

2020 **TRY PRAYER!** *It Works!* CONTEST

This year's theme, **Mary, the Mother of Families**, will help you and your family explore the power of Mother Mary's intercession. Mary has a special role in each family, especially yours. She reaches out to Jesus for us with her prayers. Imagine what family Rosary prayer could accomplish! Discover how Mary and the Rosary were a great source of comfort and an ever-present help throughout Venerable Patrick Peyton's life.



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FAMILY ACTIVITY

MARY, THE MOTHER OF FAMILIES

Inspired by our founder, Venerable Patrick Peyton, the *Try Prayer! It Works Contest* focuses on Father Peyton's message: "The family that prays together stays together." To strengthen family prayer in your home, we've included a family-faith experience that takes you and your family through a reflective, enriching journey.

Our goal is to bring the Church's teachings to life around the dinner table with discussion prompts, reflection questions, prayer ideas, and creativity! Let Mary inspire you in writing, drawing, filming, or painting to express how Mary shows her love for you and your family.

Dear family,
We encourage you to take time tonight during or after dinner to go through each of these steps, contemplate the prompts and finish in prayer together.

■ STEP 1: LIGHT A CANDLE

Begin by choosing someone to light a candle for the center of the table. Encourage everyone to breathe in a moment of silence. Put away all your daily worries for this short time. Choose to focus on the people sitting around you. Once you feel the room is settled, continue on to the next step.

■ STEP 2: OPEN WITH PRAYER

Ask someone to open with a prayer through the intercession of Our Blessed Mother. Use the prayer we provide below or create your own!

Lord, thank you for gathering us together tonight. Please gently guide our conversation to become a fruitful and growing experience. We ask this through the intercession of Our Mother, "Hail, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with Thee; blessed art Thou among women, and blessed is

the fruit of Thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen."

■ STEP 3: FAMILY REFLECTION

Once you've finished the opening prayer, invite another family member to read the story of Father Peyton below and/or visit **www.FamilyRosary.org/TryPrayer** to download pages from a comic book about his life called, "The Tale of Patrick Peyton."

Praying the Rosary as a family was an integral part of Patrick Peyton's family growing up in Ireland. Every evening, his parents would bring the entire family to the living room to pray the Rosary in front of the Sacred Heart image. Children picked up prayers without any special effort as they prayed every night as a family. Children took turns leading the family Rosary, while each member led a decade.

The Peyton family prayed together when one of its members got sick and when

they prayed, they believed that their prayers would be answered in their favor. Sometimes they had to pray persistently, but they always received an answer.

This lesson on persistence in prayer remained with Father Peyton as he grew into adulthood. Later, when he was sick and bedridden for a year, he never gave up! Consequently, he not only regained his good health but became a passionate apostle of the Rosary and family prayer for the rest of his life. In fact, today Father Peyton is being considered for sainthood by the Church for his tireless ministry around the world.

Through the story of Venerable Patrick Peyton, we see that Mother Mary was a real mother to him and his family. When Jesus was on the cross and offered Mother Mary to the apostle, John, He offered to us a **compassionate mother, trusted companion, and role model.**

■ STEP 4: FAMILY DISCUSSION

When reading the story of Venerable Patrick Peyton, perhaps you thought of an incident that took place in your life, or in the life of someone in your family or community. Dive a little deeper and explore those incidents as your family discusses these questions together:

- a) Have you experienced Mary at work in your life? How has she been a mother to you and your family?
- b) Discuss what intercession means. What are the occasions you pray through Mary and ask for her powerful intercession? How would you describe your experience?
- c) Do you see the quality of persistence in prayer in someone in your family or

community? Discuss the experiences of waiting before prayers are answered.

■ STEP 5: GET CREATIVE

Decide as a family what your *Try Prayer! It Works!* Contest entry will look like:

- a) Pick a real story from your life or family in which you experienced Mary as the mother to your family.
- b) Interview someone in your life, neighborhood or community who experienced Mary as the mother of his/her family.
- c) Draw a picture showing how Mary is the mother of families.
- d) Create a 2-minute long family video project displaying your experience of Mary, as the mother of families.
- e) Students in grades K – 3 may select one of the pictures of Mary and color, paint or decorate it. You may download the pages at **www.FamilyRosary.org/TryPrayer** (Although you are welcome to color/paint/decorate all the pages, only a single page is accepted for the contest.)

Whatever creative route you decide to pursue for this project, we encourage you to brainstorm with your family! Refer to the Contest Rules & Guidelines or visit **www.FamilyRosary.org/TryPrayer** for more information.

■ STEP 6: CLOSE WITH PRAYER

Lord, thank you for this engaging conversation and family reflection. Please help each of us live our lives for God, just like Our Blessed Mother did. Give us the confidence to seek the intercession of Mary, the Mother of Families, at all times.

With these prayers and those on our hearts, we say together the prayer that Jesus taught us, "Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name. Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our

daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us: and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen."

CONTINUE THE JOURNEY:

If you want another fun activity to engage your family, visit **www.FamilyRosary.org** for family prayer resources.

Thank you for taking the time to pray with your family! We encourage your family to have similar daily conversations to strengthen your faith. As Father Patrick Peyton said, "The family that prays together stays together." For daily reflection questions and topics, visit our blog at **Blog.FamilyRosary.org**.

We look forward to your contest submission! You're always in our thoughts and prayers at the Father Peyton Center in North Easton, Massachusetts, USA.

Blessings to you and your family,

Father Willy Raymond, C.S.C.

President

Holy Cross Family Ministries

AWARDS:

Each first-place winning entry will be awarded \$100.00 USD, and each sponsoring institution of the first-place winners will receive \$100.00 USD.



Winners from previous Try Prayer! It Works! Contests