

PRAYER OF CHRISTIAN PARENTS

FOR THE FAITH

OF THEIR CHILDREN

Father and Lord of us all, source of all families, we come to you as a married Christian couple. As husband and wife we form together a married community thanks to the Spirit poured into our hearts by the sacrament of matrimony. In accordance with your call we sense ourselves to be givers of life. In our prayer together we beseech you, our God, that our Christian faith may direct the whole of our lives, as individuals and as a family.

With your blessing we have given our children human life. Our vocation asks us to work with your grace and so bring them to eternal life. As we have received them from you as a precious gift, we trust that you will bestow on us all that we need to make them your children. Only then will we become parents in the fullest sense and happy with our vocation as spouse and parent.

- To aid us we have chosen St. Monica as patroness and model. She achieved happiness by giving herself wholeheartedly to her husband and looking after her children, especially St. Augustine. St. Monica persevered in constant prayer for her loved ones until they were completely yours. Like her, we also present our petitions and offer to you, in sincere communion of faith and sentiment this prayer: **Help us, Father and Lord of us all!**
- That we may always look to the Holy Family as the model for our homes and imitate their homely virtues: **Help us, Father and Lord of us all!**
- That throughout our lives we may know how to cooperate, responsibly and with love, in the bringing to birth and the bringing up of our children. **Help us, Father and Lord of us all!**
- That we may be docile to the working of the Holy Spirit poured out on our children in baptism; and that we may help them to grow healthy in mind and body, becoming our joy and happiness: **Help us, Father and Lord of us all!**

- That our children may live in happiness in the midst of a home that is filled with faith and tenderness; a home we try, sustained by the Spirit, to build day by day: **Help us, Father and Lord of us all!**
- That we may both actively cooperate in their preparation for first communion and guide them towards the confirmation of their personal and adult faith: **Help us, Father and Lord of us all!**
- That we may enable our children to appreciate the sacraments of penance and communion and together with us live the faith and celebrate Sundays and Holy days: **Help us, Father and Lord of us all!**
- That, like St. Monica, we may treat our children well; and if we need to correct them to do so with serenity, authority and love: **Help us, Father and Lord of us all!**
- That if the seed of a religious or priestly vocation begins to grow in one of our sons or daughters we would cooperate with you to strengthen it and be grateful for it: **Help us, Father and Lord of us all!**
- That if one of our children should doubt the faith or leave it we would have the wisdom to surround them with advice and prayer: **Help us, Father and Lord of us all!**
- That we would be able to give our children and grandchildren example in the arduous task of building true Christian homes: **Help us, Father and Lord of us all!**
- That in our dealing with other parents we may be able to enkindle in them a concern for the spiritual future and wellbeing of their children and bring them closer to the Church. **Help us, Father and Lord of us all!**

A mother's prayer for the faith of her children

Oh Lord we are Christian mothers. With your creative grace we have brought our children into the world. Yet we know that our task does not stop there. We also desire to work with you and so bring them to eternal life. For this we now raise our hearts

and hands to you in prayer, assisted by the intercession of St, Monica, whose tears and prayers brought about the conversion of her son Augustine to Christ and offer you these our humble petitions:

The response to the petitions is:

Lord, Through St. Monica, Help Us By Your Grace

- That like St. Monica we may have the grace and the wisdom to guide our children to you through the way we love and live our faith in you each passing day: Response
- That we be the best of mothers sowing the seeds of the true faith in our children, defending them and strengthening them always: Response
- That like St. Monica, we will have patience in our dealings with our children and do everything with serenity, authority and love: Response
- That we will be attentive to the ways our children's character is formed and to the different influences that mould them as they grow older: Response
- That we might in such a way hand on our faith that our children will want to live by it, defend it and hand it on to others: Response
- That should the Lord sow in the heart of any of our children a calling to the priesthood or the religious life we would become the most generous of supporters: Response
- That together with a love of the faith we might instill in our children a love for their local parish: Response
- That should any of our children ever doubt or abandon the practice of the faith; or find themselves in trouble, we would never stop embracing them with our love, our understanding and our advice

until, through God's mercy, they find peace and welcome in God's arms: Response

- That in our contact with other mothers we might awaken in them this concern and prayer for their own children: Response

Oh most Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of Consolation, you who consoled St. Monica by giving her the immense happiness of seeing God's grace work in the heart and mind of her son Augustine: Be now our consolation. Give us also the joy of seeing our children, steadfast in the faith that was one day sown in their hearts and souls.

And if for whatever reason a son or daughter were to go astray, give us that happiness of seeing them return to you and the faith, so that with sure confidence we can fulfill our calling as Christian mothers.

Lord, grant that by imitating St. Monica, we may learn to live our faith with sincerity and gentleness. And that like St. Monica we can so touch the faith of our children that we may all one day share the immense joy of contemplating them in your glory for all eternity.