



For Members of the Worldwide Father Peyton Prayer Guild

United in Prayer for a Spiritual Cause



Feast Days:

- Memorial of The Holy Guardian Angels, **Oct. 2**
- Memorial of St. Francis of Assisi, **Oct. 4**
- Memorial of St. Faustina Kowalska, **Oct. 5**
- Memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary, **Oct. 7**
- Memorial of St. John XXIII, **Oct. 11**
- Memorial of St. Callistus I, **Oct. 14**
- Memorial of St. Margaret Mary Alacoque, **Oct. 16**
- Memorial of St. Ignatius of Antioch, **Oct. 17**
- Feast of St. Luke, **Oct. 18**
- Memorial of Sts. John de Brébeuf and Isaac Jogues and Companions, **Oct. 19**
- Memorial of St. John of Capistrano, **Oct. 23**
- Feast of Sts. Simon and Jude, **Oct. 28**

From the Vice Postulator/Guild Director

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I recently received a phone call from Father Timothy Smith of the Diocese of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, U.S.A., asking if we could speak about Father Peyton's work with Bishops and Cardinals around the world as it pertained to his ministry to promote family prayer. I was interested in how Father Smith had heard about Father Peyton and what inspired him to ask this question. Here is my conversation with Father Smith:



Reverend Timothy Smith, Diocese of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, U.S.A.

How did you learn about Father Peyton's ministry?

I first learned of Father Peyton from a billboard that was advertising the Family Rosary Crusade while traveling through the state of Minnesota. The billboard coincided with the release of the film, *PRAY: THE STORY OF PATRICK PEYTON*. I was provoked by the sign, and I discovered the film and was captivated by the life and ministry of Father Peyton.

What inspired you about Father Peyton's life and priesthood?

I was inspired by his innovation and courage to ask people to participate in the mission. Father Peyton helped me realize that nothing is preventing me from asking and inviting members of the Church to participate in a campaign for prayer. His faithfulness to the devotions of the Church and his willingness to invite other people to participate in the work of prayer was a great inspiration.

How have you incorporated Father Peyton's strategy for evangelization?

As a parish priest, I worked with parishioners to begin a campaign of prayer within our parish boundaries. We have several parishes in a rural area that are served by the same pastor—a common occurrence in the geography of rural America.

Since 2021, the members of the parishes have collaborated to produce billboards promoting Ash Wednesday, "Peace Be With You!", the Divine Mercy message of "Jesus, I Trust in You!", and Father Peyton's "The Family That Prays Together Stays Together."

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"The Rosary has saved the world in the past. It will save the world now by saving the family."

- Venerable Patrick Peyton -

Many people have commented on how the signs' messages have impacted their faith. The group collaboration is also a positive expression of the unity shared in this Catholic community. The parish sponsors come from different parishes, but what unites the community is their shared common prayer. It's great to be reminded that we are all one family—we pray the same Hail Mary—even though we may come from different parishes. Mary is given the title of Mother of the Church, and I believe that God will use all these Hail Mary prayers to unite our local churches fruitfully during a time of change and transition.

How have people responded to seeing the film, *PRAY: THE STORY OF PATRICK PEYTON*?

People are open to the message of prayer. Father Peyton's life story inspires awe and wonder in parish members and youth. People recognize in Father Peyton evidence of God's work and the authenticity of his life of holiness.

What are some of the challenges that your parishioners face that can be helped by family prayer, especially the Rosary?

An increasing culture of distraction affects families and individuals in the Church. Competition for time between activities and media devices means that many people today need help to separate from the busy distractions in life and focus on prayer. We know that prayer works—but our circumstances increasingly challenge us. Family prayer and the focus on making this time is essential for all members of the Church.

How has Father Peyton's life and priesthood affected your priesthood?

I am currently a full-time Canon Law student and am writing on "The Role of the Diocesan Bishop as Moderator of the Use of Mass Media by Priests." Sixty years ago, at the Second Vatican Council, the Church recognized the importance of using radio, television, and the media when it announced the Decree on Mass Communications, *Inter Mirifica*. At that time, Father Peyton was an example of the value of this vital work and the Church's role in using communications to bring the message of the Church to the world. Today, we take for granted that the Church has television and radio programs; we can even watch the Holy Father, Pope Francis, at the Vatican on YouTube. These new ways to experience our faith began with the early pioneers like Father Peyton, who was a trailblazer during an important time in evangelization.

I'd like to thank Father Smith for sharing how he came to know and be inspired by Father Patrick Peyton's life and ministry. Father Smith reminds each of us that God works through many means to draw us closer to Him and to each other. I'm pleased to report that Father Smith is the newest member of the Father Peyton Prayer Guild!

In Jesus and Mary,

Rev. David S. Marcham

Father David S. Marcham
Vice Postulator/Guild Director



Parishioners of several parishes in South Dakota, U.S.A., sponsor a billboard campaign inviting people to pray to Our Blessed Mother.

