

Prayer Service----Stars in Mary's crown

This morning I thought we might start our busy day with a devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary, our Mother and our model of holiness.

Curious about the stars in Mary's crown and what they might represent, I searched the Internet and found a chaplet called Crown of 12 Stars that states the stars symbolize Mary's motherhood and queenship over all of Israel, the 12 stars representing the 12 tribes and also the 12 apostles. I could find no other meaning to the 12 stars, so I'm taking the liberty of designating each star as a particular aspect of Mary's virtues—virtues that exemplify her excellence, her power and her goodness. This prayer has received Father Ruppert's imprimatur so I think church doctrine is safe.

There are 12 stars around the statue of Mary and each of you has a bookmark with a star as well. If you will, please start with the number 1 bookmark and read the verses in numerical order around the table.

Number 1: St. John, the beloved disciple of Jesus and Mary, was privileged to behold a wonderful sign in Heaven: "A woman clothed with the sun, and the moon under her feet, and upon her head a crown of 12 stars."

Number 2: The first star represents Mary's **Compassion**.

O Mother of all people, you know all of our sufferings and our hopes. You maternally feel our struggles. We ask you to receive our cry and take the entire human family under your maternal protection.

Number 3: The second star is the star of **Purity**.

Our Lord, descending to earth beheld all women; He chose one for Himself who among them all was pleasing. He found her to have a pure heart and every reckoning of perfection. Because of this, He chose her, the pure and most fair one.

Number 4: **Mercy** is the third star.

Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy, our life, our sweetness, and our hope. Most gracious advocate, turn your eyes of mercy toward us, and show us the blessed fruit of your womb, Jesus.

Number 5: In Mary, we find the virtue of **Patience**.

"Mary's whole life was a continual exercise of her patience; for, as the angel revealed to St. Bridget, 'as a rose grows up amongst thorns, so did the Blessed Virgin grow up amongst

tribulations.’”

(St. Alphonsus di Liguori)

Number 6: The fifth star represents **Love**.

Mary was endowed with the gift of love, which she alone knew how to give more ardently and perfectly than all creatures combined; to love God entirely for His own sake, purely, intensely and without defect.

Number 7: The Blessed Virgin is the perfect example of **Charity**.

The Church sees in Mary the highest expression of the “feminine genius” and finds her a source of constant inspiration. Putting herself at God’s service, Mary also put herself completely at the service of others.

Number 8: In the seventh star, we see the virtue of **Obedience**.

“Mary said, ‘Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.’ Then the angel departed from her. Above all creatures, may you be blessed, you, the handmaid of the Lord, who in the fullest way obeyed the Divine call!”

Number 9: Strength of the Blessed Mother was evidenced as her Son was raised on the cross. Mary stood by Him, sharing His suffering. May she, who is our spiritual Mother and patroness in heaven, help us to find renewed strength at the cross of Christ and so come to share in His rising to new life.

Number 10: The ninth star denotes **Humility**.

Mary, humble servant of God Most High, the Son to whom you gave birth has made you the servant of humanity. Your life was always a humble and generous service to those whom you touched.

Number 11: Through the virtue of **Trust**, we see that “on the third day there was a wedding in Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the wedding. When the wine ran short, the mother of Jesus said to Him, ‘They have no wine.’ Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, how does your concern affect me? My hour has not yet come.’ His mother said to the servers, ‘Do whatever He tells you.’”

Number 12: Devotion is the eleventh star:

Holy Mary, Mother of God, you have given the world its true light, Jesus, your Son. You abandoned yourself completely to God’s call and thus became a wellspring of goodness which flows from Him.

Number 13: Completing the Crown of Twelve Stars is **Faithfulness**:

Virgin Mary, help us to live, like you, the beatitudes of believers, and to dedicate ourselves with unceasing charity, sharing your faith with all of those who seek your Son.

Number 14: Through all of the designated virtues describing the Blessed Virgin Mary, she earnestly desires to inspire all of us to be joyous witnesses to others; growing and rejoicing in the Lord who has created us.

Number 15: Let us allow ourselves to be led by our Blessed Mother to recognize that we need God and His mercy, and in this way enter into His kingdom of justice, of love, and of peace. **Amen.**