

THE COUPLE THAT PRAYS TOGETHER STAYS TOGETHER.

Johnny Doherty, C.Ss.R.

November 1st – 7th All Saints

Jesus said to his disciples and to the crowd: “How happy are the poor in spirit; theirs is the kingdom of heaven.” The Beatitudes are given to us as the way of life for all Christians and for anyone who wants to live life to the full. To be poor in spirit does not mean that we think that we are no good. At times this is how it is passed on to us. It does mean to be in touch with the wonders of who we are, how good we are, but to know that all of that is gift, not possession. We have so much and yet we either take it for granted or we are only aware of what we don’t have. This week is a call to be in touch with our richness and be filled with gratitude and gladness. How important this is for every married couple if they are to live their marriage fully. It is also very important for families to rejoice in each other. And our faith community is so full of the goodness of people and richness of Christ. To be a saint is to be a person of gratitude.

Morning Prayer, when together

Father, all powerful and ever living God,
Today we rejoice in the holy women and men
of every time and place.
May their prayers bring us your forgiveness and love.
We ask this through Christ our Lord.

During the day, when apart

Lord, receive the gift of our married love
as a sign of our commitment to holiness.
May we always be aware of your concern
to help us and save us.
We ask this through Christ Our Lord.

Evening/Night Prayer together

Father, we praise your glory reflected in the saints.
May we be filled with your love
and be prepared for the joys of your kingdom.
We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Questions for Action for the week

**For your marriage: Do you use the gift of touch in your general communication?
How could you develop that with each other this week?**

**For others: This week, how could you encourage those who work for the renewal
of marriage in the church?**

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PRAYER REQUESTS

1. Please Lord God put the right man in my life soon I'm so lonely, and help everyone in our three families not be lonely in Jesus name I pray. Amen
2. Please pray for our marriage. Pray that we can be more loving and considerate, understanding towards each other, and also that my husband realises that his family should be more important than work. Help us keep our home a happy home.
3. Please help heal my husband's heart through enlightenment. He is in a heart mind struggle and he lost. Bring my family back please. A friend needs help and fast; he's drifting away.
4. Please save our marriage w/ my husband that our love, patience, understanding and trust will last forever...And we're praying also for a baby...Hope we can have one beautiful baby soon. Thank you so much and Godspeed!
5. Please pray for my marriage. Trust has been broken. Husband is a recovering addict and relapsed. Draining the bank account and my trust in him. Give us strength to do God's will.
6. Please pray for my daughter Sinead who is very sick at the moment after an operation. She needs all your prayers to recover full health.
7. Pray for Jim & Mary - thank you for your prayers.
8. Please pray for the restoration of my marriage and my family. Please help me pray for my husband's enlightenment, guidance and healing and that he may come to accept God in his life.
9. I ask for prayers for my marriage. Please pray that God will give us the graces we need to restore the love, trust and commitment that we need to fulfil this sacrament. Please pray for healing for us and reunite us. Amen.
10. Please pray for Juan who lives in Peru. He has had several strokes and is now in a wheelchair. Please pray for better health for him and that in some way he will be able to take care of himself. His 3 sisters, who live in Sweden, are trying to get him to Sweden where he would get better care. Thank you.
11. Please pray for my marriage, my husband will give back his love to me and our child. He will remove his love and attention to his mistress. Hoping that our marriage life will be full of love and God's love.
12. Please pray for a family from Congo Kinshasa. Germaine, the mother has been living in Sweden since 2001. Her two children Annette 12 years old this week and Antoine are in a refugee camp in Uganda. Please pray that they will soon be allowed to be reunited with their mother in Sweden.

13. Please pray for a husband and wife who are going through a marriage separation; pray for the hurt and pain to ease, communication to open up and healing to begin between them.
14. Prayer to St. Gerard for my husband Christopher who says his love for me is gone. He says it is not like when we first met. He feels he is an awful person and does not deserve to be loved. I pray to God every day to hold his heart in his hands.
15. My marriage is on the brink of separation and financial ruin because of a (serious) lack of honesty and commitment from my husband. We are in desperate need of God's miraculous grace to save us! I have five children who are affected by this. "St. Michael the Archangel, defend us...."
16. I kindly ask you to pray that God will grant me grace to see my wedding day. I also pray that God will pour out His blessing bountifully on my fiancé. I pray also for safe travel for my spouse.
17. Please pray for a Church of Scotland couple who have asked us to keep them in our hearts. They are in love but have distance and financial difficulties making it hard for them to plan a future. They sound like a very beautiful couple. Their email was lengthy so I am summarising it here.
18. Please pray for my daughter and her husband. They have two children she is going through a bad time, he tells her to leave as he doesn't love her any more. He doesn't want counselling. Please pray that things will change. I'm very worried about her. Thank you.

New Publications: Veritas has published a new book by Fr. Johnny Doherty, C.Ss.R. called **Do you want to be well again? – Thoughts and prayers at times of sickness.** It can be purchased from any Veritas bookshop. ISBN 1 85390 862 2 or from their website www.veritas.ie Another book by the same author together with Fr. Oliver Crilly, Paddy Curran and Frank Dolaghan, which has been published more recently, is called **Think Big, Act Small – Working at Collaborative Ministry Through Parish Pastoral Councils** ISBN 1 85390995 5

One of our major undertakings in Love is for Life Trust is working with couples preparing for marriage. It is a great joy and we have a very good residential programme for it. These weekends are held in Esker Retreat House, Athenry, Co. Galway. If you know of couples getting married in Ireland please encourage them to look up our website for dates for this year: www.loveisforlife.com