



# Friends of ST. PEREGRINE

THE NATIONAL SHRINE OF ST. PEREGRINE NEWSLETTER • FALL 2020

[www.servite.org](http://www.servite.org)

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## Dear Friends of St. Peregrine,

May God's healing strength and safety be showered upon you.

I pray for your good health and wellbeing, especially through this time of the coronavirus epidemic and the great forest fires on the West Coast. This is a very isolating and stressful time for all of us. My hope and prayers of the Holy Spirit are for all of us, especially the doctors and scientists who are striving to find a vaccine to be successful soon and very soon. We pray for all caregivers and patients who have the coronavirus. We pray for all the first responders to be safe too.

As we hear in St. John's letter from the New Testament... "Beloved, you do faithfully whatever you do for the friends, even though they are strangers to you; they have testified to your love before the church... Therefore we ought to support such people, so that we may become co-workers with the truth." (3 Jn. 1:5, 6 and 8)

Questions to ponder: How do we visibly show that we do pray for God's people and creation, for all to go well for one another? When have we treated strangers as friends and what was the result? How can we become prayer partners with wanting God's healing blessing to help decrease one another's fears and worries?



**Action Task:** Tell others that you are praying for their wellness. Find ways that you can support the healing of strangers. Start a prayer phone line as a St. Peregrine support group in your church or community.

I recently met Jeff, who is sight limited, and who with his helpers, makes sandwiches on Wednesdays and Saturdays to feed the homeless on Michigan Ave in Chicago, IL. They also take the time to listen to others' stories of how the homeless need support. Healing of mind, body, spirit and soul is needed in many ways and answered through prayer.

Depression today is a very serious illness along with cancer and other maladies. We ask God for healing of our mind, body, spirit and soul. A young mother with a baby was very depressed because she had lost her job and her husband walked out on the family. Then God helped her and made a blessed connection through her prayers.

An eleven year old boy took on the job of selling lemonade this summer and earned over \$3,000. He heard about this young mother's plight at his church. With his family, he went out and bought this young woman disposable diapers and other essentials for her baby boy. She shared many of the diapers and other baby products with other mothers at the shelter, too. Jesus said that the gift you receive; give as a gift to others. That is a corporal work of mercy. What a thoughtful kindness from this young man and family to serve others in their need. That is what St. Peregrine, OSM would have done when others came to the

door of the monastery and begged for help and prayers of healing. We need to be a "peregrine" like this eleven year old boy.

May we be observant and kind to the needs of others for that is our God-given purpose. We share our "God-stories" with others instead of the bad news of negativity and criticism. We strive to build up each other with affirmation. We do it here at the National Shrine of St. Peregrine on Wednesday mornings by playing comforting music and having an art class of coloring black and white pages, like we did in grade school. My four adult students tell me how wonderful it is to take the hour, to listen to the Gregorian chant music and share "God -stories" with one another. That's being a "peregrine" for others to overcome depression, fears, stress and to enhance the quality of our lives. We help one another find joy and beauty in the small things of life.

Write to me on how you and your family have a positive plan to pray and help others in your community. Tell me your God-stories too. Email me at [chriskrymski@aol.com](mailto:chriskrymski@aol.com).

God bless you, your family, friends, first responders and caregivers,

**Fr. Chris Krymski, OSM**

Director of the National Shrine of St. Peregrine, Chicago, IL

### **St. Peregrine Ministry Mission Statement**

**With Mary at the foot of the Cross of her suffering Son, Jesus, We, Servants of Mary, promote and sustain the St. Peregrine ministry of healing and compassion.**

**Through our ministries of prayer, blessing, pilgrimage, reconciliation and evangelization, we accompany caregivers and those persons who live with serious illness, especially cancer, as they seek to find healing, support, peace and God in their daily lives.**

**Newsletter of the National Shrine of St. Peregrine  
Our Lady of Sorrows Basilica  
3121 W Jackson Blvd  
Chicago IL 60612-2729  
Fr. Christopher Krymski, OSM, Director**

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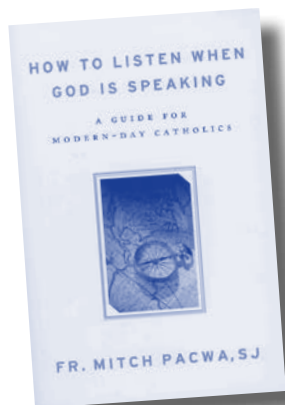
### **St. Peregrine Prayer**

Gracious God, you are our Creator and teacher today. You give us many opportunities to learn about you in the needs of others. You help us to see beyond our maladies and defects in order to serve you in the greater good of being a "peregrine" for someone else. Thank you, O Precious Lord Jesus and Mother Mary for being there for us. May we be companions together through those lonely, isolating hours. Thank you for listening to our prayers; helping us in big ways and small ways. Thank you for that Divine Love and Holy Spirit to face our challenges together and know your strength is there as our blessing. Amen.

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## Book Review:

*“How to Listen When God is Speaking” by Fr. Mitch Pacwa, S.J.*



Fr. Mitch Pacwa, SJ, is a host on EWTN Catholic TV. He is a biblical scholar specializing in the writing of St. Paul. He has authored another book called *St. Paul: a Study for Catholics*.

His book on listening when God is speaking to you is very helpful on the needed skill of hearing God’s voice above all our fears and distracting noises of our materialistic society. He is concise and down to earth in helping others come closer to God through the scriptures.

I personally like Chapter 8, “Listening to God in Difficult Times: Seeing the Big Picture.” The following is an excerpt:

*“Being prayerful in difficult situations does not always take the pain away or resolve the situation...being prayerful does not mean that you or your loved ones will never get sick...I also thank God that I live at a time when such diseases (like rheumatoid arthritis) can be treated; had I contracted it fifty years earlier, I would have become an invalid” (pgs. 149, 150, 151).*

The book is published by The Word Among Us Press. I really enjoy my copy and I know that you will too.

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## Glory to God Stories...

For the past 3½ years my friend and I have tried to come to the Basilica each month on the third Saturday for the Healing Mass and blessing with St. Peregrine’s relic. However, because of the COVID restrictions this year, our last visit to Our

Lady’s beautiful Basilica was in February 2020. Oh my, how we long for those regular monthly visits once again!

At the beginning of the New Year, 2016, I was diagnosed with Stage IB cervical cancer and began radiation and chemotherapy treatments. At the urging of a brother-in-law, we visited the Basilica in June when the treatments were over. Through the powerful intercession of Our Lady of Sorrows and St. Peregrine, all the saints in heaven who prayed, all the saints on earth who prayed, and by God’s grace working through the hearts, minds, and hands of all the doctors and staff at the NW Cancer Center in Warrenville, Central DuPage Hospital, Delnor Hospital, Kishwaukee Hospital, and the DeKalb Clinic, I was healed. In gratitude, we began our monthly visits to the Basilica on the third Saturday until the churches were closed to us.

Stepping into Our Lady of Sorrows Basilica has been like stepping into the vestibule of heaven. My prayer now is, if it pleases the Lord, that we will be able to go back to the Basilica one day where we can again touch the Pieta, kneel at Our Lady’s altar and write messages in her book, light a beautiful blue candle, visit all the shrines, kneel



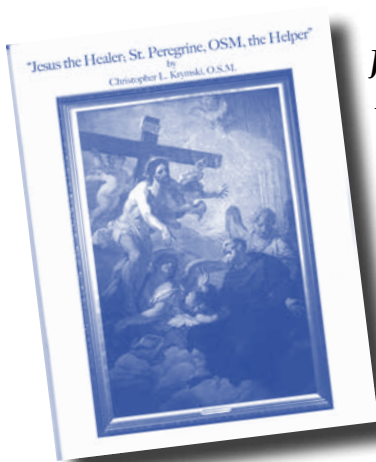
again at St. Joseph’s altar and feel the warmth of his purity and protection, stand before the relic of St. Peregrine, speaking directly to him and write the names entrusted to me in his book of intentions. We will be able to participate in Mass along with



Fr. Chris, various members of the parish family, and other pilgrims seeking healing.

Now, praying for the health, well-being and safety of you, Fr. Chris, the other Servites, and Our Lady's whole parish family, who have all been so appropriately entrusted with the care of that beautiful Basilica, I remain eternally grateful. Please pray with me that these days of isolation and violence will soon be over and we can come together again loving God and one another in the fashion He intended – unrestricted, wholly open, embracing one another, giving the kiss of peace, blessing and laying hands on the sick.

Sincerely, Pat F



**Jesus the Healer; St. Peregrine, OSM the Helper**

by Fr. Chris Krymski, OSM, is available for purchase.

The cost is \$10 a copy and \$3 for shipping and handling. Copies are available from

the St. Peregrine Ministry, Our Lady of Sorrows Basilica, 3121 West Jackson Blvd. Chicago, IL. 60612.

At the National Shrine of St. Peregrine (Our Lady of Sorrows Basilica in Chicago), a healing Mass and blessing with the relic of St. Peregrine is celebrated at 11:00am on the third Saturday of the month. There is a healing Mass and blessing in Spanish on the second Saturday of each month, also at 11:00am.

Your donation will help us to continue the good works of our Ministry Office in publishing and distributing this newsletter free of charge to parishes, hospitals and prayer centers across the country. Please help us spread the good word that others are praying for those with serious illness. Thank you and God bless!

**Thank you, St. Peregrine**  
**-notes received at the National Shrine of St. Peregrine**

*Dear St. Peregrine and Mother of Sorrows, Thank you for being our mentors in prayer. Please ask God for strength from all our stress and worries in my family at this time. We are drained and tired from using up all of our emotional energy because of cancer. Thank you for listening. Amen.*

*St. Peregrine, Thank you for praying for me and my family, here and abroad. I want to remember all God's people who have lost a loved one through serious illness. May our hearts be healed with God's love.*

*Thank you Blessed Mother Mary and St. Peregrine, for all your intercessions with God. I appreciate the healing and now I am in remission. I pray for my family and all people with this coronavirus. May God bless us with a vaccine soon.*



**Send prayer petitions for yourself, your friends, family and loved ones to our website: [www.servite.org](http://www.servite.org).**