



Friends of ST. PEREGRINE

THE NATIONAL SHRINE OF ST. PEREGRINE NEWSLETTER • WINTER/SPRING 2021

www.servite.org

prayerpartner@stperegrine.org

Dear Friends of St. Peregrine, OSM,

May God bless our New Year, "2021" with healing strength.

As we have entered a New Year, our St. Peregrine ministry will also be taking on a new look. We welcome Fr. John Fontana, OSM, to join us as a St. Peregrine, OSM minister. Fr. John is a Servite and spiritual director, who has had many years of experience in helping people through illness and grief, with the hope that they will come to know God's compassionate presence all along the way. Fr. John will be part of our developing ministry to you, and will contribute to our newsletter.

Beginning with the next Spring/Summer edition, the newsletter will have a new name, format and logo. Please be ready to welcome the updated version!

I received a wonderful note from a cancer patient in remission, who also has had many back surgeries due to scoliosis. She finds it difficult to pray because of all the pain and her health limitations. She needs to use a walker to get around. But she has not given up on her neighbors as she knits prayer shawls for cancer patients and sends greeting cards out to parish members in the parish ministry for the sick. Now she prays for peace and acceptance for whatever God wants. She thanks all of us for our prayers for her, too.

As we hear in St. Luke's Gospel story (Lk. 5:18-20; 24-26), "Just then some men came, carrying a paralyzed man on a bed. They were trying to bring him in and lay him before Jesus; but finding no way to bring him in because of the crowd, they went up on the roof and let him down with his bed through the tiles into the middle of the crowd in front of Jesus. When Jesus saw their faith, he said, 'Friend, your sins are forgiven you...I say to you, stand up and take your bed and go home.' Amazement seized all of them and they glorified God and were filled with awe."



Questions to ponder: How do we visibly show that we do pray for God's people and creation, for all to go well? When have we treated strangers as

neighbors and what was the result? How can we become prayer partners with others, to ask God's healing blessing to help decrease one another's fears, stress and pain?

Action Task: Tell others that you are praying for their wellness. Become part of the St. Peregrine Prayer Partners and pray daily for others with serious illnesses. You can enroll as a Prayer Partner by writing to me.

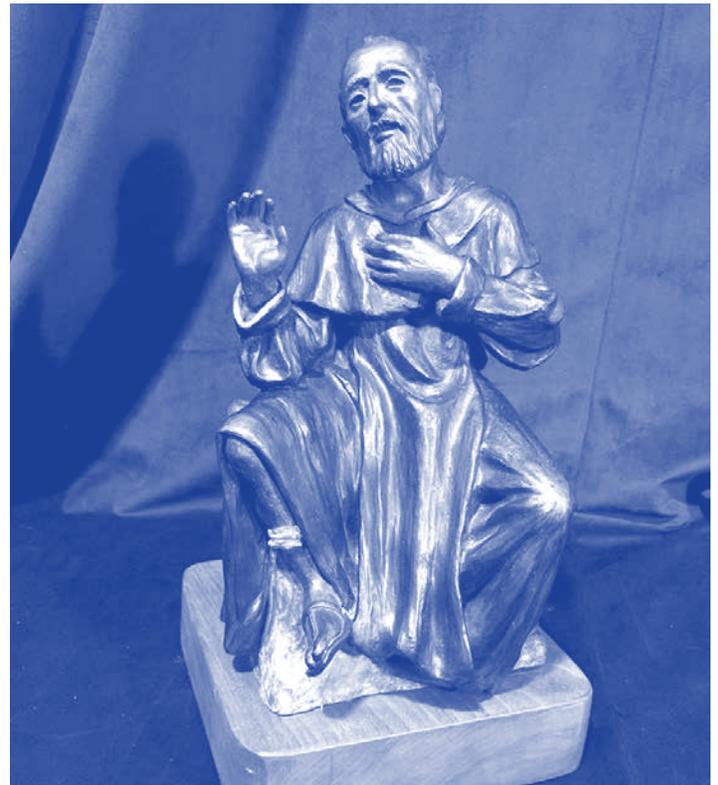
Thank you for taking the time to write me on how you and your family have a positive plan to pray for the healing of others in your community. Also tell me your God-stories of faith that gets you through rough times, too. Email me at chriskrymski@aol.com.

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

Fr. Chris Krymski, OSM
St. Peregrine, OSM Minister

St. Peregrine Prayer

O God, thank you for all the times that you inspire us with helpful neighbors. They are our faith support group. Like St. Peregrine, OSM, going to Christ's Cross. His support in praying for others was in the circle of Mother Mary, Jesus on the Cross, the Beloved Disciple John and his very self. May we join that support group every time that we pray for others and ourselves. We ask for this grace in the Name of Jesus Christ, now and forever.



The statue of St. Peregrine above has been placed in the reception area of Mt. Olivet Cemetery, Denver, CO, at the recommendation of Fr. Hugh Guentner, OSM. The bronze image by artist Lynn Kircher is a scaled-down version of the life-sized statue at the Church of the Magdalene in Wichita, KS. Fr. Guentner blessed the image at a Mass on January 21, 2021.

St. Peregrine Ministry Mission Statement

Inspired by Mary at the foot of the Cross, and by our brother friar St. Peregrine, OSM, patron saint of those living with cancer, we Servites accompany and support persons who suffer from serious illness, especially cancer, along with their loved ones and caregivers. We offer our faith, compassion and prayerful intercession, that they may experience hope, peace and the healing presence of God in their lives.

The National Shrine of St. Peregrine
Our Lady of Sorrows Basilica
3121 W Jackson Blvd
Chicago IL 60612-2729

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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.

Never Alone – A Community of Support

It has been nearly an entire year since the Covid 19 pandemic began. Every person, family and relationship, in some small or large way, has been affected by this virus. One of its many challenging consequences has been the isolation of persons in quarantine, whether because of their illness, or as a way to avoid potentially dangerous contact with the virus. It has been difficult and sad, for many, to have cancelled travel plans and to have limited our celebrations, in-person or virtual, during this past Christmas season, when family and friends typically get together to enjoy the company of our loved ones.

As I look back on these last few months, however, I have given some thought and reflection to the deeper meaning of that Feast, and to the importance and value of our loving relationships. Even weeks after the celebration of Jesus' birth, I continue to be amazed at what God actually did for us in Jesus. He didn't have to share our suffering and pain, but lovingly chose to experience all of the ups and downs of our humanity, and so is truly "with us" in our illness, hurt and suffering, as well as in our joy and hope and laughter. Jesus knows what it feels like to be isolated, alone, wounded, even abandoned. However, having been raised from death to new life, He assures us that we are never really alone, even when we may feel as if we are. Sometimes, we know His presence best through others who care about us, and care for us, a community of compassion.

Just as Jesus called together an initial family of disciples, he continues to call an ever-widening circle of loving persons, whose mission, in part, is to assure that nobody has to suffer alone, or face their hurts by themselves. The Servite Order, which was founded by seven persons, not just one (celebrated in February), exemplifies that communal aspect of Jesus' mission, and the importance of relationship, which is truly at the heart of the whole spiritual life. Pope Francis highlighted this truth in his recent encyclical, *Fratelli tutti*. In the middle of

this pandemic, he writes, "we realized that no one is saved alone; we can only be saved together." The Gospel quoted by Fr Chris earlier is a great example of community collaboration!

Each of you who have been receiving this newsletter is related, in some way, to the Servite community. You are part of the ever-growing Servite family around the world. You have

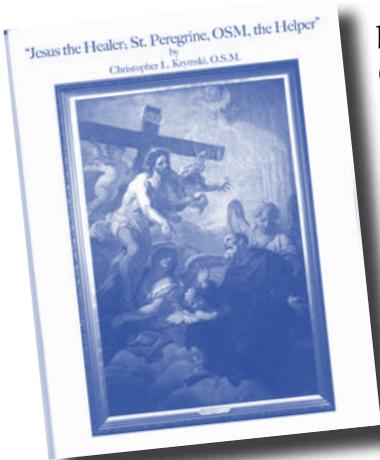


also come to know one particular person in our family ancestry, St Peregrine Laziosi, OSM, as a companion of all who suffer, and an especially good one because of his own illness, his trust in a healing God, and his ongoing intercession on our behalf. As alone as he himself might have felt that night before he was to have his leg amputated, his prayerful gaze was on a fresco of the crucified Christ, in which Jesus is not portrayed alone as he died, but is accompanied by Mary, his Mother and St John.

As a religious community, and extended Servite family, we also value the “community/family” of those who live with cancer and other serious illness, in the belief that nobody should suffer and deal with challenging illness alone. The pandemic has only intensified our desire to join your families, friends and caregivers as companions, to offer our faith, compassion and prayer, as support and encouragement for you, that you might experience hope, peace and healing. I am personally happy to join the Servite St Peregrine, OSM Ministry, and – along with Fr Chris - I look forward to ongoing communication with you, not only in the new format for our future newsletters, but also in some new forms of dialogue with one another, which we will be initiating in the coming months. Let us face our compassionate God, as we face cancer and illness...together, as community, and never alone.

**Fr John Fontana, OSM
St Peregrine, OSM Minister**

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.

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!

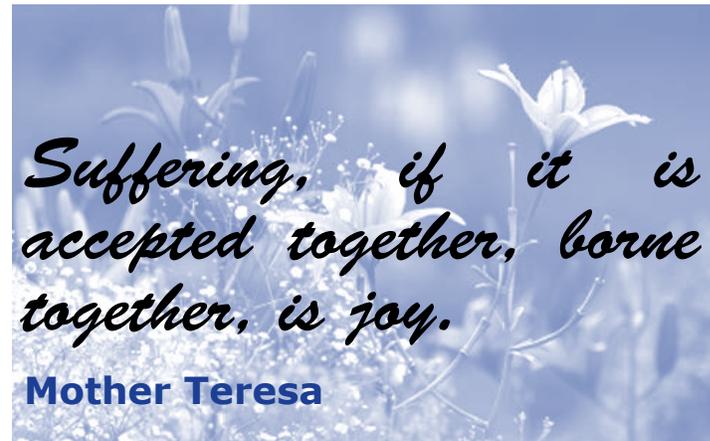
Thank you, St. Peregrine
-notes received at the National Shrine of St. Peregrine

“Praise God and thank you, St. Peregrine for your prayers and support as you walk with me through my cancer.

Dear St. Peregrine,
I ask for help for my wife and family as I am trying to heal from my coronavirus. It’s been a long road and I pray for others who suffer from this virus as well. Thank you for listening St. Peregrine, Peace.

St. Peregrine,
I ask God for the strength to get through one day at a time with my illness. It is difficult and I thank God for wonderful caregivers in my family and medical staff. Thank you God for blessing me.

Thank you, St. Peregrine,
for being my intercession with God. He hears all of our prayers as I trust God with all my heart. Jesus, we trust in you. Jesus, we trust in you. May God and all our spiritual family help us through these days of virus and serious illnesses. Thank you God for your blessings.



Send prayer petitions for yourself, your friends, family and loved ones to our website: www.servite.org/st-peregrine