

# For Members of the Worldwide Father Peyton Prayer Guild

*United in Prayer for a Spiritual Cause*



## Feast Days:

- Presentation of the Lord, **Feb. 2**
- Saint Blaise, **Feb. 3**
- Saint Agatha, **Feb. 5**
- Saint Paul Miki and companions, **Feb. 6**
- Our Lady of Lourdes, **Feb. 11**
- Saint Peter Damian, **Feb. 21**
- Chair of Saint Peter, the Apostle, **Feb. 22**
- Ash Wednesday, **Feb. 26**



## From the Vice Postulator/Guild Director

Dear Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

I'd like to share with you the story of a young family in the U.S.A. The Lievens family: Stacy, Troy, and their four children ages 15, 12, 9, and 6 began praying the Rosary together as part of the 2018's Family Rosary's Novena of Thanksgiving. They were surprised by how God worked to keep it going to this day. What follows is this grace-filled story in the words of a wife and mother, Mrs. Stacy Lievens.



The Lievens family

## How did your family begin praying the Rosary?

*I was in a Rosary group and bible study with some beautiful and holy women who were living as intentional disciples and working to raise saints! I began listening to their stories and sensing the presence of the Holy Spirit in their homes. One woman spoke of family gatherings on Sunday, where they would all pray the Rosary. I wanted that for our family! We started small with **mastering one Hail Mary, Our Father, or Glory Be at a time** with our oldest daughter. Then we would pray one decade at bedtime. Through the apostolate of SoulCore (a workout that pairs the prayers of the Rosary with core strengthening and stretching), my devotion strengthened. It then flowed into our family, inspiring us to pray the Rosary together.*

## What caused your family to join the Father Peyton Prayer Guild?

*After learning about Father Peyton's Cause and the Guild, I read over the requirements and wanted to be a part of it. Around this time, I had purchased **Father Peyton's Rosary Prayer Book** that includes reflections on the mysteries of the Rosary. I had been using them in Soul-Core classes and at home for our family Rosary. I thought about him a lot in prayer. I felt that he was knocking on the door of my heart. Like any new friendship, I just wanted to know him better. I wanted the kids and my husband to know him as a friend as well. Joining the **Father Peyton Prayer Guild** and praying for his beatification was just the next step in our friendship.*

*Continued on next pages*

*"The home that makes a daily practice of the family Rosary is strong in selflessness, meets trials courageously, faces life joyously."*

- Venerable Patrick Peyton -

### **How did you learn about Father Peyton's Cause and the Guild?**

*I don't remember what led me to the website: FatherPeyton.org initially. It was either **Father Peyton's Rosary Prayer Book** or a **Catholicmom.com** post!*

### **When the Novena concluded, what caused your family to continue praying the Rosary?**

*Initially, it was our children! My husband and I were prepared to return to normal family bedtime prayers after the Novena. It was our children that said, "**Hey, we want to pray the Rosary together.**" Then, it was the love and mercy our family encountered during prayers that strengthened us to continue.*



### **What were some of the challenges and blessings of praying the family Rosary?**

*A few challenges we faced were time, pride, and vulnerability. But just as the Blessed Mother always does, **those challenges were made sweet and turned into blessings.** The challenge of time was made sweet by realigning our priorities.*

*Prayer and faith were no longer something we worked into our schedule but became the very heartbeat of our family; our life began to revolve around it.*

*Pride was transformed into the virtue of humility, time and again. And it seemed to help us with other virtues as well, such as forgiveness and patience.*

*Vulnerability. Well, sometimes it's hard to pray with others in a deep way. Sometimes we didn't want to pray together because we were angry or frustrated with another family member. We'd ponder the mystery with Scripture, virtue, and a reflection. It never ceased to amaze me at the power of God's Word, combined with the prayers of the Rosary, to illuminate our hearts to where we needed to grow. Yet again, **our Sweet Mother disarmed us many times and opened our hearts to love.** Love truly does cover a multitude of sins.*

### **When you hear the motto, "The Family That Prays Together Stays Together," what does that mean in everyday life for your family, and how do you think it could benefit other families?**

*This motto has special meaning because tonight was one of those nights that it was tough to come to family prayer. Frustration and pride took center stage. Even saying the words of the prayers out loud was hard. So difficult, in fact, that we had to put on a downloaded version of the family Rosary. In the first reflection, we heard these words, "Within your families do not persist in anger or brood over injuries. Love one another as I have loved you. Love never fails."*

*As a family, we are going to encounter joy, and it is going to be beautiful. We will lift one another up and celebrate victories together. We are also going to face times of sorrow and suffering. In these moments,*

*Continued on next page*

we can turn away from one another, or we can embrace, "The Family That Prays Together Stays Together." Together, we can turn our eyes to Jesus and allow Him to enter into that sorrow (or joy) with us. No matter how difficult it may be in the moment, and continually let Him heal our brokenness so that our family stays together in all phases of life. This is something all families will find if they persevere in family prayer. **When we turn our hearts to God, we find His love and mercy.**

### **What have you, your husband, and children learned from family Rosary prayer?**

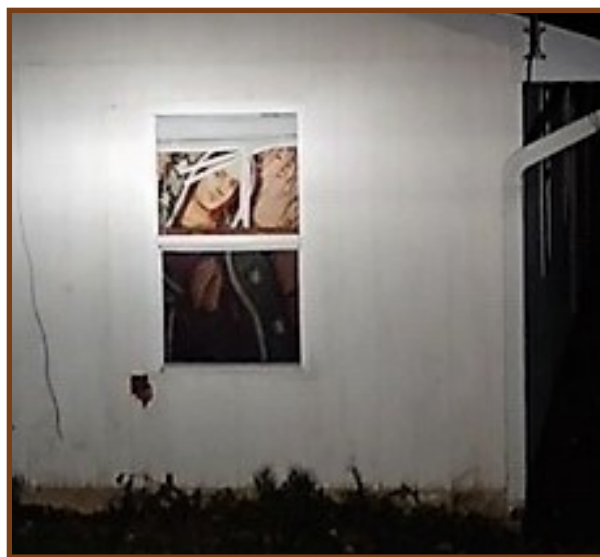
There is so much to be learned from family Rosary prayer such as virtue and Scripture, the life of Christ and the saints' teachings, and the prayers themselves. We have learned new devotions and Marian feast days. But honestly, one of the biggest lessons we have learned was **how to detach from the world and faithfully turn our hearts to God every day.** We have learned to have God at the center of our lives. This has had a ripple effect. We now have longer family meals, we spontaneously pray throughout the day, including weekly Holy Hours. We have a devotion to Divine Mercy, and we forgive and forgive quickly.

### **How do you handle faithfully praying the Rosary as a family with scheduling conflicts?**

That used to throw me a bit! But, when you begin to build your life around your faith, they are no longer conflicts. Those become secondary to the prayer! It's just a **shifting of your focus.** A non-negotiable part of the day.

**We're open to praying anywhere and anytime.** The truck, in the evening, mid-day, in the pool, around a campfire, or late at night! There have been a few times that I am out of town, or my husband is working late in the fields during harvest, and we just work hard to pray at the same time or share something revealed to our hearts during our own prayer. I know this brings joy to the Blessed Mother's heart.

This fall, my husband was working late, and the kids needed to get to bed, so we began praying in different places at the same time. My husband sent me a picture from his tractor. He said as he was plowing the field and came up by the house on the property, there was a large picture of Our Lady of Guadalupe in the window. He had never seen this before, and he had plowed those same fields since he was a young boy. God-wink for sure!



Troy's photo of Our Lady of Guadalupe that he saw for the first time while plowing the fields.

I want to thank Guild members Stacy Leivens and her family for generously sharing their beautiful story with all of us. I hope you and your family were inspired like I was.

In Jesus and Mary,

*Father David S. Marcham*

Father David S. Marcham  
Vice Postulator/Guild Director

**Read more on next page!**



### Stacey Lieven's Advice to Anyone or Any Family Who Haven't Tried Family Rosary Prayer

- ♦ Try it. It might be awkward at first. And that's ok.
- ♦ Don't give up. Start small and just allow the Blessed Mother to lead you.
- ♦ Have fun praying together. Laugh, share stories, light a candle, play a song, color, have a snack, look at a picture of Jesus or Mary, or pray while walking or moving!
- ♦ Try not to get frustrated if a little one doesn't seem to be paying attention. They are soaking it all in, I promise.
- ♦ Persevere.
- ♦ Be open to friends, cousins, and grandparents praying with you.
- ♦ Read a reflection, Scripture, or discuss the virtue each mystery relates to. If kids are small, keep it simple. Speak to real-life happenings in your home.
- ♦ Ask for the intercession of Father Patrick Peyton, C.S.C. and pray for his beatification. He is your friend and desires all families to encounter the power of the family Rosary!

### Share Your Story

Would you, your chapter, or your family like to be interviewed for an upcoming issue? If so, please contact me at [VicePostulator@hcfm.org](mailto:VicePostulator@hcfm.org), call 508-238-4095, or write to us at the address below.

Father Peyton Prayer Guild  
The Father Peyton Center  
518 Washington St.  
North Easton, MA 02356

### Museum of Family Prayer Re-Opens

The Museum of Family Prayer reopened on January 24 after a temporary closure due to a small fire in the museum's chapel on December 16. Restoration is now complete and the museum is welcoming families and groups once again!

Visit: [www.MuseumOfFamilyPrayer.org](http://www.MuseumOfFamilyPrayer.org)



### This Prayer Hero Has a Comic Book!

A unique gift for young and old alike!

*The Tale of Patrick Peyton* Comic Book shares Father Peyton's amazing story from growing up in a large poor family in Ireland to becoming one of the most recognized priests in the world, committed to promoting his simple message, "***The family that prays together stays together.***"



Order at: [www.HCFMstore.org](http://www.HCFMstore.org)

### Coming Up in Next Month's Issue

Next month we'll explore the **Father Peyton Prayer Guild in Ireland**; Father Peyton's homeland and home to the Father Peyton Memorial Centre in Attymass, County Mayo.

Beidh Dia leat! (God be with you!)

If you know of a Guild member who did not receive this communication, we do not have their contact information. Please forward the contact information to us by phone, email or through the online membership form at:

[www.FatherPeyton.org/chapters/chapter-8](http://www.FatherPeyton.org/chapters/chapter-8)

The Father Peyton Center  
518 Washington St.  
N. Easton, MA 02356  
508-238-4095  
[VicePostulator@HCFM.org](mailto:VicePostulator@HCFM.org)

[www.FatherPeyton.org](http://www.FatherPeyton.org)

