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LITANY OF LORETO



***HOLY VIRGIN OF VIRGINS,
PRAY FOR US!***

The Six Litanies Approved for Public Recitation

From the Catholic Encyclopedia:

A litany is a well known and much appreciated form of responsive petition, used in public liturgical services, and in private devotions, for common necessities of the Church, or in calamities — to implore God's aid or to appease His just wrath. This form of prayer finds its model in Psalm cxxxv: 'Praise the Lord, for He is good: for His mercy endureth forever. Praise ye the God of gods . . . the Lord of lords . . . Who alone doth great wonders . . . Who made the heavens', etc., with the concluding words in each verse, "for His mercy endureth forever."...

...Litanies appeared in honour of God the Father, of God the Son, of God the Holy Ghost, of the Precious Blood, of the Blessed Virgin, of the Immaculate Conception, of each of the saints honoured in different countries, for the souls in Purgatory, etc. In 1601 Baronius wrote that about eighty forms were in circulation. To prevent abuse, Pope Clement VIII, by decree of the Inquisition of 6 Sept., 1601, forbade the publication of any litany, except that of the saints as found in the liturgical books and that of Loreto. **Today the litanies approved for public recitation are: of All Saints, of Loreto, of the Holy Name, of the Sacred Heart, of St. Joseph [Ed. and, approved in 1960, of the Most Precious Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ].**

Many, many other litanies exist, and all of them may be prayed privately, but only these six are approved for public prayer.

The Litany of Loreto

The most beautiful, Marian Litany of Loreto (the "Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary"), whose present form dates to the 15th c., is prayed on Marian feasts and their vigils, on Saturdays, and is often added to Rosaries. It takes its name from Loreto, a small town on the Eastern coast of central Italy, in the region of Le Marche, a place where one can find what is known as the Holy House of Loreto. This house, according to tradition, is the house where Mary was born and in which the Archangel Gabriel made his Annunciation to her. It is said to have been translated by angels from Nazareth to Dalmatia in present day Yugoslavia after Saracens retook the Holy Land, and then





Jesus, Mary and Joseph lived in this Holy House in Nazareth.

to Loreto in A.D. 1291. St. Gabriel's "flight" from Heaven during the Annunciation, has caused Our Lady of Loreto to be seen as the Patroness of aviators and of air travelers -- and Charles Lindbergh, the astronauts of Apollo 9, and Umberto Nobile, who flew over the North Pole in the 1920s, all took images of Our Lady of Loreto with them on their historic missions.

The shrine (a basilica is now built around the house) has been associated with miracles, its veneration is approved by Popes, and around 50 Popes themselves have made pilgrimages to it or otherwise honored it in word, as have many, many Saints. The image at right is a version of the very unique and stylized statue of Our Lady of Loreto which is kept at the shrine. The statue -- the original was destroyed by fire -- depicts Our Lady holding Jesus and was clad in a dalmatic. Its deep hues are due to the original wood's having been darkened by the soot from candles and lamps that burned around it in the shrine's sanctuary.



The Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary (Loreto)

Lord, have mercy on us. (*Christ 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 Ghost, (*have mercy on us.*)

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

The faithful who pray any of these Litanies, under the usual conditions, receive a partial indulgence. When prayed, one person (or half the people) chants or reads the invocation while the others chant or read the responses which are in italics in the following pages.

Holy Mary,
Holy Mother of God,
Holy Virgin of virgins,
Mother of Christ,
Mother of the Church
Mother of divine grace,
Mother most pure,
Mother most chaste,
Mother inviolate,
Mother undefiled,
Mother most amiable,
Mother most admirable,
Mother of good counsel,
Mother of our Creator,
Mother of our Savior,
Virgin most prudent,
Virgin most venerable,
Virgin most renowned,
Virgin most powerful,
Virgin most merciful,
Virgin most faithful,
Mirror of justice,
Seat of wisdom,
Cause of our joy,
Spiritual vessel,
Vessel of honor,
Singular vessel of devotion,
Mystical rose,
Tower of David,
Tower of ivory,
House of gold,
Ark of the covenant,
Gate of heaven,
Morning star,
Health of the sick,
Refuge of sinners,
Comforter of the afflicted,
Help of Christians,

**p
r
a
y

f
o
r

u
s**

Queen of Angels, **p**
Queen of Patriarchs, **r**
Queen of Prophets, **a**
Queen of Apostles, **y**
Queen of Martyrs,
Queen of Confessors,
Queen of Virgins, **f**
Queen of all Saints, **o**
Queen conceived without original sin, **r**
Queen assumed into heaven,
Queen of the most holy Rosary. **u**
Queen of the family, **s**
Queen of Peace,

Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world,
(spare us, O Lord.)

Lamb of God, who takest away the sins of the world,
(graciously hear us O Lord.)

Lamb of God, who takest 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.)*

Let us pray.

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.)*