

Dear Friends in Christ,

This week we celebrate two special feasts: Our Lady of Perpetual Help (on Monday) and St. Peter and St. Paul (on Wednesday). As much as we know and love St. Peter and St. Paul, very little is known about Our Lady of Perpetual Help. Nevertheless, her icon is one of the most popular and recognizable images to be found in churches, chapels and many other places, including my office, here at Divine Infant. So, who is Our Lady of Perpetual Help?

One legend, linked with the familiar picture of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, is reminiscent of Mary's never-failing solicitude. That same legend was perhaps the inspiration to the artist who has given us the one picture of Mary under this glorious title.

The story tells us that when our dear Lord was yet a small boy, He loved to play in the garden. On one occasion the Archangels, Michael and Gabriel, appeared to Him and held before His tender eyes the instruments of His future torture - the cross, the nails, the lance. The little Jesus, in terror, fled into the house and sought refuge in the arms of His Mother. In His haste the Child nearly lost one of His sandals. In this picture it is seen falling from His foot. From the meaning of this picture we see that Our Lord Himself went to Mary, Our Mother of Perpetual Help, when He was in danger and in need. His love for Mary is, consequently, the source of our own love for her, for how would love have been born in us had He not loved her first and translated a spark of that fire into our hearts?



The name of Our Lady of Perpetual Help derives from one of the most famous of all pictures of Mary, an icon of the fourteenth century painted on walnut wood perhaps in Crete; from where it was thought to have been stolen by an Italian merchant and brought to Rome.

It was venerated, famous for miracles in the Roman Church of Saint Matthew, in charge of the Irish Augustinians for a century, when the church was destroyed by fire. Due to the zeal of Pius IX, who had prayed before this image as a child, the miraculous picture of Our Lady of Perpetual Help was once more publicly venerated, this time in the new Church of St. Alphonsus. On April 26, 1866, the Holy Father approved of the solemn translation of the picture, and of its coronation by the Vatican Chapter, June 23, 1867. Because this devotion became so popular, Pius IX organized a confraternity of Our Lady of Perpetual Succor and St. Alphonsus.

Two angels in the picture, Michael and Gabriel, are showing the instruments of the passion to the Child, who clings to the Mother's hand, shaking loose a sandal. The Mother reassuringly holds tightly to the Child's hand.

One cannot look at the picture without being struck by the anxious, pained expression on the face of Our Blessed Mother. On the child's face is seen the same shrinking fear He had during His agony in the garden – a shrinking fear not incompatible with a perfect resignation to God's will. And in His fear He turns to His Mother for help.

Prayer to Our Mother of Perpetual Help

O Mother of Perpetual Help, grant that I may ever invoke your most powerful name, which is the safeguard of the living and the salvation of the dying.

O Purest Mary, O Sweetest Mary, let thy name henceforth be ever on my lips. Delay not, O Blessed Lady, to help me whenever I call on you, for, in all my needs, in all my temptations I shall never cease to call on you, ever repeating thy sacred name, Mary, Mary.

O what consolation, what sweetness, what confidence, what emotion fills my soul when I pronounce your sacred name, or even only think of you. I thank God for having given you, for my good, so sweet, so powerful, so lovely a name.

But I will not be content with merely pronouncing your name: let my love for you prompt me ever to hail you, Mother of Perpetual Help. Amen.



In Christ,

Fr. Waldemar Pallon

THE RITE OF CHRISTIAN INITIATION FOR ADULTS (RCIA)

The Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults (RCIA) will begin its fall session on **Wednesday, September 14** in the parish hall. Over the summer, if you know someone who is interested in becoming a Catholic or is a baptized Catholic and seeks to receive the other Sacraments of Initiation, please reach out to them and encourage them to contact Deacon Jeff Le Bane in the parish office for more information ((613) 824-6822, ext. 235). All RCIA Journey of Faith materials will be provided free of charge. Thank you for your attention and your support.

MIND AND HEART - A Parish Young Adult Group

Mind & Heart is a group for young adults running every other Monday in the parish hall at 7:30, following the 7PM Mass. Mind and Heart is a group of men and women, 18+ who dialogue, sharing their experience and faith in dialogue and community with each other.

The final meeting is **Monday, June 27th at 7:30PM in the hall**. Heart and Mind will resume in the fall.

For more information contact

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