



2390 Bush Street, P.O. Box 15368
San Francisco, CA 94115-0368
Phone 415-931-5919 Fax 415-593-0350

Website: www.stjude-shrine.org
Email: info@stjude-shrine.org

Dear Friends of St. Jude,

April 8, 2016

Christ is Risen!

A friend of mine recently reflected about parenthood: “it is simultaneously the most wonderful and the most terrifying thing in my life.” Indeed, fatherhood and motherhood are wonderful, forging the gift of life, the memories we make, and the prayers and the love we share for each other. But parents also feel terrified – for the safety of their children, their happiness, their success, and ultimately their salvation.

Families these days are often stretched to the breaking point. Fathers and mothers face countless difficulties as they strive to raise the next generation of saints in our world. These difficulties are also faced by spiritual fathers and mothers: priests, consecrated brothers, and religious sisters and nuns. Some things are certain: there is no perfect family, and the devil hates a good family!



Thanks be to God, families do not have to face their challenges alone; they have the ultimate help in the grace of God. In addition, Christ left us a church as a family of prayer and support. We have also the great examples of Mary and Joseph to help guide us, as well as the newest father-and-mother canonized saints, Louis and Zélie Martin, parents of the Little Flower, St. Thérèse of Lisieux. Holy families cooperate with God's grace to raise up new saints.

I invite you to join us for a novena of prayer – nine days of prayer – for all mothers (April 30 - May 8) and a novena for all fathers (June 11 - June 19). Please use the forms included in this mailing and return them to us to be placed on the St. Jude altar during the novenas. Feel free to include the names of all fathers and mothers, living and deceased. Also please consider including in the novena all of the spiritual fathers and mothers in your lives. (We priests and religious need these prayers too in order to carry out our vocations!)

Finally, let us all join St. Jude in praying for families in crisis – for fathers and mothers in the most difficult situations. With God's grace ALL things are possible, and we have a valiant intercessor in St. Jude.

St. Jude, pray for all fathers and mothers, and for all who invoke thy aid.

Sincerely in Christ and St. Jude,

Fr. James Junípero Moore, O.P.
Director