in Mexico to be present to all inhabitants of the American continent, guide us to see the dignity and value of all in our immigrant community. Help us advocate, as our Bishops challenge, for a just immigration system that keeps families together and that is compassionate and fair. Amen.

Prayer to Mary Defender of Rights and Responsibilities

Mary, you who freely accepted the invitation to become the mother of God and to take on all the responsibilities of that role, guide us to realize and be grateful for the gifts we have been given, and to recognize the responsibilities we have as baptized followers of your Son. May we learn more about basic human rights and join people of faith who are working for all to enjoy the rights to food, to shelter, to education, to decent work, to health care and to the basic freedoms we cherish. Amen.



Prayer to Mary for the Promotion of Human Dignity

Mary, you who were treated with great dignity by your cousin Elizabeth even when the world did not understand your acceptance of God's will, guide us to treat all members of the human family as beloved and acceptable. May we recognize that every human being is a child of God and has God-given dignity that we must respect. Amen.



Prayer to Our Lady for Inclusion

O Lady of Czestochowa, the Black Madonna of mercy, guide us to move beyond the sin of racism and to practice inclusion and acceptance of every member of the human family. Help us confront prejudice in ourselves and others, and help us to celebrate the diversity of the entire human family. Amen.