

Celebrating over 175 Years!

The history of the Confraternity of Christian Mothers now spans more than 175 years.

From the first mothers' gathering in Lille in 1850, the movement then spread to Paris, Rome, Regensburg, Kraków, Einsiedeln, Pittsburgh, and eventually across the missionary world. In Europe, it united thousands of local associations. In North America, it found a lasting home in Pittsburgh. In Africa, it took root so deeply that, in Nigeria alone, the Confraternity has flourished for more than a century.

The outward forms of the Confraternity have differed from country to country. Still, the essential mission has remained remarkably consistent: to help Catholic women recognize motherhood as a vocation to holiness, to assist them in the Christian formation of their children, and to unite mothers in prayer and mutual support.

Under the patronage of Our Lady of Sorrows, Christian Mothers have prayed across generations for their children, husbands, families, parishes, and the Church. They have recognized that the renewal of Christian society begins in the home and that a mother's faith, prayer, sacrifice, and example can shape not only one child but generations yet to come.

The continuing life of the Confraternity in places such as the United States and Nigeria demonstrates the enduring relevance of the vision born in France in 1850. The circumstances confronting families have changed dramatically, but the need for holy mothers, strong Catholic homes, and communities of women committed to helping one another live their faith has not.

Today the Confraternity of Christian Mothers continues this international spiritual inheritance, joining the mothers of the present generation to those who have gone before them in a common mission: the sanctification of mothers and their families, the Christian education of children, and the renewal of the Church and society through holy family life.

If you'd like to learn more about our history, check the in-depth history on our website: <https://www.christianmothers.org/our-history>

MOTHER LOVE

A publication of the
Archconfraternity of Christian
Mothers

The ministry to the Confraternity
of Christian Mothers is a work of
the Capuchin Franciscans of the
Saint Augustine Province
Pittsburgh, PA

This quarterly newsletter is
published by the
Archconfraternity of Christian
Mothers.

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Director General Fr. Joseph Tuscan
Members of the General Counsel

ARCHCONFRATERNITY OF CHRISTIAN MOTHERS Newsletter



2 Discerning Establishing a New Confraternity

I first learned about the Confraternity of Christian Mothers in 2024 when I met Jill Kaufman after Mass on a rainy Sunday morning in December, at a parish in Pittsburgh, PA. I was in town for a fellow Franciscan university alum's wedding, with my youngest of 4 children in tow. Despite my traveler's fatigue, Jill's warm welcome, smile, and simple question, "Have you heard of the Confraternity of Christian Mothers?" were enough to strike my interest. Fast forward 1 year, and I had purchased the MOTHER LOVE book and had faithfully prayed the daily prayer for the children. I then began talking organically with mothers in our church co-op and local Rosary group about the Confraternity, sharing its mission and gauging interest in starting a chapter locally. Every response I received was a resounding, "Yes." This was very exciting, as my husband was also greatly encouraging me to start a chapter at our local parish, since I hadn't been able to find any active chapter in all of Southern California.

So I took this all into account in my own prayer, saying, "Jesus, if this be Your will, You do the heavy lifting." Naturally, as a homeschooling mother of 4, with a 5th on the way, it seemed slightly intimidating to start a chapter. But I decided to gather a discernment group of a few devout Catholic mom friends and to pray together about it all. After receiving more confirmation, I moved to gain approval from our pastor and send an approval request to our bishop. Again, asking fervently, "Jesus, You open the doors if this be Your will." Needless to say, with quick pastor and bishop approval, we became an official chapter, the only active one in Southern California and the 2nd current active chapter in all of California.

We welcomed 40 women who were solemnly received as Christian Mothers in late May of 2026, with our second solemn reception planned for early September 2026. God is faithful, and His timing is perfect. After meeting Jill, I knew many Catholic mothers in our local community desired to unite spiritually. Still, the demands of motherhood and busy schedules often make it too difficult to commit to prayer groups and Bible studies. I love how the church and the founding Confraternity of Christian Mothers, nearly 200 years ago, with the guidance of the Holy Spirit, crafted this pious association where we can basically do what we are already doing and receive a treasure trove of extra grace. What a heavenly gift!

God has led the way with the beginning of our chapter out here in the "Wild West," and the spiritual fruit has already been incredible to see. We have both young and older mothers with plenty of wisdom in between. The most consoling part for me is knowing that my daily hidden sacrifices for Love in the hermitage of my home are bearing tremendous spiritual fruit in communion with the Confraternity of Christian Mothers, near and far. We are not alone; Christ has given us this vocation of motherhood, whether biological or spiritual, and holiness is our portion. So let us move forward bravely with the example of our Queen Mother Mary always before us. Never afraid to say, "Yes, Lord, Your will be done." May that simple prayer lead more Catholic women to the blessing of the Confraternity of Christian Mothers.

Written by Nicole Ranalli

**"THE GOOD
LORD DOES
NOT DO
THINGS BY
HALVES; HE
ALWAYS
GIVES
WHAT WE
NEED. LET
US THEN
CARRY ON
BRAVELY."**

ST. ZÉLIE MARTIN

**IF YOU OR A
WOMAN YOU
KNOW WOULD BE
INTERESTED IN
STARTING A
CONFRATERNITY,
PLEASE REACH
OUT TO US
THROUGH OUR
WEBSITE OR VIA
EMAIL.
WE'D BE HAPPY
TO ASSIST YOU TO
ESTABLISH A
CONFRATERNITY
AT YOUR HOME
PARISH.**



A Feast Day Greeting to Christian Mothers Throughout the World 3

Dear Christian Mothers,

As we approach September 15, the Feast of Our Lady of Sorrows, I want to extend to every member of the Archconfraternity of Christian Mothers throughout the world my heartfelt prayers and wishes for a blessed and holy patronal feast day.

Our Lady of Sorrows has been entrusted to us as our special patroness, and how fitting she is for Christian mothers. Mary knew the deepest joys of motherhood, but she also knew its sacrifices, anxieties, uncertainties, and sorrows. From the prophecy of Simeon to her faithful presence beneath the Cross, she teaches us what it means to love with a heart that remains steadfast even when that love requires sacrifice. Christian mothers can therefore turn to her with complete confidence, knowing that the Mother of Jesus understands both their joys and their crosses.

This year, September 15 will have a particularly special significance for our Archconfraternity. After nearly two years of prayer and preparation, God willing, a group of our Christian Mothers and pilgrims will be in France on pilgrimage. We will begin in Lourdes, spending two days at the great Marian shrine where Our Lady appeared to St. Bernadette and where countless pilgrims have brought their prayers, sufferings, and hopes to the Immaculate Mother of God.

From there, our pilgrimage will take us to Paris, where we hope to pray at the Basilica of Our Lady of Victories and venerate the relics of Saints Louis and Zélie Martin. St. Zélie has a particularly beautiful connection with our Confraternity, and the witness of Louis and Zélie remains a powerful reminder that holiness is possible—and necessary—in the ordinary life of the Christian family. We will also visit the newly restored Cathedral of Notre-Dame de Paris, giving thanks for this magnificent house of Our Lady.

We will travel to Normandy and pray at the American Cemetery for the souls of those who sacrificed their lives for the freedom of others. We will also visit Lisieux, the home of St. Thérèse and the Martin family, and celebrate Holy Mass there.

The spiritual heart of our pilgrimage, however, will come on September 15 itself, when, God willing, we will be in Lille, where the Confraternity of Christian Mothers was first founded in 1850. On the feast of our patroness, Our Lady of Sorrows, we will celebrate Holy Mass there and remember in a special way all the members of the Archconfraternity throughout the world—the mothers, their husbands and children, their families, their intentions, their struggles, and their hopes.

Although only some of us can make this physical pilgrimage, spiritually we will carry all of you with us. You will be present in our prayers and in our hearts at Lourdes, Paris, Normandy, Lisieux, and especially at the altar in Lille on September 15.

During this beautiful September season, when the Church celebrates both the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary and her glorious title of Our Lady of Sorrows, may God strengthen every Christian Mother in her vocation. May Our Sorrowful Mother watch over your homes, protect your children, strengthen your marriages and families, console you in your sorrows, and lead all whom you love ever closer to her Divine Son.

Our Lady of Sorrows, Patroness of Christian Mothers, pray for us!

Written by our General Director, Fr. Josphe Tuscan OFM Cap

An Invitation to Prayer

Scan below to
watch and
follow along!



Our General Director, Fr. Joseph Tuscan, recently visited the EWTN studios and recorded a guided Holy Hour for the Confraternity of Christian Mothers.

We especially encourage our members to watch and follow along with the Holy Hour, allowing it to serve not only as a time of prayer and adoration, but also as a helpful model for how our confraternities can conduct their own Holy Hours.

This Holy Hour is also available in the Mother Love book (p. 265)

The video is now on our website (christianmothers.org) and YouTube.

<https://www.youtube.com/live/FVUvP6gHipA?si=hgqTdfBoUQWdfS6q>



The Christian Mother Newsletter
Archconfraternity of Christian Mothers
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Pittsburgh, PA 15201-1806

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