

Ta' Pinu Shrine

Our Lady, Queen of the Family A CALL TO PRAYER



THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, HEALTH OF THE SICK

Divine healing affects our whole human nature, body, soul, and spirit, while we are pilgrims here on earth and especially as citizens of heaven. Through the healing made by Christ in the Holy Spirit, our human condition is completely altered: oppression is changed into liberty, ignorance into knowledge of the truth, sickness into health, affliction into joy, death into life, slavery to sin into a share in the divine nature.

Yet we cannot achieve absolute and perfect healing in this world: our life is exposed to suffering, illness, and death. But "God's healing" is Jesus Christ himself, whom the Father sent into the world as our Savior and as the physician of body and soul, as the liturgy describes him, echoing the words of St. Ignatius of Antioch. In the days of his flesh, moved by compassion, he healed many sick people, often freeing them at the same time from the wound of sin.

Our Lady also, as the mother of Christ, our Savior, and mother of the faithful, with heartfelt love comes to the help of her children in their troubles. That is why sick people flock to her in great numbers, often going to shrines dedicated to her, so that they may be healed through her intercession. In these Marian shrines there are many testimonies to the confidence that sick people have in the mother of Christ.

Among the titles under which the Blessed Virgin is venerated by the sick that of "health of the sick" is pre-eminent. It was made popular especially through the zeal of the members of the Order of Clerks Regular, Ministers to the Sick, whose church of St. Mary Magdalene in Rome possesses a Marian image celebrated for its veneration by the faithful and the miracles associated with it.

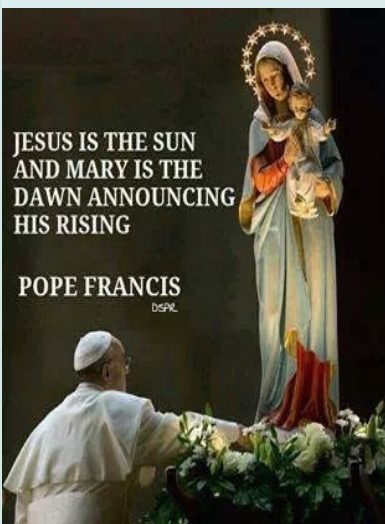
In the liturgy of the Eucharist God the Father is glorified for giving to the sick a patroness and model in our Lady: —a patroness, because to the sick who call on her patronage "**she now shines radiantly as a sign of health, of healing, and of divine hope**";

—a model, because "**to all who look up to her in prayer**" she is "**the model of perfect acceptance of (God's) will and of wholehearted conformity with Christ**".

To arrange Masses in honour of Our Lady, health of the sick, and to ask her intercession for the recovery of health **IS TO CELEBRATE OF THE HISTORY OF SALVATION**, which will be brought to its completion and perfection when, in the coming of Christ in glory, "**the last enemy to be destroyed will be death**" (1 Corinthians 15:26), "**and the bodies of the just will rise in incorruption**". On Wednesday 11h February, although the whole Church is asked to make it a special day of prayer for the sick, it will be celebrated as also a day to deepen our consciousness of a daily reality which is not just physical but spiritual and social. Praying for the intercession of our lady health of the sick is a moment when we experience the fact that sickness, even terminal illness, does not cut us off from the community. It also reminds us that illness is never just a physical event, it is unavoidably spiritual even when we don't believe. Within it hovers the reality of our own frailty and mortality, our value and purpose.

We realise that ultimately we are not autonomous and in control but dependent and in need

The content of this article, can also be found in the Mass of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Health of the Sick, from *Proprium missarum Ordinis Ministrantium infirmis*, Vatican Polyglot Press, 1974,



From the Catholic Catechism
"I Believe in the Holy Spirit"

Because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into the hearts, crying, **"Abba! Father!"** (Gal 4-6).

From the beginning to the end of time, whenever God sends his Son, he always sends the Spirit: their mission is conjoined and inseparable.

In the fullness of time, the Holy Spirit completes in Mary all the preparations for Christ's coming among his people of God. But the action of the Holy Spirit in her, the Father gives the world Emmanuel, "God with us" (Mt. 1:23).

The Son of God was consecrated as Christ (Messiah) by the anointing of the Holy Spirit at his incarnation (Ps.2:1-7).

By his Death and his resurrection, Jesus is constituted in glory as Lord and Christ.(2:36). From his fullness, he poured out the Holy Spirit on the Apostles and the Church.

The Holy Spirit, whom Christ the head pours out on his members, animates, and sanctifies the Church.

SHE IS THE SACRAMENT OF THE HOLY TRINITY'S COMMUNION WITH MEN.

WORK FOR PEACE : Many young people just drift through their Teens. As a result they often go through a whole lifetime without ever discovering the bit of greatness within them.

Don't underestimate your God-given power for good! A few like you working for peace may yet keep millions from dying for peace!

Gospel Reflection:

"IF YOU WILL YOU CAN MAKE ME CLEAN"



While Jesus was in Galilee, preaching and casting out demons, a leper came to him, beseeching him and kneeling said to him, **"If you will you can make me clean"**. Moved with pity he stretched out his hand and touched him, and said to him, **"I will; be clean"**. And immediately the leprosy left him and was made clean".(Mk.1:40-42).

In the times of Jesus, leprosy was an incurable very contagious disease. The limbs of the leper were gradually affected that would produce disfigurement to the various parts of his body and causing him great suffering. According to the Mosaic Law, for fear of contagion, lepers had to stay away from people, at times even from their own families. They were legally unclean and had to keep their heads uncovered, wear torn clothes and make themselves present wherever they are. This leper, eager to see Jesus to get cleaned, broke this Law and went right to Jesus, asking him to cure him. Jesus in his kindness not only didn't run away from him but stretched out his hand, touched him and healed him.

In this episode we notice the **leper's determination** and **trust** in Jesus and the way Jesus received him, **"If you will you can clean me!"**, and Jesus' in his affection and gratitude, touched the leper, and said, **"I will, be clean"**. Jesus gives us a very clear example how we should deal with our rejected neighbour.

The Fathers of the Church compare leprosy to Sin. Sin starts from small bad actions that, by time, could develop in serious condition that could cause spiritual death, mortal sin. The Gospel shows us how Jesus used to go from town to town, and how people waited eagerly to see him to listen to his inspiring words and heal their sick. However, although Jesus is no longer physically present in this world, he is among us all over the world, in many different ways. When Mary presented Jesus to the Lord, the righteous and devout man, Simeon, took him into his arms and declared him as the **"Salvation" - prepared in the sight of all the peoples, a light for the revelation to the Gentiles, and the glory of your people- Israel"**. This meant that Jesus would be **a bright light** to the whole world and for all the times to come. Jesus is the Sun that warms each and every one's heart by his teaching the **"Good News"**, and by his divine **"Love"**. The good person that seeks God, **not with lip service but with eagerness**, like the leper of the Gospel, can find him everywhere and at any time, and be healed. We find him at Holy Mass, or closed in the tabernacle, during Eucharistic adoration, in confession, well done Holy Communion, in conversing with good or holy persons, during a sermon, in spiritual reading, especially the New Testament, in any Religious Literature. Jesus is always with us, ready to heal us from any kind of sin if, like the leper, go to him, **trusting in his help and love**, and **repented** of the wrong we had done.

In a few days we embark on the 40 days preparation for the Holy Week. On Ash Wednesday, the Church reminds us that we **"We're dust and to dust we will return"**. Let us go to Jesus, repented of our sins, and ask him to light our souls with the **Light of His Word** and warm us with his **Divine Love** so that he cures us from the leprosy of our sins with a good Easter confession and a fervent Holy Communion.

WE HAVE TO BE PREPARED. "So it is not as if you live in dark, my brothers, for that Day will overtake you like a thief. **No** We are all sons of the light and of the day: we do not belong to the night or to darkness, so we should not go on sleeping, as every one else does, but stay wide awake and sober. Night is the time for sleepers to sleep and drunkards to be drunk, but we belong to the day and we should be sober". (St Paul to the Thess. 5:11-16)

Liturgical Celebrations for February 2015

"MAKE YOUR HEART FIRM"

Ext from Pope Francis' 2015 Lenten Message

Lent is a time of renewal for the whole Church, for each community and every believer. Above all, it is a "time of grace" (2 Cor 6:2). God does not ask of us anything that he himself has not first given us. "We love because he first has loved us" (1 Jn 4:19). Each one of us has a place in his heart. He knows us by name, he cares for us and he seeks us out whenever we turn away from him. He is interested in each of us; his love does not allow him to be indifferent to what happens to us. Usually, when we are healthy and comfortable, we forget about others (something God the Father never does): we are unconcerned with their problems, their sufferings and the injustices they endure... Our heart grows cold. Today, this selfish attitude of indifference has taken on global proportions, to the extent that we can speak of a globalization of indifference.

It is a problem which we, as Christians, need to confront. Indifference to our neighbour and to God is a real temptation for us Christians. Each year during Lent, we need to hear once more the voice of the prophets who cry out and trouble our conscience.

God is not indifferent to our world; he so loves it that he gave his Son for our salvation. The Church is like the hand holding open this gate between God and man, thanks to her proclamation of God's Word, her celebration of the sacraments and her witness of the faith which works through love (cf. Gal 5:6). But the world tends to withdraw into itself and shut that door through which

Date	February Celebrations
Sun 1 st February	Our Lady of Lanka Oratory: Private Family Prayer Day
Sat 7 th February	FIRST SATURDAY -Immaculate Heart of Mary Devotion Rosary, Holy Mass & Eucharistic Benediction at 2.00p.m
Sun 8 th February	Our Lady of Good Health , Vailankanni Confession, Rosary, Benediction, Holy Mass for grand parents and Divine Mercy Chaplet at 1.45p.m
Wed 11 th February	<u>FEAST OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES</u> 23rd WORLD DAY OF THE SICK Meditation, Rosary, Mass, anointing of the Sick 11.00 a.m.
Sun 15 th February	<u>FEAST OF OUR LADY OF LANKA</u> Rosary Procession from the oratory, and Holy Mass from 10.00 a.m.
Wed 18 th February	<u>ASH WEDNESDAY</u> <u>A day of fasting and abstinence established by the Church</u> Mother and Child Oratory Wednesday Novenas 7.30p.m
Sat 28 th February	Filipino Community Group 11:30am Station of the Cross followed by Holy Mass
<u>MAJOR EVENTS IN MARCH</u>	
Sat 7 th March	<u>OUR LADY OF SORROWS</u> Holy Mass & Eucharistic Benediction at 2.00p.m Rosary Procession from 3.30 p.m.
Sun 22 nd March from 2.00p.m *Major Celebration*	<u>***SOLEMNITY OF THE ANNUNCIATION ***</u> Rosary in various community languages PROCESSION FOLLOWED BY HOLY MASS AND BENEDICTION

HONESTY IN BUSINESS: "A merchant can hardly keep from wrongdoing and a tradesman will not be declared innocent of sin. Many have committed sin for a trifle and whoever seeks to get rich will avert his eyes.)"
Ecclesiasticus 26:29

God comes into the world and the world comes to Him. Hence the hand, which is the Church, must never be surprised if it is rejected, crushed and wounded. God's people need this interior renewal, or else we become indifferent and withdraw into ourselves. To further this renewal, I would like to propose for our reflection three biblical texts.

1. "IF ONE MEMBER SUFFERS, ALL SUFFER TOGETHER" (1 COR 12:26) – THE CHURCH

Lent is a favourable time for letting Christ serve us so that we in turn may become more like him. This happens whenever we hear the word of God and receive the sacraments, especially the Eucharist. There we become what we receive: the Body of Christ. In this body there is no room for the indifference which so often seems to possess our hearts. For whoever is of Christ, belongs to one body, and in him we cannot be indifferent to one another. "If one part suffers, all the parts suffer with it; if one part is honoured, all the parts share its joy" (1 Cor 12:26).

2. "WHERE IS YOUR BROTHER?" (GEN 4:9) – PARISHES AND COMMUNITIES

In order to receive what God gives us and to make it bear abundant fruit, we need to press beyond the boundaries of the visible Church in two ways. In the first place, *by uniting ourselves in prayer with the Church in heaven*. The prayers of the Church on earth establish a communion of mutual service and goodness which reaches up into the sight of God. We share in the merits and joy of the saints, even as they share in our struggles and our longing for peace and reconciliation. Their joy in the victory of the Risen Christ gives us strength as we strive to overcome our indifference and hardness of heart. In the second place, *every Christian community is called to go out of itself and to be engaged in the life of the greater society of which it is a part, especially with the poor and those who are far away*. The Church is missionary by her very nature; she is not self-enclosed but sent out to every nation and people. In each of our neighbours, then, we must see a brother or sister for whom Christ died and rose again. What we ourselves have received, we have received for them as well

3. "MAKE YOUR HEARTS FIRM!" (JAMES 5:8) – INDIVIDUAL CHRISTIANS

During this Lent, brothers and sisters, let us all ask the Lord: "*Fac cor nostrum secundum cor tuum*": "**Make our hearts like yours**" (Litany of the Sacred Heart of Jesus). In this way we will receive a heart which is firm and merciful, attentive and generous, a heart which is not closed, indifferent or prey to the globalization of indifference. **It is my prayerful hope that this Lent will prove spiritually fruitful for each believer and every ecclesial community. I ask all of you to pray for me. May the Lord bless you and Our Lady keep you.**

FRANCIS

'MY SEARCH FOR A CHURCH'

An inspirational story about the Eucharist

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As the third child of eight, I loved to hear the story of my parent's search for a church. As newlyweds, my father and mother set out to find a church in which to raise a family. After researching several churches and their histories, they decided on the Catholic Church because they believed into one true Church that was set up by Christ. Time went on, our family grew. There came a time when my oldest brother started to question the Church. My brother and father argued terribly and these arguments would send me running from the house in confusion and fear. I was especially afraid that I would lose my faith as my brother had. So I prayed to Jesus to always keep me faithful. As I grew up, I fell away from the Catholic Church and began to research other religions of the world. I had long forgotten my prayer to Jesus to keep me safe with Him. As I

look back, there must have been many battles my guardian angels must have had to fight for me as I put my soul in harm's way time after time in my quest for the truth.

Time passed and I finally realised that Christianity was the true religion of God but now, I had to find a church. I went to all the Protestant churches but never felt comfortable in them. The people were friendly and welcoming but something was missing. Something kept me away from a commitment to one of them.

One day the good Lord took one of His own to Him. It was my neighbour's husband. I knew them casually, but was not friends with the. When the ambulance came, I looked out as all my other curious neighbours did and was struck by the hopelessness I saw in the woman's face. A thought totally out of character for me said 'Go to her'. I went to her and told her that I would take her to the hospital where he husband was. Her husband died that night. And they have had no children in their 40 years of marriage.

I accompanied my neighbour to her husband funeral and found myself in a Catholic Church. As I looked around taking in the fragrance and beauty of the church. I noticed the Stations of the Cross and remembered the many times that I had prayed the rosary with my family. The lost memory of the day that I prayed to Jesus and asked Him to keep me close to Him came flooding back to me. As the priest began the communal prayers and held up the Host, the Lord placed a thought in my heart that was very pure and peaceful. It was so powerful that I still cling to it to this day. "Here is your church!" I began weeping, my tears joining the others who were mourning for Anna's loss.

But my tears were tears of joy as I realised the amazing grace that was given to me that day. What I was missing in all those other churches was His real presence in the Eucharist. God had heard my prayer as a child and kept me close.

God is faithful though His children may wander.

Anna and I became close friends and attended Mass together for many years. In one of our many conversations she told me that her husband had told her to trust me'. He said this as he was dying'

I believe God when He tells us He will work all things to the good of those who love Him. He took a little girl's prayer' a dying man's love and a grieving widow and worked it for good and to His glory'

Maureen A Mc Namara - Trigard, Oregon.

Our Lady Ta' Pinu Shrine

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Wed 11th Feb 2014

Feast of Our Lady of Lourdes
World Day of the Sick

11.00a.m:

**Devotional Prayers, Rosary
& Eucharistic Celebrations**

Followed by

Anointing of the Sick by

Fr Carmel Borg

"All Nations Marian Family"

***Invites you and your friends to
come and join us.***

