

# Icon of Love

## An Incredible Story of a Precious Image

### VIDEO PRESENTER GUIDE

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#### NOTE TO THE PRESENTER

You will need:

- An image of the icon of Our Mother of Perpetual Help for viewing.
- A Bible.

#### **PART ONE: THE ROLE OF MOTHER MARY IN MY LIFE (8:32)**

- What is your understanding of Mary in the Catholic tradition?
- How have you encountered Mary in your life?
- What is Mary's role in your life?

#### **PART TWO: THE ORIGIN OF THE ICON (5:06)**

- Are you familiar with the icon of Our Mother of Perpetual Help? If so, what is your personal history with the icon?
- What Marian shrine(s) have you visited or would like to visit? Why?
- What is the story of your devotion to Mary?

#### **PART THREE: THE REDEMPTORISTS MAKE HER KNOWN (6:10)**

- Have you encountered Redemptorists in your Catholic practice? If so, share your experience.
- Have you attended a novena in honor of the Blessed Virgin Mary? If so, what was the reason you attended? Under what title was the novena? (Examples: Miraculous Medal, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Our Mother of Sorrows.)
- Have you attended a novena in honor of Our Mother of Perpetual Help? If so, share details of your experience and how it has impacted your life.

#### **PART FOUR: THE SYMBOLS AND MEANING OF THE ICON (4:44)**

Note to the presenter: Part 4 is best viewed twice, first to introduce the viewer to the experience of how symbols in the icon reveal messages of the Redemption. After a period of silence gazing upon the icon of Our Mother of Perpetual Help, a second viewing of Part 4 is recommended, followed by questions.

- As you gazed upon the representations offered in this video, what was the first thing that came to mind about the understanding of symbols?
- How were you affected as you listened to the explanation of the many symbols in the icon?
- Notice how the icon is about redemption and our transformation toward the image of Christ. Which symbol speaks most of redemption and transformation to you? Why?

#### **PART FIVE: THE CREATION OF AN ICON (6:00)**

Part Five is best viewed twice. View first, then read Luke 2:22–35, and then give a few moments for people to reflect upon the reading. Then view the segment again.

- Did you notice how the creation of an icon is connected to the message of the Scriptures? What Scriptures come to mind?
- Meditate on the icon for two to five minutes. Consider the materials of wood, paint, glue, gold leaf, and colors that are part of the making of an icon and how these elements of nature add to the redemptive qualities of viewing the icon.
- Were you surprised at the detail that the iconographer must give to prayer and attentiveness in the composition of the icon? How do you give prayer and attentiveness to the things that you create in your life—your home, your relationships, and your faith?
- As you gaze upon the icon, what activity draws your attention the most? Does it inspire you to spend time before the icon?

**PART SIX:  
A MESSAGE FROM SAINT POPE JOHN PAUL II  
(2:13)**

- Pope John Paul II shares a story of his personal attachment to the icon of Our Mother of Perpetual Help and how it was inspiring to him. What thoughts do you have about the pope's experience of the icon? Have you had a similar experience with inspiration in your life?
- How would you explain his understanding of the Blessed Virgin Mary?
- Have you ever turned toward Mary in times of spiritual or temporal needs, or in extreme circumstances? Share an example.

**PART SEVEN:  
THE RESTORATION OF THE ICON (3:16)**

After viewing this presentation of the restoration, review part 4 in order to give viewers a deeper understanding of the richness of this beautiful icon as a spiritual message about the mystery of the Redemption.

- Just as the icon of Our Mother of Perpetual Help has undergone restoration, how do you find restoration in your faith and life? How do you find restoration in your devotion to Mary?

**PART EIGHT:  
A DEEP, EMOTIONAL CONNECTION (1:57)**

- Are there parallels in your life and Our Mother of Perpetual Help as caregivers? Please share.
- In what ways would you like to establish a deeper connection with Mary? What does that mean?
- After viewing this video on the meaning of the icon, share your thoughts on the place of Mary in your Catholic life.

**CONCLUSION**

- What particularly caught your attention in this presentation?
- What are your thoughts on devotion to Mary after watching and hearing this presentation?
- End each session with the Memorare:

*Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that any one who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thine intercession, was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence, I fly unto thee, O Virgin of virgins, my Mother; to thee do I come, before thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy hear and answer me. Amen.*

**MORE RESOURCES**

To learn more about the icon of Our Mother of Perpetual Help, you may also enjoy the following from Liguori Publications:

Dabney, Fr. Philip, CSsR, *Our Mother of Perpetual Help: Her Intriguing Past and Comforting Presence*, 2015, product code 825675.

Korn, Br. Daniel, CSsR, *Embracing the Icon of Love*, 2015, product code 825651.

North American Redemptorist Spirituality Commission, *Hear Me as I Pray: New Prayers to Our Mother of Perpetual Help*, 2015, product code 825668.

A Redemptorist Pastoral Publication, *Devotions in Honor of Our Mother of Perpetual Help*, 1982, product code 804113.

**To order, visit [Liguori.org](http://Liguori.org) or call 800-325-9521.**