

HISTORY OF THE DEVOTION & IMAGE

In the early years of the 17th century, a young couple in Germany was experiencing marital difficulties and were on the brink of divorce. The husband, Wolfgang Langenmantel, sought counsel from a Jesuit priest named Fr. Jakob Rem. Fr. Rem was known for his great devotion to Our Lady. A local custom at the time used a special ribbon during the wedding ceremony which bound the hands of the couple during the Nuptial Mass. After their marriage, Sophie, Wolfgang's wife, had tied a knot in the ribbon after every argument with her husband. On his fourth visit to Fr. Rem, Wolfgang brought the knotted wedding ribbon. Fr. Rem raised the ribbon before an image of "Our Lady of the Snows" and prayed while untying the knots. After all of the knots were untied, the ribbon appeared as dazzling white as it was on Wolfgang's and Sophie's wedding day. The couple remained happily married and their divorce was averted. In thanksgiving for this family blessing, Fr. Hieronymus Langenmantel, the grandson of Wolfgang and Sophie, commissioned Johann Schmidtner to create a painting of this event. This painting still hangs today in the church of St. Peter am Perlach in Augsburg, Germany.

POPE FRANCIS & OUR LADY, UNDOER OF KNOTS

While studying for his doctorate in Germany in 1986, Pope Francis (then Fr. Jorge Bergoglio) visited St. Peter am Perlach Church in Augsburg where he saw the painting of Our Lady Undoer of Knots. The image and story captivated him. He brought copies of the image home with him to Argentina. The devotion to Our Lady Undoer of Knots spread throughout his country. He composed this prayer in her honor:

"Through your grace, your intercession, and your evil, Our Lady, and untie the knots that prevent us from being united with God, so that we, free from sin and error, may find him in all things, may have our hearts placed in him, and may serve him always in our brothers and sisters."

PRAYER TO MARY, UNDOER OF KNOTS

Virgin Mary, Mother of fair love, Mother who never refuses to come to the aid of a child in need, Mother whose hands never cease to serve your beloved children because they are moved by the divine love and immense mercy that exists in your heart, cast your compassionate eyes upon me and see the snarl of knots that exist in my life. You know very well how desperate I am, my pain, and how I am bound by these knots. Mary, Mother to whom God entrusted the undoing of the knots in the lives of his children, I entrust into your hands the ribbon of my life. No one, not even the Evil One himself, can take it away from your precious care. In your hands there is no knot that cannot be undone. Powerful Mother, by your grace and intercessory power with Your Son and My Liberator, Jesus, take into your hands today this knot: [Mention your request here] I beg you to undo it for the glory of God, once for all. You are my hope. O my Lady, you are the only consolation God gives me, the fortification of my feeble strength, the enrichment of my destitution, and, with Christ, the freedom from my chains. Hear my plea. Keep me, guide me, protect me, o safe refuge! Mary, Undoer of Knots, pray for me.

ACT OF CONTRITION

My God, I am sorry for my sins with all my heart. In choosing to do wrong and failing to do good, I have sinned against you whom I should love above all things. I firmly intend, with your help, to do penance, to sin no more, and to avoid whatever leads me to sin. Our Savior Jesus Christ suffered and died for us. In his name, my God, have mercy.



THE APOSTLES' CREED

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of Heaven and Earth, and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; He descended into Hell; on the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy, catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

THE OUR FATHER

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

THE HAIL MARY

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

THE GLORY BE

Glory be to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit; as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

THE HAIL HOLY QUEEN

Hail, holy Queen, mother of mercy, our life, our sweetness, and our hope. To you we cry, poor banished children of Eve; to you we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn, then, most gracious advocate, your eyes of mercy toward us; and after this, our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of your womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary. Pray for us, Most Holy Mother of God, that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ. Amen.



Novena to Our Lady, Undoer of Knots



"Eve, by her disobedience, tied the knot of disgrace for the human race; whereas Mary, by her obedience, undid it."

St. Irenaeus

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Begin with the Sign of the Cross.
2. Make an Act of Contrition.
3. Pray the first 3 decades of the Rosary (optional).
4. Pray the Meditation of the Week.
5. Pray the last 2 decades of the Rosary (optional).
6. Pray the Prayer to Mary, Undoer of Knots.
7. End with the Sign of the Cross.



MEDITATION FOR THE FIRST WEEK

Dearest Holy Mother, Most Holy Mary, you undo the knots that suffocate your children. Extend your merciful hands to me. I entrust to You today this knot:

[Mention your request here]

and all the negative consequences that it provokes in my life. I give you this knot that torments me and makes me unhappy and so impedes me from uniting myself to You and Your Son Jesus, my Savior. I run to You, Mary, Undoer of Knots, because I trust you and I know that you never despise a sinning child who comes to ask you for help. I believe that you can undo this knot because Jesus grants you everything. I believe that you want to undo this knot because you are my Mother. I believe that You will do this because you love me with eternal love. Thank you, Dear Mother.

Mary, Undoer of Knots, pray for me.

MEDITATION FOR THE SECOND WEEK

Mary, Beloved Mother, channel of all grace, I return to You today my heart, recognizing that I am a sinner in need of your help. Many times I lose the graces you grant me because of my sins of egoism, pride, rancor, and my lack of generosity and humility. I turn to You today, Mary, Undoer of Knots, for You to ask your Son Jesus to grant me a pure, divested, humble, and trusting heart. I will live today practicing these virtues and

offering you this as a sign of my love for You. I entrust into Your hands this knot:

[Mention your request here]

which keeps me from reflecting the glory of God.

Mary, Undoer of Knots, pray for me.

MEDITATION FOR THE THIRD WEEK

Meditating Mother, Queen of heaven, in whose hands the treasures of the King are found, turn your merciful eyes upon me today. I entrust into your holy hands this knot in my life:

[Mention your request here]

and all the rancor and resentment it has caused in me. I ask Your forgiveness, God the Father, for my sin. Help me now to forgive all the persons who consciously or unconsciously provoked this knot. Give me, also, the grace to forgive me for having provoked this knot. Only in this way can You undo it. Before You, dearest Mother, and in the name of Your Son Jesus, my Savior, who has suffered so many offenses, having been granted forgiveness, I now forgive these persons:

[Mention their names here]

and myself, forever. Thank you, Mary, Undoer of Knots for undoing the knot of rancor in my heart and the knot which I now present to you. Amen.

Mary, Undoer of Knots, pray for me.

MEDITATION FOR THE FOURTH WEEK

Dearest Holy Mother, you are generous with all who seek you, have mercy on me. I entrust into your hands this knot which robs the peace of my heart, paralyzes my soul and keeps me from going to my Lord and serving Him with my life. Undo this knot in my ability to love:

[Mention your request here],

O Mother, and ask Jesus to heal my paralytic faith, which gets downhearted with the stones on the road. Along with you, dearest Mother, may I see these stones as friends. Not murmuring against them any-

more but giving endless thanks for them, may I smile trustingly in your power.

Mary, Undoer of Knots, pray for me.

MEDITATION FOR THE FIFTH WEEK

Mother, Undoer of Knots, generous and compassionate, I come to You today to once again entrust this knot:

[Mention your request here]

in my life to you and to ask the divine wisdom to undo, under the light of the Holy Spirit, this snarl of problems. No one ever saw you angry; to the contrary, your words were so charged with sweetness that the Holy Spirit was manifested on your lips. Take away from me the bitterness, anger, and hatred which this knot has caused me. Give me, O dearest Mother, some of the sweetness and wisdom that is all silently reflected in your heart. And just as you were present at Pentecost, ask Jesus to send me a new presence of the Holy Spirit at this moment in my life. Holy Spirit, come upon me!

Mary, Undoer of Knots, pray for me.

MEDITATION FOR THE SIXTH WEEK

Queen of Mercy, I entrust to you this knot in my life:

[Mention your request here]

and I ask you to give me a heart that is patient until you undo it. Teach me to persevere in the living word of Jesus, in the Eucharist, in the Sacrament of Confession; stay with me and prepare my heart to celebrate with the angels the grace that will be granted to me. Amen! Alleluia!

Mary, Undoer of Knots, pray for me.

MEDITATION FOR THE SEVENTH WEEK

Mother Most Pure, I come to You today to beg you to undo this knot in my life:

[Mention your request here]

and free me from the snares of evil. God has granted you great power over all the demons. I renounce all of them today, every connection I have had with them,

and I proclaim Jesus as my one and only Lord and Savior. Mary, Undoer of Knots, crush the Evil One's head and destroy the traps he has set for me by this knot. Thank you, dearest Mother. Most Precious Blood of Jesus, free me!

Mary, Undoer of Knots, pray for me.

MEDITATION FOR THE EIGHTH WEEK

Virgin Mother of God, overflowing with mercy, have mercy on your child and undo this knot:

[Mention your request here]

in my life. I need your visit to my life, like you visited Elizabeth. Bring me Jesus, bring me the Holy Spirit. Teach me to practice the virtues of courage, joyfulness, humility, and faith, and, like Elizabeth, to be filled with the Holy Spirit. Make me joyfully rest on your bosom, Mary. I consecrate you as my mother, queen, and friend. I give you my heart and everything I have— my home and family, my material and spiritual goods. I am yours forever. Put your heart in me so that I can do everything Jesus tells me.

Mary, Undoer of Knots, pray for me.

MEDITATION FOR THE NINTH WEEK

Most Holy Mary, our Advocate, Undoer of Knots, I come today to thank you for undoing this knot in my life:

[Mention your request here]

You know very well the suffering it has caused me. Thank you for coming, Mother, with your mercy to dry the tears in my eyes; you receive me in your arms and make it possible for me to receive once again the divine grace. Mary, Undoer of Knots, dearest Mother, I thank you for undoing the knots in my life. Wrap me in your mantle of love, keep me under your protection, enlighten me with your peace! Amen.

Mary, Undoer of Knots, pray for me.

