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24th SUNDAY O/T – September 13, 2020 YrA
BY PRAYING FOR OTHERS; OUR OWN SINS WILL BE FORGIVEN

Life messages:

This week's Gospel passage is a part of Jesus' *Sermon on the Plain* as given by Luke. It describes the *power of Christian love* when exercised by practicing the golden rule: **"Do to others as you would have them do to you."** This golden rule is amplified by a string of particular commands:

- **"Love your enemies...Do good to those who hate you; bless those who curse you and pray for those who maltreat you."** Jesus orders us to love our enemies.
- **Show your Christian love to everyone, especially to your enemies** by treating them with mercy and compassion because our Heavenly Father is merciful and compassionate to all His children. *"Be compassionate, as your Father is compassionate."* Stop judging and start forgiving.

Life messages:

We need to answer the **invitation to grace-filled behaviour:** What makes Christianity distinct from any other religion is the quality known as *grace*, i.e., our ability to treat others, not as they deserve, but with love, kindness, the spirit of forgiveness and mercy.

We need to accept the challenges of day-to-day life. Jesus challenges our willingness to endure unjust suffering for *his* sake and the sake of his Gospel.

We need to pray for the strength to forgive. At every Mass we pray the "Our Father", asking God to forgive us as we forgive others. We must forgive, because only forgiveness truly heals our relationships and heals us. If we remember how God has forgiven us, it will help us forgive others.

We need to live our lives in accordance with "the Golden Rule."

We need to answer the invitation to be grace-filled

Assumption of Mary, the Mother of Jesus (August 15), has always occupied a special place in the hearts and devotional lives of Roman Catholics. Orthodox Christians also revere her, celebrating her birthday as one of the 12 "Great Feasts" of the Orthodox Church. *Life* magazine estimated that the prayer "Hail Mary" is said two billion times every day, and each year five to ten million people make a pilgrimage to Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City; many others visit Marian sites elsewhere in the world. This saint is prayed to as advocate and helper, and even in the sports area there is a reference to her power: the last desperate pass by a losing football team is called a "Hail Mary."

Recently Deceased: Angelo Vocale, *We especially pray for all the deceased whose names are on the Church pews & the Resurrection Chapel. We pray for all those whose Anniversaries occur at this time:*

Prayers in time of a pandemic - The Catholic Weekly

The early Christians prayed in the church of the home. Once more, in troubled times when public worship has to be restricted, we are called to pray in "the domestic church", always aware of the promise of Jesus, "Where two or three are gathered in my name, there I am among them." (Matthew 18:20).

In this challenging time: Lord Jesus Christ, our true physician and healer, be merciful to us and bring us your aid in these troubled times.

Heal all our sickness and every affliction of your people.
 Drive out our infirmities of soul and body; free us from all disease and especially from this pestilence. We place in your gentle Heart the elderly, the frail, people with disability, children, young people and families, our indigenous peoples, those who are poor, lonely and isolated. As you walk with us, free them from fear, and give them patience and hope together with our loving care. In your mercy deal also with the causes of our pitiful condition, that in curing our lack of faith and spiritual weakness, you may also remedy our bodily ills. We place our trust in you, the risen Lord, who lives and reigns for ever and ever. Amen.

For those who care for the sick

Father of mercies, we thank you for all who care for the sick.
 When they diagnose, give them patience.
 When they protect the vulnerable, give them your protection.
 When they work to heal, give them strength.
 When they comfort, give them consolation.
 When they are tired, give them rest.
 When they are discouraged, bring them your hope.
 May we welcome and respect them as we support one another in this time of trial.

For those seeking a cure for the virus

Come, Holy Spirit, enlighten the minds of women and men of medical science who are working to find a solution to this viral infection. Guide their research and help them discover what you provide in creation, sure ways of control, protection, inoculation and healing. Strengthen them in their tiring work and enrich in them the virtue of hope. Amen.

For those who govern and represent us

Eternal Wisdom, guide our leaders called to serve us in our Nation. May they respond to the challenges of this affliction with prudence and sound judgement. With foresight, may their planning alleviate the economic burdens, compensate for losses, protect employment and ensure ample food for the poor and isolated. **Amen.**

For humility Merciful Lord, we stand before you in our human weakness.

We confess that we have been caught up in the pride and presumption that drives our worldly society. Free us from the arrogance that afflicts our age, for now we stand confounded by conditions beyond our control or understanding. Give us humble and honest hearts to discern the greater mystery of your providence in creation. May we accept your justice and trust your redeeming mercy. **Amen**