

**THE MANTLE: The Voice of the Silent Strength Online Prayer Group**

\*\*\*\*\*

**Joining in Prayer Under the Mantle of the Blessed Virgin Mary.**

\*\*\*\*\*

Send prayer requests to [pray@marianmantle.com](mailto:pray@marianmantle.com) **REMEMBER** put **"prayer request" in the subject**

\*\*\*\*\*

**++MESSAGE FROM THE COORDINATOR**

**++PRAYER INTENTIONS**

**++LETTERS TO THE EDITOR**

**++GOD'S WORD FOR US**

**++WORDS OF HOPE**

**++WISH LIST**

**++FYI**

**Marian Mantle Prayer Group Update For Dec 28, 2007**

\*\*\*\*\*

**++MESSAGE FROM THE COORDINATOR**

Hi, Everyone,

Wow! We are beginning to hear of many blessings received by our members this Christmas season. A daughter joins her parents at midnight mass instead of going to her home as in past years. A prodigal son visits with his mother about the power of prayer. A prodigal son goes to mass with his mother. A father asks for baptism. A prodigal son who has not followed Catholic tradition for years makes the sign of the cross at the beginning of Christmas eve mealtime prayer. If you have a story to share about your prodigal loved one, just email me.

EMAIL ME

We are hoping to mail the newsletter on Feb 1. If you would like to write something to be included please email me. Remember, if you don't wish to take the time to format into a "proper" article, just send me the details and I will be happy to put them into readable form.

We will be having a get together to assemble prayer books, etc in our basement soon. It will probably be scheduled for a Sunday afternoon in January. If you would like to help, please let me know by email.

Send emails to [MaryAnn@marianmantle.com](mailto:MaryAnn@marianmantle.com)

A LITTLE CHRISTMAS STORY

*Joseph learned that Mary was pregnant. She was unmarried. Joseph was upset.*

Richard (fictitious name), the husband of one of our members, learned his unmarried daughter was pregnant. He was upset.

*Joseph prayed about what to do.*

Richard prayed about what to do.

Richard's wife sent a prayer request to the MMG and we ALL prayed for this family.

*With God's help, Joseph began to focus on the precious life that was to come into the world. He cared for Mary lovingly. Although, he worried about the journey they would be making to Bethlehem.*

With God's help, the grandparents-to-be soon began to focus on the precious life that was about to come into the world. They worried about the life-journey their daughter and her child would be making.

*Jesus was born. The angels, the shepherds, and the wise men rejoiced and brought gifts. Joseph gathered his family and took them to safety in Egypt. There and back in Nazareth, he loved them and provided for them through his vocation as a carpenter.*

Richard's grandson was born. The grandfather loved his grandson but was still unsettled with his daughter's situation. Richard's hobby was woodworking. As Christmas approached, his wife found him in his workshop putting the finishing touches on a piece of wood which he had formed into his grandson's name. She suggested it would be nice to do the same for the child's mother. Richard decided to give the name gift to the child's father. Eventually, each member of Richard's family received their name in wood, his gift of love. His daughter's circumstances had not changed, but the family was reminded by Richard's gift just how special each person is.

*Joseph was important as a role-model for Jesus as He grew up.*

No doubt, Richard's gifts of love will be an ongoing example for his grandson as he grows up.

I have no idea what Richard's middle name is—but I would not be surprised if it were Joseph.

Let us pray, Dear Lord, help us to bring your Love into our life situations. Instead of becoming angry, argumentative, and despairing, may we strive to be like St. Joseph and pray for Your Love, Hope, and Peace to fill ourselves and our loved ones—especially our prodigals.

*And a little child shall lead them. ~ Isaiah 11:6*

.....  
As we welcome the New Year, may we each continue to have the perseverance of St. Monica and the unconditional love of the father of the prodigal son, until that glorious day when we, too, can say, "Rejoice with me! The prodigal for whom I have prayed has come home!"

Happy New Year!

Peace,

MaryAnn

.....  
**PRAYER INTENTIONS FOR Dec 28, 2007**

**[Prayer intentions submitted to this group are shared only in the semi-weekly email update sent to members of the online prayer group. Please keep all of us and our prodigals in your prayers--just as we will pray for you.]**

+Our Lady of Sorrows, pray for us and for our children.

+St. Benedict, pray for us.

+St. Jude, pray for us.

+St. Monica, pray for us.

+For all our prodigals to find the truth and return to the Lord and His church.

+For all those unspoken intentions in our hearts known only to us and to God, and for all previous intentions of this list.

.....  
**++LETTERS**

*Note from MaryAnn: Thank you to all who sent greetings by email and Christmas cards by postal mail. Each of your kind words were received as blessing. I thank God for all the friends He has given me since this apostolate began. I believe you will find uplifting the following excerpts from Christmas greetings the Marian Mantle Group received from some of the clergy whose support and encouragement are essential to the success of this little lay apostolate. Please pray for our priests.*

Thank you for the update on the Marian Mantle Group. The Lord has certainly blessed your efforts and made them very fruitful. With the assurance of my prayers for the Lord to continue blessing the Marian Mantle Group, I remain

Sincerely yours in Jesus, the Lord of Life,  
Archbishop Joseph F. Naumann

I appreciated hearing how our networking is bearing fruit in the lives of many people. Now anyone who answers the phone here [at the Apostleship of Prayer] will have a little card to use in referring people to Marian Mantle Group. By helping people turn to the Lord in their sorrow and pain, you [the members of the Marian Mantle Group] are helping them make more room for Christ in their lives this Christmas. I'm sure the Christ Child is smiling.

Sincerely in the Sacred Heart of Jesus,  
Father James Kubicki, S.J.

Wishing you a blessed, holy, and joyous Christmas season filled with His everlasting love, peace and hope! May our gracious Savior Jesus and His Blessed Mother be your comfort, encouragement and strength as you bring His Hope and Her understanding to the many prodigals that you touch in the new year.

Pax,  
Father David Fontaine, O. Carm

Merry Christmas to MaryAnn and all the crew in Marian Mantle. May you all be wrapped in Mary's mantle and blessing this Christmas and in the New Year to come.

.....  
**GOD'S WORD FOR US**

Our help is in the name of the LORD, who made heaven and earth ~Psalm 124:8

Sing to the LORD, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day. Declare his glory among the nations, his marvelous works among all the peoples! ~Psalm 96:2-3

.....  
**WORDS OF HOPE**

Christmas time, and the year will soon be leaving  
Cloaked in time till it's just a memory  
Christmas stays if we don't forget its meaning  
Days go quickly by. Years they multiply.  
And we go searching for Thee

And the dream is still alive, from that first December morning  
And it always will survive as long as we can see  
That the dreams we find in life are the dreams we tend to seek  
And Christmas has its promises to keep

Let the world rejoice together as it looks upon the stars  
Knowing every man's our brother and that every child is ours

And so it's good that we remember, just as soon as we've discovered  
That the things we do in life will always end up touching others

If you want to arrange it, this world you can change it  
If we could somehow make this Christmas thing last  
By helping a neighbor--Or even a stranger  
And to know who needs help--You need only just ask

Kyrie among nations  
Kyrie among nations  
Kyrie among nations  
Hear the bells ring through the night

~excerpts from *Christmas Eve and Other Stories* performed by Trans-Siberian Orchestra  
.....

**WISH LIST**

- +Stamps
- +Volunteers to pray from their home or chapel during talks
- +Help with operating expenses

.....  
**FYI**

**+My Request for Help** I thank those who have already responded to my request for a little financial help. Your kindness and generosity is the only way this apostolate has survived since 2003. I thank you for any amount you can contribute, for your stamps, your time, and your talent. Remember, we can now accept credit card donations online at <http://www.marianmantle.com/sp/donate.htm> or click on the "Make a Gift" link at the top of the home page. If you prefer to use the postal mail, send to Marian Mantle Group, PO Box 434, Gardner, KS 66030. We continue to be an all-volunteer group. The MMG is a tax exempt corporation registered with the State of Kansas. Your gift to the MMG is tax deductible.

**+ Answers to Prayer**

If your prodigal has returned, or is taking steps toward returning, please let us know. We believe a sorrow shared is half a sorrow and a joy shared is twice the joy. Every time someone shares their joy we all gain strength to trust and hope that someday our prayers, too, will be answered. Your sharing helps—and as long as we are helping each other we are doing the work that the Lord has asked of us. You can help bring His Light to others by bringing all of us a little more hope. Share your story! Remember, we ALWAYS keep your identity private.

**+For help with starting a Silent Strength prayer group to pray for the return of prodigal Catholics** contact 913-526-8977 or [maryann@marianmantle.com](mailto:maryann@marianmantle.com). If you think you might want to do this, take it to the Lord in prayer. If you then wish to continue, contact MaryAnn for assistance.

**+Presentations** MaryAnn will be speaking Feb 17, 2008 at Savior Pastoral Center, 12601 Parallel Pkwy, Kansas City, KS 66109, for more information, phone Eileen (913) 721-1097 or email: [savior@archkck.org](mailto:savior@archkck.org) For information about bringing the Silent Strength presentation to your parish or Catholic organization, contact 913-526-8977 or [maryann@marianmantle.com](mailto:maryann@marianmantle.com)

**+To Make a Prayer Request** If you have prayer requests or wish to email me, [click here](#) or use the normal email address [pray@marianmantle.com](mailto:pray@marianmantle.com) Our postal address is The Marian Mantle Group, PO Box 434, Gardner, Kansas 66030

**+ New Members** We welcome those who have just recently joined us in praying for our prodigals loved ones and for each other. May you feel comfort, support, and peace as a member of this group. If you have questions, email [maryann@marianmantle.com](mailto:maryann@marianmantle.com)

**+If you wish to be removed from this list,** reply to this message and place the word REMOVE in the subject.