

30 Days with Mary: Our Lady Around the World



August 14—September 12

**The Oblates of the Virgin Mary
at Saint Francis Chapel**

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August 14—September 12

On the cover: *The Virgin of the Apocalypse*. Miguel Cabrera, Public Domain

*O Virgin immaculately conceived, put into my heart those things of
your Son most pleasing to him.*

Venerable Bruno Lanteri

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Introduction

The Madonna is loved and celebrated all around the world according to the particular customs and needs of her children. It is one of the most venerable and affectionate practices in the Church. In every place where the Holy Catholic Faith has made a home the solemn exhortation of Christ from the cross to His disciples has been realized: "Then he said to the disciple, 'Behold, your mother.' And from that hour the disciple took her into his home" (John 19:27).

Just as true the Blessed Virgin Mary has made haste to the aid of her children in need as surely as she did for St. Elizabeth after the Annunciation (Luke 1:39-40). Whether in genuine apparitions or in powerful spiritual intercession Our Lady has made her presence known and felt all around the world.

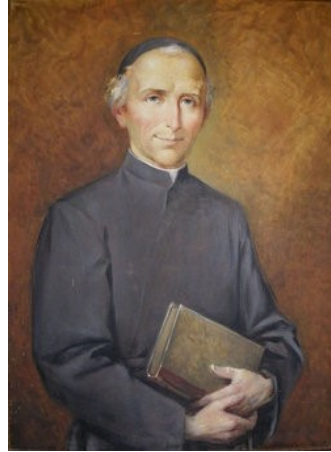
The venerable practice of praying with Our Lady for 30 days has a long and rich history. From August 14 to September 15 there are a number of Marian Feast days on the Roman Liturgical Calendar. Praying with Mary during these days allows us to build confidence in our Blessed Mother whose visits to her children are constant. It also provides us the opportunity to experience the universal dimension of the Church and the treasure of her diverse cultural expressions of the one, holy, catholic and apostolic Church.

This short book of prayers focuses on the various titles of Our Lady around the world, on the particular feast days from the Assumption on August 15 to Holy Name of Mary on September 12, and on some of the history of Our Lady's visitations.

There are also prayers and a brief essay from Venerable Fr. Bruno Lanteri, founder of the Oblates of the Virgin Mary. At the age of four in 1763 Bruno's mother died. His father, Pietro, then consecrated him to the Blessed Virgin Mary and told Bruno that she would be his mother now. Venerable Bruno would say that he never really knew any other mother than Our Lady. He wanted his Oblate priests to know the love of the Madonna and to spread that love throughout the Church. We pray together these 30 days with Mary in hopes of growing in that love and taking her ever more deeply into our homes as her children do around the world.

Prayer of Consecration to Our Lady

By Venerable Bruno Lanteri—
Founder of the Oblates of the Virgin Mary



Most High Lady of the Universe, Queen of angels and of men, above whom there is only God, prostrate before the throne of your mercy, in my name and in the name of all creation, I humbly ask your forgiveness for all the sorrow we have caused you by our faults, and our slowness in honoring you. May heartfelt thanks be given to you for all the blessings your loving Heart has obtained and shared with us as our Mother.

In reparation for so many faults and in gratitude for so many favors, I offer myself to you as your perpetual servant, with a pure, free and perfect gift of all my goods, my body, and all my being.

I desire to use forever all that I have and possess, all that I am, entirely in your service and that of your divine Son.

I ask you therefore to dispose of me according to your desire as my true and absolute Lady.

I rejoice to see you raised up to the infinite dignity of Mother of God, and I ask the grace to imitate the angels in my readiness to follow your desires and to love Jesus with your own most ardent Heart.

Since I know myself unworthy of so great a grace, I ask the intercession of my Guardian Angel, of St. Joseph, St. John and [My Patron Saint], that I obtain this blessing, and the grace of a persevering fidelity to what I have promised. Amen.

August 14: St. Maximilian Kolbe, Consecration to Our Lady

St. Maximilian Kolbe spent much of his life promoting the cause of consecration to Our Lady as the surest means to holiness and to imitation of Christ. A bit of a rambunctious child, 12-year old Raymond (his given baptismal name) had driven his loving mother to a bit of frustration and anxiety as to what would become of her son. That night Raymond prayed to Our Lady asking for her help. She appeared to Raymond and offered him to choose as his future between two crowns, a white crown for lifelong heroic purity, or a red crown for martyrdom. Little Raymond chose both crowns. From that day he set about becoming a Franciscan Friar, a scholar, a missionary, a saint and martyr of charity at the consecration camp in Auschwitz.



St. Maximilian Kolbe with Our Lady.
Photo by giveawayboy. Flickr.

Prayer of Consecration to Our Lady

By St. Maximilian Kolbe

O Immaculate, Queen of heaven and earth,
Refuge of sinners and our most loving
Mother, God has willed to entrust the entire
order of mercy to You, I, an unworthy sinner,
cast myself at Your feet, humbly imploring
You to take me with all that I am and have,
wholly to Yourself as Your possession and property.
Please make of me, of all my powers of soul and
body, of my whole life, death, and eternity,
whatever pleases You.

V. Allow me to praise You, O most holy Virgin.

R. Give me strength against Your enemies.



First Class of Relic of St. Maximilian Kolbe at St. Francis Chapel.

August 15: The Assumption of Mary

When the Angel Gabriel visited Our Lady to announce her selection as the Mother of God he greeted her with the well-known title, “full of grace.” The Greek term recorded in the Gospel of Luke is *kekari-tomene*. This term is in the perfect passive tense. It is translated into English as “full of grace.” The true meaning of the Greek term in its full tense means that Mary has been graced in a complete and perfect way from the first instant, through the present moment and fully into the future. Being graced in this “full” way, Our Lady rightly was assumed body and soul, her entire being, into heaven. We are reminded through Our Lady’s Assumption that the body is not incidental to us. We are our bodies. The body is destined for eternity as much as the soul. Mary’s glory is also the glory of the human body cloaked in holiness.

Prayer to Our Lady of the Assumption

Mary, Queen assumed into heaven, I rejoice that after years of heroic martyrdom on earth, you have at last been taken to the throne prepared for you in heaven by the Holy Trinity.

Lift my heart with you in the glory of your Assumption above the dreadful touch of sin and impurity. Teach me how small earth becomes when viewed from heaven. Make me realize that death is the triumphant gate through which I shall pass to your Son, and that someday my body shall rejoin my soul in the unending bliss of heaven.

When my hour of death has come, lead me safely to the presence of Jesus to enjoy the vision of my God for all eternity together with you. Amen.



Assumption of the Virgin Mary.
Ambrogio Berggnone. The Metro-

August 16: Our Lady of Guadalupe—Mexico
Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe



In December of 1531 Our Lady appeared four times to Juan Diego, an indigenous Mexican. She requested a church to be built on Tepeyac Hill where the first appearance occurred. When the local bishop required a sign that the apparition was real Juan requested it of Our Lady. She agreed to provide the sign on the following day, December 11. Juan, distressed at the deathly illness of his uncle, missed the scheduled meeting and tried to avoid Our Lady but she found him nonetheless. The Blessed Virgin said to Juan, “Am I not here, I who am your mother?” She told Juan of his uncle’s recovery and of the need to gather flowers from the top of the barren hill for the bishop. When Juan brought the flowers to the bishop he opened his tilma to show them to him. There on his tilma was the image of Our Lady pregnant with her Holy Son. Within ten years 8 million people converted to the Catholic Faith. Today Our Lady of Guadalupe is Patroness of all the Americas.



Public Domain

Prayer to Our Lady of Guadalupe

Remember, O most gracious Virgin of Guadalupe, that in your apparitions on Mount Tepeyac you promised to show pity and compassion to all who, loving and trusting you, seek your help and protection. Accordingly, listen now to our supplications and grant us consolation and relief. We are full of hope that, relying on your help, nothing can trouble or affect us. As you have remained with us through your admirable image, so now obtain for us the graces we need. Amen

August 17: Our Lady of Siluva—Lithuania
Šiluvos Dievo Motina



An image of Our Lady of the Way was brought from Rome to Siluva, Lithuania in 1457. The image proved to be remarkably popular and the feast of Our Lady's Nativity was celebrated in the town with great excitement. Increasingly the area became more Calvinist than Catholic and many Catholic churches and properties were seized or burned. To prevent the loss of the great Marian image the one remaining priest of the area buried the image in a box underground on the property of the Catholic church. In 1608 some children of Siluva maintained that they saw a beautiful lady holding a child and weeping on the site of the old Church. Catholics took that as a sign that Our Lady wanted her church back. They presented a case in court to retrieve the seized property and finally won their case in 1622. The box containing the original image was unearthed, and a new church was built in Our Lady's honor on the site and is today the Basilica of the Nativity of Mary.



Our Lady of Siluva. Icon. Public Do-

Prayer to Our Lady of Suliva

O Most Holy Virgin Mary, Thou who didst appear to the shepherds in the fields at Siluva, Thou whose tears did bathe the rock where once an altar stood, Thou who didst with plaintive voice say: "You plow and seed here where formerly my Son was honored," grant that we, moved by Thy tears, may, once as our Forefathers did, revive the spirit of adoration of Thy Son in our fallow hearts, strengthen the tottering structure of the shrine which is the family, and seek forgiveness for our negligence and sins.

O Mother of God, we desire to raise up the glory of Your revelation from forgotten ruins, that we may all the more honor Thee, the Patroness of Lithuania, and with Thy help obtain for us the spirit of a living Faith. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

**August 18: Our Lady of the Rosary of
Chiquinquirá—Columbia**
Nuestra Señora Chiquinquirá



Our Lady of the Rosary of Chiquinquirá is the patron saint of Colombia. In 1560, a Spanish painter named Alonso de Narváez painted a portrait of the Virgin of the Rosary on a homespun piece of cotton. The image was hung in a rural Colombian chapel where it was damaged by exposure to the elements. The sun, humidity and rain had badly faded the image and cracked the canvas.

The ruined portrait was moved to a chapel in the town of Chiquinquirá where it was miraculously restored to its original, glorious colors on Dec. 26, 1586. For three hundred years after its restoration, the image was exposed to the air without any deterioration of the cotton canvas. Our Lady of Chiquinquirá received a Canonical Coronation in 1919, and in 1927 her sanctuary was declared a basilica.

**Prayer to Our Lady of the Rosary of
Chiquinquirá—Columbia**

Our Lady of Chiquinquirá, you answer the desires of our hearts. Show me the way your Son wants for me. Make me see the brilliance and joy of answering to the call he makes so lovingly. Help me to look at my life with a little distance and objectivity, so that I can see the will of God for me clearly. Amen.



Our Lady of Chiquinquirá.

Photo by [Fotos-](#)

August 19: Our Lady of Fatima—Portugal
Nossa Senhora de Fátima



Our Lady appeared to three poor children in Western Portugal in 1917. Over a six month period beginning on May 13 she spoke to the children about the great challenges of the world and of the necessity of praying the rosary, doing penance and promoting her Immaculate Heart. She asked the three children, Lucia, Francisco and Jacinta, to continue to visit her at the same place on the 13th of each month. When the children were detained by the local governor to prevent them from the August meeting, Our Lady appeared to them on the 19th. She told them that she would make a miracle happen in October so that all the people who came to see it would believe. She also implored the children to pray often for poor sinners—many of whom have no one praying for them—for conversion. On October 13, 1917, with 70,000 people gathered, the Sun danced in the sky, the miraculous sign Our Lady promised. Francisco and Jacinta were made saints on May 13, 2017.

Prayer to Our Lady of Fatima

O Most Holy Virgin Mary, Queen of the most holy Rosary, you were pleased to appear to

the children of Fatima

and reveal a glorious message. We implore you, inspire in our hearts a fervent love for the recitation of the Rosary. By meditating on the mysteries of the redemption that are recalled therein may we obtain the graces and virtues that we ask, through the merits of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Redeemer. Amen.



Our Lady of Fatima. Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima, Portugal.

August 20: Our Lady of Good Help—Wisconsin



October, 1859 in Robinsonville, WI Our Lady appeared to Adele Brise, a Belgian immigrant to the United States. Frightened by the vision, Adele prayed until the lady disappeared. A week later she appeared again. Adele told the parish priest of the visions who instructed her that should it happen again say, "In the Name of God, who are you and what do you wish of me?" The response was: "I am the Queen of Heaven, who prays for the conversion of sinners, and I wish you to do the same." Our Lady gave Adele the mission to teach the children of this "wild country" about salvation. Our Lady added: "That is what I wish you to do. Go and fear nothing, I will help you." Adele dedicated the rest of her life to educating children, initially traveling around a 50 mile radius to teach. Eventually she founded a school on the site of the current shrine.



Our Lady of Good Help. Statue at the Shrine, Champion, Wisconsin.

Prayer to Our Lady of Good Help

O Dear Lady of Good Help, you revealed yourself as the Queen of Heaven to your servant Adele. You gave her a mission to pray for the conversion of sinners, to bring the Good News of Jesus Christ to others, and to prepare the children for the reception of the sacraments. I trust that as you called Adele to holiness, you are calling me, in my station in life, to live a holy life, devoted to Jesus Christ with the help of your maternal love. I bring before you now my worries and anxieties. I abandon my attachments to them and place them at your feet. I ask you to hear the deepest longings of my heart as I pray most earnestly for (*your intention*). Dear Lady, you told Adele and you say to all of us, "Do not be afraid; I will help you." Help me now as I place my intentions before you with complete confidence and trust. Amen.

August 21: Our Lady of Knock—Ireland
Banthearna Cnoic



The Story of Knock began on the 21st August, 1879 when, at approximately 8 o'clock in the evening, fifteen people from the village of Knock in Co. Mayo, witnessed an Apparition of Our Lady, St. Joseph, St. John the Evangelist, a Lamb and cross on an altar at the gable wall of the Parish Church. The witnesses watched the Apparition in the pouring rain for two hours, reciting the Rosary. Although they themselves were saturated not a single drop of rain fell on the gable or vision. There were fifteen official witnesses to the Apparition, most of whom were from the village of Knock and surrounding areas and ranged in age from just 5 years old to 74 years old. Each of the witnesses gave testimonies to a Commission of Enquiry in October 1879. The findings of the Commission were that the testimonies were both trustworthy and satisfactory.

Prayer to Our Lady of Knock

Our Lady of Knock, Queen of Ireland, you gave hope to your people in a time of distress and comforted them in sorrow. You have inspired countless pilgrims to pray with confidence to your divine Son, remembering His promise, "Ask and you shall receive, seek and you shall find". Help me to remember that we are all pilgrims on the road to Heaven. Fill me with love and concern for my brothers and sisters in Christ, especially those who live with me. Comfort me when I am sick, lonely or depressed. Teach me how to take part ever more reverently in the Holy Mass. Give me a greater love of Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament. Pray for me now and at the hour of my death. Amen.



Our Lady of Knock. Statue at the Basilica of Our Lady, Knock, Ireland. Michael McLaugh-

August 22: Queenship of Mary

Celebrated on the 8th day (an Octave) after the Assumption the Queenship of Mary is the traditional day of consecrating hearts and homes to Mary. As the Mother of the King of Heaven and intimately united to Him in His redemptive suffering and death on the Cross, Our Lady is Queen. Her sovereignty over the Church and over all the faithful is subordinate and dependent upon Christ's and its purpose is to direct us with ever greater fidelity toward union with the Blessed Trinity so as to arrive safely to our heavenly home.

Prayer to Our Lady Queen of Heaven

O Mary, when our eyes close in our last sleep, and open to behold thy Son, the Just Judge, and the Angel opens the Book, and the Enemy accuses us; in that terrible hour, come to our aid. Be with us. When death came to Joseph, you and your Son were with him: Thy Son to judge, thou to console. O Happy Joseph! When death comes for us, be near us. O Mary, Stretch forth thy hand to help us; deliver us from our bondage. We are thy children, you are our Mother. As little children we come to you; we know no fear. O Mary, He changed water into wine for thee, even as He said: My hour has not yet come. Now He will not refuse thee, when you plead for us thy children. O Mary, come quickly to our aid. Do not let us stray from the Fold. Amen.



Queen of Heaven. Photo by giveawayboy.
Flickr.

August 23: Our Lady of La Vang—Vietnam

Đức Mẹ La Vang



During the 18th century Vietnamese Catholics had to flee into the jungles to escape persecution. The conditions in the jungle outposts were very poor and unhealthy, most especially the drinking water. Though starving and sickly these faithful children of Our Lady prepared themselves for martyrdom. Each night they would gather together around a large banyan tree to pray the rosary. It is claimed that in 1798 Our Lady appeared to her children among the branches and leaves of the tree; she was holding the Infant Jesus. Our Lady told them that she knew of their suffering. She also instructed them to use the leaves of the forest trees to make a tea that could be drunk safely. She also told them that any prayer said at that spot would be heard. Ever since this time Our Lady of La Vang has been venerated even among the Buddhists. The first chapel to her was constructed in the 1820's.

Prayer to Our Lady of La Vang

Mother Mary, Our Lady, present us to Jesus, Our Saviour. Mother Mary, lead all souls to Jesus, our Dear Lord who alone redeems and saves. Dear Jesus, free us from the bondage of sin and govern us with Your Love.



Our Lady of La Vang. Icon by Vivian Imbruglia. A

Blessed Lady of La Vang be my mother and comfort me, especially in times of trial and unhappiness. Enter my heart and stay with me wherever I may go. Grant that one day, through you, I may find rest and peace in my Father's house. Amen

August 24: Our Lady of Lourdes—France
Notre-Dame de Lourdes



On February 11, 1858 a 14 year-old girl named Bernadette Soubirous witnessed the first of 18 visions of the blessed Virgin Mary at a grotto near Lourdes, France. The first apparition appeared when Bernadette was gathering wood with her sister and a friend. Bernadette heard a noise like a gust of wind and looked up toward the grotto. She described what she saw: "I saw a lady dressed in white. She wore a white dress, an equally white veil, a blue belt and a yellow rose on each foot." Upon seeing the Lady, who had a Rosary draped over her right arm, Bernadette began praying the Rosary. When the prayer ended the Lady suddenly vanished. On a subsequent visit to the grotto, the lady spoke. Bernadette asked the Lady to write down her name, and the Lady replied: "It is not necessary," and then added, "I do not promise to make you happy in this world, but in the next. Would you be kind enough to come here for a fortnight?"



Prayer to Our Lady of Lourdes

Oh Immaculate Conception, when you appeared in the grotto of Lourdes, you made it a privileged sanctuary where you dispense your favors, and where many sufferers have obtained the cure of their infirmities, both spiritual and corporal. I come, therefore, with unbounded confidence to implore your maternal intercession. My loving Mother, obtain my request. I will try to imitate your virtues so that I may one day share your company and bless you in eternity. Amen.

Our Lady of Lourdes. Grotto of Our Lady, Lourdes, France. Photo by Jarvis Dennis. Wikimedia.

August 25: Our Lady of Kibeho—Rwanda

Nyina wa Jambo



Our Lady began appearing to three school girls in Rwanda beginning in November of 1981. One of the visionaries said that “her beauty is as great as her love for her children.” Our Lady’s message was the gospel: Be kind and merciful to one another, serve one another, repent of your sins, be patient in suffering and pray the rosary. She warned that if these things were not done terrible violence would strike the land. The terrible violence occurred during the 1994 genocide in Rwanda. Still, Our Lady showed her closeness to her children and her desire to lead us to mercy.

Prayer to Our Lady of Kibeho

Blessed Virgin Mary, you are a sure path, which leads us to Jesus the Savior. We bless you for all the good things that you continue to give us, especially because you consented to appear in a miraculous way at Kibeho at the time when our world needed you so much.



Our Lady of Kibeho. Icon by Vivian Imbruglia. A Copy is on display at St. Francis Chapel—

O Holy Mary, Our Lady of Sorrows, teach us to understand the value of the Cross in our lives. By offering our sufferings to his, help us to complete in our own flesh what is missing in the sufferings of Christ in favor of his mystical body, which is the Church. And when our pilgrimage here on earth has ended, we will live forever with you in the Kingdom of heaven. Amen.

**August 26: Our Lady of Czestochowa—
Poland**
Czarna Madonna



Tradition holds that the image was painted by St. Luke in the Apostolic age. St. Helen, mother of Constantine the Great, brought the icon to Constantinople where it was venerated for centuries. The icon was presented to Vladimir, Prince of Kiev, as a wedding gift in 989. Records state that it came to Poland to the Monastery of Jasna Gora in the 14th century. Repeated attacks from foreigners on Polish soil are reflected in the image as Our Lady bares a scar from an arrow, thus reflecting the history of Poland as a besieged land. It has been in the Monastery of Jasna Gora since 1382 intimately entwined in Polish history. Pope St. John Paul II visited the shrine and icon often, repeatedly saying, “Totus tuus – Totally yours.”

Prayer to Our Lady of Czestochowa

Holy Mother of Czestochowa, Thou art full of grace, goodness and mercy. I consecrate to Thee all my thoughts, words and actions, my soul and body. I beseech Thy blessings and especially prayers for my salvation. Today, I consecrate myself to Thee, Good Mother, totally, with body and soul amid joy and sufferings to obtain for myself and others Thy blessings on this earth and eternal life in Heaven.
Amen.



Our Lady of Czestochowa. Icon from Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa, Doylestown, PA.

August 27: Our Lady of Harissa—Lebanon

سيدة لبنان



Maronite Catholics are one of the 28 rites of the Catholic Church. They date back to a monk of the 4th century named Maron who preserved the orthodox Catholic faith from heresies. Lebanese Christians have existed since biblical times and have turned to Our Lady over the centuries to preserve the faith that dates back probably to the missionary journeys of St. Paul. The statue of Our Lady in Harissa stands atop sanctuary 650 meters above sea level. It has been a place of reconciliation for Christians and Muslims in a land marked often by violence.

Prayer to Our Lady of Harissa

O Mary, "the Cedar of Lebanon," look down upon your children who today and always beg your guiding hand.

Grant us the faith to withstand the sweeping blows of life as the cedar stands straight against the wind. Develop in us the hope, the hope of Resurrection, that we may believe the word of your Divine Son with the joy that should be ours.

Dear Mother, increase our love, the love we should have for the Blessed Trinity: Father, Son, and Holy Spirit; our filial love for you, and perfect it in love for our neighbor. Our Lady, Queen of Lebanon. Pray for us.



Our Lady of Harissa. Statue at the Shrine of Our Lady, Harissa, Lebanon.

August 28: Our Lady of Peace and Good Voyage—Philippines

Mahal na Birhen ng Kapayapaan at Mabuting Paglalakbay



In 1626 the Spanish Governor-General of the Philippines sailed from Mexico with a wood-carved image of the Immaculate Conception. In gratitude for the safe voyage the image was given its title. Each time the image traveled aboard a ship over the years the voyage was safe and successful. The statue gained a reputation as a guardian for peace and good voyage. Millions of Filipinos visit the shrine in Antipolo each year from May to July.

Prayer to Our Lady of Good Voyage

O Lady of Peace and Good Voyage, Virgin of Antipolo, look kindly upon the needs of your children, as we journey to our home in heaven. For you, O Mother, know full well what it is to travel this road.

O Mother, you give us so much hope and encouragement by your example of filial love and discipleship. As you accompanied Christ in your journey from Nazareth to Bethlehem, from Egypt to Galilee and finally to Calvary, you discovered the loving presence of God in ever new ways.

O Mother, as we undertake our own journey of life, accompany us in our discovery of God in our lives and in the lives of other people. Make us see him with the eyes of our hearts, and help us to know Him and to grow deeper in His love through life's joys and pains.

And at our journey's end, lead us to the doorsteps of heaven and bring us to your Son Jesus who has secured and prepared for us a place in our Father's home. Amen.



Our Lady of Good Voyage.
Statue, Shrine of Our Lady of the
Immaculate Conception. Antipolo,
Philippines. Photo by Ramon

August 29: Our Lady of Vailankanni—India

புனித ஆரோக்கிய அன்னை



Sometime in the 1550's a young boy in the fishing village of Vailankanni on the east coast of India was making his daily route to bring milk to a rich gentleman 6 miles away. The boy fell asleep on the way and woke to see a beautiful lady holding a baby. She asked the boy for some milk for the child and he reverently agreed. When he arrived late at the rich man's house he asked for pardon for the lack of milk due to the need of the child. When they opened the pot milk flowed out and did not stop. Several years later Our Lady appeared again to a crippled boy selling buttermilk in the area. She again asked for some milk for her baby and the boy agreed. She then told him to go to the next village and tell a certain gentleman that she wanted a church built in her honor there. The boy told Our Lady that he was unable to go as he was crippled. She told him to rise up and he was able to stand and walk. The church is named for Our Lady of Good Health.



Our Lady of Vailankanni. Velankanni Church, Uttan . Photo by Rangan

Prayer to Our Lady of Vailankanni

O Mary! Our Mother of Health and Our Heavenly Queen, seated on your throne of mercy and compassion in your Holy Shrine at Vailankanni, we praise and honor you to be our refuge and our relief. Numerous are the sick who through you have recovered health. Relying on your power and goodness, we fly to you and implore you to heal our infirmities and to obtain for us perfect health of body and soul, that we may better be able to serve you and your Divine Son. Help them O Most amiable Mother and obtain for us deliverance from all our sufferings, or the patience to endure them in the spirit of resignation agreeable to God's Holy Will, so that all our trials and sufferings may help to purify our souls and help us to detach ourselves from earthly ties. Amen.

August 30: Our Lady of the Cape—Quebec
Notre-Dame-du-Cap



Our Lady of the Cape dates to a parish church built in 1678 by the Jesuit missionaries who helped settle Quebec. As time went on the faith of the people of Quebec began to wain. The parish priest, Fr. Desilets, consecrated himself to Our Lady, praying the rosary every day in public and preaching to the faithful about The Blessed Virgin; faith began to revive as a result. In 1879 the church needed to be replaced. The building materials needed to be brought over the frozen river. The winter of 1879 was quite mild, which meant the river was not frozen-over. Fr. Desilets urged his parishioners to turn to Our Lady and the rosary once again. On March 16, 1879 a strong Winter blast froze the St. Laurence River so the building materials could be brought. The River stayed frozen for a week and was called the Rosary Bridge.



Prayer to Our Lady of Our Lady of the Cape

O Holy Virgin Mary,
our most merciful Mother and powerful
Queen, we thy children humbly prostrate
before thee, implore thy grace and help.
With confidence we come to thee,
O Queen of the Holy Rosary;
to thee do we turn our eyes.
Bestow on us, we beg thee,
this special favor which we ask . . .
Grant us health of body and purity of soul: increase our faith and
love so that we may know thy Divine Son
better and serve Him ever faithfully.
O tender and merciful Mother, intercede for those who are dear to
us. Heal the sick, comfort the dying, and have pity on the faithful de-
parted. Protect our families; guard the nation of Canada; and keep
holy Mother Church safe from all evil. Amen.

Our Lady of the Cape. Notre
Dame Shrine, Quebec. Photo by

August 31: Our Lady of Akita—Japan

秋田の聖母



A consecrated nun, Sr. Agnes, who was a convert from Buddhism and deaf, claimed to have been visited by Our Lady in 1973. She said that Our Lady's wood-carved statue came to life and spoke to her on several occasions in 1973. The message of the Blessed Virgin was a request that the faithful would console the heart of her Son who suffers many outrages against him due to the ingratitude of mankind. Our Lady asked for rosaries to be prayed especially for bishops and priests. She presented Sr. Agnes with a prayer to be recited in reparation to the Sacred Heart in the Holy Eucharist.



Our Lady of Akita. Photo by

Prayer attributed to Our Lady of Akita

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus,
truly present in the Holy Eucharist,
I consecrate my body and soul
to be entirely one with Your Heart,
being sacrificed at every instant,
on the altars of the world,
giving praise to the Father
and pleading for the coming of His king-
dom. Please receive this humble offering of myself. Use me as
You will for the glory of the Father and the salvation of souls.

Most Holy Mother of God,
never let me be separated from your Divine Son. Please defend and
protect me as Your special child. Amen.

September 1: Our Lady of Aparecida—Brazil
Nossa Senhora Aparecida



In 1717 the local governor was planning to pass by the city of Guaratinguetá in Brazil. The locals decided to have a feast in his honor, so fishermen set out to make a catch for the dinner. Unable to catch anything, they pleaded to our Lady and tried again. Instead of fish the men caught an image of our Lady. After retrieving the statue the fishermen cast their nets a second time and caught an abundance of fish for the feast. The statue was named Our Lady of the Conception. Aparecida is a renowned place of pilgrimage and Our Lady is the patroness of Brazil.

Prayer to Our Lady of Aparecida
By Pope St. John Paul II

Lady Aparecida, welcome under your protecting mantle men and women religious, families, children, young people, priests and bishops. Health of the sick and Consoler of the afflicted, comfort those who are suffering in body and soul; be the light of those who are seeking Christ, the Redeemer of all; show all people that you are the Mother of our confidence. Queen of Peace and Mirror of Justice, ensure that Brazil and all countries may have lasting peace, that we will always live together as brothers and sisters and as children of God. Our Lady Aparecida, bless all your sons and daughters who pray and sing to you here and elsewhere. Amen.



Our Lady of Aparecida. Photo by Yanajin33. Wikimedia.

September 2: Our Lady of Lujan—Argentina

Nuestra Señora de Luján



The story of Our Lady of Lujan dates to 1630. A Portuguese man, Antonio Farias Saa, had settled in Argentina and desired to build a chapel on his land in order to foster devotion among the people of his village.

Antonio requested that his Brazilian friend send him a statue of the Madonna to be placed in Saa's chapel. Two statues were sent from Brazil on carts driven by oxen. After three days of the journey, the caravan was resting in a village near present-day Lujan. Amazingly, the oxen were unable to pull the carts any further. The men replaced the oxen but they were still unable to pull the carts. Removing all the contents of the cart, the men left two small boxes on the carts, still the oxen could not move it. When the men opened the boxes they found the statues of our Lady. When they removed the statues from the cart the oxen were finally able to pull it. So, the men decided that the Madonna wanted to remain in the village. Thus, a chapel was built there and the statue of Our Lady of Lujan became an image much loved in Argentina. The Argentine flag's colors of blue and white are from the colors of the statue of Our Lady of Lujan.



Our Lady of Lujan. Institute of the Incarnate Word.

Prayer to Our Lady of Lujan

Virgin of Luján, Mother of the poor and the humble, Mother of those who suffer and hope: You chose the silent immensity of the Argentine lowlands, to listen to our prayers, to soothe our hearts and to tell us about your Son "the Saviour of yesterday, of today, of always". This simple place is the spiritual heart of our people. Today we come to You, a small group of disciples, apostles and witnesses of Your Son. You have always inspired the great undertakings of the Argentine people, help us to mature close to You. Amen

September 3: Our Lady of Altotting— Germany

Unsere Liebe Frau von Altotting



Our Lady of Altotting is a statue found within the Chapel of Grace, the oldest sanctuary in Bavaria and originating in 660 AD. The current statue was carved and placed in the chapel around 1330. It was in 1489 that the Black Madonna image gained significant attention from pilgrims. In that year a young boy drowned in a nearby lake. His mother brought the boy before the feet of the statue of Our Lady, and the boy was revived. Since then, Our Lady of Altotting Shrine has become the most popular pilgrim site in Bavaria.



Our Lady of Altotting. Statue at the Shrine, Altotting, Germany. Photo by S. Finner. Wikimedia.

Prayer to Our Lady of Altotting

Mary unfurl your mantel, make it a
shelter and shield for us,
Let us find refuge within until all the
storms are past.

In sickness and in sorrow, O Mary send
us your help, Protect us from great need, obtain for us our daily
bread. Bring us peace once again, O Mother Mary, hear us, remain
with your people, in your land of salvation's sacred promise.

Mary, Altötting is your place of grace, be its refuge in these difficult
times, protect your holy place from all harm,
shield us, O Mary, full of grace, in both body and soul, and look merci-
fully upon us here below. Amen.

September 4: Our Lady of Africa—Algeria السيدة الإفريقية



When the first French Bishop of Algiers began to build the church's presence there in the 1830's he traveled back to France to ask for help in raising funds for the effort. The response in France was great, including a bronze statue of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception given to the bishop as the first object of devotion for the new church in Algiers. Initially small groups of women gathered around the statue to pray the rosary but more and more joined in. Through the years the statue became a pilgrimage site for Catholics and even for Muslims. Eventually the Basilica of Our lady of Africa was consecrated in 1872 with the original statue still in place.

Prayer to Our Lady of Africa

Mary, Our Mother of Africa, hear the drumbeat of our prayers. May Your Son Jesus continue to bring us joy, receive our anxieties, and forgive us our sins. Help us to walk in His light. Help us to help others do the same. And bring us to life everlasting with the Holy Saints and Angels. Amen.



Our Lady of Africa. Statue, Basilica of Our Lady

September 5: Our Lady of Loreto—Italy
Madonna di Loreto



The Holy House of Our Lady in Nazareth was preserved even after several Moslem invasions of the Holy Land destroyed the churches built over it.

After another invasion in 1291 the house suddenly appeared in Croatia, then in Loreto in 1294. Some suggest that Crusaders brought it stone by stone to Europe to prevent its destruction by Moslems. But many saints believe that angels carried it to Loreto evidenced by the fact that it sits upon its current location with no foundation at all to support it. Many saints have visited the house and have called it the holiest place on earth as it is the house of the Annunciation.

Prayer to Our Lady of Loreto

“Blessed among all women,” who remind us of the incarnation of the word in your purest bosom, for your blessed house, where you lived with Jesus and Joseph, and which became during the centuries the fervently longed-for destination of the saints, who considered themselves lucky to kiss fervently your sacred walls, bestow upon us the graces which we humbly ask, and the fortune of coming to heaven after this exile, to repeat to you the greetings of the angel: Hail, Mary. Amen.



Our Lady of Loreto. San Lorenzo Maggiore, Naples. Photo by José Luiz Bernardes Ribeiro .

September 6: Our Lady Help of Christians— Australia



The feast of Our Lady Help of Christians dates back to 1815 when Pope Pius VII instituted it in gratitude for having been restored to the Apostolic See after being imprisoned by Napoleon. Catholics throughout the world prayed the rosary for him. One of those was the seminarian John Joseph Therry from Cork, Ireland. Having developed a trust in Mary, Help of Christians, later Fr. Therry volunteered to be a missionary priest to Australia because in the early 1800's they had few priests to celebrate the sacraments for the mostly Irish immigrants. The Catholic faithful of Australia had sustained their faith through praying the Rosary. Fr. Therry arrived in Australia in 1820 and began the process of building a Catholic church. By 1844 the first church had become the Cathedral of Our Lady Help of Christians. She is now the Patroness of the Nation.



Our Lady Help of Christians. Statue at the Carmel of the Immaculate Conception,

Prayer to Our Lady Help of Christians

Almighty God, deepen in our hearts our love of Mary Help of Christians.

Through her prayers and under her protection, may the light of Christ shine over our land.

May Australia be granted harmony, justice and peace.

Grant wisdom to our leaders and integrity to our citizens.

Bless especially the men and women of the Australian Defence Force and their families.

We ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Mary Help of Christians, pray for us.

**September 7: Our Lady of Charity of
El Cobre—Cuba**

Nuestra Señora de la Caridad del Cobre



In 1612, three sailors off the coast of Cuba went in search of salt to preserve meats. A violent storm arose which threatened to capsize their canoe. The sailors prayed to the Virgin for help. The storm subsided and they were safe. Soon after they saw floating in the water what appeared to be a girl. It was a statue of Our Lady with the inscription: "I am the Virgin of Charity." The clothes of the statue were completely dry despite the sea and violent storm. The story of the miraculous delivery spread and the site of the preserved statue became popular for pilgrimages. Our Lady of Charity is today the Patroness of Cuba.

Prayer to Our Lady of Charity of El Cobre

Most Holy Mother of Charity
who came to us as a messenger of peace
across the sea.
You are the Mother of all Cubans
To you we come, Most Holy Mother of God
to honor you with love as your children.
To your motherly heart
we entrust our desires and hopes
our work and our prayers.
We pray for the Cuban people
that they may be able to build
a nation based on peace and unity.
We pray for our families
that they may live in fidelity and love.

Mother of Charity!
We place ourselves under your mantle of protection!
Blessed are you among women
and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus!
And to Him be the glory and the power
now and forever. Amen.



Our Lady of Charity. Shrine of
of Our Lady, El Cobre, Cuba.
Photo by Giv von Koerber.

September 8: Nativity of Mary

Marymas is the traditional name for this day; the Mass of Mary. There are only three birthdays on the universal Church calendar of feasts: Christ's, John the Baptist's and Our Lady's. The first celebrations of Our Lady's birthday were in Jerusalem in the 5th century. It spread to the Western Church by the 7th century. Traditionally in many places in the Western Church this day marks the transition to harvest season and so is observed as a Day of Thanksgiving. In the Beaujolais region of France it is a day for blessing grapes for wine. Each year a pilgrimage is made up Mount Brouilly to the church of Our Lady of the Grapes to celebrate the blessing of God on the region and for keeping the grape harvest fruitful.

Prayer for Our Lady's Nativity

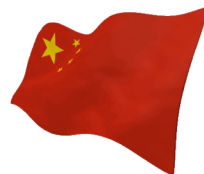
O Virgin immaculate, thou wast conqueror of the infernal serpent from the first instant of thy existence; renew even now, for it is now more necessary than ever before, thine ancient triumphs; glorify thy divine Son, bring back to Him the sheep that have strayed from the one fold and place them once more under the guidance of the universal Shepherd who holds the place of thy Son on earth; let it be thy glory, O Virgin, who destroy all heresies, to restore unity and peace once more to all the Christian people. Amen.



Birth of Our Blessed Lady. Andrea di Bartolo,
National Gallery of Art, Washington DC.

September 9: Our Lady of She-Shan—China

佘山聖母



Originally a chapel built by the Jesuits to Our Lady, Help of Christians, the basilica of She-Shan was constructed and dedicated in 1873. Originally the property of the current shrine was built as a retreat house for elderly Jesuits. When the Taiping Rebellion was raging in China (1850-1864), churches were being burned to the ground. The Jesuit superior in Shanghai vowed to Our Lady Help of Christians that if she spared the Shanghai Diocese from attack the Jesuits would build a basilica in her honor. The Shrine subsequently built today celebrates Mary's maternal protection of her children.

Prayer to Our Lady of She-Shan

By Pope Benedict XVI

Virgin Most Holy, Mother of the Incarnate Word and our Mother, venerated in the Shrine of Sheshan under the title "Help of Christians", the entire Church in China looks to you with devout affection.

Our Lady of Sheshan, sustain all those in China, who, amid their daily trials, continue to believe, to hope, to love. May they never be afraid to speak of Jesus to the world, and of the world to Jesus.

In the statue overlooking the Shrine you lift your Son on high, offering him to the world with open arms in a gesture of love. Help Catholics always to be credible witnesses to this love, ever clinging to the rock of Peter on which the Church is built. Mother of China and all Asia, pray for us, now and for ever. Amen!



Our Lady of She-Shan. Statue at the Basilica of Mary Help of Christians.

September 10: Our Lady of Pillar—Spain
Nuestra Señora del Pilar



In 36 AD St. James the Greater, brother of St. John, was on his mission to evangelize Spain with his disciples when Our Lady appeared to him on the bank of the River Ebro. St. James was discouraged by the seeming lack of acceptance of the Faith but Our Lady visited him to give him encouragement. She allowed him a vision of the future zeal for the Faith of the Spanish people. Our Lady requested that St. James have a church built in her honor there and she gave him her image on a pillar made of jasper. The basilica in her honor is in Zaragoza, Spain.

Prayer to Our Lady of the Pillar

Most Holy Virgin of Pillar,
to thy care we confide the needs of
our families,
the joys of children,
the dreams of youth,
the anxieties of adults,
the sufferings of the sick,
and our preparation for life's end.
To Thee we entrust the perseverance
of our priests and religious.
Ever increase our Faith,
give assurance to our Hope
and enliven our Charity. Amen.



Our Lady of the Pillar. Statue at the Basilica, Zaragoza. Zaragoza Turismo.

September 11: Our Lady of Coromoto— Venezuela

Nuestra Señora de Coromoto



In 1651 Our Lady appeared to Chief Cormoto of the Cospes Tribe near Guanare, Venezuela. She asked him to be educated in the Catholic Faith and to be baptized. Initially the chief and many of his tribe approached local Spanish authorities and requested instruction and baptism but later he chose not to continue. On September 8, 1652 Our Lady appeared to the chief a second time at his home and admonished him to be baptized. This time Coromoto was violent and tried to seize Our Lady. She vanished but left a tiny image of herself with the child Jesus in his hand. Coromoto would embrace the Faith and be baptized, as would many from the tribe. A shrine stands at the site of the 1652 apparition.



Prayer to Our Lady of Coromoto

Beautiful Lady Mary, Virgin Mother of the Redeemer, with you we praise and glorify the Father in the Holy Spirit through Jesus Christ. We beseech you that, just as in Coromoto you guided the steps of the Indians towards the baptismal grace, you may now capture the heart of the Venezuelans, and bring them to the renewal of their faith.

Our Lady of Coromoto. Original Relic from the Basilica in Coromoto. Photo by Yvasquezma.

Virgin of Coromoto, patron of Venezuela, bless the evangelistic action of the Church in our Country so that she might be a fortress and defense of the faith of your children, and the beginning of a renewal of Christian customs. Amen.

September 12: Most Holy Name of Mary

Pope Innocent XI added the feast of the Holy Name of Mary to the liturgical calendar to honor Our Lady for the victory of the Catholic armies of Europe over the Ottoman Turks at the Battle of Vienna in 1683. Vienna had come under siege for several months from an Ottoman army of 150,000 soldiers. The King of Poland, Jan Sobieski, rallied his cavalry forces in Krakow to come to the aid of Vienna. Before leaving for Vienna, Jan visited the Monastery of Jasna Gora and the image of Our Lady of Czestochowa to consecrate his army and his cause to her. Sobieski and his army left Krakow on August 15, the Solemnity of the Assumption, and arrived at Vienna on September 12. As the Ottoman force was ready to breach the defending wall of the city, Sobieski's cavalry arrived. In the largest cavalry charge in world history, 18,000 Polish-Lithuanian cavalymen under King Jan charged at the Ottoman forces and drove them from the field, thus saving Vienna and Christian Europe. September 12 is the Patronal Feast Day of the Oblates of the Virgin Mary.



The Two Hearts. Detail from Painting at St. Francis Chapel—Boston

Prayer for the Holy Name of Mary

O Almighty God, Who beholds Your servants earnestly desiring to place themselves under the shadow of the name and protection of the Most Holy Virgin Mary, grant, we beseech You, that by her charitable intercession, we may be delivered from all evil on earth, and may arrive at everlasting joys in Heaven, through Jesus Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Act of Entrustment to Our Lady
By Venerable Bruno Lanteri



Fr. Bruno Lanteri Venerating Our Lady. Pisa, Italy

I choose you, Blessed Lady, as my loving Mother, and choose to depend on you in all my actions. I wish to discern at every moment what is most pleasing to you, that I may fulfill with all my strength what you choose for me. I desire to be totally available to your desire, and that my only desire be what you desire. I declare above all, that my firm purpose is to adore, love and praise Jesus Christ, the fruit of your most pure womb, with that spirit, that heart, and in that perfect way that you, most blessed Virgin, adore, love and praise him in heaven, with the intention of giving him the same glory that you constantly give him in heaven.

Be pleased, my sovereign Lady and most loving Mother, to accept me as your unworthy servant and child, and grant me the grace to imitate the angels in my readiness to follow your desires, and to love Jesus with your own most ardent Heart. Amen.

Venerable Bruno Lanteri on Veneration of Our Lady

Desire to have a tender love toward the Virgin Mary, and confidence in her as a son toward his mother, to such a degree that it appears impossible that she could permit you to be overcome, and that you be lost in that battle. Have recourse to her, therefore, as a young chick takes refuge under the wings of its mother when it hears the cries of the preying hawk, and, afterwards make an act of the love of God. Do this all with that confidence which a child has toward its mother, asking of her with great surety that which you need, as if she were bound to grant it to you, and having recourse to her in all your troubles, such that the mother is, as it were, obliged to come to your aid, and draws from this a motive to love you yet more deeply. And if earthly mothers, even though bad at times, yet do not know how to refuse the requests of their children, what shall be said of the Great Mother of God?

Veneration presupposes the esteem and respect toward the person venerated; esteem and respect conceived proportionally to the extent of the virtue and the excellence observed in the person revered. As for those persons that we know possess supernatural and divine virtue and excellence, knowing this by the infallible decision of the Church in what she proposes, veneration toward them becomes all the more firm and great, so that they are venerated with the cult that is called *dulia*.

But the same Holy Church proposes to us, above all creatures, all saints, and all the Angels to venerate Mary, demanding, for reason of her particular and superior virtue and excellence, a pure veneration entirely particular and superior to all other; a veneration called for *hyperdulia*. Suffice it to say that above Mary there is nothing but God, and under Mary there is all that is not God. Suffice it to say that God can create a greater world, more excellent than this, but cannot create a creature greater than the Mother of God, as the saints and Fathers express. It is therefore clear that Mary is to be venerated in a special way after God. She is to be venerated in a special way after God because after God she is the source of all graces and blessings, because she is our Co-redemptrix, and after God she is the one that concerns us most for the sake of our well-being. Let us therefore glory in saying with the Church: Virgin Most Venerated, pray for us.

I will avail myself of all the merits, graces, and privileges of this my Lady, as one who knows that he has such rights to them as children have to their mother; and... I will beg her to lend me her raiment, joys, and all the fitting household adornments... and to be able to offer all her merits to her blessed Son... And I am firmly persuaded that she will do this with great pleasure.

Venerable Bruno Lanteri



The Oblates of the Virgin Mary

**Saint Francis Chapel
The Prudential Center**