



1ST SATURDAY DEVOTION NEWSLETTER

February 2016

In this Issue

Let Works of Mercy Be Our Delight	1
Overview for the Month	
Feasts for February	
Cenacle Corner	2
Highlight of the Month	3
God Touched Me	4
Spiritual Enrichment Recommended	5
News Dispatch	6
Thank You	7
Devotion Schedule	

THE EDITORS OF THE SPIRITUAL ARMY OF GOD THE FATHER'S 1ST SATURDAY NEWSLETTER ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR MAINTAINING THE CONSISTENT QUALITY AND ACCURACY OF THE SPIRITUAL ARMY OF GOD THE FATHER'S 1ST SATURDAY NEWSLETTER AND AS SUCH RESERVE THE RIGHT TO REJECT OR EDIT THE CONTENT OF ALL SUBMISSIONS FOR PUBLICATION. EDITING MAY INCLUDE, BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO, CHANGES TO GRAMMAR, SYNTAX AND STYLES, REMOVAL OF OFFENSIVE CONTENT AND REMOVAL OF PERSONAL NON-PUBLIC INFORMATION. SUBMISSION OF YOUR ARTICLE SIGNIFIES YOUR AGREEMENT TO THE TERMS AFOREMENTIONED.

LET WORKS OF MERCY BE OUR DELIGHT

Lenten Wisdom from St. Leo the Great

Adapted from St. Leo the Great, Sermon 40, On Lent (4-5)

www.wau.org

Dearly beloved, we have been taught by our Redeemer, "Man does not live by bread alone, but on every word of God," and so it is right that all Christians, no matter how much they fast, should cultivate the desire to satisfy themselves with the "Word of God" rather than bodily food.

Therefore, let us begin this Lenten season with eagerness, ready to progress in devotion to our Lord, not by an empty fasting or almsgiving, but through generous compassion and good will



Let works of mercy be our delight, and let them be the food that fills us for eternity. Let us rejoice in the satisfaction of the poor when we give from our bounty. Let us delight in the clothing of those whose nakedness we have covered. Let our compassion and generosity touch the sick in their illness or infirmities, the exiles in their hardships, the orphans in their destitution, and the widows in their sadness No one's income is small, whose heart is big; and the measure of one's mercy and goodness does not depend on the size of one's means. Wealth of goodwill is never lacking, even in a slender purse

Lenten observances, rightly followed, can make hatred turn into affection and enmity turn to peace; wrath can be quenched by meekness, and wrongs forgiven by gentleness. They are a way, my beloved, that God's mercy can enter your life, sins be forgiven, and Easter be rightly celebrated. So we should forgive faults, loosen bonds, wipe out offenses, and let go of vengeance. In this way, the Easter festival will find us all happy and innocent by the grace of our Lord Jesus Christ who with the Father and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns forever. Amen. □

OVERVIEW FOR THE MONTH

www.catholicculture.org

The month of February is dedicated to the Holy Family. The first ten days of February fall within the liturgical season of Ordinary Time which is represented by the liturgical color green. The remaining days of February are the beginning of Lent. The liturgical color changes to purple — a symbol of penance, mortification and the sorrow of a contrite heart.

The faithful may receive in February three of the four major public sacramentals that the Church confers during the liturgical year: blessed candles, the blessing of throats and blessed ashes. The Solemnity of the Presentation of the Lord on February 2nd harkens back to the Christmas mystery of Light except that now, Christ, the helpless babe, is “the Light of Revelation to the Gentiles who will save his people from their sins.” Candles, symbolizing

Christ our Light, will be carried in procession this day, as will be the Paschal candle during the Easter Vigil Liturgy. “The Light of Revelation” shines more brightly with each successive Sunday of Ordinary Time, until its magnificence – exposing our sinfulness and need for conversion – propels us into the penitential Season of Lent. We prepare to accept the cross of blessed ashes on Ash Wednesday (February 10) and plunge ourselves into the major exercises of Lent – fasting, prayer, almsgiving – laying our thoughts and prayers on the heart of our Mother Mary. She, who offered her Son in the temple and on the Cross, will teach us how to deny ourselves, take up our cross daily, and follow after her Son. ☐

FEASTS FOR FEBRUARY

The feasts on the General Roman Calendar celebrated during the month of February are:

- 2 Presentation of the Lord, Feast
- 3 Blaise; Ansgar, Opt. Mem.
- 5 Agatha, Memorial
- 6 Paul Miki and Companions, Memorial
- 7 Fifth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Sunday
- 8 Jerome Emiliani; Josephine Bakhita, Opt. Mem.
- 11 Our Lady of Lourdes, Opt. Mem.
- 17 Seven Founders of the Orders of Servites, Opt. Mem.

- 21 Second Sunday of Lent, Sunday
- 22 Chair of St. Peter, Feast
- 23 Polycarp of Smyrna, Memorial
- 28 Third Sunday of Lent, Sunday

The feasts of Saints Cyril and Methodius (February 14) and St. Peter Damian (February 21) will not be celebrated this year because they are superseded by the Sunday liturgy. The feast of St. Scholastica (February 10) is superseded by the liturgy for Ash Wednesday. ☐

OUR CENACLE CORNER

*Seeking a deeper relationship with God
through meditation of passages from Holy Scriptures*

**Knowing God Intimately
Being as Close to Him as Possible**

Deuteronomy

Psalm

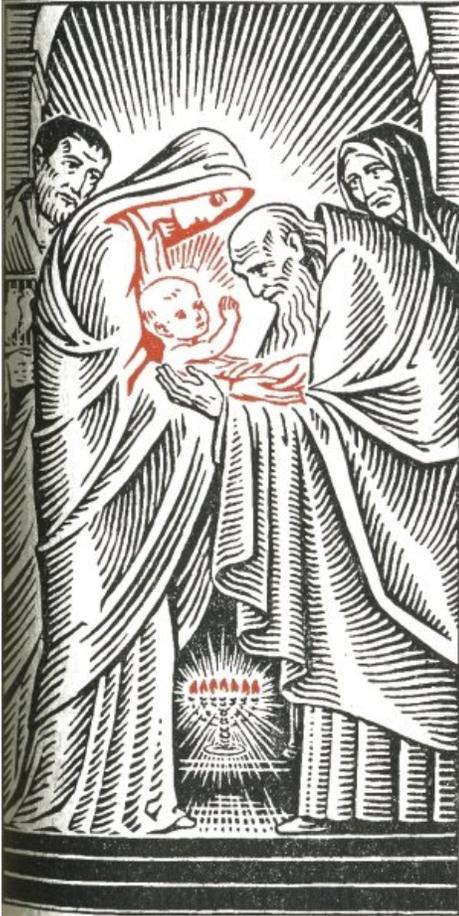
Jeremiah

HIGHLIGHT OF THE MONTH

THE FOURTH JOYFUL MYSTERY: THE PRESENTATION OF THE LORD

By Will Duquette @ www.catholicmom.com
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The Presentation is the Mystery of Obedience, of the miracles that happen when we simply do what God asks of us.



The Fourth Joyful Mystery is the Presentation of Jesus at the Temple. It was the duty of every Jewish couple to present their first-born son in the Temple forty days after his birth, to redeem him from the Lord according to the Law. And so Mary and Joseph obediently brought Jesus to the Temple and redeemed him with a sacrifice of two turtledoves, in the manner prescribed for those who could not afford a lamb.

This would have been a common occurrence in their world: not a day-to-day event, certainly, but as normal and expected as weddings, funerals, and similar life events,

a matter that one might take for granted as being of interest only to those directly involved. And so, as we know, after presenting Jesus in the prescribed way we might expect Mary and Joseph to return home without any other events of note.

But that's not what happened. As we read in Luke 2:25-32, Now there was a man in Jerusalem, whose name was Simeon, and this man was righteous and devout, looking for the consolation of Israel, and the Holy Spirit was upon him. And it had been revealed to him by the Holy Spirit that he should not see death before he had seen the Lord's Christ. And inspired by the Spirit he came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the

child Jesus, to do for him according to the custom of the law, he took him up in his arms and blessed God and said, "Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word; for mine eyes have seen thy salvation which Thou hast prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for glory to Thy people Israel. (RSV-CE) Simeon had been waiting to see the Christ for a long time, possibly for years. It had been promised to him by the Lord. And he came to the Temple on that day, and waited, and when Jesus came in he took him in his arms and blessed God. This moment with Jesus was the central moment of Simeon's life; and it is a moment of praise that has rung down the ages, in words that we repeat nightly in the Divine Office.

Mary and Joseph had no idea, as they gathered their things and took up their infant son for the long walk to Jerusalem, that they were going to be an answer to prayer, and would be the redeemers of God's promise to Simeon. But they went in obedience, and in His providence God used their obedience in ways they would never have imagined.

They were blessed; the two of them, by seeing how God had made use of their obedience; but this, I am convinced, is not the usual way. God is the great optimizer, who makes all things work together to His glory, and our every act of obedience plays into that. Usually we see only our own actions; we do not see how they ripple out to affect others and bring them God's presence and love. But once in a while He shows us, as a sign of His workings, so that we may see and understand.

How have you seen your own obedience to God bear unexpected fruit? □

Will Duquette is not a Catholic Mom. Instead, he's a software engineer by day, and a Lay Dominican by night...well, and by day, too. He's also the husband of Jane and the father of four kids, and he writes because he can't help it. When he's not at CatholicMom, which is virtually all of the time, Will blogs at Patheos at "Cry Woof!".

GOD TOUCHED ME

COLUMBINE STUDENT'S FATHER 12 YEARS LATER

Guess our national "leaders" didn't expect this. On Thursday, Darrell Scott, the father of Rachel Scott, a victim of the Columbine High School shootings in Littleton, Colorado, was invited to address the House Judiciary Committee's subcommittee. What he said to our national leaders during this special session of Congress was painfully truthful.

They were not prepared for what he was to say, nor was it received well. It needs to be heard by every parent, every teacher, every politician, every sociologist, every psychologist, and every so-called expert! These courageous words spoken by Darrell Scott are powerful, penetrating, and deeply personal. There is no doubt that God sent this man as a voice crying in the wilderness. The following is a portion of the transcript.

"Since the dawn of creation there has been both good and evil in the hearts of men and women. We all contain the seeds of kindness or the seeds of violence. The death of my wonderful daughter, Rachel Joy Scott, and the deaths of that heroic teacher, and the other eleven children who died must not be in vain. Their blood cries out for answers.

The first recorded act of violence was when Cain slew his brother Abel out in the field. The villain was not the club he used. Neither was it the NCA nor the National Club Association. The true killer was Cain, and the reason for the murder could only be found in Cain's heart.

I was amazed at how quickly fingers began to be pointed at groups such as the NRA. I am not a member of the NRA. I am not a hunter. I do not even own a gun. I am not here to represent or defend the NRA - because I don't believe that they are responsible for my daughter's death. Therefore, I do not believe that they need to be defended. If I believed they had anything to do with Rachel's murder I would be their strongest opponent.

I am here today to declare that Columbine was not just a tragedy -- it was a spiritual event that should be forcing us to look at where the real blame lies! Much of the blame lies here in this room. Much of the blame lies behind the pointing fingers of the accusers themselves. I wrote a poem just four nights ago that expresses my feelings best.

'Your laws ignore our deepest needs, Your words are empty air. You've stripped away our heritage. You've outlawed simple prayer.

Now gunshots fill our classrooms, and precious children die. You seek for answers everywhere, And ask the question, "Why?"

You regulate restrictive laws, through legislative creed. And yet you fail to understand is that God is what we need!

Men and women are three-part beings. We all consist of body, mind, and spirit. When we refuse to acknowledge a third part of our make-up, we create a void that allows evil, prejudice, and hatred to rush in and wreak havoc. Spiritual presences were present within our educational systems for most of our nation's history. Many of our

major colleges began as theological seminaries. This is a historical fact. What has happened to us as a nation? We have refused to honor God, and in so doing, we open the doors to hatred and violence. And when something as terrible as Columbine's tragedy occurs -- politicians immediately look for a scapegoat such as the NRA. They immediately seek to pass more restrictive laws that contribute to erode away our personal and private liberties. We do not need more restrictive laws. Eric and Dylan would not have been stopped by metal detectors. No amount of gun laws can stop someone who spends months planning this type of massacre. The real villain lies within our own hearts.

As my son Craig lay under that table in the school library and saw his two friends murdered before his very eyes, he did not hesitate to pray in school. I defy any law or politician to deny him that right! I challenge every young person in America, and around the world, to realize that on April 20, 1999, at Columbine High School, prayer was brought back to our schools. Do not let the many prayers offered by those students be in vain. Dare to move into the new millennium with a sacred disregard for legislation that violates your God-given right to communicate with Him. To those of you who would point your finger at the NRA -- I give to you a sincere challenge. Dare to examine your own heart before casting the first stone! My daughter's death will not be in vain! The young people of this country will not allow that to happen!" - Darrell Scott.

Do what the media did not do - - let the nation hear or read this man's speech. □

***If you have any personal articles
on God's miracle in your life
you want to share with the devotees,
we may be reached at
the following e-mail addresses
and phone numbers:
evelyn.pua@spiritualarmyofgod.org
alice.a@spiritualarmyofgod.org
(702) 274-4315 and/or (213) 385-7798.***

SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT RECOMMENDED

HOW TO FIND TIME IN THE DAY FOR LENT

www.loyolapress.com

The fast pace of your life may seem to leave little time and energy for the traditional Lenten practices. But you can weave moments of spiritual awareness and service into even the busiest of schedules. The trick is to see Lenten practice as part of, rather than in addition to, each activity of your ordinary hectic day.

The three foundational practices of Lent are prayer, fasting, and almsgiving. Here's how to think about them in a new way:

PRAYING DAILY

If you make a habit of saying a little prayer whenever someone irritates you, cuts you off in traffic, or makes life difficult; when someone does you a favor, you experience great and friendly service, or when something joyful happens to you -- you will soon find yourself praying your way through the day. Try this simple practice and you will be observing the Catholic Church's call for greater prayer during the Lenten season. You will also find that this habit makes your life flow smoother, yourself more centered, and your Spirit more aware of God's presence.

A DIFFERENT TYPE OF FASTING

There are many ways to fast. Why not fast from criticism, gossip, judging others, or passing on rumors? Why not abstain from unwarranted fear and anxiety? You

can also tell that inner voice inside your head that criticizes you to abstain from eroding your ability to be the confident, blessed person God calls you to be. These are beautiful ways to observe the Lenten call to fasting and abstinence. In the book, *Praying Lent*, the authors offer suggestions on different ways to fast during Lent.

GIVE OF YOURSELF

Daily life also offers countless opportunities to give of yourself to others (alms), and most don't involve dipping into your wallet. Give encouragement to the doubting, give a word of praise to the insecure, show kindness to someone who could use a friend, and offer a word of thanks to those whose service of others often goes unappreciated. Give the gift of your attention to someone who simply wants to be noticed. Tell your children stories about people whose values you admire when you gather at mealtime. Don't be stingy with your smiles -- give them freely to everyone you meet. And most important, give your love to those close to you. Hug them, hold them, and tell them what they mean to you. In this way you open your heart to God and others.

So no matter how busy you are in life, with some greater awareness and new perspectives you can consciously pray, fast, and give of yourself this Lent -- and you will be ready to celebrate when a joyful dawn breaks upon you Easter morning. ☐



".....I am your Mother Mary.

Today remember those human lives being killed without even given a chance to see the beauty of God's creation. The savagery of these killings that entered the mind of some humans because of greed, convenience and money. It is this reason that God has brought tribulations and woes to this part of the world.

My children, prepare yourselves for more cleansing that would come your way and other parts of the world. Remember my children to pray with all your hearts that God's Heart will soften, which is already deeply hurt. I will be interceding for you as you pray the beads of my rosary. Hold on to the rosary and pray with all your strength of heart that yearns for God's Mercy and Forgiveness.

Thank you for listening to my call my children. I love you."

- Mary, Your Lady of Guadalupe
02232016

SPIRITUAL ARMY NEWS DISPATCH

THE SPIRITUAL ARMY'S 11TH INFANT JESUS CELEBRATION

The Spiritual Army of God the Father celebrated the Feast of the Holy Infant Jesus on January 16, 2016 at the St. Francis de Sales Roman Catholic Church in Las Vegas, NV. Prior to its celebration, a nine day novena that commenced on January 7 was said by the devotees. The Liturgical celebration started with the entrance of the Holy Infant Jesus on a carousel decked with flowers. As the Holy Infant Jesus was walked down the aisle, all the devotees stood up, raised their own Infant Jesus statues and swayed them up high to the Sto. Niño petition song. This was followed by floral offering and prayers to the Holy Infant Jesus. Liturgy of the Mass followed, then the individual blessing of the Holy Infant Jesus statues. Children were lectors, offerors and prayer leaders. Procession of the Infant Jesus from the church to the Monsignor Lavoy Hall followed and where Lunch, Sinulog and performances by children as well as adults were done.

The veneration and celebration of the Feast of the Holy Infant Jesus is a spiritual extension of Christmas and signals our journey to the approaching Lenten season. This devotion links its genesis to Infant Jesus from the Carmelite sisters dating back during the time of St. Teresa de Avila. The promise of the Infant Jesus in His apparition and locution states "*the more you honor me the more I will bless you.*" For some odd situation the Infant Jesus image became very popular among conquistadores that were dispatched to discover new worlds and new routes to find spices. One of these renowned Portuguese navigators traveling under the flagship of Spain was Ferdinand Magellan. He landed in the Philippines and converted to Christianity Rajah Humabon (Carlos), King of Cebu and Hara Humamay (Juana), his consort. Magellan gifted Juana with the image of infant Jesus of Prague as soon as this indigenous converts embraced Christianity . The rest is history. The image of Infant Jesus of Prague became an instrument to drive away evil spirits by other subjects during the reign of Humabon and Queen Juana who used the image solely for her dance. This CELEBRATION became known as Sinulog to the Cebuanos and remains the theme of the celebration.

The Infant Jesus celebration this time puts a little more faith-based tone by introducing a petition and thanksgiving song that focuses on honoring our Infant Jesus rather than an instrument of driving unsolicited spirits around. Every devotee of the Spiritual Army from Las Vegas and Los Angeles has in mind the impact of Sto. Niño in their lives as the song STO. NIÑO renders everyone in faithful awe. The music is the song of petition and a thanksgiving to Infant Jesus which at that very moment is already an answered petition and THANKSGIVING that only a devotee can blurt into dance and song praising Him with PIT SENIOR and VIVA STO. NIÑO!!! ☐

Note: A photo collage of the Infant Jesus celebration should be available on The Spiritual Army of God the Father's website link to YouTube.

UPCOMING EVENTS

**TOY DRIVE FOR THE
CHILDREN'S HOSPITAL
[ONGOING]**

**PRAYING THE STATIONS WITH
MOTHER MARY**

11:00 AM
SATURDAY, MARCH 5, 2016
CONVENT OF THE SISTER DISCIPLES
OF THE DIVINE MASTER
LOS ANGELES, CA

DIVINE MERCY SUNDAY

1:00 PM
SUNDAY, APRIL 3, 2016
MONASTERY OF THE ANGELS
LOS ANGELES, CA

**PILGRIMAGE TO
HOLY LAND & JORDAN**

DECEMBER 5-15, 2016
DAILY ACTIVITIES AND OTHER
INFORMATION ARE AVAILABLE AT
WWW.SPIRITUALARMYOFGOD.ORG

THANK YOU

... a small and simple phrase that comes from a grateful heart!

Psalm 106:2

800 OUR FATHER DEVOTION

The Spiritual Army of God the Father acknowledges with thanks our generous February sponsors of the 800 Our Father Devotion. We are grateful that we have merited their partnership and support in providing a venue of spirituality and fellowship for the devotees of God the Father.

Las Vegas, Nevada

Mike & Joyce Ulmer

Los Angeles, California

Frank & Beth Lim | Ben & Vincie Ong
Connie Poblete

[Waiting for other prospective Sponsors' confirmation of their availability to be present for the duration of the 800 Our Father Devotion]

FOR PRAYERS HEARD AND PETITIONS GRANTED

HOW DO WE RESPOND WHEN OUR CRY FOR MERCY RECEIVES ITS LOVING ANSWER FROM OUR MASTER?

WE NEED TO PRAISE AND THANK JESUS FOR HIS HEALING POWER, MERCY, AND GRACE.

WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU FELL FACE DOWN AND PRAISED JESUS?

WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU PRAISED AND THANKED THE LORD

FOR ALL THAT HE HAS DONE FOR YOU

WITH A GENUINE HEART AND A PROSTRATE POSTURE?

I'm eternally grateful for our God The Father, am so blessed with abundant love from our most merciful God! Thank you Almighty God for being there, being you, so loving, so generous, so patient, so attentive to our prayers, our most merciful God!

I was once hopeless, I was in despair, I was broken, I was lost and now I'm found; I'm grateful for the Lord gave me Hope, He gave me Salvation, He mended my heart and filled it with His Love, He mended my Soul and filled with His words of wisdom. Thank you God the Father for fighting for us all!

- Marie Nguyen

With praise and thanksgiving we lift our lives to you Eternal Father. Thank you for Your love, mercy, and guidance throughout our lives. Your bountiful blessings and graces speak volumes now more than ever as we continue to seek you. All glory to you our loving most merciful Father. We love you!

- Raina and Carlos

Las Vegas chapter thanks the participation and generosity accorded by the Los Angeles/Chino Hills chapters during the Holy Infant Jesus celebration on January 16, 2016. Specific acknowledgments go to Marilyn and Ruth who coordinated with LV and the Chino Hills growing families for the beautiful children's and adults' presentations; the Spiritual Army of God the

Father choir who made the Liturgical celebration even more meaningful; and for the donations from various devotees whose financial assistance helped in making our celebration successful. Kudos, too, to all the Las Vegas devotees who, without hesitation, have helped in the planning, preparation, financing and implementation of the Holy Infant Jesus celebration. Viva Senor Sto. Niño!!!

- Evelyn & Robert Pua



Here's my cute Sto. Niño. Upon praying for blessing and healing, my back pain was gone the next day. I was sick for two weeks and afraid that the infection will come back. With prayer and faith to Sto. Niño I felt the blessing of his healing touch. Now I'm feeling great again and am back to work. My faith in The Lord is stronger and realized that God always gives precedence to my needs and know now that I must do the same thing – make Him my priority and honor HIM!

His right hand is missing -- it must be going around and touching others to heal! Amen!

- Joseph Gelito

DEVOTION SCHEDULE



THE SPIRITUAL ARMY OF GOD THE FATHER

cordially invites you to the following devotions:

IN LOS ANGELES:

1st Saturday Devotion

The Convent of the Sister Disciples of the Divine Master | 501 N. Beaudry Avenue | (213) 250-7962
Holy Mass starts at 8:30 A.M. | 1st Saturday Devotional Prayers follow.

Devotion to God the Father

Every 1st Sunday of the Month | The Monastery of the Angels | 1977 Carmen Avenue on Gower | (323) 466-2186
12:30 P.M. - Rosary to the Father | 1:15 P.M. - Holy Mass
2:00 P.M. - Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament

800 Our Father Devotion – February 20, 2016

at the Convent of the Sister Disciples of the Divine Master | starting at 8:30 a.m.
*Please call Victor at (213) 385-7798 if you wish to become a Sponsor
of the 2000 Hail Mary and/or the 800 Our Father Devotion.*

IN LAS VEGAS:

Sacred Heart and Precious Blood of Jesus Devotion for Departed Souls

Every 1st Friday of the Month
at The Cenacle House in The Enclave 8455 W. Sahara Avenue #172 | Las Vegas, NV 89117
Devotional Prayers start at 2:30 P.M.

1st Saturday Devotion

at Saint Frances de Sales Parish | 1111 Michael Way | Las Vegas, NV 80108
Mass at 8:00 AM, Devotional Prayers follow.

and

at The Cenacle House in The Enclave | 8455 West Sahara Avenue #172, | Las Vegas, NV 89117
Cenacle at 10:00 AM, mass at 1:00 PM and devotional prayers to follow.
Please call Evelyn at (702)274-4315 for entry to The Enclave or for more information.

Devotion to God the Father

Every 1st Sunday of the month from 2:00 to 3:30 P.M.
at The Cenacle House in The Enclave | 8455 West Sahara Avenue #172, | Las Vegas, NV 89117

800 Our Father Devotion – February 20, 2016

*Please call (702) 255-9616 or (702) 274-4315 for
dates and venues for the coming months or for more information or if you wish to Sponsor the Devotion.*

Mother of Perpetual Help Novena & Rosary Prayers

Every Wednesday after the 7:30 AM Mass
St. Francis de Sales Parish | 1111 Michael Way | Las Vegas, NV 89108

IN THE PHILIPPINES

2000 Hail Mary Devotion - Metro Manila Area

Letty Rollan has organized the 2000 Hail Mary Devotion in various areas of Metro Manila through the members of the "Mother Butler." Please call her U.S. Vonage phone (510) 779-6652, text her at Manila #916-384-9300, and/or call her Manila landline 939-4677. Mention Mila Lumba's name to be recognized.