

DAY FIVE: 11 MAY: OUR LADY of LORETO, ITALY



Arriving at Loreto:

Preparation:

We arrive at the Basilica, seeking the assistance of Our Lady so that we can meet Jesus.

Hail Mary, Our Father, Glory be

We recall that in the experience of the saints there is a rich tradition of Marian Prayer and Devotion.

With St. Anselm (1033-1109) we pray:

Mary, I beg you, by that grace through which the Lord is with you and you will to be with him, let your mercy be with me. Let love for you always be with me, and the care for me be always with you. Let the cry of my need, as long as it persists, be with you, and the care of your goodness, as long as I need it, be with me. Let joy in your blessedness be always with me, and compassion for my wretchedness, where I need it, be with you. Amen

At the beginning of our Tour of Loreto, we go to the Holy House:



We make a formal dedication of ourselves this day using a Prayer of **St. Thomas Aquinas** (1225-1274), Dominican, Doctor of the Church

*Of Dedication to Mary
Virgin full of goodness,
Mother of mercy,
I entrust to you my body and my soul,
my thoughts and my actions,
my life and my death.
My Queen,
come to my aid
and deliver me from the snares of the devil.
Obtain for me the grace of loving
my Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
with a true and perfect love,
and after Him, O Mary,
of loving you with all my heart
and above all things.*

In the Holy House we pray: **Litany of Loreto (Litany to Our Lady)**

[This litany was taken from the book, *Our Lady's Titles*, by Fr. Lawrence G. Lovasik, S.V.D.]

In praying this Litany, we are able to reflect on the titles of Mary, imagining how they individually and together help us to see Our Lady, as a close guide to the Lord Jesus, as a friend on the Way, and as an exemplar for our attention].

Lord, have mercy on us. *Lord, have mercy on us.*

Christ, have mercy on us. *Christ, have mercy on us.*

Lord, have mercy on us. *Lord, have mercy on us.*

Christ, hear us. *Christ graciously hear us.*

God, the Father of heaven, *have mercy on us.*

God the Son, Redeemer of the world, *have mercy on us.*

God the Holy Spirit, *have mercy on us.*

Holy Trinity, one God, *have mercy on us.*

Holy Mary, *pray for us.*

Holy Mother of God, *pray for us.*

Holy Virgin of virgins, *pray for us.*

Mother of Christ, *pray for us.*

Mother of divine grace, *pray for us.*

Mother most pure, *pray for us.*

Mother most chaste, *pray for us.*

Mother inviolate, *pray for us.*

Mother undefiled, *pray for us.*

Mother most amiable, *pray for us.*

Mother most admirable, *pray for us.*

Mother of good counsel, *pray for us.*

Mother of our Creator, *pray for us.*

Mother of our Saviour, *pray for us.*

Virgin most prudent, *pray for us.*

Virgin most venerable, *pray for us.*

Virgin most renowned, *pray for us.*

Virgin most powerful, *pray for us.*

Virgin most merciful, *pray for us.*

Virgin most faithful, *pray for us.*

Mirror of justice, *pray for us.*

Seat of wisdom, *pray for us.*

Cause of our joy, *pray for us.*

Spiritual vessel, *pray for us.*

Vessel of honour, *pray for us.*

Singular vessel of devotion, *pray for us.*

Mystical rose, *pray for us.*

Tower of David, *pray for us.*

Tower of ivory, *pray for us.*

House of gold, *pray for us.*

Ark of the covenant, *pray for us.*

Gate of heaven, *pray for us.*

Morning star, *pray for us.*

Health of the sick, *pray for us.*

Refuge of sinners, *pray for us.*

Comforter of the afflicted, *pray for us.*

Help of Christians, *pray for us.*

Queen of Angels, *pray for us.*

Queen of Patriarchs, *pray for us.*

Queen of Prophets, *pray for us.*

Queen of Apostles, *pray for us.*

Queen of Martyrs, *pray for us.*

Queen of Confessors, *pray for us.*

Queen of Virgins, *pray for us.*

Queen of all Saints, *pray for us.*

Queen conceived without original sin, *pray for us.*

Queen assumed into heaven, *pray for us.*

Queen of the most holy Rosary, *pray for us.*

Queen of Peace, *pray for us.*

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, *spare us, O Lord.*

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, *graciously hear us O Lord*

Lamb of God, who takes away the sins of the world, *have mercy on us.*

Pray for us, O holy Mother of God. *That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.*

Grant, we beseech Thee, O Lord God, unto us Thy servants, that we may rejoice in continual health of mind and body; and, by the glorious intercession of Blessed Mary ever Virgin, may be delivered from present sadness, and enter into the joy of Thine eternal gladness. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.



During our time at Loreto we are aware that we are in a period of 'Eucharistic Fasting', the vast majority of the lay faithful have no access to the Mass or Holy Communion. When people are free to attend Church, to go to Holy Mass, we hope and pray that everywhere priests will be available to offer the Sacrifice of the Mass.

We pray for Vocations to Priestly Ministry:

Lord Jesus, the ministry of priests is a sign of your unfailing care.

Call from among us the priests needed for the Church of today and tomorrow.

Bless all students for the priesthood.

Grant them joy, wisdom, courage and a generous spirit.

Sustain priests with a real sense of your love and the support of those they are

called to serve.

Keep them faithful to their calling. **Amen**

With St. Charles Borromeo (1538-1584), Cardinal Archbishop of Milan, we pray:

O Holy Mother of God, pray for the priests
your Son has chosen to serve the church.

Help them by your intercession,

to be holy, zealous and chaste.

Make them models of virtue

in the service of God's people.

Help them to be prayerful in meditations,
effective in preaching,

and enthusiastic in the daily offering of
the holy sacrifice of the Mass.

Help them to administer the sacraments with joy.

Amen.

St Mother Teresa of Calcutta (1910-1997)



St Teresa of Calcutta

Teresa left home to join the Sisters of Loreto in Rathfarnham, Ireland, from there she went to the Sisters of Loreto in India arriving there in 1929.

Although Teresa enjoyed teaching at the school, of which she became Headmistress, she was increasingly disturbed by the poverty surrounding her in Calcutta.

On 10 September 1946, she experienced "the call within the call" *"I was to leave the convent and help the poor while living among them. It was an order. To fail would have been to break the faith."*¹

She began missionary work with the poor in 1948, replacing her traditional Loreto habit with a simple, white cotton sari with a blue border. At the beginning of 1949 Teresa was joined in her effort by a group of young women, and she laid the foundation for a new religious community helping the "poorest among the poor"



On 7 October 1950, Teresa received Vatican permission for the diocesan congregation, which would become the Missionaries of Charity. In her words, it would care for *"the hungry, the naked, the homeless, the crippled, the blind, the lepers, all those people who feel unwanted, unloved, uncared for throughout society, people that have become a burden to the society and are shunned by everyone"*

Teresa said, *"A beautiful death is for people who lived like animals to die like angels—loved and wanted."*

A Prayer of St Teresa of Calcutta:

Give us a heart as beautiful, pure, and spotless as yours. A heart like yours, so full of love and humility. May we be able to receive Jesus as the Bread of Life, to love Him as you loved Him, to serve Him under the mistreated face of the poor. We ask this through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.



Queen of Heaven, rejoice. Alleluia.

For He, whom thou wast worthy to bear. Alleluia.

Has risen as He said. Alleluia.

Pray for us to God. Alleluia.

V. Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary. Alleluia.

R. Because the Lord is truly risen, Alleluia.

Let us pray

O God, Who by the Resurrection of Thy Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, hast been pleased to give joy to the whole world, grant we beseech Thee, that through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, His Mother, we may attain the joys of eternal life. Through the same Christ, our Lord. Amen.

Our Lady of Loreto, Pray for us.