

*Manual of Devotions*



*Our Lady of Prompt Succor*

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NATIONAL VOTIVE SHRINE

OF

OUR LADY OF PROMPT SUCCOR

URSULINE CONVENT

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*Historical Sketch of the  
Miraculous Statue of  
Our Lady of Prompt Succor*

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The Ursuline Convent of New Orleans was founded under the auspices of Louis XV, King of France, by a band of French Ursulines, who, on February 22, 1727, set sail on the Gironde from Lorient, a port of Brittany, and reached the Crescent City on the morning of August 7th of the same year.

Almost immediately after their arrival, the nuns began to teach the children of the colonists, to instruct the Indians and Negroes, and to nurse the sick in the hospital placed under their care. As the years passed, more Ursuline Sisters came from France to replace those who died. When, in 1763, Louisiana became a Spanish possession, the Ursuline Community had to recruit its members from Spain. In 1800, Louisiana was retroceded to France, and the Spanish Sisters feared a repetition in the Louisiana colony of the recent horrors of the French Revolution. Because of this, on October 24, 1802, the prioress of the Community, Mother St. Monica Ramos, a native of Havana, addressed a petition to Charles IV,

*Nihil Obstat*

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King of Spain, requesting the favor to return with her community to her native city. Without waiting for the royal answer, she and fifteen other Sisters left the Convent in New Orleans on May 29, 1803.

Only seven Ursulines now remained; yet, full of confidence and zeal, they successfully maintained their boarding school, day school, and orphanage, as well as their courses of instruction for negroes. It was at this time that Mother St. André Madier felt inspired to appeal to a cousin of hers, an Ursuline in France who had been driven from her convent during the Reign of Terror.

Agathe Francoise Gensoul, in religion Mother St. Michel, was not only a person of culture and refinement, but was also highly talented and remarkably pious. Although expelled from her Convent of Pont-Saint-Espirit and compelled to conceal even her title of religious, she continued to cherish and foster the spirit of her holy vocation; and, at the first indication of religious toleration, she hastened to resume her apostolic labors with renewed ardor, endeavoring to repair the havoc wrought by the French Revolution. The task was not an easy one, as the guillotine, exile, and untold privations had severed the earthly ties of nearly all her former Sisters in religion, and to try to reunite the few that remained was utterly impossible. Yet, remembering that as an

Ursuline she was in duty bound to devote her life to the instruction of youth, she determined to open in Montpelier, conjointly with Miss Sophie Ricard, another Ursuline, a boarding-school for young girls. This flourishing academy was fully realizing all the hopes which the bishop of the diocese had placed in it, when Mother St. Michel Gensoul received from Mother St. André Madier, her cousin in Louisiana, the letter stating the shortage of subjects in the New Orleans convent. This impelled her to abandon her own works of zeal to go to the relief of her Sisters across the Atlantic.

Numerous and almost insuperable obstacles stood in the way to prevent Mother St. Michel from responding to her cousin's appeal; but these difficulties merely served to show forth more conclusively the miraculous intervention of Our Lady of Prompt Succor, as the following account reveals.

France was just emerging from the Revolution; ruins lay on all sides. As there had been neither priest nor nun to teach the young, the rising generation was encompassed by the appalling gloom of religious ignorance, devastated monasteries, profaned churches, and desecrated altars. A woman like Mother St. Michel was a treasure for her country, for she was a person of no ordinary ability; and as her work as a teacher had already been crowned

with wonderful success, her bishop would not even think of dispensing with her services. When her spiritual director was consulted on the subject of her leaving for Louisiana, he would give no answer; and when Mother St. Michel applied directly to Bishop Fournier, the prelate gave expression to his surprise, grief, and firm opposition in these forceful words: "THE POPE ALONE CAN GIVE THIS AUTHORIZATION." ... "THE POPE ALONE!" These words were equivalent to a determined refusal, for the Pope was in Rome. The distance was great; means of communication then were not what they are today; and, moreover, Pius VII was a real captive at Rome, held in custody by Napoleon and waiting to be taken by force to Fontainebleau. The jailers of the Pope had received strict injunctions to prevent all communication, even by letter, with the Vicar of Christ; consequently, writing to the Pope and expecting an answer from him were, seemingly, acts of folly. Nevertheless, on December 15, 1808, Mother St. Michel wrote to the Sovereign Pontiff. Having set forth her motives for wishing to go to New Orleans, she concluded thus: "Most Holy Father, I appeal to your apostolic tribunal. I am ready to submit to your decision. Speak. Faith teaches me that you are the voice of the Lord. I await your orders. 'GO' or 'STAY,' from Your Holiness, will be the same to me."

The letter had been written three months and no opportunity for sending it had yet presented itself when, one day, as Mother St. Michel was praying before a statue of Mary, she felt inspired to address the Queen of Heaven in these words: "O Most Holy Virgin Mary, if you obtain a PROMPT and FAVORABLE answer to my letter, I promise to have you honored in New Orleans under the title of OUR LADY OF PROMPT SUCCOR." As an undeniable proof that Mother St. Michel's trustful prayer was pleasing to her, and that she really wished to be honored in New Orleans under this title, Mary quickly performed the two miracles laid down as conditions by Mother St. Michel; for the letter left Montpellier on March 19, 1809, and the answer is dated Rome, April 28, 1809. This first condition of a "prompt" reply is all the more miraculous owing to the above given account of the captivity of the Pope. The second condition is no less marvelous, for we must bear in mind that Pius VII knew the state of affairs in France and the need of apostles like Mother St. Michel to regenerate it; and yet he did not hesitate to approve of her leaving for the New World, as the following extract from Cardinal Di Pietro's letter shows:

"Madame, I am charged by Our Holy Father, Pope Pius VII, to answer in his name. His Holiness cannot do

otherwise than approve of the esteem and attachment you have fostered for the Religious state, and the spirit of the Institute of St. Ursula you have maintained. The Holy Father experienced the greatest consolation on learning that a Monastery of so useful an Order as that of the Ursulines, and which has rendered such signal services to the Church, is established in Louisiana, and that piety, peace and the most exact regularity reign therein. His Holiness approves of your placing yourself at the head of your religious aspirants, to serve as their guide during the long and difficult voyage you are about to undertake ..."

The two conditions of a "prompt" and a "favorable" reply had been fulfilled by Mary. Bishop Fournier was so surprised at this truly miraculous issue that he acknowledged himself vanquished, and requested the privilege of blessing the statue of Our Lady which Mother St. Michel had ordered to be carved, according to her promise, and which was to be the protection of the pious missionaries on their voyage across the Atlantic. On their arrival in New Orleans, December 30, 1810, this precious statue was solemnly installed in the Convent

Chapel, and from that time the homage and veneration offered to Mary under the title of "OUR LADY OF PROMPT SUCCOR" has been constantly growing in our city and state and spreading far and wide all over the United States.

It does not come within the sphere of this brief sketch to relate all the favors, both spiritual and temporal, wrought through the intercession of Our Lady of Prompt Succor during the past one hundred years and more. The Chronicles of the Ursuline Convent sum up these graces by saying: "Under this title, the Most Blessed Virgin has so often manifested her power and goodness, that the Religious have unbounded confidence in her."

Two historical facts are especially worthy of notice here: the fire in 1812, and the Battle of New Orleans in 1815. Devotion to Our Lady of Prompt Succor was only beginning to be known in New Orleans when, in 1812, a terrible fire ravaged the city. The wind rapidly drove the flames toward the convent, and the danger being imminent an order was given to leave the convent. Just then, Sr. Anthony placed a small statue of Our Lady of Prompt Succor on a window sill facing the fire, and Mother St. Michel prayed aloud: "Our Lady of Prompt Succor, we are lost, unless you hasten to our help." Instantaneously, the wind changed, the convent and environs were out of

danger, and the flames extinguished. Witnesses of this inexplicable incident cried out unanimously: "Our Lady of Prompt Succor has saved us!"

General Andrew Jackson's glorious victory over the British in the battle of New Orleans, fought on the plains of Chalmette, January 8, 1815, is another signal favor rightly attributed to the all-powerful intercession of Our Lady of Prompt Succor. Before the combat, in order to obtain God's blessing upon the American forces, the weeping, terror-stricken wives, mothers, children, and sisters of Jackson's valiant little band spent the night of January 7th in prayer before the statue of Our Lady of Prompt Succor in the Ursuline Chapel. On the morning of January 8th, Very Rev. William Dubourg, Vicar General and, later, Bishop of New Orleans, offered the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass at the main altar, above which the statue had been placed, and the Ursulines, through their Prioress, Mother Ste. Marie Olivier de Vezin, made the vow to have a Mass of Thanksgiving sung annually should the Americans be victorious. At the moment of Communion, a courier rushed into the chapel, announcing the glad tidings of the enemy's defeat. After Mass Father Dubourg intoned the Te Deum, which was sung enthusiastically and with heartfelt gratitude. No one could reasonably doubt the miraculous intervention of

Our Lady of Prompt Succor. Jackson himself did not hesitate to admit of a Divine interposition in his favor, and came in person to the convent, accompanied by his staff, to thank the nuns for their prayers on his behalf. The vow made by the Ursulines has been faithfully kept throughout these long years.

Rome has officially approved "DEVOTION TO OUR LADY OF PROMPT SUCCOR." Most precious documents have, at different times, emanated from the Holy See, placing the Seal of Holy Church on this devotion and conferring special privileges upon it. On September 27, 1851, His Holiness, Pius IX, graciously authorized the celebration of the feast of Our Lady of Prompt Succor and the singing of the yearly Mass of Thanksgiving on January the 8th. This Papal Decree was promulgated in the Diocese by Archbishop Antoine Blanc on August 6, 1852.

A decree of Leo XIII, dated from Rome, June 21, 1894, and issued from the Palace of the Sacred Congregation de Propaganda Fide, granted the signal favor of the "Solemn Coronation of the Miraculous Statue of Our Lady of Prompt Succor, exposed to public veneration in the Chapel of the Ursuline Convent, New Orleans"—this is the wording of the decree—and officially delegated Archbishop Francis Janssens to crown the Miraculous Statue in the Pope's name. This imposing

ceremony of the Coronation—the very first of its kind in the United States—took place on Sunday, November 10, 1895, and was marked by unusual pomp and all the magnificence of the Catholic Ritual.

In that same decree of June 21, 1894, His Holiness Leo XIII enriched with numerous indulgences the Confraternity of Our Lady of Prompt Succor, which Archbishop Janssens canonically erected in the Ursuline Chapel of New Orleans on January 8, 1895. By a new Rescript of Leo XIII in 1897, this Confraternity was raised to the rank of an Archconfraternity. Since 1895, many thousands of Our Lady's clients have been permanently enrolled as members of the Archconfraternity. Confraternities continue to be established in churches outside of New Orleans, and requests continue to come for membership in the Archconfraternity.

On January 8, 1911, the Centenary of the arrival of the Miraculous Statue (December 30, 1810) was celebrated with a splendor recalling the grand ceremonies of the Solemn Coronation; and on Tuesday, January 8, 1924, the Blessing and Dedication by Archbishop John William Shaw of the new National Shrine of Our Lady of Prompt Succor—a superb monument of Christian art—rivaled in religious pomp, enthusiasm, and wondrous beauty the magnificence of the preceding manifestations of

love and loyalty to Louisiana's Heavenly Queen under the title of Our Lady of Prompt Succor.

The solemn Consecration of the new shrine took place on the sixth of January, 1928, and this grandiose ceremony formed a fitting opening of the celebration of the bi-centenary of the founding of the Ursuline Convent.

At the request of Their Excellencies Most Reverend John William Shaw, Archbishop of New Orleans; Most Reverend Cornelius Van de Ven, Bishop of Alexandria; and Most Reverend Jules B. Jeanmard, Bishop of Lafayette; in a decree rendered on the thirteenth day of June, 1928, by the Sacred Congregation of Rites, the Holy See approved and confirmed the choice of Our Lady of Prompt Succor as the Principal Patroness of the City of New Orleans and of the State of Louisiana, conceding at the same time each and all of the liturgical privileges proper to the principal patrons of places.

Accordingly, each year the Patronal Feast continues to be celebrated with solemnity on the eighth day of January, the anniversary date of the battle of New Orleans.

On December 30, 1960, the Solemn Sesquicentennial of the arrival of Our Lady of Prompt Succor in Louisiana was observed. Representing Archbishop Joseph F. Rummel, who was hospitalized at the time due to an unfortunate fall, the Most Reverend Louis Abel



Caillouet, auxiliary bishop of New Orleans, offered the Solemn Pontifical Mass of Thanksgiving in the midst of all the Bishops of the State of Louisiana and a large number of the clergy and laity. The sermon was preached by the Most Reverend Alonso Escalante, D.D., national director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith for Mexico and founder of the Mexican Foreign Mission Society.

On January 8, 1990, the one hundred seventy-fifth anniversary of the victory of the battle of New Orleans was held, with the newly appointed Most Reverend Archbishop Francis Schulte celebrating the annual Mass of Thanksgiving.

May devotion to Mary under her hope-inspiring title of Our Lady of Prompt Succor spread far and wide! To invoke Our Lady under this title is to tell her that our needs are great and pressing, and that we hope for and expect much from her. Her power equals her love; therefore, our confidence should know no bounds.

Our Lady of Prompt Succor, hasten to help us!

## *NOVENA TO OUR LADY OF PROMPT SUCCOR*

A private novena to Our Lady of Prompt Succor may be made at any time during the year, and for any favor desired, either spiritual or temporal. The novena may be made at home by shut-ins unable to go to church. It may also be made in one's parish church by those unable to visit the National Shrine at 2635 State Street, New Orleans.

The Solemn public triduum for the feast of Our Lady of Prompt Succor is made annually before the miraculous Statue in the National Shrine.

Likewise, a perpetual novena Mass, including novena prayers, is offered at the National Shrine each Saturday throughout the year at 11:30 a.m.

It is recommended that those making a novena prepare themselves by reception of the sacrament of Reconciliation, and, when possible, by attendance at daily Mass and by reception of the Holy Eucharist during the time of the novena.

In addition to attending the solemn triduum in January, it is very appropriate to make a novena to Our Lady of Prompt Succor during the nine days preceding the special feasts which the Archconfraternity observes.

THE FEAST OF OUR LADY OF PROMPT  
SUCCOR

January 8th (begin December 30th)

THE FEAST OF THE ANNUNCIATION

March 25th (begin March 16th)

THE FEAST OF THE ASSUMPTION

August 15th (begin August 6th)

THE FEAST OF THE NATIVITY OF THE  
BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

September 8th (begin August 30th)

THE FEAST OF THE PRESENTATION OF  
THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY

November 21st (begin November 12th)

THE FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE  
CONCEPTION

December 8th (begin November 29th)

**NOVENA PRAYERS**

FIRST DAY

When we wish to obtain some special favor through the intercession of Our Blessed Lady, the first disposition to bring to prayer is the humble recognition of our unworthiness, for it is the prayer of the contrite and humble heart that rises to the very throne of God.

PRAYER

Our Lady of Prompt Succor, you are after Jesus our only hope. O Most Holy Virgin, whose merits have raised you high above angel choirs to the very throne of the Eternal and whose foot crushed the head of the infernal serpent, you are strong against the enemies of our salvation. O Mother of God, you are our Mediatrix most kind and loving. Hasten, then, to our help, and as you did once save your beloved City from ravaging flames and our Country from an alien foe, do now have pity on our misery, and obtain for us the graces we beg of you. Deliver us from the wiles of Satan, assist us in the many trials which beset our path in this valley of tears, and be to us truly **Our Lady of Prompt Succor** now and especially at the hour of our death. Amen.

Our Lady of Prompt Succor, hasten to help us. (Three times.)

The Our Father, Hail Mary, and Glory be to the Father may be added, with the Litany of Our Lady of Prompt Succor (p. 22) and the prayer "O Mary, Mother of God" (p. 27).

SECOND DAY

Filial resignation to God's Holy Will is the second disposition required for the obtaining of special graces. This disposition is especially

necessary when we ask for temporal favors, for we cannot be certain whether they are conducive to our salvation or not.

#### PRAYER

Our Lady of Prompt Succor, O Virgin most pure and Mother of the Word Incarnate, you are the dispenser of all graces and the refuge of poor sinners. With lively faith and unbounded confidence we have recourse to your maternal love and we beg you to obtain from your Divine Son the favors we now implore (**here name the special favor desired**). With filial trust we place our hearts under your motherly care beseeching you to obtain for us the all-important grace of perfect conformity to God's Will, and, O Mary, show yourself to be **OUR LADY OF PROMPT SUCCOR**, especially at the hour of our death. Amen.

Our Lady of Prompt Succor, hasten to help us. (Three times.)

Our Father, etc., as on first day.

#### THIRD DAY

A profound respect for the exalted dignity and sublime prerogatives of Mary is an excellent means to draw down upon us Heaven's choicest blessings.

#### PRAYER

Our Lady of Prompt Succor, O Mary Immaculate, you are the model of all virtues, the path by which we go to Jesus, the mysterious channel through which divine favors are imparted to us. You have such power over the Heart of Jesus, hasten to our assistance and obtain our earnest request (**here name the favor desired**). In you, O Mary, we put our trust, let it not be said that our hopes have been frustrated. O Mother most chaste, be our strength against temptation, our help in danger, our consolation in sorrow, but especially be **OUR LADY OF PROMPT SUCCOR** at the hour of our death. Amen.

Our Lady of Prompt Succor, hasten to help us. (Three times.)

Our Father, etc., as on first day.

#### FOURTH DAY

A filial eagerness in striving to fathom the treasures of holiness contained in the heart of Mary, the most loving and lovable of mothers, is another means of obtaining Our Lady's special protection.

#### PRAYER

Our Lady of Prompt Succor, living temple

of the Holy Spirit and Queen of Heaven and earth, behold us prostrate at your feet to offer you the filial homage of our hearts, to thank you for the innumerable favors you have obtained for us, and to implore, through your all-powerful intercession, the graces we need, especially (**here specify the favor desired**). O Mary, be truly to us "Mary," that is, our shield against the darts of temptation, our solace in the midst of trials and afflictions, our firm hope, sweet consolation, and PROMPT SUCCOR at the hour of our death. Amen.

Our Lady of Prompt Succor, hasten to help us. (Three times.)

Our Father, etc., as on first day.

#### FIFTH DAY

One of the surest means to acquire a special right to the protection of Mary is to keep ourselves in the state of grace and endeavor to please her by imitating her virtues.

#### PRAYER

Our Lady of Prompt Succor, Virgin most powerful and Mirror of Justice, who offered yourself totally to God for the perfect accomplishment of His Holy Will, make us generous in sacrifice. We have recourse to you to obtain the graces we need, especially (**here**

**name the favor desired**). O Mary, Our Lady of Prompt Succor, heavenly protectress of souls devoted to your Divine Son, deign to bless us each day of our mortal pilgrimage, cast upon us your eyes of mercy, and after our exile, show unto us Jesus, your Son and our Brother. Amen.

Our Lady of Prompt Succor, hasten to help us. (Three times.)

Our Father, etc., as on first day.

#### SIXTH DAY

A tender love for Mary is another efficacious means of obtaining her favors. Since love can be requited only by love, what should not be our sentiments of filial affection for so generous and loving a Mother?

#### PRAYER

O Mary, Our Lady of Prompt Succor, bright Star of the Sea shining upon life's stormy ocean, we implore your speedy help especially to obtain (**here specify the desired favor**). Shining Star of our tempest-tossed souls, lovingly guide us among temptation's heaving billows and treacherous shoals, and lead us safely into eternity's peaceful harbor. O sweetest of mothers, we seek your PROMPT SUCCOR now and at the hour of our death.

Amen.

Our Lady of Prompt Succor, hasten to help us. (Three times.)

Our Father, etc., as on first day.

#### SEVENTH DAY

Mary's love for us is tender and generous. Our love for her should be characterized by deep gratitude, filial confidence, and ardent zeal. We should endeavor, by good example and the spirit of sacrifice, to propagate devotion to her under her sweet title of PROMPT SUCCOR.

#### PRAYER

O Mary, Our Lady of Prompt Succor, whose protection is so powerful and whose help is so prompt and efficacious, we come to lay at your feet all our cares and sorrows, to place into your hands all our hopes, to entrust to you all our interests both spiritual and temporal. Deign, O Most Holy Virgin, to assist us and obtain the graces we now ask, especially (**here mention the favor desired**). O Mother of PROMPT SUCCOR, close not your ears to our earnest supplications; rather hasten to our help now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Our Lady of Prompt Succor, hasten to help us. (Three times.)

Our Father, etc., as on first day.

#### EIGHTH DAY

Confidence is an excellent and necessary means for obtaining Mary's protection. Our Lady of Prompt Succor will bestow favors upon us in proportion to our filial trust in her all-powerful intercession.

#### PRAYER

Our Lady of Prompt Succor, sanctuary of every virtue, who was chosen among all women to be the Mother of our Redeemer, be our advocate and protectress. To you do we raise our hearts and hands imploring your powerful intercession to obtain the favors we ask, especially (**here mention the favor desired**). Assist us by your mediation, O Mary, that your Divine Son may shower His blessings upon us now and at the moment of our death. Amen.

Our Lady of Prompt Succor, hasten to help us. (Three times.)

Our Father, etc., as on first day.

#### NINTH DAY

Mary became our Mother on Calvary's crest. We are the children of her tears and sorrows. On this last day of our novena, let us take the resolution ever to foster a true and tender devotion to our Immaculate Mother of

Prompt Succor, to cast all our cares and anxieties into her maternal heart. Our confidence will not remain unrewarded.

### PRAYER

Our Lady of Prompt Succor, Queen of the Universe and Sovereign full of kindness, you are the advocate of sinners, a haven of safety to the shipwrecked, the health of the sick and infirm, the consolation of the afflicted, the refuge and salvation of all on earth. O Mary, grant us, we beseech you, the help of your prayers to obtain the graces we implore, and in particular (**here name the favor desired**). Let your maternal heart be touched by our misery; hasten to our assistance and be to us, now and at the hour of our death, **OUR LADY OF PROMPT SUCCOR**. Amen.

Our Lady of Prompt Succor, hasten to help us. (Three times.)

Our Father, etc., as on first day.

*Litany of  
Our Lady of Prompt Succor  
(For private recitation only)*

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 Spirit, have mercy on us.  
Holy Trinity, one God, have mercy on us.  
Holy Mary, pray for us.  
Mother of the Infant Jesus, pray for us.  
Our Lady of Prompt Succor, pray for us.  
Our Lady of Prompt Succor of all who invoke you with confidence,  
Our Lady of Prompt Succor of all who are devout toward the Infant Jesus,  
Our Lady of Prompt Succor for obtaining a lively faith,  
Our Lady of Prompt Succor for sustaining the hope of Christians,  
Our Lady of Prompt Succor for obtaining and persevering in charity,  
Our Lady of Prompt Succor for observing the law of God,  
Our Lady of Prompt Succor for observing perseverance in virtue and good works,  
Our Lady of Prompt Succor in every spiritual necessity,  
Our Lady of Prompt Succor against the revolt of self-will,  
Our Lady of Prompt Succor in the occasion of sin,  
Our Lady of Prompt Succor in every

pray for us

temptation,  
 Our Lady of Prompt Succor against the evil spirit,  
 Our Lady of Prompt Succor for obtaining contrition,  
 Our Lady of Prompt Succor of those wishing to re-enter the path of salvation,  
 Our Lady of Prompt Succor for the conversion of sinners,  
 Our Lady of Prompt Succor in every temporal necessity,  
 Our Lady of Prompt Succor in every affliction,  
 Our Lady of Prompt Succor of afflicted families,  
 Our Lady of Prompt Succor of the sick and the poor,  
 Our Lady of Prompt Succor against contagious diseases and epidemics,  
 Our Lady of Prompt Succor in every accident,  
 Our Lady of Prompt Succor against destruction by fire,  
 Our Lady of Prompt Succor against lightning and tempest,  
 Our Lady of Prompt Succor against destruction by flood,  
 Our Lady of Prompt Succor of travelers,  
 Our Lady of Prompt Succor of navigators,  
 Our Lady of Prompt Succor of the shipwrecked,  
 Our Lady of Prompt Succor against the enemies of our country,  
 Our Lady of Prompt Succor in time of war,

pray for us

Our Lady of Prompt Succor of those aspiring to the Holy Priesthood and the religious life,  
 Our Lady of Prompt Succor of laborers in the Lord's vineyard,  
 Our Lady of Prompt Succor of missionaries who spread the faith,  
 Our Lady of Prompt Succor of our Holy Father the Pope,  
 Our Lady of Prompt Succor for those searching for the faith,  
 Our Lady of Prompt Succor against the enemies of the Church,  
 Our Lady of Prompt Succor at the hour of death,  
 Our Lady of Prompt Succor for the deliverance of the souls in Purgatory,

pray for us

Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world, spare us, O Lord.  
 Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world, graciously hear us, O Lord.  
 Lamb of God, Who takes away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

- V. Our Lady of Prompt Succor, pray for us.
- R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

LET US PRAY

O Almighty and Eternal God! Who sees us surrounded by so many dangers and miseries, grant in Your infinite goodness that the Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of Your Divine Son, may defend us from the evil spirit and protect us against all adversities, that always, and with PROMPT SUCCOR, she may deliver us from every evil of soul and body, and safely guide us to the kingdom of heaven, through the merits of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, Who lives and reigns with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.  
Our Lady of Prompt Succor, hasten to help us. (partial indulgence)

#### LET US PRAY

O most merciful Jesus, Who has placed the riches of Your mercy in the heart of Your Mother Mary, propitiously grant that through her patronage we may be delivered from all evils of mind and body. We beg this of You, merciful Jesus, Who live and reign with God the Father in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, world without end. Amen.

Our Lady of Prompt Succor, hasten to help us. (partial indulgence)

#### PRAYERS TO OUR LADY OF PROMPT SUCCOR

O, Mary, Mother of God, who, amidst the tribulations of the world, watches over us and over the Church of your Son, be to us and to the Church truly OUR LADY OF PROMPT SUCCOR, make haste to help us in all our necessities, that in this fleeting life you may be our succor, and obtain for us (**here ask the particular favor you desire**). Help us to gain life everlasting through the merits of Jesus, your Son, our Lord and Redeemer. Amen. (partial indulgence)

Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be to the Father.

Our Lady of Prompt Succor, hasten to help us. (Three times.)

O Queen of the Universe, Our Lady of Prompt Succor, sovereign full of kindness, you are the advocate of sinners, a haven of safety to the ship-wrecked; you are the resource of the world, the ransom of captives, the health of the infirm, the consolation of the afflicted, the refuge and salvation of all on earth. We beseech you to grant us the help of your prayers, which incline our Heavenly Father to forgive our sins and grant our petitions in all the necessities of this miserable life, prayers which obtain for us an abundance of graces to



receive the pardon of our faults and arrive at the practice of virtue, prayers which stop our enemies, confound their designs, and triumph over their efforts. Amen. (partial indulgence)

MOST EFFICACIOUS PRAYERS OF  
ST. ALPHONSE RODRIGUEZ TO  
OUR BLESSED LADY

O Mary, sweet Refuge of miserable sinners, my most sweet Mother, for the sake of the sorrow you felt in witnessing the death of your Son, hasten to assist me in your mercy and obtain for me (here ask for the particular favor you desire.) And when my soul shall have to depart from this world, succor me promptly, remove from me the infernal enemies, and come to take my soul and present it to the Eternal Judge. My Queen, do not abandon me; you after Jesus shall be my comfort at that terrible moment. Ask your Son to grant me in His goodness the grace to die at your feet and to breathe forth my soul in His Holy Wounds, saying: Jesus and Mary, to you I give my heart and my soul. Amen. (partial indulgence)

THE MEMORARE OF ST. BERNARD

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection, implored your help, and sought your intercession was left unaided. Inspired with this confidence, I fly unto you, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother. To you I come, before you I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in your mercy hear and answer me. Amen.

We fly to your patronage, O holy Mother of God; despise not our petitions in our necessities but deliver us from all dangers, O glorious and blessed Virgin. Amen.

HYMN TO  
OUR LADY OF PROMPT SUCCOR

1.

Hail Mary, Queen of heaven!  
Hail Mary, Mother dear.  
In thee I find my Jesus,  
Near thee I hold no fear.

CHORUS

Hail Mother of Prompt Succor!  
Make haste, help me, thy child!  
Hail Mother of Prompt Succor!  
Make haste, help me, thy child,  
Make haste, help me, thy child.

2.

Bright star on life's vast ocean,  
Thou whom the world admires  
Hast freed our state and city  
From sin, flood, war, and fires.

3.

Our Lady of Prompt Succor,  
Help me forevermore  
Till I meet thee with my Jesus  
Above on Heaven's Shore.

PROPER OF THE MASS TEXT  
FOR THE SOLEMNITY OF  
OUR LADY OF PROMPT SUCCOR  
PATRONESS OF  
THE STATE OF LOUISIANA

**ENTRANCE ANTIPHON:** Let us all rejoice in the Lord, celebrating the solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary as Our Lady of Prompt Succor, in whose honor the angels rejoice and praise in unison the Son of God.

**Introductory Rite:** Lord, Have Mercy, Glory to God.

**ENTRANCE PRAYER:** Grant, we beseech You,

Lord God, that we who have been favored by the prompt succor of the Virgin Mother of Your Divine Son in war, in disasters, in epidemics, and in illness may continue to merit her protection by fidelity to Your Word and to Your Law. We ask this through Our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, Who lives and reigns with You and the Holy Spirit, One God, for ever and ever. Amen.

**First Reading**

**Responsorial Psalm:** St. Luke 1:46-55

**Response:** The Almighty has done great things for me and holy is His Name. (Repeat)

Mary said: "My being proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit finds joy in God my Savior. (**Response**)

"For He has looked upon His servant in her lowliness; all ages to come shall call me blessed. God Who is mighty has done great things for me; holy is His name. (**Response**)

"His mercy is from age to age on those who fear Him. He has shown might with His arm; He has confused the proud in their inmost thoughts. (**Response**)

"He has deposed the mighty from their

thrones and raised the lowly to high places. The hungry He has given every good thing, while the rich He has sent empty away. (Response)

"He has upheld Israel His servant, ever mindful of His mercy, even as He promised our fathers, promised Abraham and his descendants forever." (Response)

### Second Reading

V: Alleluia, . . .

R: Alleluia, . . .

V: Blessed is the Virgin Mary who kept the Word of God.

R: Alleluia, . . .

### Holy Gospel

**PRAYER OVER THE GIFTS** — May the humanity of Your only-begotten Son, Lord, bring us salvation. Born of the Virgin, may He cleanse us of the stains of our sins and render our offerings acceptable to You. Through Christ Our Lord.

**COMMUNION ANTIPHON** — Blessed is the womb of the Virgin Mary which carried the Son of the Eternal Father.

**PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION** — Having partaken of the Eucharistic Sacrifice, O Lord, we beseech Your gracious kindness that, as we rejoice on this festivity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Our Lady of Prompt Succor, we may be accounted worthy, through imitating her virtues, of Your service in the mystery of our redemption. Through Christ Our Lord.

Imprimatur.

†PHILIP M. HANNAN, D.D., J.C.D., S.T.L.  
Archbishop of New Orleans  
September 8, 1978

### *ARCHCONFRATERNITY OF OUR LADY OF PROMPT SUCCOR*

The Confraternity of Our Lady of Prompt Succor, canonically erected on January 8, 1895, was raised to the rank of an Archconfraternity by His Holiness Pope Leo XIII on April 28, 1897. The following statutes were approved:

#### ARTICLE I

The Archconfraternity has for its aim:

1. To place its members under the special protection of Our Lady of Prompt Succor.
2. To spread devotion to Mary under the special title of Our Lady of Prompt Succor.
3. To inspire its associates to evangelize their families and society with Mary as a model of true Gospel values.

## ARTICLE II

The conditions of admission into the Archconfraternity and of participation in its prayers and benefits are:

1. To have one's name inscribed on the Register of the Archconfraternity and to receive a certificate of admission signed by the Director.
2. To say every morning and evening, and in time of temptation or danger, the invocation "Our Lady of Prompt Succor, hasten to help us!" (Partial indulgence)

## ARTICLE III

The special feasts observed by the Archconfraternity are the following:  
 Feast of Our Lady of Prompt Succor, January 8 (preceded by a novena or public triduum)  
 Feast of the Annunciation, March 25  
 Feast of the Assumption, August 15

Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, September 8  
 Feast of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin, November 21  
 Feast of the Immaculate Conception, December 8.

## ARTICLE IV

On each Saturday members shall pray the prayer to Our Lady of Prompt Succor and, when possible, attend the Saturday novena Mass at the National Shrine.

## ARTICLE V

The seat of the Archconfraternity of Our Lady of Prompt Succor is located at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Prompt Succor, Ursuline Convent, New Orleans, Louisiana.

Certificates bearing the seal and signature of the Director will be sent to those organizing Confraternities in their areas. These will be affiliated with the Archconfraternity at the Shrine of Our Lady of Prompt Succor.

The Director is appointed by the Most Reverend Archbishop of New Orleans.

## ARTICLE VI

The voluntary offerings of the associates are used to spread devotion to Our Lady of Prompt Succor.

Members share in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass offered every Saturday at the National Shrine, in the good works and prayers of the Ursuline Sisters, and in those of the entire Archconfraternity.

## ARTICLE VII

### Indulgences

A Plenary Indulgence can be gained by members:

1. On the day of admission into the Archconfraternity.
2. At the hour of death, by invoking, at least in desire, the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary.
3. By visiting the National Shrine in New Orleans or the Church of the local Confraternity on January 8 and on other special feasts designated by the Archconfraternity.

All these Indulgences are applicable to the souls

in Purgatory and may be gained under the ordinary conditions.

### IMPRIMATUR

†Philip M. Hannan, D.D., J.C.D., S.T.L.  
Archbishop of New Orleans

New Orleans, March 11, 1988

Additional copies of this booklet, as well as statues, medals, and pictures of Our Lady of Prompt Succor, are available at the National Shrine of Our Lady of Prompt Succor, 2635 State Street, New Orleans, Louisiana 70118. Mail orders will be filled promptly.