

Our Lady of Good Success

We promoted the Novena to Our Lady of Good Success because of her powerful intercession.



[Fr. Michael—holding Jesus—offering Mass to God in front of the miraculous statue of Mary on Feb. 2, 2017 at Our Lady of Good Success (OLGS) Church in Quito, Ecuador. About 15 people from Colorado went. Bernie McGinn from Grand Lake is serving.]

I like to go on pilgrimage about once a year to praise God from all over the earth, which is a giant cathedral. Last year I went to Quito from Jan. 24 to Feb. 3. Let me give you a short summary of the approved apparition of OLGS.

From 1594 to 1634, Mary appeared seven times to a sister called Mother Mariana of Jesus. Mary asked her to have a statue made. She even told her to have Francisco Castillo sculpt it (he carved wood) because he was holy. He went to Spain to get some special paint, and said he would arrive back to Quito on January 17, 1610 to finish the statue. However, a day earlier, the three Archangels Michael, Gabriel, and Raphael finished the statue under the direction of St. Francis. After completed, Our Lady, holding Baby Jesus, became “present” in the statue and sang the Magnificat. Francisco and the local bishop signed an affidavit that the statue was completed supernaturally.

On February 2, 1611, Bishop Rivera presided over the anointing and solemn consecration of the statue. He presented her with the crosier and the keys to the convent. He gave the convent and diocese over to her care.

There are many miracles associated with the statue. For example, in 1941 the war between Ecuador and Peru ended on the fifth day of a novena being prayed in front of the statue in the church. During the elevation of the Host at Mass at 10:30 a.m., the statue began to open and close her eyes until 3 a.m. It was as though Mary was saying, “Your

prayers are being taken before the Divine Majesty.” Thousands of people saw it.

As Mary appeared over the years, she made many prophecies. Here are just a few. She prophesied that there would be a truly Catholic president who would restore the rights of the Church, consecrate Ecuador to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, and be martyred. That was Don Gabriel Garcia Moreno in the 1800s. On March 25, 1874, Archbishop Checa y Barba and President Moreno made the consecration. On August 6, 1875, Masonic assassins killed Garcia Moreno. The chief killer stood over him and snarled, “We have won. We have killed God.” Moreno’s final words were, “I die, but God does not die.”

The Blessed Virgin also predicted that the Church would be persecuted and struggle spiritually right after the 1950s. Here are a few quotes:

–“Innocence will almost no longer be found in children, nor modesty in women. There will be almost no virgin souls.”

–“The sacrament of Matrimony will be attacked and iniquitous laws will make it easy to live in sin.”

–The devil will reign mostly through Freemasonry and heresy. “Freemasonry, which will then be in power, will enact iniquitous laws” [to do away with Matrimony].

–“The Sacrament of Holy Orders will be ridiculed, oppressed, and despised, for in this Sacrament, the Church of God and even God Himself is scorned and despised since His is represented in His priests.”

–“Wealthy and powerful Catholics will stand by and witness the oppression of the Church, the persecution of virtue, and the triumph of evil without employing their resources to oppose evil and restore the Faith.”

Sounds right on and pretty rough! There is a lot more. However, Mary ended on a good note. She said that just when everything looks like it can’t get any worse, the evil people in power will be toppled and there will be a full restoration of the Church. This is our mission. We are to cooperate with God in restoring His Church!



[Another miracle from God: Mother Mariana is incorrupt; her body never decayed after her death on May 26, 1645.]

The Virtue of Fortitude (Courage)

-Our Heavenly Father has a loving desire to see the image of His Son reproduced in each one of us. Jesus perfectly lived all the virtues. We need to be docile to the promptings of the Holy Spirit and ask Mary to intercede for us.

-The word virtue comes from the Latin word *virtus*, which basically means power, strength, valor, or manliness.

-A **virtue** is a **good habit** (repeated good acts) in the intellectual order (correct thinking patterns) or in the moral order (making correct choices from the heart/will).

-The virtue of fortitude, which is one of the four cardinal virtues, has two senses: (1) an attitude to be firm in doing the correct things, and (2) a choice with God's grace to pursue difficult things in order to love God and neighbor, even when faced with grave danger to bodily health or life. [Think about the fireman who runs into a burning building to save a child. He has fortitude or courage.]

-The Catholic Tradition is to study the virtues and strive to live them with God's help.

-Here are some virtues that fall under virtue of fortitude:

(1) **Magnanimity**—the virtue by which one seeks excellence in all things, especially great things. [The greatest things are to glorify God. Do we try hard to be the best version of ourselves and build up God's Kingdom? Do we try to make disciples for Christ and teach others what Jesus taught? (**Mt 28:19-20**). The whole purpose of marriage is to bring children into the Kingdom of God and help each other get into heaven. The father is supposed to be the spiritual leader. If both spouses sought magnanimity together, the world would be a much better place (see **Eph 5:21-33**). The more we pray and live the Gospel with God's grace, the more magnanimous we become.]

(2) **Magnificence**—the virtue by which one uses his wealth to do great things. [Are we using our wealth to build up God's Kingdom? The Bible recommends that we work toward tithing, since everything we earn is a result of the gifts God has given us.]

(3) **Patience**—virtue by which one endures hardship as to maintain a course set out by reason. [Are we patient with those who psychologically or emotionally off? Do we tell them about God and His goodness? **2 Tim 1:8** states: "[B]ear your share of hardship for the Gospel with the strength that comes from God."]

(4) **Perseverance**—virtue by which one persists in a hard thing until the goal is reached.

(5) **Longanimity**—longness of soul; the ability to await the good. [Can we begin a long project and hope for the good that will come down the road? Do we strive to become holy Catholics?]

(6) **Mortification**—willingness to suffer. [Are we willing to "empty" ourselves so that the Lord can fill us? Are you willing to fast from media and replace that time with prayer and spiritual study? Truth sets us free!]

-Here are some vices (bad habits) that work against the virtue of fortitude:

(1) **Fear/cowardice**—a vice in which one is afraid of enduring a good (e.g., spiritual reading, prayer time, etc.) because he thinks it is too hard. ["It's too hard to be Catholic; there are too many rules." In **Mt 25:14-31**, Jesus talks about the parable of the talents. Two people use God's gifts and build up His Kingdom. One guy, out of fear, buried his talent. He ends up in hell, where this is wailing and grinding of teeth. Don't be that guy!]

(2) **Audacity/recklessness**—excessive recklessness toward imminent danger without reasonable fear. [Think about some of the people who do extreme sports and break bones or even die. They could have been glorifying God, instead of always trying to be tough.]

(3) **Presumption**—disordered love of oneself and one's own excellence.

(4) **Ambition**—disordered striving for an honor above one's excellence.

(5) **Vainglory**—disordered desire for glory to be known by others. [Vainglory is dangerous because of its overconfidence, which begets disobedience, boastfulness, hypocrisy, contention, obstinacy, discord, and the love of new things in order to become "superior" to others.]

(6) **Pusillanimity**—smallness of soul; the habit of not striving for excellence. [Do we want to live life to the fullest (see **Jn 10:10**) by developing God's gifts in us, or do we want to become like "Bart Simpson" and live an undeveloped life? Do we do things for the Church, or do we blend into the walls as unknowns? No one knows we are Catholic!]

(7) **Parvificence/stinginess**—unwillingness to use one's wealth to do great things.

(8) **Effeminacy/softness**—an unwillingness to put aside pleasure in order to engage in activities that are hard and make us better. [Did we grow up in families that complained a lot, or quit things when they seemed too hard, or blamed others? Attitude: "I deserve a comfortable life." Some skip Mass to enjoy pro football, putting creatures ahead of the Creator.]

(9) **Pertinacity**—excessive or stubborn attachment to one's opinions. [This might be a person who thinks he knows more than the Church, so he is contentious and disobedient. The "un-holy trinity"—me, myself, and I.]

If You Want to Read More About Our Lady of Good Success, There is a Magazine Article on Our Website

Look under “Prayers and Spiritual Resources” and click on “Story of Our Lady of Good Success” or visit:
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1I3Ghy4hXr9LenVf0qbW0QFMQM3NGHvpO/view>

Great Spiritual Reading For Lent

I hope many of you order the following book: *The Power of Silence: Against the Dictatorship of Noise*. Robert Cardinal Sarah wrote the book. He is a cardinal in West Africa. I hope he becomes pope one day. You will grow in virtue if you reflect on his words and pray to God about the truths in the book.

Did You Pick Up Your Collection Envelopes Yet?

Ash Wednesday Masses, Feb. 14 (Lent Begins!)

-StB, 8:30 a.m., Confession at 9:10 a.m.
-StA, 5:00 p.m., Confession at 4:30 p.m.
-OLS, 6:45 p.m., Confession after Mass.
-StI, 4:30 p.m., Confession at 4 p.m.
-StP, 7:30 p.m., Confession at 7 p.m.

The Stations of the Cross Schedule will be in the Bulletin Next Weekend

Will You Commit to Praying an Extra Rosary One Day a Week during Lent for the Closure of Planned Parenthood in Granby?

Lent runs from Feb. 14 to Mar. 29. For example, if you sign up for Monday, you would pray an extra Rosary on Feb. 19 and 26, Mar. 5, 12, 19, and 26—only 6 times. Pretty easy! Please sign your initials or first name on a piece of paper this weekend so that we can see how many people are praying each day for the closure of Planned Parenthood. Also, pray for the conversion of those thinking about having an abortion and for healing for those who have had an abortion.

Join the Divine Mercy Team; Become a Warrior!

Say the Divine Mercy Chaplet during Lent for 40 days. We will pray three Masses for you. You will receive Divine Mercy postcards and images soon.

Gems of Wisdom from the *Diary* of Saint Faustina

1054. When Jesus was taking leave of me, such great pain filled my soul that it is impossible to express it. Physical strength left me; I left the chapel quickly and went to bed. I was oblivious of what was going on around me. My soul was filled with longing for the Lord, and all the bitterness of His Divine Heart was imparted to me. This lasted for about three hours. I asked the Lord to protect me from the eyes of those around me. Although I wanted to, I could not take any food all day, until evening. I earnestly desired to spend the whole night with Jesus in the dark prison cell. I prayed until eleven o'clock. At eleven, the Lord said to me, **Lie down and take your**

rest. I have let you experience in three hours what I suffered during the whole night. And immediately I went to bed.

I had no physical strength left; the suffering had deprived me of it completely. Throughout all this time, I had been in a sort of swoon. Every beat of Jesus' Heart was reflected in my heart and pierced my soul. If these tortures had concerned me only, I would have suffered less; but as I looked at the One whom my heart has loved with all its might and saw that He was suffering, and that I could not bring Him any relief, my heart dissolved in love and bitterness. I was dying with Him, and yet I could not die. But I would not have exchanged that martyrdom for all the pleasures in the whole world....

Incense will be used:

-Feb. 3, StB, 4 p.m.
-Feb. 10, StA, 5 p.m.

Calendar of Events

-Feb 14 (Wed). Ash Wednesday

Mass Collections, January 20 – 21

St. Anne	\$ 1836
St. Bernard	1917
Our Lady of the Snow	2802
St. Peter	383
St. Ignatius	(no count)
Total	\$ 6938

Vocations Prayer Calendar

Please pray for our seminarians every day.

Sat—John Croghan & Anthony Davis

Sun—Ryan Kent & John Stapleton

Mon—Peter Srsich & Patricio Chuquimarca

Tue—Justin Doerr & Juan Hernandez

Wed—Christopher Marbury & Christian Mast

Thu—Samuel Rendon & Cristian Rivera

Fri—Men and women applying for formation

Mass Intentions and Schedule for StA, StB, and OLS

KEY: StA = St. Anne; StB = St. Bernard;

OLS = Our Lady of the Snow

-Sat, Jan 27, StA, 5 p.m., Tom and Janet Gruber

-Sat, Jan 27, StB, 4 p.m., Richard and Carol Johnson

-Sat, Jan 27, StB, 5:30 p.m., Mr/s. P.P. McNeely and Son

-Sun, Jan 28, StB, 7 a.m., Special Intention

-Sun, Jan 28, OLS, 9:30 a.m., Parishioners and visitors

Weekday Masses

-Mon, Jan 29, StA, 8:30 a.m., Tom and Janet Gruber

-Tue, Jan 30, OLS, 7:30 a.m., Maurice and Joanne Noll

-Wed, Jan 31, StB, 8:30 a.m., Dale and Becky Redeker

-Thu, Feb 1, OLS, 8:30 a.m., Special Intention 1

-Fri, Feb 2, OLS, 8:30 a.m., Special Intention 1

Mass Intentions and Schedule for StP and StI

KEY: StP = St. Peter; StI = St. Ignatius (Walden)

-Sun, Jan 28, StP, 10 a.m., Parishioners and visitors

-Sun, Jan 28, StI, 1 p.m., Special Intention 1