



INCORRUPT BODY OF BLESSED MARGARET DE CASTELLO

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Novena to Blessed Margaret De Castello

May be recited on any nine consecutive days

MEMORIAL — APRIL 13TH



PATRON OF THE UNWANTED

Novena

The word Novena derives its name from the Latin word “novem” meaning “nine.” A novena can be either a private or public devotion in the Catholic Church to obtain special graces.

LIFE OF BLESSED MARGARET OF CASTELLO

Blessed Margaret of Castello was born of a wealthy, noble Italian family near Florence, Italy in 1287. Born a hunchback, dwarf, blind and lame, her family was ashamed of her and kept her hidden in virtual imprisonment for nine years in a tiny cell attached to a forest church. It was only through the family chaplain that Bl. Margaret came to know God. Seeking a miracle, her parents took her to a Franciscan Shrine. When she wasn't cured, they abandoned her. Bl. Margaret's faith and courage inspired others in the community to take pity on her and to help her survive. Eventually she became a member of the Dominican Third Order of Castello, where she lived an exemplary life of prayer, penance, and charity. Despite her miseries, Margaret was serene, cheerful and courageous. She never became bitter, never complained, never reproached others or lost heart. Discouragement was a word she did not know. She found strength in prayer, in daily Mass, in Holy Communion and sought help from Jesus, Mary, Joseph and St. Dominic. Margaret was courageous because she looked at the suffering with the eyes of faith. She did not know why God permitted her to have so many afflictions. She did know that He was an infinitely loving and kind Father, who never permits one single misfortune without good reason, who always turns evil into good for His children. She wondered why people pitied her. Was it not a privilege to suffer with Christ? Suffering for her was a way to heaven. Pain made Margaret sympathetic and understanding towards others. She visited prisoners, helped the sick and comforted the dying. Since her death, at age thirty-three, she has kept on helping those who pray to her. Many cures have been attributed to her intercession. Bl. Margaret of Castello was declared Blessed by the Catholic Church on Oct. 19, 1609. Bl. Margaret is an inspiration to those who are discouraged and tempted to self-pity. Her intercession is most powerful to those who suffer from eye and muscular diseases, and has become an inspiration for the Pro-Life Movement. She is a help for those who are unwanted and abandoned. Her incorrupt body lies under the main altar in St. Dominic Church, Castello, Italy. Many visit her Shrine to seek her powerful intercession.

Prayer

O my God, I thank you for having given Blessed Margaret of Castello to the world as an example of the degree of holiness that can be attained by anyone who truly loves you, regardless of physical abnormalities. In today's perverted culture, Margaret would have, most likely, never been born; death through abortion being preferable to life, especially life in an ugly distorted twisted body. But Your ways are not the world's ways... and so it was Your Will that Margaret would be born into the world with just such a malformed body. It is Your way that uses our weakness to give testimony to Your power. Margaret was born blind, so as to see You more clearly; a cripple, so as to lean on You completely; dwarfed in physical posture, so as to become a giant in the spiritual order; hunch-backed, so as to more perfectly resemble the twisted, crucified body of Your Son. Margaret's whole life was an enactment of the words expressed by Paul: "So I shall be very happy to make my weaknesses my special boast so that the power of Christ may stay over me and that is why I am content with my weaknesses, and with insults, hardships, persecutions and the agonies I go through for Christ's sake. For it is when I am weak that I am strong." (2 Cor 12:10).

I beseech you, O God, To grant through the intercession of Blessed Margaret of Castello, that all the handicapped ... and who among us is not? ... all rejected, all unwanted of the world may make their weaknesses their own special boast so that your power may stay over them now and forever. Amen.

Blessed Margaret of Castello, pray for us.

Our Father...

Hail Mary...

Our Father...

Hail Mary...

Our Father...

Hail Mary...

NOVENA TO BLESSED MARGARET DE CASTELLO

Ninth Day:

O Blessed Margaret of Castello, through your suffering and misfortune, you became sensitive to the sufferings of others. Your heart reached out to everyone in trouble – The sick, the hungry, the dying prisoners. Obtain for me the grace to recognize Jesus in everyone with whom I come into contact, especially in the poor, the wretched, the unwanted! Obtain for me also the special favor which I now ask through your intercession with God. (Mention your request here).

Let us pray...

O God by whose Will the blessed virgin, Margaret, was blind from birth, that the eyes of her mind being inwardly enlightened she might think without ceasing On You alone; be the light of our eyes, that we may be able to flee the shadows in this world, and reach the home of never-ending light. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Jesus, Mary, Joseph, glorify your servant blessed Margaret, by granting the favor we so ardently desire. This we ask in humble submission to God's Will, for His Honor and Glory and the salvation of souls.

Our Father...
Hail Mary...
Glory Be...

First Day:

O Blessed Margaret of Castello, In embracing your life just as it was, you gave us an example of resignation to the Will of God.

In so accepting God's Will, you knew that you would grow in virtue, Glorify God, save your own soul, and help the souls of your neighbors.

Obtain for me the grace, to recognize the will of God, In all that may happen to me in my life, and so resign myself to it. Obtain for me also the special favor, which I now ask, through your intercession with God. (Mention your request here).

Let us pray...

O God by whose Will the blessed virgin, Margaret, was blind from birth, that the eyes of her mind being inwardly enlightened she might think without ceasing On You alone; be the light of our eyes, that we may be able to flee the shadows in this world, And reach the home of never-ending light. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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Hail Mary...
Glory Be...

Second Day:

O Blessed Margaret of Castello, In reflecting so deeply Upon the sufferings and death Of our Crucified Lord, You learned courage And gained the grace To bear your own afflictions. Obtain for me The grace and courage That I so urgently need So as to be able to bear My infirmities and endure my Afflictions In union with our Suffering Savior. Obtain for me also The special favor which I now ask Through your intercession with God. (Mention your request here).

Let us pray...

O God by whose Will The blessed virgin, Margaret, was blind from birth, that the eyes of her mind being inwardly enlightened she might think without ceasing On You alone; be the light of our eyes, that we may be able to flee the shadows in this world, and reach the home of never-ending light. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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Hail Mary...
Glory Be...

Third Day:

O Blessed Margaret of Castello, your love for Jesus In the Blessed Sacrament was intense and enduring. It was here In intimacy with the Divine Presence that you found spiritual strength to accept suffering, to be cheerful, patient and kindly towards others. Obtain for me the grace that I may draw from this same source, as from an exhaustible font, the strength whereby I may be kind and understanding of everyone despite whatever pain or discomfort may come my way. Obtain for me the special favor which I now ask through your intercession with God. **(Mention your request here).**

Let us pray...

O God by whose Will the blessed virgin, Margaret, was blind from birth, that the eyes of her mind being inwardly enlightened she might think without ceasing On You alone; be the light of our eyes, that we may be able to flee the shadows in this world, and reach the home of never-ending light. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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Hail Mary...
Glory Be...

Eight Day:

O Blessed Margaret of Castello, how it must have hurt when your parents abandoned you! Yet you learned from this that all earthly love and affection, even for those who are closest, must be sanctified. And so, despite everything, you continued to love your parents – but now you loved them in God. Obtain for me the grace that I might see all my human loves and affections In their proper perspective... In God and for God. Obtain for me also the special favor which I now ask through your intercession with God. **(Mention your request here).**

Let us pray...

O God by whose Will the blessed virgin, Margaret, was blind from birth, that the eyes of her mind being inwardly enlightened she might think without ceasing On You alone; be the light of our eyes, that we may be able to flee the shadows in this world, And reach the home of never-ending light. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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Glory Be...

Seventh Day:

O blessed Margaret of Castello, you could have so easily become discouraged and bitter; but, instead, you fixed your eyes on the suffering Christ and there you learned from Him the redemptive value of suffering - how to offer your pains and aches, In reparation for sin and for the salvation of souls. Obtain for me the grace to learn how to endure my sufferings with patience. Obtain for me also the special favor which I now ask through your intercession with God. (Mention your request here).

Let us pray...

O God by whose Will the blessed virgin, Margaret, was blind from birth, that the eyes of her mind being inwardly enlightened she might think without ceasing On You alone; be the light of our eyes, that we may be able to flee the shadows in this world, and reach the home of never-ending light. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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Our Father...
Hail Mary...
Glory Be...

Fourth Day:

O Blessed Margaret of Castello, you unceasingly turned to God in prayer with confidence and trust In His Fatherly love. It was only through continual prayer that you were enabled to accept your misfortunes, to be serene, patient, and at peace. Obtain for me the grace to persevere in my prayer, confident that God will give me the help to carry whatever cross comes into my life. Obtain for me also the special favor which I now ask through your intercession with God. (Mention your request here).

Let us pray...

O God by whose Will the blessed virgin, Margaret, was blind from birth, that the eyes of her mind being inwardly enlightened she might think without ceasing On You alone; be the light of our eyes, that we may be able to flee the shadows in this world, and reach the home of never-ending light. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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Hail Mary...
Glory Be...

Fifth Day:

O Blessed Margaret of Castello, in imitation of the Child Jesus, who was subject to Mary and Joseph, you obeyed your father and mother, overlooking their unnatural harshness. Obtain for me that same attitude of obedience toward all those who have legitimate authority over me, most especially toward The Holy Roman Catholic Church. Obtain for me also the special favor which I now ask through your intercession with God. **(Mention your request here).**

Let us pray...

O God by whose Will the blessed virgin, Margaret, was blind from birth, that the eyes of her mind being inwardly enlightened she might think without ceasing On You alone; be the light of our eyes, that we may be able to flee the shadows in this world, and reach the home of never-ending light. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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Our Father...
Hail Mary...
Glory Be...

Sixth Day:

O Blessed Margaret of Castello, your miseries taught you better than any teacher the weakness and frailty of human nature. Obtain for me the grace to recognize my human limitations and to acknowledge my utter dependence upon God. Acquire for me that abandonment which leaves me completely at the mercy of God to do with me whatsoever He wills. Obtain for me also the special favor which I now ask through your intercession with God. **(Mention your request here).**

Let us pray...

O God by whose Will the blessed virgin, Margaret, was blind from birth, that the eyes of her mind being inwardly enlightened she might think without ceasing On You alone; be the light of our eyes, that we may be able to flee the shadows in this world, And reach the home of never-ending light. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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