

DEVOTION TO THE SEVEN TEARS AND DOLORS OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, THE MOTHER OF SORROWS

THE PRECIOUS OFFERING PRAYER

St. John Vianney, the Cure of Ars, was accustomed in special necessities to offer to the Eternal Father, by the hands of Mary, our Divine Savior all covered with Blood and Wounds. This, he said, was an infallible means to obtain the most precious graces.

The following form may be used:



A Precious Offering

O Mary, Mother of Sorrows, I beseech thee, by the inexpressible tortures thou didst endure at the death of thy Son, offer to the Eternal Father in my stead, thy beloved Son all covered with Blood and Wounds, for the grace . . . [name it].
Amen.



OUR LADY OF SORROWS

This miraculous image of Our Blessed Mother, with the Seven swords through her heart and holding Jesus' Crown of Thorns and three Nails, wept in the Jesuit School of San Gabriel, Quito, Ecuador, on April 29, 1906.

Detail of Our Mother's Tears

Detail of the Virgin Mary's face, showing tears falling from her eyes.

4.2.12.1. Prayers in Honor of the Seven Dolors of the Blessed Virgin Mary (SHORT FORM) (Approved by Pope Pius VII in 1815)

V. O God come to my assistance,

R. O Lord, make haste to help me. Glory be...

1. The Prophecy of Simeon (Luke 2:34-35)

We grieve for thee, O Mary most sorrowful, in the affliction of thy tender heart at the prophecy of the holy and aged Simeon. Dearest Mother, by thy heart so afflicted, obtain for us the virtue of humility and the Gift of the Holy Fear of God. **We thank thee dearest Mother for accepting, through thy heart, this daily sword, which for the next 33 years fills thee of constant dread anticipation for the forthcoming brutalities, atrocities and savagery that Jesus would ultimately suffer in His Passion and death, on that first Good Friday.** Hail Mary... Our Mother of the Sorrowful Heart¹, Pray for us now at the hour of our death. Amen.

2. The Flight into Egypt. (Matthew 2:13-14)

We grieve for thee, O Mary most sorrowful, in the anguish of thy most affectionate heart during thy escape into Egypt and thy sojourn there. Dearest Mother, by thy heart so troubled, obtain for us the virtue of generosity, especially towards the poor and the Gift of Piety. **We thank thee dearest Mother for accepting this sword filled with frightful uncertainties, apprehensions and struggles in thy sojourn escape for our salvation.** Hail Mary... Our Mother of ...

3. The Loss of The Child Jesus in the Temple. (Luke 2:43-45)

We grieve for thee, O Mary most sorrowful, in those anxieties which tried thy troubled heart at the loss of thy dear Jesus. Dearest Mother, by thy heart so full of anguish, obtain for us the virtue of chastity and the Gift of Knowledge. **We thank thee dearest Mother for accepting this sword of worried anxiety and unsettling sense of loss that knifed through thy heart for our salvation.** Hail Mary... Our Mother of ...

4. The Sorrowful Meeting of Jesus and Mary on His Way to Calvary.

We grieve for thee, O Mary most sorrowful, in the consternation of thy heart at meeting Jesus as He carried His Cross. Dearest Mother, by thy heart so troubled, obtain for us the virtue of patience and the Gift of Fortitude. **We thank thee dearest Mother for accepting this sword of the agonizing reality of thy beloved Son's Passion for our salvation.** Hail Mary... Our Mother of ...

5. The Crucifixion and Death of Our Lord Jesus Christ on the Cross.

We grieve for thee, O Mary most sorrowful, in the martyrdom which thy generous heart endured in standing near Jesus in His agony. Dearest Mother, by thy afflicted heart in such wise, obtain for us the virtue of temperance and the Gift of Counsel. **We thank thee dearest Mother for accepting this sword that was thrashed into thy heart as many times as the nails were hammered through Jesus' hands and feet, for our salvation.** Hail Mary... Our Mother of ...

6. The Taking Down of the Body of Jesus from the Cross.

We grieve for thee, O Mary most sorrowful, in the wounding of thy compassionate heart, when the lance struck the side of Jesus and also pierced His heart before His body was lowered from the Cross. Dearest Mother, by thy heart thus transfixed, obtain for us the virtue of fraternal charity and the Gift of Understanding. **We thank thee dearest Mother for accepting this sword of inconsolable grief that rent thy heart for our salvation.** Hail Mary... Our Mother of ...

7. The Burial of Jesus.

We grieve for thee, O Mary most sorrowful, for the pangs that wrenched thy most loving heart at the burial of thy dear Jesus. Dearest Mother, by thy heart sunk in the bitterness of desolation, obtain for us the virtue of diligence and the Gift of Wisdom. **We thank thee dearest Mother, for accepting this sword of barrenness and lonely gloom through thy heart for our salvation.** Hail Mary... Our Mother of ...

Let Us Pray

LET INTERCESSION be made for us, we beseech Thee, O Lord Jesus Christ, now and at the hour of our death, before the throne of Thy divine mercy, by the Blessed Virgin Mary, Thy Mother, whose most holy soul was pierced by swords of sorrow throughout her life, especially in the hour of Thy bitter Passion; that we who reverently commemorate her sorrows, may obtain the happy effect of Thy Passion. Who livest and reignest in unity with God The Father and The Holy Ghost, One God, forever and ever. Amen.

PRAYER FOR THOSE WHO WILL DIE TODAY**Act of Contrition:**

O MY GOD, I am heartily sorry for having offended Thee. And I detest and confess all my sins, because I dread the loss of Heaven and the pains of Hell. But most of all, because my sins offend Thee and I love Thee, My God, Who art All-Good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve, with the help of Thy grace, to confess my sins, to do penance, and to amend my life. Amen.

Our Father... (1X), Hail Mary... (3X)

OUR MOTHER of the SORROWFUL HEART, *Pray for those who will die today.* (7X)

MOST SACRED HEART of JESUS, *Have mercy on those who will die today.* (7X)

¹ Our Blessed Mother confided to Bethe Petit, a humble Franciscan Tertiary on March 25, 1912, the following, "...To you I call myself the **Mother of the Sorrowful Heart**. This title, **willed by my Son, is dear to me above all others**. Accordingly, **when it is spread everywhere**, there will be granted **graces of mercy, spiritual renewal and salvation.**" Pieta Booklet, MLOR, LLC, Hickory Corners, MI

DEVOTION TO HONOR OF THE SEVEN DOLORS OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY (LONG FORM)

The following meditations on this devotion were by the author based on the references below:

1. The Life of Mary as Seen by the Mystics compiled by Raphael Brown, TAN Books P.O. Box 42, Rockford, Ill 61105
2. The Dolorous Passion of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Ven. Anne Catherine Emmerich, TAN Books P.O. Box 42, Rockford, Ill 61105
3. The Mystical City of God, Ven. Mary of Agreda, TAN Books P.O. Box 42, Rockford, Ill 61105
4. Rose Notes: The Passion of Christ, Visions of Veronica Lueken, Our Lady of the Roses, P.O. Box 52, Bayside, NY 11361 (Contrary to Vatican claims, this apparition of Our Blessed Mother from 1970 to the present has never been fully investigated by any Church official. This place is a 'great spiritual battleground' between our Blessed Mother and her archenemy, Satan, the father of lies and confusion and the author of all heresies.)

1. The Prophecy of Simeon (Luke 2:34-35)

The atmosphere around the temple was filled with the festive air of pomp and pageantry. The multitude of families with their first-born are all arrayed in their bright holiday attires, filled with fervent anticipation in presenting their first-born to the God Most High as prescribed in the Scriptures. The Holy Family, Momma Mary, St. Joseph and Jesus were no different from the other families. This is the day of the Lord's recompense and they were all eager to perform their duty. When their turn came to present Jesus to His Eternal Father, the high priest, Simeon, filled with the Holy Ghost, immediately recognized the Messiah and praised God. Momma Mary was overjoyed upon hearing Simeon's canticle of praise but then his next words of prophecy were like ice water poured over her warm, joy-filled face, *"And thy own soul a sword shall pierce..."* (Luke 2:35).

Immediately, she felt this sharp pointed pain in her heart, like a sword – a sword that would be the daily remembrance for the next 33 years of the suffering and atrocities Jesus would ultimately suffer on the first Good Friday in order to fulfill the redemptive mission He has to complete for His Eternal Father. What a life! Sorrow reminded to her 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year for the next 33 years. Who wants to live like this? Who wants to spend 33 years sleeping each night and waking up the next day, contemplating, meditating – already living the future suffering and Passion of the Lamb of God? Who wants this kind of life? Only Momma Mary! She knows what she is getting into when she said to the Archangel Gabriel, *"be it done to me according to thy word."* (Lk. 1:38). She knew that whoever would be Messiah's mother would also be part of the Divine salvific plan of opening the doors of Heaven, closed temporarily by the disobedience of the first parents, Adam and Eve. Recalling her years in the temple, she remembers praying to God that she be granted the privilege of being the handmaid of the forthcoming mother of the prophesied Saviour. She recalls her surprise at the appearance of that seraphic angel, Gabriel, who announced that she would actually be the Messiah's mother, not the handmaid. Endowed by the Holy Ghost with His gifts, beatitudes and fruits since her conception plus augmented by her studies while in the temple for 10 years, she knew the true meaning of the Scriptures, particularly those that described the future horrific sacrifices by the Messiah, like: *I have given My body to the strikers, and My cheeks to them that plucked them: I have not turned away My face from them that rebuked Me, and spit upon Me.* (Is. 50:6) *...there is no beauty in Him, nor comeliness: and we have seen Him, and there was no sightliness, ...Despised, and the most abject of men, a man of sorrows, and acquainted with infirmity: and His look was as it were hidden and despised, whereupon we esteemed Him not. ...and we have thought Him as it were a leper, and as one struck by God and afflicted.* (Is. 53:2-5) *For many dogs have encompassed Me: the council of the malignant hath besieged Me. They have dug My hands and feet. They have numbered all My bones.* (Ps 21:17, 18) *And they gave Me gall for My food, and in My thirst they gave Me vinegar to drink.* (Ps 68:22)

With these in her heart, she knew her future path would be sorrowful indeed. In addition to this new sword that pierced her heart, she had been burdened by the ostracism and ridicule by those who insulted her vow of virginity². A virgin with child? Since her pregnancy she had to put up with quizzical looks and whisperings about her physical changes. Who could understand what was privileged to be by her Creator – to be the mother of His Son, the prophesied Messiah and that she would still remain a virgin? In this ceremonial presentation and her own purification, she had to bear the sacrifice of her reputation being sullied. If you're a virgin, how could you give birth, be purified after delivery and still be a virgin thereafter? So her day of joy just turned to sorrow. This is another reminder of God's providential work – the contrast of things throughout the universe. With joy, sorrow is always its accompanying counterbalance; so are the mutual counterbalances of happiness and sadness, wealth and poverty, ease and difficulty, beauty and ugliness, suffering and comfort, good and evil, life and death, reward and punishment, Heaven and Hell; each of which accomplishes His will. *"All things are double, one against another, and He hath made nothing defective."* (Ecclesiasticus 42:25).

Henceforth, for the next 33 years, our Blessed Virgin Mother would carry this sword in her heart – the dread anticipation of the future brutal atrocities and savagery that Jesus would undergo in His forthcoming Passion. Whenever she passes by some flock of sheep, she felt a sort of kinship with shepherds lovingly raising, caring and nurturing a prized, spotless lamb for the slaughter of the Passover. Surely, she has become the caretaker of the only Sacrificial Lamb, the Holocaust that matters most in God's salvific plan. What a great and grave responsibility! So for the next thirty three years, Mary, the second Eve and second mother of all mankind, would seem to carry the burden of expiating the sin of Eve, the first mother who brought sin and death into this world.

Thank you Momma Mary for carrying this sword through those 33 years in your heart for our salvation. *Hail Mary... Our Mother of the Sorrowful Heart, pray for us.*

2. The Flight into Egypt. (Matthew 2:13-14)

The angel came suddenly in the middle of the night to inform St. Joseph that the Child Jesus has to be saved for Herod's men were out to slay Him. It might have been a moonless night, it has to be cold – how do the Holy Family prepare for this? There is no preparation, like any family fleeing from savage killers, they grabbed what they can and left hurriedly. No food or enough clothing or necessary provisions for a long journey. The darkness, the cold, the foreboding desert, the long journey through the unknown, all these add up to difficulty and misery of escaping into Egypt. Memories of the cold, lonely night searching for a

²Avowed virgins during that era were properly and conspicuously attired. As such, they are like a sore thumb sticking out from a crowd. So the mockery, such as, "A virgin? With child? How could it be? What gall to profess virginity and dress like one!?", were constant. These comments hurt her so much.

home and being driven away in Bethlehem before the birth of Jesus, swiftly came to her. This night seems colder than that night though. The thought that the Infant-God has to traverse the big expanse of the desert towards Egypt gives her the shudders, but she told herself that she has to trust her God that this is His will and His designs are always noble and righteous. By His mercy and grace they will make it and save her beloved Son. Another sword pierced our Blessed Virgin Mother's heart – the sword of fearfully escaping one's murderous enemies without any provisions or sustenance under the most extreme situation and environment. How could one bear this tribulation at age 15? While other young girls of the same age are just starting to enjoy their ripening into womanhood, here was the chaste young virgin with Child, trying to save her beloved Son's life through the cold, desolate and unforgiving desert. Momma Mary herein shows the docility and extreme patience needed to obey God's will. Then settling in various regions of Egypt, she and her Son, the King of kings and of all nations are now aliens in the land of the pharaohs, subject to discrimination, ostracism, unfair labor practices and inhumane treatment.

Thank you Momma Mary for accepting this sword, filled with frightful apprehensions, uncertainties and difficulties in your escape, through your heart for our salvation. *Hail Mary... Our Mother...*

3. The Loss of The Child Jesus in the Temple. (*Luke 2:43-45*)

Exhilarated by the festivities that just finished in the temple the Holy Family joined the caravan returning home to Nazareth. Momma Mary thought Jesus was with St. Joseph; he thought the other way too! When they saw each other and realized that Jesus was with neither one of them, they immediately searched for Him. Jesus, her Beloved Son, her God is gone! Searching for Jesus, except for St. Joseph and the caravan entourage, not too many would stop to help her look for her Son. Just like in any time in history, man is more concerned with his own affairs and concerns than the affairs of God.

Another sword stuck into her heart – the sword of nervous anxiety in the loss of a child, especially, the Child-God. Knowing Jesus is God, and is All-Wise, consoles her but the loss of a missing loved one would be hard to bear. Is there a loving and caring mother out there who could not empathize with her for her Loss? Did she know that this would be repeated again in 21 years? Worried anxiety and unsettling sense of loss was like a sword knifing through her heart.

Thank you Momma Mary for accepting this sword through your heart for our salvation. *Hail Mary... Our Mother...*

4. The Meeting of Jesus and Mary on the Way of The Cross.

It has been almost 10 hours since they took her Son from the Garden of Olives; now she would see Him when He passes by on the way to Calvary. But wait, that Figure leading the parade of prisoners bearing crosses, Who is He? "Is this the Child I carried, the Child I loved?" – she thinks to herself. "My Son, my Son, what have they done to Thee?!" she shouts within her heart. His face was swollenly unrecognizable; randomly scattered lumps, bruises and cuts covered His face. Both His jaws were broken; His lumpy face was pasted with blood, dust and spittle. A leper's face looks more acceptable than His! His blood-soaked clothes was a jumbled mosaic of fresh and dry blood, soil, dried mud, wood splinters from the cross and more spittle. The deafening crescendo of shouts and expletives, blows, kicks, spit and stones, directed toward her Son, was too much to hear, watch and bear. She had to fight hard to avoid fainting at the brutality of the scene she was witnessing. The words of Scripture pales to the reality of the atrocities He was subjected to and was receiving in front of her. "O humanity, how could you subject your God to such derision?!" she cries to herself. This sword is more painful than the earlier ones. But our Mother could not prepare herself for the next ones to come. For now, this sword almost took her life away.

Thank you Momma Mary for accepting this sword of the agonizing reality of the Passion of Jesus through your heart for our salvation. *Hail Mary... Our Mother...*

5. The Crucifixion (and Death of Our Lord Jesus Christ on the Cross).

When they reached Calvary, the brutal executioners violently tore off Jesus' clothes, which was glued to His wounds by the dried blood, and refreshed His wounds from the scourging again. Blood oozed out from His body like liquid from a wine press. The witnesses were so surprised at His meekness. Surely, an ordinary human would have yelled in pain at this painful disrobing. Nary was a whimper heard from Him. Our Blessed Mother could hardly contain herself at this new atrocity inflicted on her Son.

Then they laid down the Cross on the ground. "How come there were no ropes to tie Him up on the cross He is carrying?" she thinks to herself. They have large newly machined spikes. Maybe the spikes are for holding the cross to the ground. But wait! They are going to impale Him on His cross with those spikes! They are impaling His hands and feet to the Cross! Each blow of the mallet on each spike felt like her heart was being pierced and pounded! The sound of the spikes penetrating the wood of the cross through the crunching sound of fracturing bones was so hard to bear! Blood squirted from His hands and feet like wine from a punctured full wineskin! How could our Blessed Mother bear up to this! 33 years ago she was reminded by Simeon, the high priest, of her future sufferings. Was that a long enough time to prepare for this? She knows that no time is enough to prepare for such atrocious injury inflicted to her heart, especially to her Son.

Then they raised up the cross and stood it up on a pre-dug hole. Looking up she saw her Son shaking, twitching and trembling like a fading lamb in the last throes of life. The Divine Paschal Lamb of God looks worse than all the holocausts offered in the temple during her stay there. Having observed her Divine Son's suffering and Passion, she became conscious of the incomplete, uncompensatory worth of all the expiatory holocausts sacrificed through the centuries to offer reparation to our offended Creator. The Divine salvific plan would take only the holocaust of her beloved Son, The Man-God, to tear down the solid, almost impenetrable wall that Adam's sin has placed between God and man, Heaven and Earth; and open up the gate of God's kingdom to mankind once again. When He breathed His last breath and gave up His soul, she felt like her soul went with Him from this earth. Her exemplary faith and hope in God's mercy and love for Him, carries her through on this most horrible hour.

Thank you dearest Mother for accepting this sword that pierced your heart as many times as the nails were hammered through Jesus' hands and feet during His crucifixion for our salvation. *Hail Mary... Our Mother...*

6. The Taking Down of the Body of Jesus from the Cross.

They did not break His legs because He is already dead. But what is that centurion doing with that spear? No! He is thrusting it into His side. What horrible, brutal savagery and lack of respect for the dead! Blood and water gushed forth from His opened side! The Divine blood, the Eucharistic drink and refreshment of souls spills earthward! For the first time and maybe the only time, the heavenly water of life, coming from God Himself, which was promised by God through the prophets to purify mankind of its sins, gushes forth physically and in view of the witnesses of the Crucifixion! The centurion was drenched with this emulsion of Divine Unction from head to toe. The Divine Unction only Christ could give immediately shows its miraculous, curative and conversion powers. Half-blind since birth, the centurion shouted, "I can see!" He immediately knelt and acknowledged Jesus' Divinity and begs for forgiveness for his atrocious acts before the dead body of Jesus. He was immediately converted (later in his life, Longinus, the centurion would die a martyr's death for the Man-God he pierced!).

The Blessed Virgin Mary, our grieving mother saw all the miracle of the centurion's conversion and future martyrdom. And the perfect masterpiece of God's creation – the pure Virgin Mother of God, was drenched too! She received this blood and water not because she needed it for herself but her to dispose off for our salvation, literally and figuratively. With the help of the other disciples around the Cross, they collected all of the Divine Unction in flasks and wiped off the remainder with linen. This reminded her of her clean-up work in the temple after each holocaust offering. Tears flowed freely from her reddened eyes, trying to look up to her Son, The Holocaust. Then while they were removing the nails from Jesus' hands, His body slipped downward towards His mother. She with help of the other disciples caught Him in her arms and laid His dead, mutilated body on her lap. Her human nature briefly surfaced and almost decrying the 33 years of sorrowful burden she had carried, climaxed by this almost unbearable Passion she went through with her Son, she cried to herself, "If I had only known!?" But catching herself and remembering that she agreed to be the mother of the Paschal Lamb of God together with the sorrows and suffering that go with this responsibility, she immediately whispered, "But Thy will be done, my Lord and my God! Thy will be done!" Thus, together with her Son's fiat statement in Gethsemane, she affirmed that the will of God is paramount over all things; and complete obedience to His will is tantamount to salvation. Then she slumped almost unconscious over her dead Son's body.

Such docile obedience is what pleases our Eternal Father. Let's follow Jesus and Mary in this prime example of child-like obedience that we may gain God's love and mercy.

Thank you Momma Mary for accepting this sword of inconsolable grief that rent your heart for our salvation. *Hail Mary... Our Mother...*

7. The Burial of Jesus.

After lovingly cleaning Jesus' dead body, they wrapped Him with new linen together with a hundred pounds of herbs and aloes. They laid Him in the new tomb and closed the opening with a big rock. She knows through the scriptures and by Jesus telling her, that He would rise from the dead on the third day. But how could she wait for another three days after seeing all the brutality and savagery He had to take to complete His mission. She reminded herself of that day in Jerusalem 21 years ago when she lost Him for three days. But this three-day wait is different. She could not wait to see Him alive and well again.

Oh what anxious anticipation and desolation our Mother has to bear. Again, her obedient docility keeps her going and allows her to patiently wait for her Son to appear to her in His resurrected glory. This we should also emulate, for God is generous and loving of those who wait on Him.

Thank you Momma Mary for accepting this sword of anxious desolation and gloomy loneliness through your heart for our salvation. *Hail Mary... Our Mother...*

℟ MOTHER of The SORROWFUL HEART, your mission is now complete; the reality of Simeon's prophecy has fully materialized in the sword-pierced rendering of your heart. O what great suffering you had to bear! O what great sorrow you have bottled within your sword-laced heart! Surely the plenitude of graces and virtues endowed on you by the Blessed Trinity was well-deserved and you did certainly did earn. O what privilege we are to be your children, beneficiaries of your co-redemptive work with Jesus.

O sorrow, our Mother's constant companion most of her life, you are now conquered by our Blessed Mother's love for us! And with Jesus, she has gained for us, the joy of the re-opening of the kingdom of Heaven. Thank you so much Momma Mary for all that you have done for us! Obtain for us your children, reliant on thy unceasing protection and intercession the graces necessary for us to obey God's will in all things, always and everywhere that we be able to please Him as you did. Thank You, Jesus, our Saviour and Redeemer, thank you Abba, our Eternal Father and thank you the Holy Ghost, our mother's Spouse, for giving us so great a mother who gave and would give her all to help save us, Your children. Amen.

Litany of Our Lady of Sorrows

Lord, have mercy on us.

R. Christ, have mercy on us.

Lord, have mercy on us.

Christ, hear us.

R. Christ, graciously hear us.

God the Father of Heaven, **R. Have mercy on us.**

God the Son, Redeemer of the world,

God the Holy Ghost,

Holy Trinity, one God,

Holy Mary, **R. Pray for us.**

Holy Mother of God,

Holy Virgin of virgins,

Mother crucified,

Mother sorrowful,

Mother tearful,

Mother afflicted,

Mother forsaken,

Mother desolate,

Mother bereft of thy Son,

Mother pierced with a sword,

Mother consumed with grief,

Mother filled with anguish,

Mother crucified in heart,

Mother most sad,

Fountain of tears,
Mass of suffering,
Mirror of patience,
Rock of consistency,
Anchor of confidence,
Refuge of the forsaken,
Shield of the oppressed,
Subduer of the unbelieving,
Comfort of the wretched,
Medicine of the sick,
Strength of the weak,
Harbor of the wrecked,
Allay of tempests,
Resource of mourners,
Terror of the treacherous,

Treasure of the faithful,
Eye of the prophets,
Staff of Apostles,
Crown of martyrs,
Light of Confessors,
Pearl of Virgins,
Consolation of widows,
Joy of all Saints,
Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world,
Spare us, O Jesus.
Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world,
Graciously hear us, O Jesus.
Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world,
Have mercy on us, O Jesus.

LOOK DOWN upon us, dearest Mother, and deliver us from all evil, of every manner, shape and form, always and everywhere, in the power of thy dearly beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ. Amen.

IMPRINT, O dearest, sorrowful Mother, thy wound upon our hearts, that we may read therein sorrow and love: sorrow, to endure every sorrow for thee; love, to despise every love for thee.

Credo, Hail Holy Queen, 3 Hail Marys.

V. Our Mother of the Sorrowful Heart, *R. Pray for us* (3X)

V. Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, *R. Have mercy on us* (3X)

SPECIAL GRACES & BENEFITS OF THIS DEVOTION

St. Alphonsus Liguori, in his book ***The Glories of Mary*** mentioned a revelation in which St. John the Evangelist saw both Our Lord and His Blessed Mother after her assumption into heaven. He heard Mary ask Jesus for some special grace to all those who are devoted to her dolors (sorrows). **Christ promised** the four following special graces:³

1. That those who before death invoked the divine Mother in the name of her sorrows should **obtain true repentance of all their sins.**
2. That He would **protect** all who have this devotion **in their tribulations**, and that He would **protect** them especially **at the hour of their death.**
3. That He would **impress upon their minds the remembrance of His Passion**, and that they should have their reward for it in heaven.
4. That He would commit such devout clients to the hands of Mary, with the power to disposed of them in whatever manner she might please, and **to obtain for them all the graces she might desire.**

For her part, Our Blessed Mother revealed to St. Bridget of Sweden that she grants the following **seven graces to the souls** who honor her daily by saying seven Hail Marys while meditating on her tears and dolors (sorrows):

1. I will grant **peace to their families.**
2. They will be **enlightened about the Divine mysteries.**
3. I will **console them in their pains** and I will **accompany them in their work.**
4. I will give them as much as they ask for as long as it does not oppose the adorable will of my Divine Son or the sanctification of their souls.
5. I will **defend them in their spiritual battles** with the infernal enemy and I will **protect them at every instant** of their lives.
6. I will **visibly help them at the moment of their death**, they will see the face of their Mother.
7. I have obtained this Grace from my Divine Son – that those who propagate this devotion to my tears and dolors, **will be taken directly from this earthly life to eternal happiness** since all their sins will be forgiven by my Son and I will be their eternal consolation and joy.

BENEFITS OF THE DEVOTION TO THE MOTHER OF SORROWS

1. To realize that **the value of a soul is worth the supreme Sacrifice on Calvary.**
2. To work for souls by **evangelization, duty to life's duties**, and **prayer for sinners.**
3. To pray always, in a life of union with God for whosoever has a heart similar to Jesus' and Mary's hearts, **will work for the salvation of souls.**

³ <http://www.ourcatholicprayers.com/Sorrowful-mothers-devotion-promises.html>

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