

**LENT IN THE 175th
YEAR OF THE
CONGREGATION**



In Lent this year as we experience joyful gratefulness for the gift of our Congregation in the Church and in the world,



we pray to God for realization of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs); we make the Psalmist's prayer our own,



we listen to the words of Bl. Mother Theresa



and we ask Bl. Sister Antonina, the Patroness of Shalom, for her special intercession with God.

February 10, 2008: I Sunday of Lent

Have mercy on us, O Lord, for we have sinned.

«Have mercy on me, God, in your kindness. In your compassion blot out my offense. O wash me more and more from my guilt and cleanse me from my sin.»

Penance is the salt wherewith we mortify vice and revive all virtues within us. It strengthens our spirit marvelously and procures for us heavenly consolation.

Penance is the wall for chastity and the citadel of sanctity. Penance makes us invincible. MT, 714.

Through the intercession of Bl. S. Antonina, we pray to God to stop the spread of HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases. MDGs, 6

Blessed Sister Antonina, fervent in your concern for reconciliation and harmony, intercede for us.

Blessed Sister Antonina, shining with an attitude of heroic faith, intercede for us.



February 17, 2008: II Sunday of Lent

We place all our hope in you.

«The Lord looks on those who revere him, on those who hope in his love, to rescue their souls from death, to keep them alive in famine.»

In particular, we should cultivate sisterly love toward one another, so that we might endure the weaknesses of others with patience, perform sisterly kindness, foster gentle, loving relationships in word and deed, so that all those who govern and those who obey, will live, and actually be of one mind and one heart. MT, 2780

Through the intercession of Bl. Sister Antonina, we pray to God that extreme poverty be eradicated. MDGs, 1

Blessed Sister Antonina, simple and poor in life, intercede for us.

Blessed Sister Antonina, open and sensitive to the needs of the poor, intercede for us.



February 24, 2008: III Sunday of Lent

**O that today you would listen to his voice!
Harden not your hearts.**

«Come, ring out our joy to the Lord; hail the rock who saves us. Let us come before him, giving thanks, with songs let us hail the Lord.»

In grateful remembrance of the bitter sufferings of Jesus, and through them, of our Redemption, we ought to participate at Holy Mass during Lenten time. MT, 2780

Through the intercession of Bl. Sister Antonina, we pray to God that child mortality be reduced and maternal health be improved. MDGs, 4-5

Blessed Sister Antonina, firm in accepting cross, intercede for us.

Blessed Sister Antonina, overcoming evil with true love, intercede for us.



March 2, 2008: IV Sunday of Lent

The Lord is my shepherd; there is nothing I shall want.

«Near restful waters he leads me, to revive my drooping spirit.
He guides me along the right path; He is true to his name.»

Among the exterior penances there is and remains primarily the faithful observance of our vocational commitment. Each sister will zealously prepare for teaching her classes (...) A daily 'Our Father' is included in the evening prayer for our boarders and school children who will receive the Sacraments for the first time." MT, 3222

Through the intercession of Bl. Sister Antonina, we ask God that children everywhere, boys and girls alike, be ensured the possibility to complete a full course of primary schooling. MDGs, 2

Blessed Sister Antonina, loving and creative in the ministry of education, intercede for us.

Blessed Sister Antonina, devoted to children and youth, intercede for us.



March 9, 2008: V Sunday of Lent

With the Lord there is mercy and fullness of redemption.

«Out of the depths I cry to you, O Lord, Lord, hear my voice!
O let your ears be attentive to the voice of my pleading.»

Prayer and fasting are the two wings whereby our souls are lifted up to God. We in religious life, (ought to be) ready to do penance both exteriorly and interiorly. MT, 2780

Through the intercession of Bl. Sister Antonina we ask God that gender equality, empowerment of women, and social advancement be promoted. MDGs, 3

Blessed Sister Antonina, seeking God in everyday prayer, intercede for us.

Blessed Sister Antonina, authentically loving the enemy, intercede for us.



March 16, 2008: Palm Sunday

My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?

«All who see me deride me. They curl their lips, they toss their heads.
'He trusted in the Lord, let him save him, let him release him if this is his friend'.»

To suffer in silence and to pray, will conquer all our foes, because God will not let anyone be put to shame who trusts in him. MT, 2067 We are committed to profess our Jesus, and there is no better way than through patient suffering. MT, 3

Through the intercession of Bl. Sister Antonina we ask God that environmental sustainability be ensured, that a global agreement for partnership for development be created. MDGs, 7-8

Blessed Sister Antonina, full of forgiveness for all people, intercede for us.

Blessed Sister Antonina, committed until the end to the Will of God, intercede for us.



Prayer for the Millennium Goals

In a world where so many go hungry,
Let us make the fruits of creation available for all.

In a world where a billion of our brothers and

sisters do not have safe drinking water,

Let us help the waters run clear.

In a world where so many die so young, and so many mothers die in childbirth, And so many families are ravaged by disease,

Let us bring health and healing.

In a world where women carry such heavy burdens,

Let us recognize and restore the rights of all.

Let us join together, with a new sense of global community, A new awareness of our need for one another, And for this fragile planet.

To meet the clear challenge of the Millennium Goals, To bring hope as substantial as bread,

To make human dignity as visible as wheat in the fields. Amen.

(Center of Concern
www.coc.org)