

THE LIGHTNING ROD

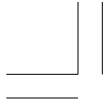


Prayer for the Sick and the Suffering



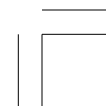
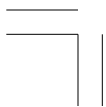
Dear Mother Thrice Admirable,
Queen, and Victress of
Schoenstatt, with this
prayer of the Servant
of God, Father
Joseph Kentenich,
we offer you as
contributions
to your capital
of grace the joys


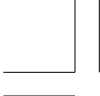
and sorrows, prayers and sacrifices of the sick, the
elderly, and the homebound. United with the
suffering of our Lord Jesus Christ, may these
offerings, like a lightning rod, draw down upon
us the graces we need for our self-sanctification.
May these offerings help with your mission in the
renewal of the Church and the world. Amen.



“What I bear and endure,
what I say and what I dare;
what I think and what I cherish,
all the merits that I gain;
what I direct and what I conquer,
all my joys and all my sorrows,
what I am and what I have,
I give to you as a gift of love.
Use it so that the holy stream of graces,
flowing richly from the shrine
may fill the hearts of all those”*
who are sick, elderly, and homebound.
“Take everything that our efforts
may be fruitful.”*
We offer all to the Trinity,
Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. Amen.

* Prayer written by Father J. Kentenich *Heavenwards*, adapted





A lightning rod attracts and directs a lightning strike down to the ground. Similarly, the suffering of the sick, the elderly, and the homebound, offered up with those of Christ on Calvary, has the power to draw down graces of sanctification and renewal upon the world and the Church. In one of his talks to the sick, Father Kentenich, realizing the redemptive power of suffering said, “What would have been of us without our ministry to the sick, the lightning rods of the family?” (Father J. Kentenich, May 27, 1966)

The term *capital of grace* refers to the prayers, sacrifices, and sufferings, joys, and efforts freely offered to the Mother of God. Through these we may collaborate with the work of God’s grace in us (cf. CCC 2000). It is an essential part of the Schoenstatt covenant spirituality. Everyone is called to participate in the redemptive power of the sufferings of Christ. Mary helps us to contribute our suffering in love and peace.

I was hungry and you gave me to eat... sick and you visited me. Mt 25:35-37

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