



Mary is the Guiding Star, the Star of the Sea for all of us sailing across life's ocean towards the heavenly shore.

Sr. Weronika Maria Klebba, SSps



There is a Marian hymn dating back to the 9th century, Ave Maris Stella. In some of our convents we sing it as an entrance hymn in the Mass when sisters make their vows or celebrate the Jubilee of their profession. With a solemn melody we greet the Blessed Virgin: "Hail, o Star of the sea, God's own Mother blest, ever sinless Virgin, Gate of heavenly rest". Then, remembering the Annunciation, we ask Mary to intercede for peace and freedom from sin: "... peace confirm within us... break the sinners' fetters, make our blindness day, chase all evils from us, for all blessings pray...". We entrust ourselves and our life journey to her, asking her protection and guidance: "Keep our life all spotless,

make our way secure till we find in Jesus, joy for evermore".

Human life can be like sailing on the sea. Sometimes we enjoy sunshine, gentle breeze and quiet waters. At other times, we are threatened by storms or typhoons, thunderstorms and lightning, even times when life itself may be in danger. It is thus, both in our personal life, in the circumstance of our countries and the reality of the whole world. Peaceful days and steady development alternate with turbulent times and war; social stability with restlessness and uprisings. Growth towards human and Christian maturity involves periods of crisis and regression. Regardless which stage we are at now, we have Mary as our Guiding Star. Like a light-house sheds its beam to guide the sailors on their way back to safe harbour, Mary always steadfast and unchanging, points to Jesus and shows with her very life how to follow Him, the Light of the world (Jn 8:12) and our Hope.

In the Bull for the Jubilee 2025 Spes non confundit Pope Francis says that Mary is the supreme witness of hope. "At the foot of the cross, she witnessed the passion and death of Jesus, her innocent son. Overwhelmed with grief, she nonetheless renewed her "fiat", never abandoning her hope and trust in God. (...) In the travail of that sorrow, offered in love, Mary became our Mother, the Mother of Hope." The Pope notices that the title Stella Maris – the Star of the Sea "bespeaks the sure hope that, amid the tempests of this life, the Mother of God comes to our aid, sustains us and encourages us to persevere in hope and trust". (24) Mama Mary protects and guides those who surrender their life to her.

On the 13th of May 1981, the feast day of Our Lady of Fatima, during the General Audience at St. Peter's square, Pope John Paul II was shot and wounded by Mehmet Ali Agca. One bullet entered his body, missing an important artery by a fraction of an inch. The bullet seemed to have veered away from its intended path, thus saving the Pope's life. A year later, the 13th of May 1982, Pope John Paul II stood in Fatima to thank Our Lady for, as he believed, it was "a mother's hand that guided the bullet's path", enabling "the Pope in his throes" to halt "at the threshold of death" (John Paul II, 1994). The bullet was later set in the crown of the statue of Our Lady of Fatima. John Paul II publicly forgave Ali Agca and on the 27th of December 1983 visited him in Rome prison.

The Jubilee Year we celebrate, is about asking for and receiving forgiveness from God and about forgiving each other and oneself. Accepting God's mercy, frees our hearts from the burden of sin. Forgiving others frees our heart from resentment and lightens the burden of those who have hurt us. This is a concrete expression of repentance and the beginning of a new life. Forgiven by God, we learn and are enabled to forgive others and ourselves.

Just as God, the Merciful Father, is not tired by forgiving his children again and anew, the Blessed Virgin Mary is not tired with guiding her children through her apparitions, as she did in Guadalupe, Paris, La Salette, Lourdes, Gietrzwald and Fatima, to mention only some of them.

Since June 1981 Mary appears in Medjugorje in Bosnia and Herzegovina in Europe. She calls for conversion and peace. The woman who crushed the snake's head knows well that the battle that Catholics, Christians and the Church are fighting nowadays can be compared to the fight of young David with Goliath. Sometimes we see that the adversary – Satan – is as big and strong as Goliath. Still, we remember that even if David had only a slingshot and a few pebbles, he conquered Goliath with this seemingly insignificant weapon, because he went in the name of God.

Therefore, Mary gives us, her children, five pebbles, to fight the adversary and to win the spiritual battle: 1. Daily Rosary; 2. The Eucharist; 3. Monthly Confession; 4. Reading the Bible daily; 5. Fasting twice a week.

Some may say that the above religious practices do not fit modern individuals and societies, busy with so many other responsibilities and activities. Others argue that devotions do not necessarily increase love and the spirit of service. Yet, among innumerable distractions of daily life these five pebbles keep us focused on what really matters. Practiced with faith and attention they strengthen us along the way of daily conversion, love and service.

Mary, Star of the Sea, "pray that in heart and mind, word and deed, in days of turmoil and in days of calm, we will always look to Christ and say, "Who is this that even wind and sea obey him?" (Mk 4:41, John Paul II). Mary, Our Guiding Star, Bright Star of the Sea, guide us!

Infinite Love and Service

Anniversary is not just a celebration but a moment to reflect on. The PAST is past, treasure the good, learn from mistakes and find solutions from the damages occurred. The NOW, it is important to know what we can do to improve, to be of help to the community. Focus on getting better, so that in the FUTURE, the Mission and Vision of the Community will be achieved and each ones' purpose will be realized. -Excerpt from Fr. Joseph Tan's message.

In celebration of the Feast of St. Joseph, Spouse of Mary, St. Joseph the Worker's Community gathered in thanksgiving for its 8th anniversary. May each of us, as members, fulfill our own duties and obligations with faithfulness, sincerity, humility, and commitment as servants of God and St. Joseph's Church. May we live a life of prayer and service through the values and virtues of St. Joseph and use them as our way of life to fulfill the Community's mission and vision: to love and serve God and all people, by the power of the Holy Spirit and in the name of Jesus Christ our Lord, and through the intercession and love of our Blessed Mother Mary. These we pray with faith and hope. Be to our God all glory and honor.

Article written by: Brenda Galfo (SJTW Group)



Thanksgiving mass was offered and celebrated on March 22 by Rev. Fr. Everson. We are and grateful for the presence and support of Over all Coordinator Arsenia Barbado.



Members who have been faithfully serving the community, (5 years and beyond) and St. Joseph's Church are recognized and honored. With Rev. Fr. Joseph and Sr. Weronika.



St. Joseph's Church logo and the new St. Joseph the Worker's Logo. The shield that symbolizes being a warrior of St. Joseph. An allegiance to the mission of faithfulness and pure intention in serving God and others through St. Joseph's virtues of Love and Service.

Lenten Observance

This year, 2025, Lent starts on March 5, Ash Wednesday, and ends on April 17. It describes the total 40-day duration of Lenten observance that includes fasting, spending more time in prayer, acknowledging our sins, and returning to the ways of the Lord. It is a season for welcoming God into our lives and allowing Him to make His dwelling among us. Sometimes, life feels unfair. We work hard, achieve things, yet our efforts go unnoticed. But when we make a mistake, all eyes are on us. We've been through this countless times—but here's what we've learned: true growth isn't measured by recognition but by who we become in the process. Even when credit isn't given, the discipline, skill, and strength we gain remain ours forever. No one can take away the person we've become. So, we keep doing our best with reverence to God. Let our results speak louder than the applause. And rather than focusing on the negativity, let's focus on the deeper meaning—a call to repentance and a reminder of our journey towards God. The real challenge is not how long we will focus on what others think about us, but how we carry the spirit of repentance in our hearts throughout Lent. Here in our home away from home, St. Joseph's Church, we may not be perfect in all aspects, but we do our best to remain His faithful servants amidst hindrances. May we continue to learn to accept and treat one another with respect, as if we see Jesus in them. Thank you and God bless everyone.

Article written by: Irmalyn Alvarez Ecol (Filipino Catholic Group)



FCG - Spiritual Talk about Lent with Sr. Vera Wen Yuan, SSpS



FCG – Way of the Cross with Sr. Weronika Maria Klebba, SSpS



Liturgical Group Preparations for the Holy Week



Photo with Father Paul Chen, Johnny, and All Function Group leaders:
Bro. William, Jhonatan, Linda, Lanie, Elizabeth, Arlene and Doris (PPT-Representative)



On April 6, 2025, the Liturgical Group led by Father Paul Chen met at Saint Joseph's Church to prepare for Holy Week services. The meeting focused on enhancing worship experiences and ensuring smooth activities, covering topics like palm leaf distribution for Palm Sunday, arrangements for the Lord's Supper on Holy Thursday, the Stations of the Cross, and liturgical celebrations for Good Friday, Holy Saturday, and Easter Sunday. Group leaders shared insights, emphasizing teamwork and communication.

The group looks forward to celebrating Holy Week together and deepening our faith as a community.

Prepared by: Arlene Loable Phoda (Communication Group)



Mary, Our Guiding Star

(My Personal Reflection on Her Selfless Love)

As we reflect on the theme “Mary, Our Guiding Star,” I am reminded of the profound lessons of selfless love and unwavering devotion that she embodies. During our recent Lenten Recollection at Saint Joseph’s Church, I had the blessing of assisting two choirs. This experience filled my heart with a renewed sense of purpose and connectedness. Our preparations were not without challenges. The physical and emotional demands of moving between churches, rehearsing, and coordinating schedules often felt overwhelming. Yet, in those moments of fatigue, I thought of Mary. She faced her own trials with quiet strength, always saying “yes” to God, even when it meant personal sacrifice. Her example inspires us to embrace our calling to serve, reminding us that love often requires endurance and selflessness. The music we shared was more than just notes and melodies; it was a heartfelt offering to God. The Apostleship of Prayer Choir sang “Here I Am to Worship,” while our community choir, Filipino Prayer Group, lifted their voices in “Amazing Grace.” Each song became a collective expression of faith, transcending our individual struggles and inviting us into a deeper communion with one another and with God.

In the spirit of service, I felt a profound connection to the mission of Mary. Helping the Apostleship of Prayer was not merely about performing; it was about standing alongside fellow believers, offering support, and lifting them up in worship. This presence is what Mary exemplified, especially as she stood at the foot of the Cross, unwavering in her love and commitment.

Philippians 2:3-4 reminds us to “Do nothing out of selfishness or out of vain glory; rather, humbly regard others as more important than yourselves.” These words challenge us to embrace humility and service, recognizing that true service often comes with sacrifice. It may not always be glamorous, but it draws us closer to Christ and strengthens our bonds with one another.

Returning to Saint Joseph’s Church felt like coming home. Each step back into that sacred space reminded me that even our quiet, unseen efforts have immense value. They reflect Mary’s mission: to guide souls to her Son. In these moments of connection, we become vessels of His grace, embodying the love Mary so beautifully demonstrated.

As we continue our spiritual journey, let us follow Mary’s example of selfless service. May we give ourselves wholeheartedly, endure with grace, and always point others to the light of Christ. In doing so, we not only fulfill our calling but also participate in the divine act of love that Mary inspires in us. May her loving presence guide us as we walk this path of faith and hope together.

Article by: Arlene Loable Phoda (Filipino Prayer Group)



Filipino Prayer Group Choir with our coordinator Alvin Alvaro Abraham at the right.



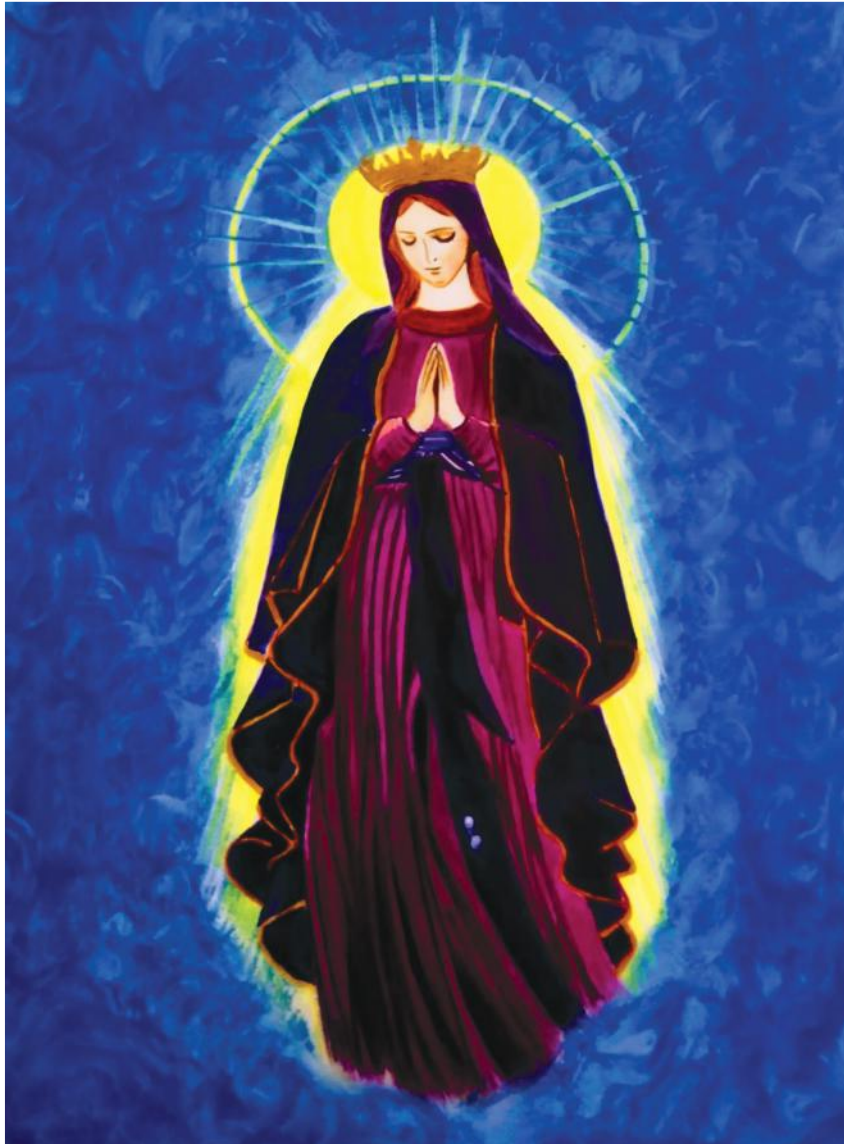
Filipino Prayer Group Choir with our dear conductress Theresa Estabillo sitting in the middle.



Here is a photo of the Apostleship of Prayer Choir featuring Sr. Weronika Klebba SSpS, with myself and Coordinator Ma. Fe Cabangal moving to the left, and choir leader Imee Valencia.

Divine inspiration:

Celebraating Our Blessed Mother



Through the strokes of my pencil, I sought to capture the ethereal presence of Mary, Our Guiding Star. As I sketched each delicate detail, I was filled with a sense of peace and guidance, much like the unwavering light of a star in the night sky. Just as the star once guided the Magi toward newborn Jesus, may Mary's radiant glow continue to illuminate our paths with love, hope, and serenity. Let her celestial presence direct us toward the boundless expanse of God's compassion and insight, enveloping us in a blanket of grace and solace. In every stroke and contour, may the ethereal beauty of Mary remind us of the perpetual guidance and shelter she bestows upon us—a beacon of light amidst the shadows of doubt and uncertainty. May this drawing serve as a reminder of her eternal protection and intercession in our journey through life's twists and turns.

Art by Parishioner: Ms. Jane Alaveran

A prayer of Tribute to Mary: Star of the Sea



Hail Star of the Sea,
O Immaculate Virgin Mary,
Pray for us!

Prayer to Mary - the Star of the Sea

O Stella Maris, light of every ocean
and mistress of the deep,
guide [your children on earth]
across all dark and stormy seas,
that they may reach the haven of peace and light
prepared in him who calmed the sea.
Keep all your children safe from harm
for the waves are high and we are far from home.
As we set forth upon the oceans of the world,
and cross the deserts of our time,
show us, O Mary, the fruit of your womb,
for without your Son we are lost.
Pray that we will never fail on life's journey,
that in heart and mind, in word and deed,
in days of turmoil and in days of calm,
we will always look to Christ and say,
"Who is this that even wind and sea obey him?"
O Help of Christians, protect us!
Bright Star of the Sea, guide us!
Our Lady of Peace, pray for us!

From *Ecclesia in Oceania*, 53
by Pope John Paul II

Follow Mary, the Star of the Sea



Take not your eyes from the light of this star if you would not be overwhelmed by the waves. If the storms of temptation arise, if you are thrown upon the rocks of affliction, look to the star, invoke Mary.

Are you confounded at the enormity of your sins, are you ashamed at the defilement of your conscience, are you terrified on account of the dreadful judgment, so that you begin to be overpowered by sadness, or even to sink into the abyss of despair, then turn your thoughts to Mary.

In dangers, in distress, in doubt, call on Mary. She will not be far from your mouth, or your heart; and that you may obtain her intercession omit not to imitate her conduct. When you follow her, you will not go astray; when you invoke her, you will no longer be in doubt; when she supports you, you will not fall; when she leads you, you will surely come to eternal life, and will find by your own experience that she is justly called Maria -- that is, Star of the Sea.

St. Bernard of Clairvaux (b. 1090- d. 1153)

煩惱皆自找——溫元修女訪談錄



來自國際傳教修會——聖神婢女傳教會 (SSpS) 的溫元修女已經在香港服務了一年，除完成修會交給她的日常工作外，修女也熱情歡迎教友來到她當前服務的聖若瑟堂區一起靈修，分享感受。近來有教友帶著信仰生活中的問題找到了溫修女，以下是她們的部分對話。

問：生活中很多壓力與煩惱，怎樣用天主教信仰來化解？

答：不客氣地說，煩惱是自找的。原因在於不放棄，不接納，縱容自己的慾望。沒有讓天主做自己生活的主人，不把主導權交還給天主。

問：怎樣讓自己的信仰生活「保鮮」？

答：花時間祈禱、與天主為友。現代人花太多時間在手機、網絡、社交媒體上，雖然也用這些工具工作或學習，但同時也浪費太多的時間；資訊氾濫也使人心亂，遠離天主。「神貧」精神要求我們不浪費任何東西，包括時間。

問：我們常被教導要傳福音，但即便努力去做，效果也往往未如理想。究竟為什麼要傳福音？向哪些人傳、怎樣傳？

答：傳福音是為讓更多的人分享天主的愛和慈悲。如果你知道一個很好的，免費的或是便宜的餐館，你會想告訴別人，並帶親朋好友一起來分享，這就是傳福音的初衷。傳福音不是強加於人，而是言傳身教，自己先把「愛」活出來，把自己的日子過好，讓別人看到就想親近，想探求原因，這樣很自然就可以影響到他。傳福音要從身邊的人開始，潛移默化，不要太在意結果。做撒種的人，種子怎樣成長自有天主守護，何時收割也由天主決定。

問：很多教友都看過電影「破地獄」，您看過嗎？有教友由劇情聯想到「為什麼修女不可以做司鐸」，對此您怎麼看？

答：我也看過，有句台詞印象很深刻——「人一出世就在倒計時」，提醒我們塵世的短暫。對於修女可不可以做司鐸，我想法是聽命於教會的規定。可能有一日教會許可修女做司鐸，也會出現很多「女神父」，不過我個人還是選擇做修女，不做女司鐸。



In Loving Memory

Funeral / Memorial Mass:

March 28 Chan Chung Kwong

March 31 Lo Wing Ming

April 1 Ng Chun Pao Anna

April 10 Yim Man Hung Vivien Liza

Writers
Wanted

歡迎堂區教友投稿

- 1) 6月主題：慈悲善工, 望德善工
- 2) 字數：不超 650字
- 3) 格式：Word file
- 4) 相片：若文章附相片，上限3張，必須屬於作者的相片(JPG), 上限 3.5MB。
- 5) 截止日期：5/09/2025
- 6) 郵寄地址：請把文章註明「6月投稿」郵寄到 stjosephs.hk@gmail.com
- 7) 通訊組保留任何修改及刊登權利

**Parishioners are welcome to submit articles for the church newsletter.
Please take note of the following guidelines:**

- 1) Theme for June: **Works of Mercy-Works of Hope**
- 2) Word limit: Not more than 650 words
- 3) Form: Word file
- 4) Photo: 1-3 pictures only, with a maximum size of 3.5MB
- 5) Deadline **May 09, 2025**
- 6) Email: Please submit the article to stjosephs.hk@gmail.com with the subject line 'Article for June 2025.'
- 7) All rights are reserved by the church, including the selection of articles, photos, and any necessary adjustments.



BIBLE VERSES

All these devoted themselves with one accord to prayer, together with some women, and Mary the mother of Jesus, and his brothers. (Acts 1:14)

聖經金句

宗1:14 這些人同一些婦女及耶穌的母親瑪利亞並他的兄弟，都同心合意地專務祈禱。

神師勉語

瑪利亞——我們的引路星辰

聖神婢女傳教會 柯文妮修女

瑪利亞是引路的星辰，是「曉明之星」，引領我們眾人航越生命的海洋，抵達天鄉的彼岸。



有一首聖母
追溯至九世紀。在
誓願週年時，會在彌
的旋律向聖母致敬：「

永遠的童貞女，更為幸福的天
求瑪利亞為我們轉求平安與脫免罪惡：
鎖鏈，致光明於黑暗，驅走我們的罪，為我
生命旅程託付於她，祈求她的護佑與引導：「給
此得見耶穌，並享永恆的喜樂」。

讚歌《海星頌》(Ave Maris Stella)可
我們的某些會院中，當修女發願或慶祝
撒進堂詠中詠唱這首讚歌。我們以莊嚴
聖哉，海上的星星，孕育天主的母親，是
國之門。」接著，我們紀念聖母領報，祈
「……確保我們身處平靜……解開罪人的
們求得一切善的事物……」我們將自己與
予我們純潔的生命，幫我們預備安全的道路，以

人生猶如航海。有時我們享受晴空、微風與平靜海面；有時卻遭遇風暴或颱風、雷電交加，甚至性命堪憂。無論個人生活、國家境遇或世界局勢皆然——太平歲月與穩健發展，常與動盪戰亂交替；社會安定與騷亂起義並存。邁向人性與基督徒成熟的成長之路，必經危機與倒退的考驗。無論我們此刻處於何種境遇，瑪利亞始終是我們的引路星辰。如同燈塔光束指引水手返回安全港灣，瑪利亞堅定不移地指向耶穌，並以她的一生示範如何跟隨這位「世界之光」(若8:12)與我們的希望。

教宗方濟各在《2025年禧年詔書》(Spes non confundit)中指出，瑪利亞是希望的至高見證者。「在十字架下，她目睹親子耶穌無辜的受難和死亡。她儘管悲痛欲絕，但仍繼續重申她的「我願意」，從未放棄對上主的希望和信靠。(……)在悲痛的苦難中，瑪利亞以愛獻身，成為我們的母親——希望之母。虔誠的信友一直稱聖母為曉明之星，這並非偶然，這個稱謂代表一種確切的希望：即在今生的暴風雨中，天主之母會來到我們身旁幫助我們、支持我們，並鼓勵我們堅持希望與信靠。(24)。聖母媽媽護佑並引導所有將生命交託給她的人。

1981年5月13日花地瑪聖母瞻禮日，教宗若望保祿二世在聖伯多祿廣場主持公開接見時，遭穆罕默德·阿里·阿克查槍擊重傷。一顆子彈射入教宗體內，距重要動脈僅毫釐之遙。子彈似乎偏離原本軌跡，因而保住教宗性命。一年後的1982年5月13日，教宗親赴花地瑪感恩，他深信「是母親的手引導了子彈的軌跡」，使「垂危的教宗」得以「停在死亡的門檻前」(若望保祿二世，1994年)。這顆子彈後來鑲嵌在花地瑪聖母像的冠冕上。若望保祿二世公開寬恕阿克查，並於1983年12月27日前往羅馬監獄探望他。

我們慶祝的禧年，關乎祈求並領受天主的寬恕，也關乎彼此寬恕與自我寬恕。接納天主的慈悲，能釋放心靈脫離罪惡的重擔；寬恕他人，則使我們擺脫怨恨，並減輕傷害我們者的負擔。這是悔改的具體表現，也是新生命的開始。被天主寬恕的我們，得以學習並能夠寬恕他人與自己。

正如慈悲的天父永不厭倦地一再寬恕子女，童貞瑪利亞也透過顯現，如在瓜達盧佩、巴黎、拉撒萊特、露德、吉特茲瓦爾德、花地瑪等地，不倦地引導她的子女。

自1981年6月起，瑪利亞持續在歐洲波斯尼亞和黑塞哥維那的默主哥耶顯現，呼籲悔改與和平。這位擊碎蛇頭的女子深知，當今公教徒、基督徒與教會的抗爭，可比作年輕達味對抗哥肋雅戰的戰役。有時我們看見對手——撒殫——如哥肋雅般龐大強悍。但我們牢記：達味僅憑投石器與幾顆石子，就以這看似微不足道的武器戰勝哥肋雅，因為他是因天主之名而戰。

為此，瑪利亞賜予我們五顆石子，助我們戰勝對手、贏得屬靈戰役：1. 每日誦念玫瑰經；2. 領受聖體；3. 每月辦告解；4. 每日閱讀聖經；5. 每週守齋兩次。

或有人言，上述虔敬實踐不合現代人與繁忙社會；或謂敬禮未必增進愛德與服務精神。然而，在無數日常紛擾中，這五顆石子使我們專注於真正重要之事。以信德與專注實踐，它們將在每日悔改、愛德與服務之路上堅固我們。

曉明之星瑪利亞，「求妳助佑我們：無論心念言行，動盪或平靜之日，常能注視基督並驚嘆：『這人到底是誰？連風和海也聽從他！』(馬爾谷福音4:41，若望保祿二世語)」瑪利亞，我們的引路星辰，光耀海星，請引導我們！