

The Curé of Ars

St. John Baptist Vianney

1785 – 1859

With a

Novena and Litany

Shrine of St. John Vianney

Newport, Md.

St. Mary's Church

Telephone: La Plata 4153

Cum permissu superioris

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People flocked to our small parish in Newport for more than twenty years. These were the years between the early 1930's to the early 1950's. They came to pray. They came to confess. They came seeking healings and remedies. They came because of Saint John Vianney, the Curé of Ars.

Father Edward McAdams, in his dedication homily said, "When weary souls prayed to God ... God gave the world Jean Marie Vianney ... God gave this vessel of election the full power of his grace to bring reform into the world by the charm of his personality and the miracles which he accomplished" (August 9, 1931). From his little country parish in France the Curé reformed people's lives through the power of his preaching and his own personal example.

Father William Baldus brought the legacy of Saint John to Newport in 1931. It was his hope that the shrine would renew the faith of all who visited it. He was among the first in our nation to encourage continuous public devotion to the saint and it was his desire that the shrine at Newport become a great center of devotion.

Now we gather, more than 80 years later, to rededicate the shrine to Saint John Vianney. At the same time we honor the indefatigable energy of our former pastor who was beloved by all. We pray that people will once again visit our little tiny country parish to pray at the shrine. It is our hope that a great many will walk away having their burdens and hardships lightened.

This book was originally published just a couple of years after the shrine's dedication. We republish it with the prayer that it will inspire others in their walk with the Lord.

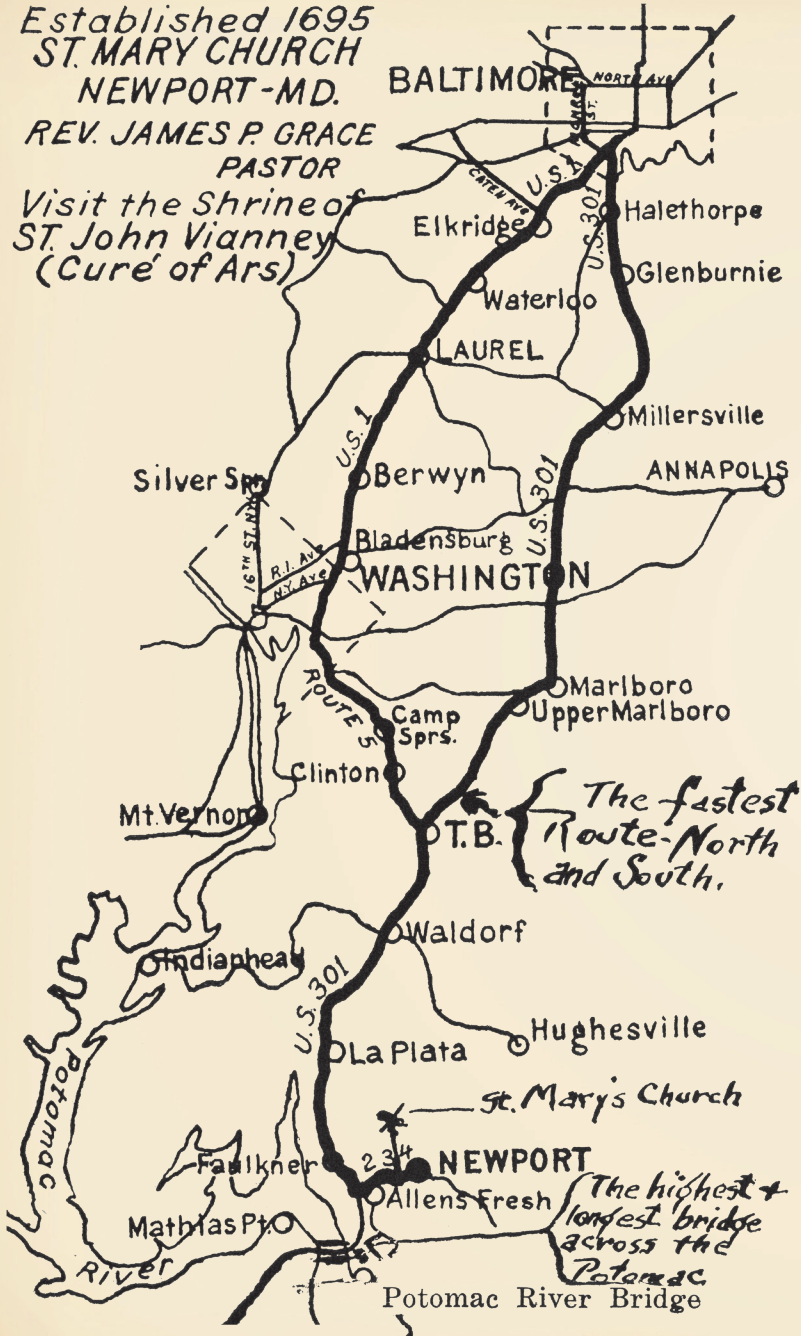
Saint John Vianney pray for us!

Father Mark Ervin
Pastor

Established 1695
ST. MARY CHURCH
 NEWPORT-MD.

REV. JAMES P. GRACE
 PASTOR

Visit the Shrine of
 ST. John Vianney
 (Cure' of Ars)



The Curé of Ars
St. John Baptist Vianney



Is a Member of the Guild of
St. John Vianney Shrine
Newport, Charles County, Md.
Rev. James P. Grace, Pastor

For year ending _____ 19____

PRAYER

Almighty and merciful God who didst make St. John Vianney Mary admirable in his pastoral zeal and in his constant love of penance, grant us the grace, we implore Thee, to win for Christ, by his example and intercession, for the souls of our brethren, and to attain with them everlasting glory. O, St. John Mary incomparable laborer in the field confided to thee, obtain for the Church the realization of Jesus' desire. The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few. Pray to the Master of the harvest to send faithful laborers into His vineyard O, St. John Mary! Intercede for the clergy. May thy patronage, and thy prayer multiply the real vocations to the priest-hood. May the Holy Ghost grant thee emulators; may He give us Saints Through Christ, our Lord.

Amen

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FORWORD

The Shrine of the Curé of Ars at Newport, Maryland

A Saint, such as the Curé of Ars, whose life was spent attending to the every-day details of parish activity cannot fail to find clients wherever the Catholic Priesthood is loved and respected. Hence it was not many years after St. John Vianney's canonization in 1925 that a small shrine to the holy Curé sprang up at Newport, in Charles County, Maryland.

It seems to us more than a coincidence that the first shrine to the Saint in this country should have been started by a country pastor in a little rural church dedicated to Mary. That God has been pleased to recognize this sanctuary seems evident from the following extraordinary favors granted to the Saint's clients in this little Southern Maryland town. Until the Church passes judgement we dare not call them miracles. We simply present the facts as given by trustworthy witnesses.

Not long ago a member of a religious sisterhood went to the shrine. She prayed before the Blessed Sacrament, she genuflected, she knelt before the Shrine of St. John Vianney, she walked away without the least trouble. Some months before, this sister had sustained a fracture of the hip. A doctor notified her superiors that she would no longer be able to take part in the active duties of her community; she would have to spend the rest of her days in an invalid's chair. This sister invoked the intercession of the Saint. She was completely cured. She now returns to the little Shrine several times a year to thank God and Saint John Vianney.

On another occasion a farmer was impaled on a sharp tobacco stake. The stake pierced his stomach. He was rushed to a Washington hospital. The pastor of Newport went to Washington and placed a relic of the Curé of Ars on the young man's wound. The youth was restored to health.

In February, 1944, writes Mr. Harry Cusick, of Dentsville, Md., while clearing bushes a stick struck me in my left eye which at once caused great pain and impaired the sight. Going to my family Phy-

sician (Dr. Fred Chappelle of Hughesville, Md.) he began treatment. However, after my second visit to him he advised me that he could do nothing more, and referred me to an eye specialist, (Dr. Michael Kennedy) of Washington.

Upon examination Dr. Kennedy said that the sight was gone but he would try to save the eye-ball. Returning from Washington with the thought of my sight gone and the eye causing such throbbing pain I asked my wife to call Fr. Baldus to bring the relic of St. John Vianney. The minute the relic touched my eye the pain ceased and I could see some. We then began a Novena to the Curé of Ars. The next day when I returned to the doctor for treatment he was amazed as to what had taken place. He asked no questions but stood in wonderment for a few seconds, then exclaimed "I am going to save that eye."

Mr. George Gardinier of Port Tobacco, Md. says that ten years ago while a T.B. patient at Mt. Wilson Sanatorium, Baltimore, Md., the doctor told him he could not recover. While in the sanatorium his wife came to pray at St. John Vianney's Shrine, Newport, Md. twice a week for his recovery. Mr. Gardinier says he was cured through the intercession of St. John Vianney.

In presenting this short life of a Saint of our own day we feel that all the Faithful will find much to encourage them in their daily struggle. Moreover, it should have a special appeal to the young seminarian, who will find in its pages the record of one whose path to the Priesthood was beset with perils of discouragement, perils of examinations, and perils of temptations. Many a priest too, will smile as he sees some of his own problems as they were met by a Saint just a century ago.

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THE CURÉ OF ARS

Jean Baptiste Vianney was born of truly humble Christian parents, on May 8, 1786, and was baptized on the same day.

The Saint passed his youth under the sad days of the French Revolution. The churches were closed, the priests going about in disguise. Jean made his first Holy Communion in his mother's house at the age of thirteen. It was during the long hours of toil in the fields that the conviction grew in his mind that he must be a priest. "If I were a priest I could win many souls for God," he said to himself and to his mother.

The future Curé of Ars was twenty years old when he entered on the studies that were to lead him to the foot of the altar. The steps in his scholastic career proved arduous in the extreme. On May 28, 1811, he received Tonsure and on August 13, 1815, Jean Baptiste Vianney was raised to the priesthood – to that ineffable dignity of which he spoke so frequently and with so much feeling. "Oh, how great is the priest" he used to say. "The priest will only be understood in heaven. Were he understood on earth people would die, not of fear, but of love." He was twenty-nine years old when, on the day after his ordination, he said his first Mass in the chapel of the Seminary of Grenoble where the ceremony had taken place.

In 1815, Ars consisted of some forty houses. An exceedingly dilapidated church, with a no less wretched rectory, stood on one side of the shallow valley. On February 1st, 1818, the Abbé Vianney received official notification of his appointment – it could hardly be called a promotion – to Ars.

M. Vianney's first care was to establish contact with his flock. He made a point of visiting every house-hold in the parish. The holy Curé was gifted with a noble imagination and a keen sense of the beautiful. He enjoyed the beauty of the fields and woods, but he loved even more the beauty of God's house and the solemnities of His Church. He began by buying a new altar and vestments. He painted the woodwork of the church, as he said, "replenishing the household furniture of the good God." Only the best was good enough for the little village church. His tender love for Our Lady moved him to consecrate his parish to the blessed Queen of Heaven. Over the main entrance of the little church he placed a statue of the Blessed Virgin which is still in place.

He made his own instruments of penance. His bed was the bare floor. There was no housekeeper at the rectory, and until 1827, his staple food was potatoes, an occasional boiled egg, flat cake made of flour, salt and water. At one time he tried to live on grass, but confessed that such a diet was impossible.

The holy priest may be said to have spent the best part of his priestly career in a direct contest with sin through his unparalleled work in the confessional. The Curé's confessional was the real miracle of Ars, one that was not merely a passing wonder, or a sensation of a few weeks, but his miracle went on for forty years. The astonishing thing about M. Vianney is that he himself personally became the object of a pilgrimage, people flocked to Ars in hundreds of thousands, just to get a glimpse of him, to exchange a few words with him, and above all to go to confession to him. It may be said that the confessional was M. Vianney's habitual abode. In the depth of winter he daily spent from eleven to twelve hours in the penitential box.

The End.

Forty – one years had gone by since the blessed day on which M. Vianney had come to Ars. They had been years of indescribable activity. The lowly priest had become famous not only throughout France – his name had reached the ends of the earth. Eternity alone will reveal the extent of the achievement of these years, so fruitful and blessed for others, but so laborious and exhausting for himself. The end was now in sight. Friday July 29th, was the last day on which he appeared in his church. That morning he had entered his confessional about 1:00 a.m. but after several fainting spells, he was compelled to rest. That night he could scarcely crawl to his room. About an hour after midnight he called for help and said, "It is my poor end, call my confessor." On August 2nd, he received the last Sacraments and said, "How good God is, when we can no longer go to Him, He comes to us," and then after receiving the Blessed Sacrament, with tears trickling down his cheeks, he said, "Oh, it is sad to receive Holy Communion for the last time." At 2 o'clock in the morning of August 4th, 1859, whilst a fearful thunderstorm burst over Ars, and while the priest read the words, "May the holy angels of God come to meet him and conduct him into the heavenly Jerusalem," the Curé of Ars gave up his soul to his God.

As a member of the Third Order of St. Francis, he was a glorious example of the true Franciscan spirit of poverty, humility and charity.

Miracles Approved During the Process of the Saint's Canonization

In 1905 a certain Sister of the Order of St. Charles began to be tormented with a varicose ulcer. At first considered of little importance it gradually became worse so that at the end of two months she was unable to walk. Medical help was of no avail. She had to give up all her duties and resign herself to Providence. When physicians assured her that her case was hopeless she decided to have recourse to Blessed John Vianney. Ever since her youth, when she had first heard of his wonderful life, she had taken him as a patron. She now turned to him to obtain from God the restoration of her health and usefulness.

She begged her superiors to allow her to be taken to Ars. At first refused, her persistence finally won out. The journey was most painful. Despite her suffering she insisted on being carried in a chair right to the Curé's tomb in order to join the pilgrims in their devotions. She thus describes her experiences there: "All of a sudden, after an hour's prayer, I felt that I had been cured; I no longer had any pain; I got up full of joy, feeling that the Blessed had taken 20 years off my life. Without help I walked the whole way back to the hotel, my companions crying out beside me, "She is cured; she is cured." From that day on the affliction never returned and she was able to take up her former duties.

The second miracle accepted for the canonization was perhaps even more striking. A certain young lady, Matilda Raugelol, had been from infancy weak and anaemic. At the age of 12 she was taken with pneumonia. Strangely enough this disease left her almost completely deaf and dumb. As a result of an attack of influenza in 1906 she lost the use of her voice altogether. Doctors diagnosed her case as tubercular laryngitis. She was sent to a sanitarium but continually became worse until she was finally advised to prepare for death.

Instead, she decided to make a supreme effort to join a pilgrimage to Lourdes. She was taken to the grotto but it seemed not the will of God that she should be healed there. Far from losing hope, she asked to be allowed to continue with the pilgrims to Ars. Here she attended all the exercises of devotion at the tomb. When the moment of departure came she went for a final visit to venerate the heart of the Blessed in its reliquary. "If you wish you can cure me" she prayed in her heart to the Blessed. "I then kissed the relic. Hardly had I returned to my place when I felt the inspiration to take my hymn book and sing with the pilgrims, something I had been unable to do before. To my great joy sounds came from my throat, and I sang with the others the hymn of the Blessed. From that moment my voice has been perfectly clear and natural. I can now take up work I was never before able to do."

Her doctor gave the following report: Considering the nature of the disease, its sudden cure must be considered as extraordinary and due only to the intervention of the hand of the Almighty.

Litany and Prayer in Honor of Saint John Vianney

(For private devotion)

Lord, have mercy on us.

Christ, have mercy on us.

Lord, have mercy on us.

Christ, hear us.

Christ, graciously hear us.

God the Father of Heaven, have mercy on us.

God, the Son, Redeemer of the world, have mercy on us.

God the Holy Ghost, have mercy on us.

Holy Trinity, one God, have mercy on us.

Holy Mary, Pray for us.

Saint John Marie,

St. J.M., endowed with grace from thine infancy,

St. J. M., model of filial piety,

St. J.M., devoted servant of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

St. J.M., spotless lily of purity,

St. J.M., faithful imitator of the sufferings of Christ,

St. J.M., abyss of humility,

St. J.M., seraphim in prayer,

St. J.M., faithful adorer of the Most Blessed Sacrament,

St. J.M., ardent lover of holy poverty,

St. J.M., tender friend of the poor,

St. J.M., penetrated with the fear of God's judgement,

St. J.M., fortified by Divine visions,

St. J.M., who wast tormented by the evil spirit,

St. J.M., Perfect model of sacerdotal virtue,

St., J.M., firm and prudent pastor,

St. J.M., inflamed by zeal,

St. J.M., faithful attendant on the sick,

St., J.M., indefatigable catechist,

St. J.M., who didst preach in words of fire,

St. J.M, wise director of souls,

St. J.M., specially gifted with the spirit of counsel,

PRAY FOR US

St. J.M., enlightened by light from heaven,
 St. J.M., formidable to Satan,
 St. J.M., compassionate with every misery,
 St. J.M., providence of the orphans,
 St. J.M., favored with the gift of miracles,
 St. J.M., who didst reconcile so many sinners with God,
 St. J.M., who didst taste the sweetness of death,
 St. J.M., who dost now rejoice in the glory of Heaven,
 St. J.M., helpful to all those who invoke thee,
 St. J.M., patron of the clergy,
 Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of the world,
 spare us, O Lord.
 Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world,
 hear us, O Lord.
 Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world,
 Have mercy on us, O Lord.
 Christ hear us. Christ, graciously hear us.
 V. Pray for us, St. John Mary.
 R. That we may be made worth of the promises
 of Christ.

LET US PRAY

Almighty and merciful God, who didst make St. John Mary admirable in his pastoral zeal and in his constant love of penance, grant us the grace, we implore Thee, to win for Christ, by his example and intercession, the souls of our brethren, and to attain with them everlasting glory. --- O, St. John Mary incomparable laborer in the field confided to thee, obtain for the Church the realization of Jesus' desire. The harvest is abundant, but the laborers are few.

Pray to the Master of the harvest to send faithful laborers into His vineyard. O, St. John Mary! Intercede for the clergy. May thy patronage, and thy prayer multiply the real vocations to the priesthood. May the Holy Ghost grant thee emulators; may He give us Saints! Through Christ, our Lord. Amen.

**NOVENA IN HONOR OF
SAINT JOHN BAPTISTE VIANNEY**

FIRST DAY – FAITH

On this first day of the novena we shall consider the faith of this holy man. A lively faith is necessary in order to please God. We believe every word which God has spoken by His Holy Church. We must practice this faith also in works. Faith without works is dead. Without works it would be only an empty assertion that we believe. In a firm unflinching faith Saint Vianney lived and died and became a saint.

PRAYER FOR FAITH

Pour into my soul, O God, through the intercession of Saint Vianney, pastor of Ars, a deep lively heartfelt faith! That faith will be my salvation, as it was the salvation of all the saints who are now in Heaven. Amen.

SECOND DAY – CHRISTIAN HOPE

Consider the blessings of Christian hope. It is a trust in God, in His Providence, a lively, filial, trustful submission to the will of God, knowing that God will ordain things to His greater glory and to our spiritual benefit. What consolation is found in a Christian hope! How sweet it is! We cannot be disappointed if we trust in God, Who cannot deceive. Hope is our spiritual life and the very principle of our active perseverance in it. How dreary is the world without hope! God puts hope into our hearts.

PRAYER FOR HOPE

Give me, O Lord, that hope which raised the spirit of Saint Vianney, that hope which gave him patience in long suffering. He did all with the hope that Thy glory would be enhanced. Infuse into my heart the desire to do good work for Thy sake.

(here say the litany and prayer to St. Vianney)

THIRD DAY – THE LOVE OF GOD

On the third day we shall consider the love of God. We must love God above all things, live in love, continue in love unto the end. Love the Son of God, Jesus Christ, love the Church, the Spouse of our Lord. The love of God will bring us to Heaven. God will give us everything if we love Him. It is so reasonable to love God; in fact man is a fool if he does not love God. It is our religion, our happiness and our supreme blessing. It is our very Heaven, here upon earth. The happiness of Heaven, commenced in this world even imperfectly, will be continued for all eternity, if we persevere to the end.

PRAYER FOR THE LOVE OF GOD

O my God, I love Thee with my whole heart, and above all things because Thou, O God, art the Sovereign Good and for Thine own infinite perfections art most worthy of all love.

(Litany and prayers to St. Vianney)

FOURTH DAY – THE LOVE OF OUR NEIGHBOR

This day will be given to the consideration of the love which we should have for our neighbor. Let us impress the love of our neighbor deeply on our mind. It is so very important. It is second only to the love of God. You cannot do anything pleasing to God unless you do it out of a motive for the love of God or for our neighbor. Those have been the greatest human beings who loved God above all things and their neighbor as themselves.

PRAYER TO OBTAIN THE LOVE OF OUR NEIGHBOR

My dear Jesus, lover of all mankind, teach me to love my neighbor as Thou didst love even thine enemies. Saint Vianney was Thy faithful follower in the practice of this virtue. He loved the souls of men. Let me also imbibe, from a devotion to him, the same love for souls.

(Litany and prayers to St. Vianney)

FIFTH DAY - HUMILITY

The greatest virtue of our blessed saint was humility. Let us try to imitate and understand this virtue. We will find some good souls who never think much of themselves. They want to be always in the background. They do not want to be considered at all. Nevertheless they are always doing good. These are precious in the sight of God.

PRAYER FOR HUMILITY

O sweet and humble Jesus, give me also the precious virtue of humility, which Thou didst give so abundantly to Thy servant Vianney, so that I also may be pleasing in Thy sight and pleasing before man. No virtue is so attractive as humility. Thou, O Lord, exaltest the humble. To be great in Thy sight and approved by Thee is the object of my desire.

(Litany and prayers to St. Vianney)

SIXTH DAY - LOVE OF POVERTY

Love of poverty is an active sincere love. The lack of possessions, the desire not to have any, giving to the poor what we have, or what we do not need, is poverty. Practice self-denial. Save to give to the poor, to build hospitals, orphan asylums, churches. Have Masses said for the poor suffering souls in Purgatory.

PRAYER FOR POVERTY

Thou hast said, O Lord, "Blessed is he who understands the poor." Let me have that knowledge. It is the practical way to show my love for my neighbor in distress. Let me also, like Thyself, be a good Samaritan, doing good and relieving want. Not only should I be poor in spirit, but I must also love to be poor in fact, for the poor are the brethren in Christ.

(Litany and prayers to St. Vianney)

SEVENTH DAY – MORTIFICATION

This day shall be devoted to the virtue of mortification. Put away the comforts of eating and drinking, the extravagance of living, personal luxuries. Live simply and like a poor man. Be simple in dress, but be well dressed. Be abstemious at your table. Especially guard against over-indulgence in drink. Abstemiousness in drink is a very commendable virtue. Deny yourself many things that are unnecessary. Do not yield to all the promptings of the appetite. Be temperate.

PRAYER TO OBTAIN THE GRACE OF MORTIFICATION

Thou hast commanded the mortification of the flesh from the beginning, O Lord. From the beginning, the desires of the flesh have been the bane of a good life. When shall Thy grace, O Lord, inspire me with some degree of that firmness and faithful adherence to Thee. Suffer not my heart to be overcome by that inconstancy which is so natural to it, nor allow my life to be a perpetual succession of evil practices and infidelities. Grant that my heart may be all Thine, at all times and forever. And that by mortification I may merit eternal happiness.

(Litany and prayers to St. Vianney)

EIGHTH DAY – PRAYERS

We must pray all the time. Every act must be a prayer. The spirit of prayer must be in our whole Christian life. We must pray if we want to do anything great in the spiritual life. A life without prayer is a most barren period of time. Prayer is the intimate converse with God. Our Saint was always intimately united to God in prayer. St. Vianney never ceased praying.

PRAYER FOR A TRUE SPIRIT OF DEVOTION

How sweet, O Lord, to breathe only Thy love and to say to Thee with my whole heart: My God and my all! Grant that those words may enter into my soul! do then, impress them upon my mind and my heart so that I may understand and practice them. Let me be devoted to prayer. Make it a delight to converse with Thee. Let me pray for everything I need and before every undertaking, so that with prayer every work may begin and with prayer be happily ended. Thou art my Saviour. May I possess Thee in prayer here on earth and mayest Thou be my portion for all eternity in Heaven.

(Litany and prayers to St. Vianney)

NINTH DAY – DEVOTION TO MARY

On the last day of the novena we must try to learn and begin to cultivate a devotion which appeals to the heart of every Catholic, that is, the devotion to the Mother of God. What is a Catholic life without love of Mary! How dark and dreary is a life without the spiritual consolation of the Communion of the Saints! In short, have a great devotion to Mary. Pray to her with confidence like one that has a right to be heard and a right to address her. Love Mary with the sincerest affection. Let not a day pass without having said a prayer to her. Say your beads every day. Wear the scapular in her honor. Go to Confession and Holy Communion on her feast days. Perform many little acts of religion from the motive of love of the Blessed Virgin.

PRAYER TO MARY

My dear Saviour, Jesus Christ, Son of the Virgin Mary, grant me the grace to love Thy mother. This grace is such a distinction, a grace of salvation, which I must have by all means. Hail holy queen, Mother of Mercy, our life, our sweetness and our hope. To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve. To thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn thou, most gracious advocate, thine eyes of mercy towards us, and after our exile show unto us the fruit of thy blessed womb, O most loving, most pious and sweet virgin Mary. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God, that we may be worthy of the promises of Christ,

(Litany and prayers to St. Vianney)

PRAYER TO SAINT VIANNEY

I thank Thee, my God, for the grace of this novena to Thy holy servant, Vianney. I beg of Thee first that I may learn the singular virtues of this blessed man – his piety, mortification, poverty, love of God and our neighbor. Let me become, in this way, a useful member of the human family. I have, O Lord, prayed to Thy holy servant Vianney, that he may pray for me and my intention. (Here mention the intention.)

Many graces have been known to have been granted to those who have prayed with this spirit. Even miracles have been wrought by Thee, O God, in approval of this devotion. Encouraged by the merits of the life of Saint Vianney, I beg Thee, O Lord, to obtain for me the grace and favor of this novena, through Jesus Christ, our Lord. Amen

Conclusion of the Novena

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This booklet is dedicated:

In memory of Barbara Crumrine
In memory of Carl R. Baldus, Jr.
To the Yates and Jennifer Families
In memory of Michael Anderson
In memory of David Hogge, Sr.



