



Pope Saint Leo the Great

Pray for us



**BENEDICT XVI comments on Saint Leo The Great
(March 5, 2008)**

"Continuing our catechesis on the Fathers of the Church, we turn to Saint Leo the Great, one of the most influential Popes in history. He was born in Tuscia and became Bishop of Rome in 440 during times of severe social unrest. Since the Roman Emperor's authority had practically disappeared in the West, and Italy was suffering from frequent Barbarian incursions, Pope Leo took it upon himself to protect Rome. His courageous meeting in Mantua with Attila the Hun, whom he convinced to desist from his plans to devastate the city, is the most well known, but not the only event of its kind. Pope Leo promoted the Primacy of the Bishop of Rome as the successor of the Apostle Peter, and exercised this ministry in the East and the West with great prudence, pastoral sensitivity and wisdom. The Bishops attending the important Council of Chalcedon in 451, acclaimed the text he sent concerning faith in Jesus, true God and true man, with the words: "Peter has spoken through the mouth of Leo".

Thanks to Pope Leo's sermons and letters, we can still appreciate his zeal and charity as pastor of the Church, and his theological depth and clarity. He also shares with us his profound understanding of the liturgy, where he sees the mysteries of salvation as present to our time and influential in our everyday realities. May the life and example of Pope Saint Leo always remind us that the encounter with God in Christ is the source of our joy and our salvation!"



Saint Peregrine

Peregrine was born in Forli, Italy, around 1265. At that time, Forli was governed by the Pope as part of the Papal States, and Peregrine grew up in a family that was actively involved in the opposition, or anti-papal party. Because of anti-papal activity, the city was under the church penalty of interdict, meaning that Mass and the Sacraments could not be celebrated there. St. Philip Benizi, Prior General of the Servants of Mary, went to Forli to preach reconciliation. Young Peregrine, very intense in his political fervor, not only heckled Philip during his preaching, but, in fact, struck him. Philip, instead of responding with anger and violence to the attack, turned and forgave Peregrine.

This encounter with Philip is said to have dramatically changed Peregrine. He began channeling his energy into good works and eventually joined the Servants of Mary in Siena, Italy. He returned to Forli, where he spent the rest of his life, dedicating himself to the sick, the poor, and those on the fringes of society. He also imposed on himself the penance of standing whenever it was not necessary to sit. This led to varicose veins, which later deteriorated into an open sore on his leg, and was eventually diagnosed as cancer.

Peregrine's leg wound became so serious that the local surgeon decided to amputate the leg. The night before the surgery, Peregrine prayed before the image of the crucified Christ, and when he awoke, the wound was healed and his leg saved. He lived another 20 years, dying on May 1, 1345, and the age of about 80. Peregrine was canonized on December 27, 1726, and has been named the Patron Saint of those suffering from cancer.

This prayer to Saint Peregrine is specifically for a person suffering from Cancer. Turn the page to find a prayer for a loved one suffering from Cancer.

St. Peregrine, whom Holy Mother Church has declared Patron of those suffering from Cancer, I confidently turn to you for help in my present sickness. I beg your kind intercession. Ask God to relieve me of this sickness, if it be his Holy Will. Plead with the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of Sorrows, whom you loved so tenderly and in union with whom you have suffered the pains of Cancer, that she may help me with her powerful prayers and loving consolation. But if it should be God's Holy Will that I bear this sickness, obtain for me courage and strength to accept these trails from the loving hand of God with patience and resignation, because he knows what is best for the salvation of my soul. St. Peregrine, be my friend and patron. Help me to imitate you in accepting suffering, and to unite myself with Jesus Crucified and the Mother of Sorrows, as you did. I offer my pains to God with all the love of my heart, for his glory and the salvation of souls, especially my own. Amen.



The second of these prayers to St. Peregrine is for others' intentions.

O great St. Peregrine, you have been called "The Mighty," "The Wonder-Worker," because of the numerous miracles which you have obtained from God for those who have had recourse to you. For so many years you bore in your own flesh this cancerous disease that destroys the very fiber of our being, and who had recourse to the source of all grace when the power of man could do no more. You were favored with the vision of Jesus coming down from His Cross to heal your affliction. Ask of God and Our Lady, the cure of the sick whom we entrust to you. (Pause here and silently recall the names of the sick for whom you are praying) Aided in this way by your powerful intercession, we shall sing to God, now and for all eternity, a song of gratitude for His great goodness and mercy. Amen.

For a long time the story and image of Saint Peregrine was in the back of my mind. Even though I had read different reports which claimed that the Blair/Centre county area had an abnormally high incidence of cases of Cancer the statistics failed to move me to any specific action. When I arrived at Our Lady of Fatima parish I encountered real persons, not just statistics, who had been ravaged, by the dread disease. Probably not a family in our area has been left free of the scourge.

Still, Peregrine remained in the back of my head, more active, of course, with each encounter.

Six months ago I myself was diagnosed with CANCER. I started to wonder if Peregrine wasn't trying to tell me something.

Friends, in whom I confided my long time desire to get a statue of the Saint in our Worship Space so we could, both individually collectively, pay tribute to and offer petitions to the man for his intercession, started saying "may be now's the time."

After consulting with trusted advisors I decided to order a statue the same height and coloration of our statue of Saint John Vianney, which the Kasun family donated as a memorial to their wife and mother.

I'm asking for sort of "significant" contributions from parishioners and friends to meet the cost of \$3,500.

Even before any announcement we've collected \$1000. We have lined up a noted local craftsman to design and construct pedestals for both statues mentioned in this article which will hold the statues and candles. He is donating his time and talent.

I'm hoping that we will get this heartfelt devotion started quickly as a regular part of our parish life.

Imagine my surprise when I found out that Peregrine's feast day is May 1 --- my birthday.

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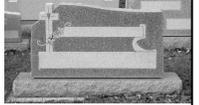
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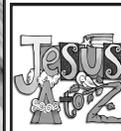
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