



Dedicated with fervent love and thanksgiving

to

Our Lady of Perpetual Help

Composed by

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School of Nursing

PRAYER OF THE THIRTEEN ROSES

O Mary, mother of fair love and holy hope, we, your children, come upon bended knees to beg your intercession. Tonight, dear mother, we present to you another class of our fellow students clothed in white, the symbol of purity and mercy, ready to go forth into the never-ending task of caring for the sick. Immaculate Heart of Mary, glowing ocean of love for your Divine Son, Jesus, have mercy upon them, and win for them by your most powerful prayers a deep and lasting love for Jesus. We who have already embarked upon the ship of mercy and charity into the ocean of the sick and dying thank you for being our guiding star. We beg you, beloved of God, to be their guide as you have been ours. Be their strength and consolation in the time of trial and tribulation as you have been ours. Be their hope in time of despair as you have been our hope. Be with them as they carry Christ to the bedside of the sick and dying as you have been with us. Help them in their studies as you have helped us. Be their loyal intercessor as you have been ours. O Mary, we beg you to impart your blessings and graces to them as they begin their sacred duties in our noble profession.

And tonight, dear mother, we who are assembled here wish to pledge to you our love and loyalty once again. We will continue to strive to attain the highest skills and ideals possible in our profession. We cannot do it without your intercession. Ask your dear Jesus to bless us and be with us. Ask Him to have mercy upon us and hear the pleas and supplications we are about to lay before His Sacred Throne. As a token of our pledge to you, O Mary, we bring red roses - the symbol of love and sacrifice. Each rose that we lay at your feet, dear Mary, carried with it a special prayer. Harken to our pleas once again as we pledge our love to you.

THE FIRST ROSE is for *world peace*. As you promised at Fatima, bring peace to all nations. Hasten the day of your victory when Communism will be crumbled to the ground. If peace prevails we can minister to the sick and dying in every corner of the world with interference from no nation.

THE SECOND ROSE carries a prayer for the *spread of Christ's kingdom* throughout the world. May all nations hear and believe in the Church of Christ, the Holy Catholic Faith.

THE THIRD is for *charity*, that we may see in all patients the likeness and image of Christ and minister to the needs of all. Help us to remember the words of Our Blessed Lord, "as long as you did it for one of these the least of My brethren, you did it for Me."

THE FOURTH ROSE is for *perseverance*, that we may continue striving in our studies and work when the road gets steep. Give us the foresight to look ahead to better days when hope seems lost. Be our strength in these times of trial and tribulation.

THE FIFTH ROSE is for *grace - the grace to reclaim dying souls* estranged from Our Blessed Lord. Impart to us the grace necessary to help them make their peace with God as they close their eyes in death. We beg you, dear Mary, let no soul pass through our hands unclaimed for Christ.

THE SIXTH is for *purity*, one of the great virtues. Keep us pure in mind and body and help us ever to keep this virtue sacred in a world that is succumbing to the evils of Satan.

THE SEVENTH is for the *seven heroic nations* along the Iron Curtain - Hungary, Bulgaria, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Rumania, East-Germany and Albania - where so many of our fellow Christians have been martyred for the Faith. May the Freedom fighters of Hungary stand forever as a living symbol of good against evil. These nations have suffered so very much, and so many millions have died. We place them in your loving care and beg you to have mercy upon them. One day may freedom reign throughout the entire world.

WE ASK for the gift of *knowledge* as we present you the EIGHTH ROSE. Help us to come to a deep knowledge and understanding of our faith and of our profession. Bless our studies and help us to do the best we can.

THE NINTH ROSE is for our *Holy Father*. He is Christ's vicar here on earth. Make intercession for him that he may lead the flock of God in sanctity and holiness. May the Lord preserve him and give him life and make him blessed upon the earth and deliver him not up to the will of his enemies.

THE TENTH ROSE is for *all those outside the fold*. O Mother beloved, help them find their way back to the mother faith whom they left so hastily and who now waits with open arms to receive them back. Bless them and keep them safe in thy loving care.

THE ELEVENTH is for *forgiveness* for all our sins and transgressions. Beg God to have mercy upon us, to forgive us, and to instill in us a firm resolution not to sin again.

AS WE PLACE the TWELFTH ROSE, we ask for the *grace of a happy death*. As you have been with us in life, be with us at the hour of our death. When the sweat of death is on our brow and our eyelids close in the last sleep, carry us through the dark valley of death into the eternal brightness of the heavenly kingdom there to glorify God for all eternity.

AND FINALLY, dear mother, we bring you the THIRTEENTH ROSE - a rose of pure white. It stands for *the sacredness, the holiness, and the nobility of the profession* to which we have dedicated our lives. Help us to be good nurses, striving ever to better our profession. Through our profession, help us to sanctify ourselves and others. And, when we have finished our earthly pilgrimage, may we hear those words of Our Savior, "Well done, good and faithful servant!"

These are our prayers. Bend near to hear our supplications in this earthly vale of tears. We honor and salute you, noble Queen of Heaven, and we beg for your continued intercession. We entrust our new schoolmates to your loving care forever. We join our voices in triumphant chorus as we pray those words of ancient days - "Thou art all fair, O Mary, thou art the glory of Jerusalem, the joy of Israel, the honor of our people." (Missal) Amen.

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