



CLOTHED WITH POWER FROM ON HIGH

Those of you who went to Mass on VI Sunday of Easter, heard Our Holy Redeemer tell us in the Gospel: “The Advocate, the Holy Spirit, Whom the Father will send in My name, will teach you everything and remind you of all that I told you.” A few days later on Ascension Thursday, Mass-goers heard Our Holy Redeemer say: “And behold I am sending the promise of My Father upon you.” One week from today, the Church in Freeport and universally throughout the world, will celebrate the coming of the promised Spirit when we gather for Pentecost. (Don’t forget to wear something red to Mass that day.)

The coming of the Holy Spirit as Jesus promised, clothed the Apostles in the Upper Room with Power from on high and thrust them into the world to do battle with Satan. Time and time again since that great commission, Satan and all the evil spirits have been thrust into Hell by believers who clothed with that same Power, have borne witness to Jesus, regardless of any mandate to do otherwise.

This month of May, the month dedicated to Mary, take the opportunity to turn to **Our Mother of Perpetual Help** and ask her to assist our Bishops, Priests, and all the Baptized in their labours to unleash the Power from on High that through her womb breathed new Life into a dying world two thousand years ago; the Power from on High that through believers like you who turn to her, will raise that world to new Life today!



THE MEANING OF THE ICON

The icon of Our Mother of Perpetual Help is the most widely known icon in the world. This Sacred image has special meaning for the Redemptorists, who were asked by Pope Pius IX to “make her known throughout the world.” Each element of the icon has a special meaning.

ELEMENTS OF THE IMAGE

(as explained at www.redemptorists.net)

- ✠ Mary’s eyes, filled with compassion and love, are directed toward us.
- ✠ Our Lady is clothed in the colours of virgins (red) and of mothers (blue). These are also royal colours.
- ✠ Jesus, depicted as a young boy, wears the colours of a king.
- ✠ The star on Mary’s veil reminds us that she is the dawn announcing the coming of Christ.
- ✠ Our Lady’s hands hold her Son securely, and her right hand directs our gaze to Him.
- ✠ The Christ Child grasps His mother’s hand as though He is frightened by what He sees.
- ✠ In His hurry to reach His mother, Jesus has almost lost one of His sandals. He became human, like us, in all things but sin.
- ✠ On Our Lady’s left and right we see the reasons for the Child’s fear. On the right is the Archangel Gabriel, holding a cross and four nails. On the left is the Archangel Michael, holding a lance, a pole with a sponge, and a vessel of vinegar. This vision of the instruments of the crucifixion has driven the young Jesus to His mother’s protective embrace.
- ✠ Yet Our Lady’s gaze is fixed on us, her children on earth. She is our source of constant comfort and hope.