



For Members of the Worldwide Father Peyton Prayer Guild

United in Prayer for a Spiritual Cause



*April is the Month of the
Holy Eucharist*

Feast Days:

- Memorial of St. Francis of Paola, **Apr. 2**
- Memorial of St. Isidore, **Apr. 4**
- Memorial of St. John Baptist de la Salle, **Apr. 7**
- Memorial of St. Stanislaus, **Apr. 11**
- Palm Sunday of the Passion of the Lord, **Apr. 13**
- Friday of the Passion of the Lord, **Apr. 18**
- Holy Saturday, **Apr. 19**
- Solemnity of Easter Sunday of the Resurrection of the Lord, **Apr. 20**
- Sunday of Divine Mercy, **Apr. 27**
- Memorial of St. Louis Grignon de Montfort, **Apr. 28**
- Memorial of St. Catherine of Siena, **Apr. 29**

From the Vice Postulator/Guild Director

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

In my last letter, I shared a reflection on a celebration commemorating the seventy-fifth anniversary of Venerable Patrick Peyton leading a Rosary crusade and rallies in Scranton, Pennsylvania. I reflected on the significance to the Peyton family and the families of the Diocese of Scranton, both then and now. Today, I'd like to share how these came to be and what took place next in Father Peyton's mission to bring the family Rosary to ten million homes in the United States.

In 1948, after having preached many parish missions on the virtues of the family Rosary, Father Peyton had a providential meeting with a group of priests in Canada. This led to Father Peyton being invited by Bishop John T. Kidd of London, Ontario, Canada, to lead a crusade for family Rosary prayer culminating in a Rosary rally. The Rosary crusade and rally in Canada was a huge success where over 80,000 families, 95% of the diocese, pledged to faithfully pray the family Rosary. This was the first of 540 rallies worldwide led by Father Peyton and attended by millions of people.

This experience and the incredible results of the first Canadian crusades were the impetus of the first crusades and rallies in the United States. Each of these was held in locations with special significance in Father Peyton's life: Scranton, Pennsylvania, his first U.S. hometown, and the Midwest, including the University of Notre Dame, where he spent eight years preparing to become a Holy Cross priest.



Father Patrick Peyton, C.S.C., speaks at a Rosary rally at the University of Notre Dame, October 22, 1950.

Continued on back

"The Rosary is now revealed in a brilliant light for what it is ... one of the greatest and most effective prayers for the family."

- Venerable Patrick Peyton -



The University of Notre Dame, South Bend, Indiana.

In the Diocese of Scranton, Bishop William Haffey wrote to his diocese: "It is our fervent hope that all ... families, recognizing the desperate need in our times for a return to family prayer, will find the grace and courage to sign their daily Family Rosary pledge and keep it faithfully." The crusade, in total, featured five Rosary rallies, the largest of which was attended by 50,000 people in Scranton, Pennsylvania.

In October 1950, another Family Rosary Crusade took place, this time encompassing the Archdioceses of Louisville and Indianapolis and their four suffragan dioceses. This was another homecoming for Father Peyton, when on October 22, 35,000 people poured into the University of Notre Dame football stadium to hear him exhort all those present to pray the Rosary with and for their families.

The student publication, *Scholastic*, commented, "The marked contrast between the pomp and color of the rally's procession and the simple message given by Father Peyton hit home."

Father Peyton had made the first inroads in his plan to bring the family Rosary to 10 million families. This was just the beginning of promoting family unity and world peace through family Rosary prayer worldwide.

Seventy-five years later, we members of the Father Peyton Prayer Guild remember and give thanks to God for using Venerable Patrick Peyton as an evangelist of the family Rosary. We join together in prayer for the Beatification and Canonization of Venerable Patrick Peyton so that families throughout the world will likewise be inspired to make the time to pray together, especially the Rosary, for their unity and the good of our world.

In Jesus and Mary,

Rev. David S. Marcham

Father David S. Marcham
Vice Postulator/Guild Director

(Reference for this letter: *American Apostle of the Family Rosary* by Father Richard Gribble, C.S.C.)

Prayer for a Favor Through the Intercession of Venerable Patrick Peyton

God, our Father, Your wisdom is displayed in all creation and the power of Your grace is revealed in the lives of holy people, who inspire us to trust You more fully and to serve others more generously. In a unique way, You blessed the life and work of Your servant Father Patrick Peyton, C.S.C., and made him a fervent apostle of Mary, Queen of the Holy Rosary and Mother of us all. Through his intercession, we ask for this favor...

Please grant it, if it is for Your honor and glory, through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

If you have received graces through Father Peyton's intercession, please email vicepostulator@hcfm.org.

