



Fatima Center

IN U.S.A. – 17000 State Route 30, Constable, NY 12926 IN CANADA – 452 Kraft Road, Fort Erie, ON L2A 4M7
CALL US TOLL FREE: 1-800-263-8160 OR 1-905-871-7607 | FAX: 1-905-994-7054
www.fatima.org | E-mail: info@fatima.org

J.M.J.

“My daughter, tears shed for My Passion are dear to Me; but as I loved My Mother Mary with an immense love, the meditation on the torments which She endured at My death is even more agreeable to Me.” Our Lord Jesus Christ to Blessed Veronica of Binasco.

February 27, 2014
Saint Gabriel of Our Lady of Sorrows

Dear Friend of Our Lady,

In the above-written words to Blessed Veronica of Binasco, Our Lord is telling us that He is more pleased when we honor and comfort His Mother by meditating on Her sorrows than when we meditate on His sufferings.

Indeed Our Lord is saying He wants us to spend time meditating on Our Lady's sufferings, which is commonly called Her Sorrows.

Needless to say, spending time with Our Lady by meditating on Her Sorrows is very pleasing to Her as well – primarily because doing so is what pleases Her Divine Son.

Enclosed is a leaflet entitled [The Devotion of the Seven Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin Mary](#) which you are likely familiar with or have seen before.

The Fatima Center first printed this leaflet and sent it to our volunteers in 2002. It is a popular leaflet especially during the two times a year that Holy Mother Church has set aside to commemorate Our Lady's Sorrows:

1. During Lent – commemorating specifically on the Friday before Good Friday and,
2. September 15.

Commemorating a feast more than once in a year gives us an idea of the importance that Holy Mother Church attaches to commemorating someone and/or something.

The enclosed leaflet gives a brief explanation on how pleasing this devotion is to Our Lord and Our Lady and then teaches how to pray the Chaplet or Little Rosary of the Seven Sorrows.

In the leaflet, the Chaplet of the Seven Sorrows is presented in the format of praying and meditating on one sorrow each day of the week, beginning with the first sorrow on Monday and ending with the seventh sorrow on Sunday.

One may pray the chaplet using the format outlined in the leaflet or if you choose, may pray the entire chaplet all at once.

After mailing this leaflet to our volunteers in 2002, one volunteer called from Florida to comment on it. She said that she and her husband are very fond of the devotion to Our Lady's Sorrows and had been practicing and promoting this devotion for years.

She also said that over time they had obtained from different sources many different leaflets promoting this devotion however, this leaflet produced by the Fatima Center was the best she and her husband had ever seen.

Since first introducing this leaflet in 2002, we have had to reprint it a number of times. With the most recent printing for this mailing we have printed more than 300,000 of these leaflets.

There are wonderful promises attached to the practice and promotion of this devotion. After Our Lady's Assumption into Heaven, St. John the Evangelist requested and was granted by Our Lord the favor of seeing Our Lady again. She appeared to him accompanied by Our Lord.

In the presence of Saint John, Our Lady asked Her Divine Son to grant some special grace to all who are devoted to Her Sorrows. Our Lord promised Her four principal graces:

- first, that those who before death invoke the Divine Mother in the name of Her Sorrows will obtain true repentance of all their sins;
- second, that He will protect all who have this devotion in their tribulations, and will protect them especially at the hour of death;

- third, that He will impress on their minds the remembrance of His Passion, and will reward them in Heaven for their devotion;
- fourth, that He will place such devout servants in Mary's hands to do with them as She wishes and to obtain for them all the graces She desires.

As a reminder and to help inspire the desire to practice this devotion, these four graces are listed on the inside front cover of the enclosed leaflet.

In addition to these four graces there are also seven promises attached to the practice of daily praying seven Hail Mary's while meditating on Our Lady's Tears and Sorrows. These seven promises were revealed by St. Bridget of Sweden:

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 sorrows will be taken directly from this earthly life to eternal happiness, since all their sins will be forgiven and My Son will be their eternal consolation and joy."

(Prayers and Heavenly Promises by Joan Carroll Cruz; Imprimatur: Most Rev. Francis B. Schulte, 1989, pp. 34-35)

The four graces and seven promises should fill us with the desire to practice and promote this devotion as well as the following words from some of the Saints and Doctors of the Church regarding Our Lady's Sorrows and the practice of this devotion (excerpts taken from *The Glories of Mary* by St. Alphonsus Liguori):

"Because of Her love for us, She was willing to see Her Son sacrificed to Divine Justice by the barbarity of men. This great

torment which Mary endured for us was more dreadful than a thousand deaths and deserves our sympathy and our gratitude. If we cannot return this love in any other way, let us at least for a few moments consider how great were the sufferings by which Mary became the Queen of Martyrs. The sufferings of Mary's martyrdom surpassed those of all other martyrs. First of all, they lasted longer; and secondly, they were more intense."
(St. Alphonsus Liguori)

"The grief of Mary was so great that, were it divided among all men, it would suffice to cause their immediate death."
(St. Bernardine of Sienna)

"While other martyrs suffered by sacrificing their own lives, the Blessed Virgin suffered by sacrificing Her Son's life - a life that She loved far more than Her own. Thus She not only suffered in Her soul all that Her Son endured in His body, but moreover the sight of Her Son's torments brought more grief to Her heart than if She had endured them all in Her own person."
(St. Antoninus)

St. Bernard said, *"The Passion of Jesus began with His birth."* Our Lady, imitating Her Son in all things, endured a martyrdom throughout Her life. It was revealed to St. Bridget that Mary, even before becoming the Mother of Our Redeemer, understood the degree of the suffering that Our Savior was to endure for the salvation of men and pitied this innocent Savior, who was to be so cruelly put to death for crimes He did not commit.

The Blessed Virgin also revealed to St. Bridget that when the time of the Passion of Our Lord was approaching, Her eyes were always filled with tears, as She thought of Her beloved Son, whom She was about to lose on earth, and that the prospect of that approaching suffering caused Her to be seized with fear, and a cold sweat to cover Her whole body.

So great a love has our Heavenly Mother for us, that She deserves our gratitude, and that gratitude should be shown by at least meditating upon, and consoling Her in Her Sorrows.

But Our Lady lamented to St. Bridget that very few did so, and that the greater part of the world lived in forgetfulness of them: *"I look around at all who are on earth, to see if by chance there are any who pity Me, and meditate on My Sorrows; and I find that there are very few. Therefore, My daughter, though I am forgotten by many, at least do you not forget Me. Meditate on My Sorrows and share in My grief, as far as you can."*

Our Lady's sufferings were in Her soul, those of the martyrs were in their bodies. Since the soul is more noble than the body, so much greater then were Mary's sufferings than those of all the martyrs.

Our Lord told St. Catherine of Sienna: "*Between the sufferings of the soul and those of the body there is no comparison.*"

When we introduced this leaflet in 2002, we also introduced a prayer card, [Our Lady's Seven Sorrows](#). Since our supply of these cards is low and they are printed by an outside printer (we do not have machinery to print this type of prayer card on a large scale), we have not enclosed a copy of this prayer card. But there are still some available.

Four years ago, February 2009, The Fatima Center sent to volunteers a new booklet entitled, [The Devotion of the Seven Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin Mary](#). The booklet contains a brief history of this devotion, the graces and promises attached to its practice and promotion, and prayers related to the devotion.

Included in the prayers is the Litany of Our Lady of the Seven Sorrows, the beautiful Thirteenth Century hymn, Stabat Mater Dolorosa (often said when making the Stations of the Cross), and the contents of the [enclosed leaflet](#).

Though our supply of the booklets is low and we are hoping to be able to have more printed, we do still have some available.

As one of our apostolate volunteers we ask the following:

1. That you practice this devotion and gain the gift of the graces and promises offered by Heaven for doing so, and include as one of your intentions the requests of Our Lady of Fatima;
2. That you promote this devotion so that a year from now we have surpassed the printing and distribution of 500,000 copies of the enclosed leaflet – and that you gain the graces promised for promoting it.
3. That you pray for the funds to be able to have re-printed the prayer card in honor of Our Lady of Sorrows and the booklet, *The Devotion of the Seven Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin Mary*, which also has to be printed by an outside printer in order to keep it as a beautiful four color booklet.

For more copies of the enclosed leaflet, [*The Devotion of the Seven Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin Mary*](#), or for copies of the prayer card, [*Our Lady's Seven Sorrows*](#) (while supplies last), or copies of the booklet, [*The Devotion of the Seven Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin Mary*](#) (while supplies last), call us at 1-800-845-3047.

In the Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart,

Joanna Swords

P.S. The enclosed leaflet, *The Devotion of the Seven Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin Mary* is also available in Spanish.