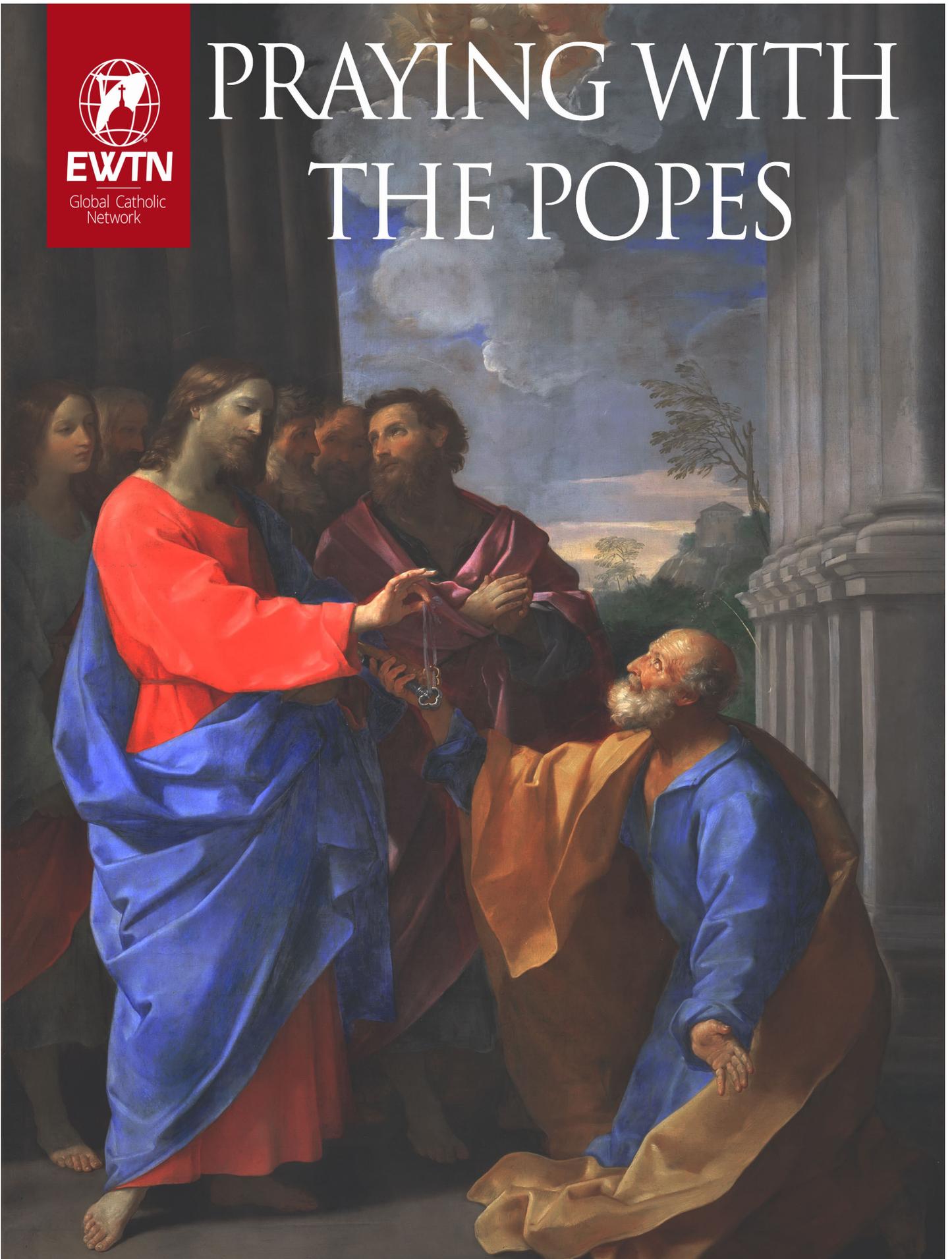




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# PRAYING WITH THE POPES



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PRAYING WITH THE POPES

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# INTRODUCTION



This feast day of the Chair of St. Peter commemorates the establishment of the papal office bestowed by Jesus Himself on Simon (Peter). From the very beginning of Simon's life in Capernaum, Jesus had a unique mission in mind for him. Calling Simon to be one of His Twelve Apostles, Scripture then shows the unique role he would hold among them.

Simon was one of the three who were with Christ on special occasions, such as the Transfiguration and the Agony in the Garden. But then, on the occasion of his confession of faith in Jesus's divinity (Mt. 16:13-18), Our Lord chose Simon to be the principle of unity of His disciples after He ascended, and therefore of the Church.

Our Lord indicted this in two ways. First he changed his name from Simon ("he has heard") to Cephas/Peter ("rock") - as he had changed the names of the patriarchs of the people of the Old Covenant (Abram/Abraham, and Jacob/Israel.) Secondly, He indicated the nature of the office by reference to the keys of David held by his vizier (Is. 22:22)—who ruled the King's household in his name, as also the Patriarch Joseph had in Egypt for Pharaoh, and ultimately on behalf of Israel.

Thus, Jesus chose Peter to be his earthly representative -- the first pope -- when he says "Thou art Peter and upon this rock I will build my church. I will give to thee the keys of the kingdom of heaven." Those words now circle the dome of St. Peter's Basilica in Rome. They are a reminder that all popes are the successors of St. Peter and hold his "Chair" of unity and authority.

We therefore selected the material contained in this booklet to exemplify the special role of Peter's successors, taking examples from the most recent Holy Fathers. We hope that this special resource will help guide you in prayer on this feast of the Chair and that you will find comfort from the words Jesus spoke to Peter, the first Pope and Bishop of Rome.



# PRAYING WITH THE POPES

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## A NOVENA FOR THE POPE

Lord, source of eternal life and truth,  
give to your shepherd a spirit  
of courage and right judgment, a spirit  
of knowledge and love. By governing  
with fidelity those entrusted to his care,  
may he, as successor to the Apostle  
Peter and Vicar of Christ, build your  
Church into a sacrament of unity, love  
and peace for all the world.  
Amen.

V/ Let us pray for the Pope.

R/ May the Lord preserve him, give him a long life, make him blessed upon the earth, and not hand him over to the power of his enemies.

V/ May your hand be upon your holy servant.

R/ And upon your son, whom you have anointed.

Our Father....

Hail Mary

A Glory Be...



# PRAYING WITH THE POPES

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## FOR THE INTENTIONS OF THE POPE

In addition to praying the Holy Rosary, let us pray for the Holy Father's intentions during a morning offering of our day to God. Many formulas of Morning Offering exist in the Church. Here are several possible forms of prayer for the Pope that may be used:

A. As part of a Morning Offering.

O Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I offer you my prayers, works, joys, and sufferings of this day for all the intentions of your Sacred Heart, in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass throughout the world, for the salvation of souls, the reparation of sins, the reunion of all Christians, and in particular for the intentions of the Holy Father. Amen.

B. The Pope, through the Worldwide Apostleship of Prayer, invites us to join with other Catholics in praying for his monthly intention.

O Jesus, through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, I offer You my prayers, works, joys, and sufferings of this day in union with the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass throughout the world. I offer them for all the intentions of Your Sacred Heart: the salvation of souls, reparation for sin, and the reunion of all Christians. I offer them for the intentions of our bishops and of all Apostles of Prayer, and in particular for those recommended by our Holy Father this month.

C. Using a short formula that can be appended to other prayers, such as the rosary:

For the intentions of the Holy Father.

Our Father. Hail Mary. Glory Be.

Catholics who say the rosary in a group, or, individually before the Blessed Sacrament, may gain a plenary indulgence under the usual conditions, including Confession, Communion and prayers for the pope.

See: [Plenary Indulgence General Conditions](#)



# PRAYING WITH THE POPES

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## A PRAYER TO POPE ST. JOHN PAUL II

O St. John Paul, from the window of heaven, grant us your blessing! Bless the Church that you loved and served and guided, courageously leading her along the paths of the world in order to bring Jesus to everyone and everyone to Jesus. Bless the young, who were your great passion. Help them dream again, help them look up to the heavens again to find the light that illuminates the paths of life here on earth.

May you bless each and every family! You warned of Satan's assault against this precious and indispensable divine spark that God lit on earth. St. John Paul, with your prayer, may you protect the family and every life that blossoms from the family.

Pray for the whole world, which is still marked by tensions, wars, and injustice. You opposed war by invoking dialogue and planting the seeds of love: pray for us so that we may be tireless sowers of peace.

O St. John Paul, from heaven's window, where we see you beside Mary, send God's blessing down upon us all. Amen.



# PRAYING WITH THE POPES

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## PRAYER FOR PEACE OF VEN. POPE PIUS XII

Almighty and eternal God.  
May your grace enkindle in all of us  
a love for the many unfortunate people  
whom poverty and misery  
reduce to a condition of life  
unworthy of human beings.  
Arouse in the hearts  
of those who call you Father  
a hunger and thirst for social justice  
and for fraternal charity  
in deeds and in truth.  
Grant, O Lord,  
peace in our days,  
peace to souls,  
peace to families,  
peace to our country,  
and peace among nations.  
Amen.

- Pope Pius XII

Mary, Our Lady Queen of Peace, pray for us!

Reflection: [Pius XII on Peace among Peoples through Prayer](#)



## PRAYING WITH THE POPES

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### PRAYER TO ST. JOSEPH OF POPE ST. JOHN XXIII (FEAST OF ST. JOSEPH THE WORKER, 1960)

Saint Joseph, guardian of Jesus and chaste husband of Mary, you passed your life in loving fulfillment of duty. You supported the holy family of Nazareth with the work of your hands.

Kindly protect those who trustingly come to you. You know their aspirations, their hardships, their hopes. They look to you because they know you will understand and protect them. You too knew trial, labor, and weariness.

But amid the worries of material life, your soul was full of deep peace and sang out in true joy through intimacy with God's Son entrusted to you, and, with Mary, His tender Mother. Assure those you protect that they do not labor alone.

Teach them to find Jesus near them and to watch over him faithfully as you have done. Obtain for us that in every family, every office, every laboratory—wherever a Christian works—everything may be sanctified in charity, in patience, in justice, and in seeking to do good, so that the gifts of heavenly predilection may come down on us in abundance.



# PRAYING WITH THE POPES

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## PRAYER OF POPE ST. PAUL VI

Few prayers appear to be attributed to Pope St. Paul. However, his zeal for souls, materially and spiritually, is demonstrated by this brief prayer and by his Testament, in which he reflects upon his life and death.

Make us worthy Lord, to serve our brothers and sisters throughout the world who live and die in poverty and hunger.

Give them, by our hands this day their daily bread, and by our understanding love, peace and joy. Amen.

Reflection: [Paul VI's Reflection on his Life](#)

## PRAYER AND VEN. POPE JOHN PAUL I

Similarly, from the short pontificate of Albino Luciano there seem to be no prayers attributed though he recommended ardent prayer, especially by and for the shepherds. Speaking on the day of his inauguration (3 September 1978), the feast day of Pope St. Gregory the Great, he noted,

. . . (Gregory) wrote beautiful books; one is the “Pastoral Rule”: it teaches bishops their trade, but, in the last part, it has the following words: “I have described the good shepherd but I am not one, I have shown the shore of perfection at which to arrive, but personally I am still in the breakers of my faults and my shortcomings, and so: please”, he said “so that I will not be shipwrecked, throw me a safety belt with your prayers.”

I say the same; yet it is not just the Pope who needs prayers, but the world. A Spanish writer has written: “the world is going wrong because there are more battles than prayers.” **Let us try to see that there may be more prayers and fewer battles.**

Reflection: [John Paul I on the Papal Office](#)



## PRAYING WITH THE POPES

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### PRAYER TO MARY OF POPE ST. JOHN PAUL II (FEAST OF OUR LADY OF LOURDES, 2004)

Hail Mary, poor and humble Woman, Blessed by the Most High! Virgin of hope, dawn of a new era, We join in your song of praise, to celebrate the Lord's mercy, to proclaim the coming of the Kingdom and the full liberation of humanity.

Hail Mary, lowly handmaid of the Lord, Glorious Mother of Christ! Faithful Virgin, holy dwelling-place of the Word, Teach us to persevere in listening to the Word, and to be docile to the voice of the Spirit, attentive to his promptings in the depths of our conscience and to his manifestations in the events of history.

Hail Mary, Woman of sorrows, Mother of the living! Virgin spouse beneath the Cross, the new Eve, Be our guide along the paths of the world. Teach us to experience and to spread the love of Christ, to stand with you before the innumerable crosses on which your Son is still crucified.

Hail Mary, woman of faith, First of the disciples! Virgin Mother of the Church, help us always to account for the hope that is in us, with trust in human goodness and the Father's love. Teach us to build up the world beginning from within: in the depths of silence and prayer, in the joy of fraternal love, in the unique fruitfulness of the Cross.

Holy Mary, Mother of believers, Our Lady of Lourdes, pray for us. Amen.

Reflection: [John Paul II On the meaning of Sickness and Suffering](#)



# PRAYING WITH THE POPES

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## PRAYER FOR THE UNBORN OF POPE BENEDICT XVI

Lord Jesus,

You who faithfully visit and fulfill with your Presence the Church and the history of men; You who in the miraculous Sacrament of your Body and Blood render us participants in divine Life and allow us a foretaste of the joy of eternal Life; We adore and bless you.

Prostrated before You, source and lover of Life, truly present and alive among us, we beg you.

Reawaken in us respect for every unborn life, make us capable of seeing in the fruit of the maternal womb the miraculous work of the Creator, open our hearts to generously welcoming every child that comes into life.

Bless all families, sanctify the union of spouses, render fruitful their love.

Accompany the choices of legislative assemblies with the light of your Spirit, so that peoples and nations may recognize and respect the sacred nature of life, of every human life.

Guide the work of scientists and doctors, so that all progress contributes to the integral well-being of the person, and no one endures suppression or injustice.

Give creative charity to administrators and economists, so they may realize and promote sufficient conditions so that young families can serenely embrace the birth of new children.

Console the married couples who suffer because they are unable to have children and, in Your goodness, provide for them.

Teach us all to care for orphaned or abandoned children, so they may experience the warmth of your Charity, the consolation of your divine Heart.

Together with Mary, Your Mother, the great believer, in whose womb you took on our human nature, we wait to receive from You, our Only True Good and Savior, the strength to love and serve life, in anticipation of living forever in You, in communion with the Blessed Trinity.

Reflection: [Benedict XVI on Human Dignity and the Unborn](#)



## PRAYING WITH THE POPES

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### PRAYER FOR CREATION AND FOR THE POOR OF POPE FRANCIS

All-powerful God, you are present in the whole universe  
and in the smallest of your creatures.  
You embrace with your tenderness all that exists.  
Pour out upon us the power of your love,  
that we may protect life and beauty.  
Fill us with peace, that we may live  
as brothers and sisters, harming no one.

O God of the poor,  
help us to rescue the abandoned and forgotten of this earth,  
so precious in your eyes.  
Bring healing to our lives,  
that we may protect the world and not prey on it,  
that we may sow beauty, not pollution and destruction.  
Touch the hearts of those who look only for gain  
at the expense of the poor and the earth.

Teach us to discover the worth of each thing,  
to be filled with awe and contemplation,  
to recognize that we are profoundly united  
with every creature  
as we journey towards your infinite light.  
We thank you for being with us each day.  
Encourage us, we pray, in our struggle  
for justice, love, and peace.

(from the Encyclical *Laudato Si*).

Reflection: [Pope Francis on the Poor in Spirit](#)

