

COMPASSIONATE COMPANIONS

St Peregrine Ministry News
Vol 1 No 1



LET'S START WITH HOPE

Welcome to the first edition of **Compassionate Companions**, published by the Servants of Mary (Servites), whose brother, St Peregrine Laziosi, OSM, is the patron saint of those who live with cancer and other serious illness. We accompany persons who are ill, along with their loved ones and caregivers, with the desire that they/you will find hope, peace and healing. Let's start, now and always, with hope.

Hope is not the same as optimism, wishful thinking, or guarantee of a successful outcome. It is not dependent on the ups and downs of world news, medical diagnoses or our personal conditions. We can feel angry and depressed, with eyes filled with tears, and still have hope. For hope is nothing that we ourselves do, but is a gift given, like grace, not despite our circumstances, but precisely because of circumstances which tempt us to lose hope. That's when the gift can be so welcome. Where things look bleak, that's where hope lives! The poet writes that hope is like the bird that sings while it is still dark out. A fragile candle flame is most visible in darkness. Hope looks at the facts, looks at God's promise to be faithful, and then, without denying the facts, lives out a vision of life based upon

God's loving promise. We trust it, because God has delivered on that promise, in Jesus, and in our lives, too. Is it not true that our gratitude for many blessings in the past can strengthen our trust for the future? It also helps to be attentive to the little graces in the present!

A dear friend of mine watched her husband suffer greatly for months, and then die of cancer-related complications. Though she desired a miraculous cure, she started with hope, and asked herself what else she might be hopeful about. Her hope came when she was attentive to each moment of living, for example, when: noticing the sun helped her to get up to face another challenging day; her very weak husband called her an angel; his nurse listened kindly; she was assured that God is with her by a Verizon lady in India! Another dear friend whose health has been challenged asked herself, "Will I, in my illness, just sit in a negative place of misery, or can I be at peace by knowing the love of God?" During my own radiation treatments for cancer this past year, I found hope in and through the

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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.

love, prayer and support of family, friends, community and others who simply let me know they were “with me,” that they cared, that I was not alone.

The recent feast of Christmas celebrates the truth that we are never alone and that God is truly ‘with us,’ in our very flesh, with its weakness, vulnerability, sickness, and even death. Whatever else may be going on in my body, my very center and essence is the divine spark, God’s Spirit, within me. The final outcome

*Hope looks at
God’s Promise
to be faithful...*

of my illness, and my life, is up to God. The rest is all about the journey, and the ever-deepening discovery that Jesus journeys with us, as the Crucified One who still suffers with us, and as the Risen One who is the ultimate reason for our hope.

Jesus is also present to us within the community. When any of us are really sick, and struggle to feel hopeful, we can rely on the people who love us to carry that hope for us. It’s something we do together. At times, our hope may also be directed beyond our own healing,

and toward greater peace, the reconciliation of a relationship, or those who suffer because of injustice. We Servites who are involved in St Peregrine ministry also hope to build a community of compassion, prayer and shared stories with you. Knowing that we are not alone can comfort us and help us all to keep the flame of hope alive. So we pray that you who read this may become part of a growing network of people who support one another. Please visit www.servite.org/st-peregrine/ to join our communal network of Prayer Partners. May we trust that we can live and die knowing that our God is molding us in love and holding us in tenderness, so that even when we feel afraid or alone, we do not have to wait until we have worked through the worst of sorrow, anger, or fear before we are ready to be hopeful. No, let’s start with hope!

- Fr. John Fontana, OSM



“Praise God”

Dear Friends of St. Peregrine, OSM,

Praise be God for taking care of all persons with serious illness of mind, body, spirit and soul. I see that through the intercession of St. Peregrine, OSM and hear peoples stories of hope, trust and confidence in God’s help. My friend Greg always reminds me...“Jesus we trust in you; Jesus, we trust in you.” I bless the whole congregation every Sunday with the relic of St. Peregrine as we remember in our mind and heart, those names of people, who have cancer or a serious illness. We stand in proxy for them to receive God’s healing strength.

Recently, Deacon James Norman and I gave a wonderful retreat on “Taking Care of Your Mind, Body, Spirit and Soul” to 45 Knights of Columbus who came to the National Shrine of St. Peregrine here at Our Lady of Sorrows Basilica. It was based on the stories of St. Peregrine, who converted as a teenager back to the Church to serve God and God’s people as a Servite Brother.

Here is a note from Evelyn about receiving hope and blessing for her dear friend Connie...

“My friend Connie gifted me with one of your books on healing. For a long time since Connie’s diagnosis, I prayed to our Lord through the intercession of St. Peregrine, regardless of where I saw his image, for Connie’s healing. By God’s grace, she has recovered. Her resilience and faith carried her well.

During her treatment days, Connie related to me about the healing masses she attended at the National Shrine and that she had met you and read your art and prayer book on St. Peregrine, OSM.

*After several months (over a year); my prayers have turned to thanksgiving for the blessings that she received. In faith and gratitude,
Evelyn*

Please send me your notes of thanksgiving and stories of how

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Our Lady of Sorrows Basilica
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www.servite.org/st-peregrine/
www.facebook.com/TheCancerSaint

PRAYER

Loving and caring God, you have repeatedly shown us your faithful love and have blessed us in so many ways. Please help our trust in You to grow. For we sometimes struggle with health and other life issues, and are tempted to let fear, stress and anxiety lessen our hope in your healing plan for us. May our hope not depend on our desired outcome, for you, God, are our hope, and your promise to be with us gives us hope. We also pray in gratitude for healthcare workers and first responders, and for our families, friends, and church, who provide energy, hope and companionship along the way. We pray this together as a community of faith, and through the intercession of Jesus, Blessed Mary and Saint Peregrine. Amen.

ORACIÓN

Dios amoroso y bondadoso, nos has mostrado repetidamente tu amor fiel y nos has bendecido de muchas maneras. Por favor, ayuda a que crezca nuestra confianza en Ti. Porque a veces luchamos con la salud y otros problemas de la vida, y somos tentados a dejar que el miedo, el estrés y la ansiedad disminuyan nuestra esperanza en tu plan de sanación para nosotros. Que nuestra esperanza no dependa de nuestro resultado deseado, porque tú, Dios, eres nuestra esperanza, y tu promesa de estar con nosotros nos da esperanza. También oramos en agradecimiento por los trabajadores de la salud y los primeros respondedores, y por nuestras familias, amigos e iglesia, quienes brindan energía, esperanza y acompañamiento en el camino. Lo pedimos juntos como comunidad de fe y por la intercesión de Jesús, María Santísima y San Peregrino. Amén.

your hope, faith and prayers to God, through St. Peregrine's intercession are helping you to experience a healthier mind, body, spirit and soul.

God bless you, your family, friends and caregivers,

- Fr. Chris Krymski, OSM

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 visit www.servite.org/product/give-now/ to help us spread the good word that others are praying for those with serious illness. Thank you !

Rejoice in hope, be patient in tribulation, be constant in prayer

Prayer to Christ Crucified in Time of Pandemic 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.*

Thank you St Peregrine

- Dear St. Peregrine, thank you for your help as my test results came-in clear of any cancer. Thank you, Jesus, Mother Mary and all the angels and saints!
- Dear St. Peregrine, thank you for all the blessings and strength that God gives to us through your prayers. I am requesting peace and continued good health for my family and friends, Amen.
- Thank you, Lord for all my graces, blessings and mercy. Thank you, St. Peregrine, for my family and friends. I hope and pray that they remain free and safe from that Covid virus and any other dangers, Amen.
- Thank you, good St. Peregrine for always being a beacon of hope for me and my family. I pray for all people who have cancer and other concerns. May God's healing grace shine upon them always.



For prayerful reflection

Scripture to ponder: Jeremiah 29:11 - “I know the plans I have for you, says the Lord, plans of fullness, not of harm, to give you a future and a hope.”

A question to ponder: When and where have I noticed, in the past year, God’s presence and action in my life? Within me? Through others? In nature, Scripture, and even in illness? How do these memories help me to grow in hopefulness? Who or what else gives me hope or helps me to be hopeful?

An action to consider: Choose to spend time with, call or write someone who is dealing with illness, and may be struggling to remain hopeful, simply to be with them and to listen as a compassionate companion.

Para la reflexión en oración

Texto bíblico para reflexionar: Jeremías 29:11 - “Porque yo sé muy bien lo que haré por ustedes, dice el Señor, les quiero dar paz y no desgracia y un porvenir lleno de esperanza”.

Una pregunta para reflexionar: ¿Cuándo y dónde he notado, en el último año, la presencia y la acción de Dios en mi vida? ¿Conmigo? ¿A través de los demás? ¿En la naturaleza, las Escrituras e incluso en la enfermedad? ¿Cómo me ayudan estos recuerdos a crecer en la esperanza? ¿Quién o qué más me da esperanza o me ayuda a tener esperanza?

Una acción para considerar: Decidir llamar, O escribir o pasar tiempo con alguien que esté lidiando con una enfermedad y que esté luchando por mantener la esperanza, para así simplemente acompañarlos y escucharlos con compasión.

St. Peregrine Ministry is:

Companionship & Support, with Faith, Compassion & Prayer toward Hope, Peace & Healing

A healing Mass, and blessing with the relic of St. Peregrine, is celebrated monthly at the National Shrine of St. Peregrine (in Our Lady of Sorrows Basilica, 3121 W Jackson Blvd, Chicago). The Mass is celebrated in English at 11AM on the third Saturday of each month, and in Spanish at 11AM on the second Saturday each month. All are invited. Please visit and subscribe to our YouTube channel “Servite St. Peregrine Healing Ministry.”

El Ministerio de San Peregrino es:
Acompañamiento y Apoyo, con Fe, Compasión y Oración hacia la Esperanza, la Paz y la Sanación.

Mensualmente se celebra una Misa de sanación y una bendición con la reliquia de San Peregrino en el Santuario Nacional de San Peregrino (en la Basílica de Nuestra Señora de los Dolores, 3121 W Jackson Blvd, Chicago). La Misa se celebra en español a las 11 am el segundo sábado de cada mes, y en inglés a las 11 am el tercer sábado de cada mes. Todos están invitados. Por favor visite y suscríbese a nuestro canal de YouTube “Servite St. Peregrine Healing Ministry.”

