

WORLD DAY OF PRAYER 2010



MESSAGE TO THE MARIANIST FAMILY

Presentation of the Shrine of:

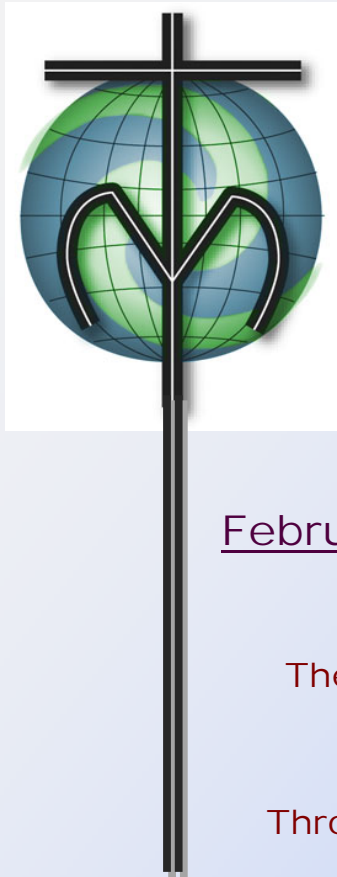
Our Lady of Perpetual Help

(Patroness of Haiti)

Port-au-Prince, in the Republic of Haiti

World Day of Prayer

October 10 2010



Our Lady of Perpetual Help (Patroness of Haiti)

February 5, 1882 – February 5, 2010



The Church in Haiti celebrates the 128th Anniversary
Of the miraculous cure of Smallpox in Haiti
Through the intercession of Our Lady of Perpetual help.

The country of Haiti was being ravaged by a smallpox epidemic. In Port-au-Prince alone, there were counted at least 50 deaths daily. In 3 months, 4,000 persons were carried off by the scourge. The doctors did not know where to turn. The people turned to heaven to implore the divine mercy. The pastor of the Cathedral of Port-au-Prince, Father François Kersuzan, had just received from France an image of "Our Lady of Perpetual Help." Archbishop Guilloux of Port-au-Prince allowed Father Kersuzan to place that image in the chapel of Bel-Air, built just 7 years before and dedicated to St. Francis of Assisi.

To prepare for the official enthronement of the picture in the chapel of Bel-Air, special prayers were addressed to Our Lady of Perpetual Help to save the country. This site became a place of pilgrimage for the Haitians after the following events occurred on February 5, 1882. When Archbishop Guilloux of Port-au-Prince solemnly enthroned the image of Our Lady of Perpetual Help there, a crowd of the faithful, massed in the street in front of the chapel, listened devotedly to the sermon of the prelate. After preaching, he made a large sign of the cross with the image to bless the city, before entering the chapel to install it in the place prepared for it.

The next day a novena to Our Lady of Perpetual Help was started to ask for the end of the epidemic. The novena of prayers was not yet completed when it became evident that no new case of infection had been registered; what's more, some sick persons recovered their health and were cured.

That same year, 1882, another epidemic, this time of yellow fever, raged over the country, sowing death. The Father Superior of the Seminary was stricken and about to die. Father Kerzusan promised to celebrate a special Mass in honor of *Our Lady of Perpetual Help* if he were cured. The next morning, the sick man was cured. After that day, there were no more than 4 who fell sick.

The rapid intervention of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in that epidemic, without any relapses, was thus the starting point for the devotion of the Haitians to Our Lady of Perpetual Help to show their gratitude to that Good Mother.

December 8, 1942, was the 60th anniversary of the deliverance of the country from smallpox. After spending 3 days of prayer in preparation, five bishops together consecrated the country to Our Lady of Perpetual Help, so that she might be their Queen and Patroness.



That celebration took place in front of the National Palace, in the presence of President Élie Lescot, several notables and a great crowd estimated at more than 200,000 Christians.

To praise, glorify, thank, celebrate our God who, through his mother the Blessed Virgin Mary, has always protected us.



Intentions for the Marianist **World Day of Prayer through the** **intercession de Our Lady of** **Perpetual Help**

- Blessed be you, O Lord, for the life you give to each one here present. Praised be your Holy Name for this great day which your goodness offers us for glorifying you through the intermediary of your Mother and ours, Our Lady of Perpetual help. And we beg you to make your light shine upon your Church so that it may make you known, loved and served over all the earth. God our Father, this we ask of you!



The Shrine of Our Lady of Perpetual Help after the earthquake of January 12, 2010.

- Let us pray for the leaders of the Church, especially for Pope Benedict XVI, for bishops, for priests, for deacons, for religious men and women, for committed lay persons. Let us ask God for the intercession of Our Lady of Perpetual Help to light their steps so that they work for the advancement of the Kingdom of God upon this earth. **Father**, hear our prayers.
- God our Father, we pray to you, through the intercession of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, for all the branches of the Marianist Family: MLC, FMI, SM and AM throughout the world and for the spread of the Marianist charism through the whole world; especially in the land of Haiti. Through her intercession may all be done according to the will of your divine Son. Together let us pray to the Lord!
- In contemplating the icon of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, and looking at the Archangel Gabriel, let us pray for a faith that is solid and based upon truth to replace superficiality and religious hypocrisy. Let us pray to the Lord.
- O God of tenderness and pity, we pray you, through the intercession of your august Mother, Our Lady of Perpetual Help, woman of the home and woman at work, teach us to love our homes, to

look upon them in joy and mutual understanding. Help us to build a just and fraternal society where there will be work and bread for all. Let us pray to the Lord.

- Let us pray for the Haitian people, who never cease hoping for a better future, that they may be delivered from immorality, violence, sexual abuse and abuse of power, war, destitution, unemployment, ignorance, so that justice, love and peace might reign in the entire world, especially in this country of Haiti which is consecrated to you. Let us pray to the Lord.
- Let us pray for all the victims of the natural catastrophe of January 12, 2010, that through the intercession of Our Lady of Perpetual Help they might find joy, peace, serenity and consolation. Let us invoke the God of mercy.



Let us sing **MAGNIFICAT!**

So that the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit

may be glorified in all places

through the Immaculate Virgin Mary.