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From the Office of
the Vice Postulator



The Cause

News about The Cause of Canonization of Servant of God Father Patrick Peyton CSC



Prayer for the Beatification of Servant of God Father Patrick Peyton, CSC

*Dear Jesus, Father Peyton devoted his priestly life to strengthening the families of the world by calling them to pray together every day, especially the Rosary. His message is as important for us now as it was during his life on earth. We beg you, therefore, to hasten the day of his beatification so that your faithful people everywhere will remember his message that *The Family That Prays Together Stays Together™*, imitate him in his devotion to your Mother and ours, and be inspired by his holy life to draw ever closer to you with child-like confidence and love. Amen.*

A Circle of Faith, a lifeline to Christ

by Peter McEntee

I was brought up Catholic in a very devout family. My parents had a strong Catholic faith and lived that faith daily. The Rosary was a big part of their spiritual life. They quietly lived the example of a blessed marriage filled with love and devotion to God and to one another and passed on to me a strong belief in a Supreme Being and a sense of our complete dependence on God.

But like a lot of teenagers in the '70s, when I reached high school I started to look outside the Church. I became involved with drugs and alcohol. The darkness of this lifestyle led me on a search for truth and peace. I became involved with another religion that was especially negative toward Mary, viewing devotion to her as against God's word. Due to their strong

objections and dire warnings, I became afraid to pray the Rosary.

Shortly after graduating from high school, I was invited to be a candidate on a Catholic retreat called Emmaus. On this retreat I found the love and acceptance of a Catholic community. This was an important development in my faith walk. I still, however, had this fear that by giving Mary too much attention, I would be crossing the line.

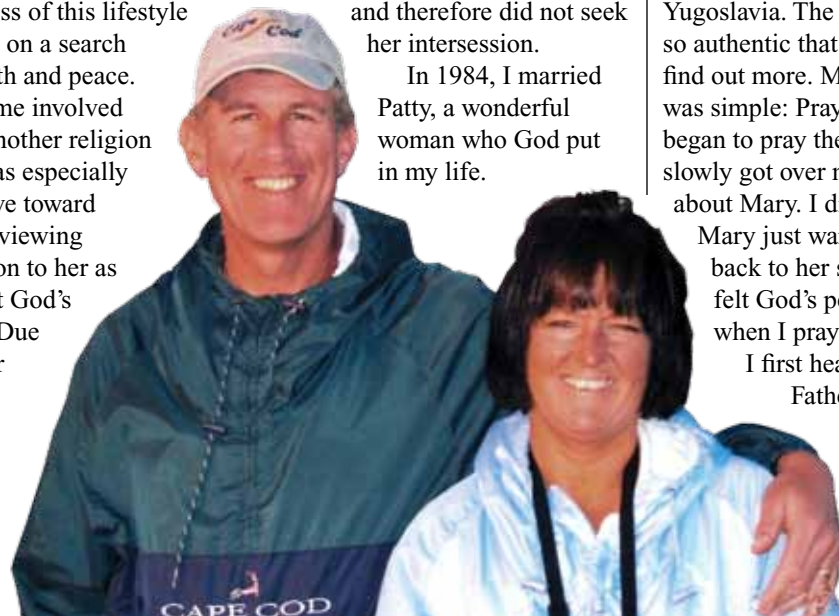
I remained involved with the Emmaus program throughout my college years. I still did not see the importance of Mary's role in the Church and therefore did not seek her intercession.

In 1984, I married Patty, a wonderful woman who God put in my life.

During our first four years of marriage we had two children and had a third on the way. The stress of finances and family life began to strain our marriage and challenge our faith. We were open to new life, practicing natural family planning. But God's plan seemed to have our family growth on a more accelerated time frame than we did.

It was during this challenging time in our lives that I happened to watch a documentary on the Eternal Word Television Network (EWTN) about apparitions of the Blessed Mother in a place called Medugorje, Yugoslavia. The stories seemed so authentic that I wanted to find out more. Mary's message was simple: Pray, Pray, Pray. I began to pray the Rosary and slowly got over my hang-up about Mary. I discovered that Mary just wants to lead us back to her son, Jesus. I felt God's peace and joy when I prayed regularly.

I first heard about Father Peyton on



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Peter
and Patty
McEntee.

Monthly Generosity: Tom and Ellen Harmon

Ellen and Tom Harmon have been generous supporters of Holy Cross Family Ministries for many years, periodically sending in gifts. But five years ago, they decided to become more active donors by sending a monthly gift of \$25. This faithful generosity has enabled thousands of families to receive a Rosary.

Ellen grew up in Albany, New York, and lived right across the street from the Brothers of Holy Cross. Her family knew Father Peyton quite well. “My mother had grown up in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, with a large extended family,” Ellen said. “Her cousin, Monsignor William Farrell, lived in the rectory in Scranton, Pennsylvania, where Nellie Peyton, Father Pat’s sister, was the housekeeper.”

When Ellen was in high school at Ascension Institution, Father Peyton was just starting out in Albany. He had been given the position of chaplain to the Brothers, who taught the boys at the school.

Shortly after Father Pat formed his idea to bring the Rosary to families across America, he spoke at an assembly at the high school, telling the students about the Rosary and his plan to write to all the bishops of the United States to ask them to encourage family Rosary prayer.

“This was in the early 1940s and seemed to us to be an extremely daunting task,” Ellen said. “Remember, everything had to be typed individually at that time. No computers or copy machines were available then.”

After the assembly, Ellen and a group of girls met with him and pledged \$15 from their CYO treasury to be used for postage costs. Father Peyton was very touched and grateful for their generosity and made a profound impression on the girls.

When she went home, Ellen told her mother about the school assembly and the remarkable priest with a seemingly

unachievable goal. Her mother thought that the PTA might be able to help, and called Father Peyton to invite him to speak at their next meeting. During their phone conversation, Scranton came up, and her mother mentioned her cousin Father Farrell. Father Peyton asked, “Do you mean Monsignor William Farrell? And you said you live across the street? I’ll be right over.” He immediately hung up the



Tom and Ellen Harmon.

phone and came over to their house.

A friendship was forged that would last for many years. “When Father Pat happened to be back in the Albany area, we would invariably meet for dinner,” Ellen remembers.

Ellen and husband Tom are devoted to the Rosary and to Father Peyton. They pray every morning for Father Peyton’s beatification and canonization. “We pray the Rosary whenever we can,” she said. “We like to volunteer, so we read to the blind. We always get a Rosary in on the way in the car.”

Ellen began their monthly gift as a way to say thank you to Father Peyton.

Ellen and Tom had ten children and have lost two of their sons. “We had already lost one son to disease in 1995,” Ellen said. “So when our son Jimmy was diagnosed with cancer of the esophagus, I couldn’t believe God would take another of our children.” However, despite constant and fervent prayer for his recovery, Jimmy died.

When their son didn’t recover from his cancer, Ellen had a difficult time accepting God’s will. “Jimmy had done so much suffering,” she said. “I kept asking God, ‘Why didn’t You heal him? Why didn’t You answer my prayers?’”

One day as she was praying to Father Peyton for acceptance, a thought popped into her head. “Jimmy was healed; he received the ultimate healing. He is with God now. Your prayers were answered.” Ellen was immediately filled with an overwhelming sense of peace.

In gratitude to Father Peyton for bringing her understanding and peace, Ellen decided the best way to thank him was to support his ministry. But she and Tom felt that this favor deserved a special type of generosity and decided to become monthly donors. Each month they send their gift to Holy Cross Family Ministries.

Their generosity has been far reaching. In the last five years of giving \$25 each month, the Harmons have donated enough money for Holy Cross Family Ministries to purchase 10,000 Rosaries – bringing the grace and blessings of Rosary prayer to families who had prayed for a Rosary, but never thought they would be able to own one.

Ellen and Tom Harmon are Catholics who embody the spirit of ecumenical generosity. They donate each month to bring the peace and unity of the family Rosary to families all over the world. Their generous support of Holy Cross Family Ministries’ mission echoes the life and meaning of the words of Father Peyton: *“A world at prayer is a world at peace.”™*

A Circle of Faith, a lifeline to Christ

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EWTN, where I saw a documentary about his life and ministry. I was impressed that he was one of nine children and how his family had implanted the seed of faith which made him a crusader for Mary. It was my hope that we could plant this seed of faith in our children. My wife supported me in this journey of faith, and we soon decided to consecrate our family to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Immaculate Heart of Mary. We began to pray the Rosary as a family. Father Peyton had coined the phrase, "The family that prays together, stays together." By praying the Rosary we create a shield that Satan cannot penetrate.

I have a tremendous amount of respect for Father Peyton. I heard him speak on EWTN, and what he had to say completely reaffirmed my belief in the family Rosary. When our daughter Anna (now 15) was born, I visited the burial place of Father Peyton in Easton, Massachusetts, and prayed to him. I asked that he become her spiritual Godfather and watch over her in a special way.

Anna is truly a light of Christ. She is a cantor and an altar server at Mass. She has no shame concerning God. I honestly believe that Father Peyton has his hand on her, and I know that she'll do something for Christ.

Over the years, Patty and I have tried hard to maintain our daily family prayer, but as our family grew to nine children our prayer life became less consistent. Our openness to life has challenged our faith; however, God has always provided for our needs. Our youngest three children have the oldest three children as their godparents. The joy that the youngest children bring to the family is truly a gift and makes a circle of Faith, Hope and Love. Had we stood in God's way and prevented their births, I truly believe that there would be a void in our family and this circle of Faith, Hope and Love would not be complete. I remember reading



Peter McEntee Jr. and brother Chris.

the words of Pope John Paul II inscribed on a statue of Mary at our church which read, "Family, become what you are" and thinking how tough it is to raise a large family in these times. I now see how rewarding it can be.

Our two oldest boys, Peter and Christopher, have decided to serve their country as Marines. Peter has just returned from Iraq, and Chris has just deployed to Iraq. Their service to our country has caused a renewal in our family prayer. In addition to the Rosary and other prayers, we pray Psalm 91 most every night for the safety of our children and troops and for world peace and conversion.

Anyone reading a newspaper or listening to the television or even walking down the street must be aware of the turmoil and suffering around the world. I believe we must listen to the warnings given by the Blessed Mother at Medugorje. She is truly our lifeline to Christ.

As Catholics it is our duty to lead by example. The simple prayer of the Rosary has demonstrated its power in our lives. None of us is perfect. Our lives consist

of ups and downs, triumphs and failures. Jesus and Mary are always faithful and carry us through our life journey. Jesus, I trust in You.

I hope my family's example speaks more eloquently than I do. We need Rosary prayer now more than ever.

Father Peyton and his family are simple role models of the power of daily family Rosary prayer. Expressing love and charity to each other, they went on to achieve remarkable things. The McEntee family has discovered, even through the stress and challenges faced while raising a large family, that by supporting and strengthening each other, all families can be holy families. It's as simple as Father Peyton's famous slogan: *The family that prays together stays together™*.

Prayers Answered

Favors Received

Foot Problem Healed: A woman writes from Pennsylvania that her 13-year-old grandson, Phillip, was having a problem with his feet. Phillip is a soccer player and has his junior black belt in karate. The problem was interfering with his sports abilities, so they bought new sport shoes for him. His grandparents pray the Rosary every day, and they prayed to Father Peyton for help with healing. She reports that the “combination of prayer and proper footwear must be working, because Phillip went to soccer camp for two weeks and did great.”

Financial Difficulty Eased: A woman from New Jersey was having financial difficulties. After applying for a loan, she prayed to Father Peyton. The loan was granted, and she was able to pay off some overdue bills with the money.

Cancer Treatment Achieved: A man in the Philippines writes to tell us of his sister, who was suffering from cancer. The family couldn't afford the expensive chemo treatment, and the situation was becoming dire. He prayed the Rosary, asking for Father Peyton's intercession. After a month of continuous prayer, a stranger called to say he would pay for the four treatments. His sister continues to do well, and the family is preparing for her radiation treatments.

Join Together in Prayer

- Eternal rest...* Felicia from New York
- Health improvement for daughter...* Yvette from Rhode Island
- Healing of virus...* Mary from Illinois
- Improvement in wife's health...* Dan from Michigan
- Recovery from infection...* Janet from Michigan
- Cure of lung infection...* Joseph from Rhode Island
- To be more like the Blessed Mother...* John from New Jersey
- Swelling in leg to be healed...* Mary Lou from Minnesota
- Spiritual, physical and financial needs...* Rachel from Louisiana
- Cure from cancer and kidney problems...* George from Massachusetts
- Sister allowed residency in Canada...* Alice from British Columbia
- Return of son to the priesthood...* Doleen from California
- Healing of kidney failure...* James from Massachusetts
- Health improvement for son...* Alice from New Jersey
- Sobriety...* James from New York
- Reunion with siblings...* Jean from Pennsylvania
- End of abortion...* Kathy from Illinois
- Healing of friend's marriage...* Catherine from Massachusetts
- Health and God's blessings...* Regina from Pennsylvania
- Improve husband's job situation...* Patricia from New York
- Sale of house...* Maureen from New York
- Healing...* Pat from Connecticut
- Guidance...* Mark from New Jersey
- Help to stop smoking...* Pat from Illinois
- Financial peace...* Lynn from New Jersey
- Healing...* Shelley from Massachusetts

Please pray for these particular intentions through Servant of God Father Patrick Peyton's intercession!

DETACH HERE AND MAIL TODAY



Mass at the Father Peyton Center in North Easton.

Please remember my special intentions when you gather daily to pray the Rosary and celebrate Mass at the Chapel of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary.

I have a special favor to request through the intercession of Father Peyton:

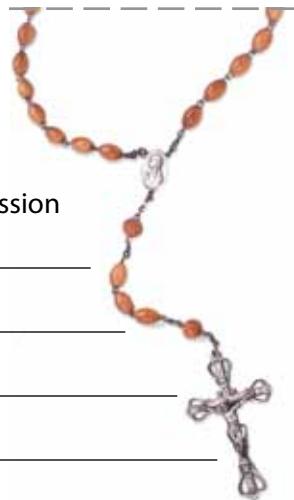
Name

Street

City/State **Zip**

Email

PHONE



Please send a donation to support The Cause of Father Peyton along with your prayer intention. Thank you and God Bless you.

Complete and return to: Office of the Vice Postulator, Father Peyton Center, 518 Washington St., No. Easton, MA 02356-1200