

GATHERED INSPIRED SENT



CALLED TO SERVE

ORDER OF FRIAR SERVANTS OF MARY
Vocation Newsletter

The weather of the month of March was once described as “in like a lion and out like a lamb.” This year though, this phrase can easily be applied to the present health crisis facing our country and the world. March has been rough. Schools temporarily closed and graduations cancelled. The public celebrations of Holy Mass suspended through Easter and the celebration of the sacraments difficult to come by. Governmental orders to “stay home, stay healthy.” People are concerned for their health and safety given the spread of the COVID-19 virus. Many are scared. March has been an uneasy and an uncertain time - a potentially defining moment in our history. We need to heed the cautions and take the necessary precautions to be safe and stay healthy. This is our civic, moral and faith duty as citizens.

In all that continues to transpire among people and within society during this present situation, there is the spiritual hunger of so many. Devout Christians and nominal believers are searching to connect to God as a means to navigate the uncertainty produced by the crisis. Uneasy feelings are pushing people to find the deeper meaning to life as the health crisis scares us. As Catholics, the deeper meaning of life and the mystery of suffering is made sense through our faith in the Paschal Mystery of Christ. In His life, suffering, death and resurrection, we believers find hope that our questions,

doubts, fears and pain follow Christ's through the Cross to the victory of the Resurrection. In the Paschal Mystery, we experience that faithfulness of God who likewise accompanied Jesus through life, the Cross and to the resurrection. Our faith in Christ reminds us that we are never alone as the Cross is the mystery of God's loving presence in all the moments of our lives. Pope Francis taught us this, yet again, when he recently went on a pilgrimage to two churches in Rome: St. Mary Major and the Servite Church of San Marcello al Corso. On Sunday, March 15, Our Holy Father Pope Francis visited these churches to pray for the end of the COVID-19 virus, the healing of those infected with the virus and for the protection of those giving assistance to the ill. While at San Marcello, the Servite church, the Pope venerated the blessed Miraculous Crucifix.

The Cross is the sign of salvation used by Jesus. The vertical piece of wood of the Cross symbolizes faith. The horizontal piece of wood symbolizes the love of Christ for humanity. The Cross of Jesus sanctifies the personal crosses of us all on which our hope rests. The Holy Cross is the symbol of our faith, our liberation





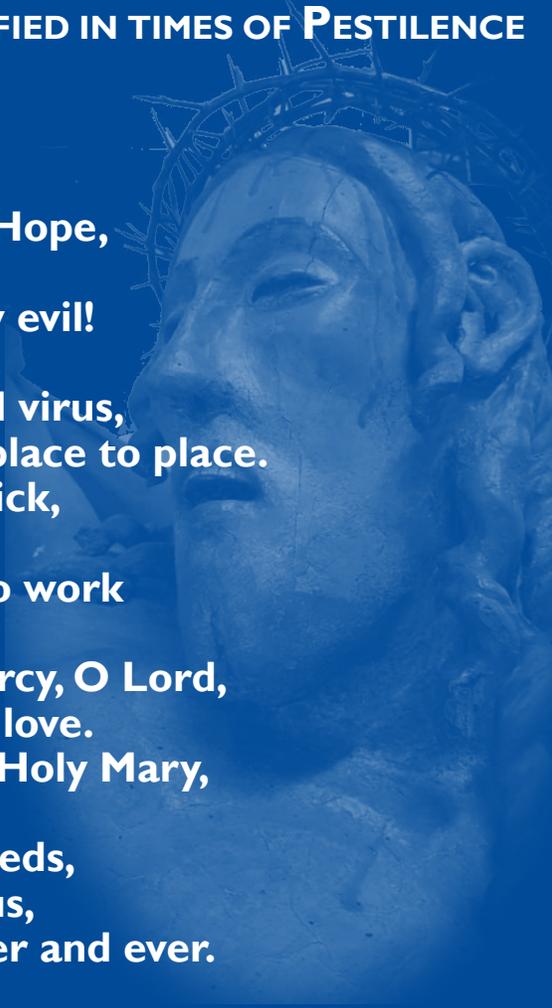
from sin and our salvation and the sign of God's loving presence in all the moments of our lives.

The Miraculous Crucifix displayed in San Marcello has been the object of profound veneration by the faithful of Rome since 1519 when it was miraculously undamaged in a great fire. In 1522, during the great plague, the cross was carried in procession through all quarters of Rome. As the procession made its way through Rome, the plague ended. The miraculous

of Rome after the Diocletian persecution. According to historical sources, Marcello was sentenced to the menial task of a stable hand in the "catabulum" (the horse stables used for the public postal service, located nearby), where he eventually died of consumption. His body, at first buried in the Catacomb of Priscilla, was transported to the church in the 8th century. His remains are now preserved in the antique urn under the high altar of the present church.

PRAYER TO CHRIST CRUCIFIED IN TIMES OF PESTILENCE AND CONTAGION

Dear Lord Jesus, Savior of the World, our secure and unfailing Hope, have mercy on us and deliver us from every evil! We beg you to overcome the scourge of this fearful virus, which is spreading from place to place. We beg you to heal the sick, to protect the healthy and to support those who work for the healthcare of all. Show us your Face of mercy, O Lord, and save us in your great love. With the intercession of Holy Mary, your Mother and ours, ever close to us in our needs, we ask you this, Lord Jesus, who live and reign for ever and ever. Amen.



Vocation Directors

Fr Donald Siple, OSM
donaldsiple@servitesusa.org

Mr Eddie Murphy
vocations@servitesusa.org

follow



image is carried in solemn procession to the Vatican Basilica during Holy Years where it is displayed for the veneration of the faithful. The Crucifix of San Marcello continues to be an object of great devotion for the Christian faithful.

The church of San Marcello was entrusted to the Order of Friar Servants of Mary (Servites) in 1369 and is the site of the General Curia of the Order. The church is dedicated to Saint Pope Marcello (308-309). This pontiff is noted for the reorganization of the Christian community

As we all find ways to spiritually move through this present situation with the COVID-19 virus, we Servites offer the following to the Christ of the Miraculous Crucifix. We pray that this prayer brings you hope and peace in this difficult time.

We Servites are praying for you. Please stay and be well.

Called to Serve, #31

© 2020

ORDER OF FRIAR SERVANTS OF MARY