



# Shrine of Saint Jude Thaddeus

Dominican Friars

April 14, 2019

Dear Friends of St. Jude,

It has never been more difficult for mothers and fathers to live out their vocation as Christian parents. Indeed, the whole family feels the pressures of our often broken society and the hurts of human sin. Prayer has never been more needed for parents and children than in these times; yet the Lord provides the grace needed for the heavenly vocation to which each member of the family is called.

The great call of parents is to be the icon of Divine Mercy for their children. Pope St. John Paul II speaks of this lofty vocation of parents in his letter on families in 1981. He writes, “When they become parents, spouses receive from God the gift of a new responsibility. Their parental love is called to become for the children the visible sign of the very love of God, ‘from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named.’” Only cultivation of growth in union with the Lord through a spiritual life of prayer and grace makes this possible.

I invite you to join us during two novenas – nine days of prayer – for all mothers (May 4 - May 12) and for all fathers (June 8 - June 16). Please use the forms included in this mailing and return them to us to be placed on the St. Jude altar during the novenas. Please feel free to include the names of all parents, living and deceased. Also, please consider including in the novena all of the spiritual mothers and fathers 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 mothers and fathers in the most difficult situations. Let us pray in thanksgiving for good parents, for mercy upon those who struggle, and for the repose of the souls of those who have died. With the grace of God all things are possible. St. Jude, pray for all fathers and mothers, and for all who invoke your aid!

In Christ and St. Jude,

Very Rev. Vincent M. Kelber, O.P.  
Director

