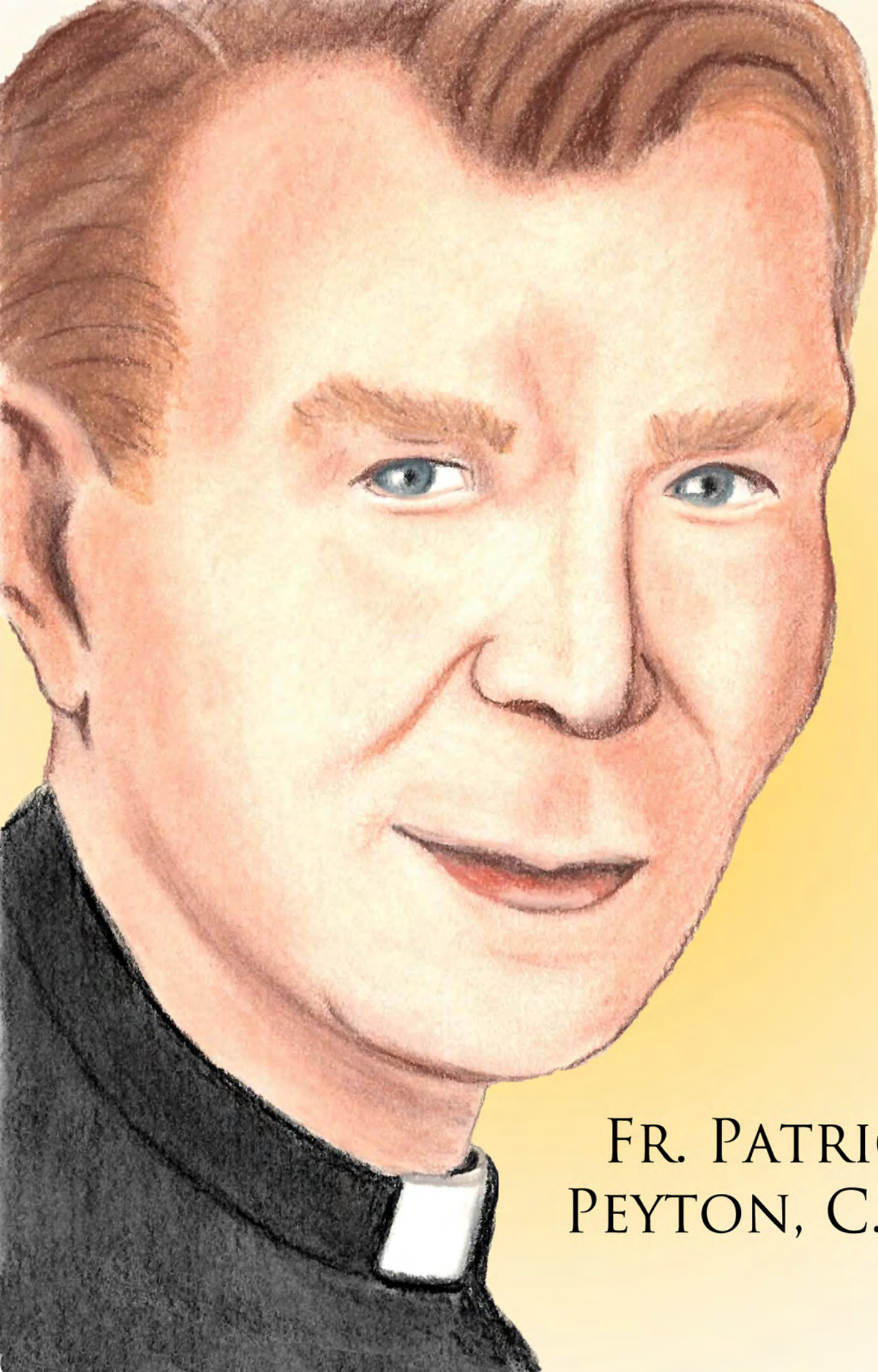




FR. PATRICK
PEYTON, C.S.C.

PRIESTHOOD

*Father Patrick
Peyton,
C.S.C.*



Fr. Patrick Peyton, C.S.C., was born January 9, 1909, in County Mayo, Ireland. He answered God's call to the priesthood and served as a Holy Cross priest for 51 years. He was known as the "Rosary Priest" and tirelessly promoted the powerful prayer of the Rosary. He held Rosary rallies across the globe, which attracted hundreds of thousands – and in some cases, even millions – of people.

At the time of his death, Fr. Peyton had preached to more people in person – an estimated 28 million – than any other Catholic. It was he who first proclaimed the phrases: "The family that prays together stays together" and "A world at prayer is a world at peace."



Fr. Peyton's family first nourished his faith. His parents were deeply religious. Fr. Peyton was one of nine children. At the age of 19 in 1928, he and his brother, Tom, left Ireland to come to America.

Fr. Peyton settled in Scranton, Pennsylvania, where he eventually found work as a janitor at the Cathedral, in part because his sisters had mentioned to the rector that their brother had earlier expressed interest in the priesthood. It was at the Cathedral in the spring of 1929 that he first met priests of the Congregation of Holy Cross who had come to preach a parish retreat. Immediately, he felt called to join the congregation and be a missionary. That fall, on August 20, both he and his brother, Tom, entered the minor seminary at the University of Notre Dame.

Fr. Peyton wrote: "Not in our wildest imaginings did my parents or my brother or I dream what Our Lord had in store for us in America. He called my brother to the priesthood from the coalmines of Scranton. He called me from being the janitor in Saint Peter's Cathedral. In the fall of 1929, we entered the seminary at Notre Dame, Indiana. There, we continued the

family Rosary with our new family, the priests and our fellow seminarians” (All For Her: The Autobiography of Father Patrick Peyton, C.S.C.).

During his final year in the seminary, Fr. Peyton was diagnosed with tuberculosis. At this time there was no cure for the disease, but Fr. Peyton had great hope and prayed to the Blessed Virgin Mary that he would get better. His prayers were answered, and he began improving to the amazement of his doctors. He was ordained on June 15, 1941, along with his brother. He attributed his healing to the intercession of Mary.

To show thanks for his healing, Fr. Peyton dedicated himself to spreading the practice of family prayer, particularly the Rosary. Assigned to Albany, New York, as Chaplain to the Holy Cross Brothers, Peyton began the Family Rosary Crusade, soliciting volunteer students and brothers to assist him in writing letters to bishops asking for their help to organize a Rosary campaign. Radio broadcasts of the Rosary followed.

Fr. Peyton had long dreamed of being a missionary. He wanted to go to foreign lands to help others come to know, love, and serve Jesus through his preaching and witness. Soon he realized that dream. In 1948, beginning in Canada and then in Ireland, he traveled around the world, hosting Rosary Rallies. A rally in Sao Paulo, Brazil, in 1964 and another in the Philippines in 1985 both drew over two million people. His message always was to draw people into a deeper relationship with Mary and family prayer.

To get his message out even more broadly, Peyton became a pioneer in harnessing the power of the media for the sake of the gospel. His Rosary Rallies were broadcast around the world via radio. He convinced celebrities such as Bing Crosby, Grace Kelly, and James Cagney to lend their fame to the promotion of the Rosary through radio, television, and film. In this way, God came to be known, loved, and served even more.

By the time of his death he had helped produce over 600

television and radio shows. He had also overseen the production of three feature-length films on the life of Christ, divided into the Joyful, Sorrowful, and Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary.

Fr. Peyton understood naturally what it means to be a man with hope to bring. He labored with the rich and the poor, the famous and the ignored, to promote prayer in our world. Fr. Peyton died on June 3, 1992 in Los Angeles, California.

In June of 2001 the formal Cause of Canonization was introduced at the Vatican. Fr. Peyton’s example reminds us of the power of prayer, particularly through Mary’s intercession.



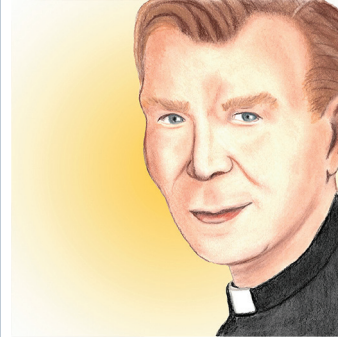
“A world at prayer is a
world at peace.”

-Father Patrick Peyton, C.S.C.



Supplemental Materials on Sainly Models

Fr. Patrick Peyton, C.S.C.



Fr. Patrick Peyton, C.S.C.

Born: January 9, 1909

Died: June 3, 1992

Cardinal Sean Patrick O'Malley
opened the
Cause for Sainthood June 2001

Interesting Facts

- Growing up, Fr Peyton's family was poor, so everyone had to pitch in to earn money. One of Fr. Patrick's early jobs was to clean the local pub. His youthful imagination and joyfulness led to him being fired after he was found dancing with a broom instead of working.
- Fr. Peyton said about his father that "to see a man who lived totally what he believed left an impression on me even as a little child that nothing could erase."

Likely Student Questions:

Why did Fr. Peyton feel attracted to join the Congregation of Holy Cross?

Fr. Peyton grew up in a family with a great devotion to the Blessed Mother. The patroness of the Congregation of Holy Cross is Mary under the title of Our Lady of Sorrows. That was one of the reasons that Fr. Peyton was attracted to the Congregation. He also wanted to be a missionary, and foreign missions were a big part of the work of Holy Cross.

What is a Rosary Rally or a Prayer Crusade?

Fr. Patrick started with weekend retreats at local parishes on the theme of the family rosary. They grew in popularity and then had to be transformed to meet the needs of the larger numbers. The rosary rallies were Family Rosary Crusades where people prayed the rosary together and listened to talks from different people, as well as testimonies of people witnessing to the power of prayer in their lives. Many of them drew thousands, even millions. They started in Canada, Ireland and in the United Kingdom. When they held the Family Rosary Crusade in San Fransisco, 500,000 attended. They then exapnded to Latin America and the Philipppines where people came in the millions.

Who were some of the other famous people that Fr. Peyton worked with?

Fr. Peyton met and worked with many celebrities during his lifetime, including Bob Hope, Ronald Reagan (when he was an actor and before he was president), James Dean, and Helen Hayes. He also met St. Teresa of Calcutta and St. John Paul II.

How did Fr. Peyton die?

He died peacefully with a rosary in hand.

Does the work of Fr. Peyton continue today?

Yes, the work of Fr. Peyton continues today through the work of Holy Cross Family Ministries and Family Theater Productions in Hollywood. They continue to produce videos and other media on the rosary and family prayer. They also continue to host rosary rallies and do other promotions to expand family prayer and devotion to Mary.

Interesting Facts Continued

- Growing up, the family said the rosary every night together.
- Fr. Peyton's first national radio program on the New York based Mutual Broadcasting System was the biggest following they had had at that time (May 13, 1945).
- The Family Theater Productions was born of this success. The radio program ran for 22 years.

Discussion Questions:

Could Fr. Peyton have been able to also serve the Lord as a janitor at St. Joseph's Cathedral?

Absolutely! We are able to serve God in many ways. We need to offer our daily works, joys, and sufferings to Him so that all we say and do may lead others to the knowledge of God's love and to build the kingdom by making God known, loved, and served in their own way.

What talents or abilities might Fr. Peyton have had to share that best served God in the priesthood?

Clearly through his accomplishments, God saw Fr. Peyton's ability to inspire and to draw together a movement like no other. Imagine if Fr. Peyton had been too scared to join the priesthood. How many opportunities to make God known, loved, and served would have been missed by his lack of faith? Fr. Peyton's belief in prayer, his belief in Mary's intercession, and his belief in God's love enabled so many people to grow in their faith and their love for God.

How could Fr. Peyton avoid becoming prideful working with so many famous people?

Fr. Peyton often attributed his success to the Blessed Mother and her intercession. He continued to pray the rosary daily, and he also prayed in many other ways. His prayer life helped him to continue to see that God was the source of the fruitfulness of his ministry.
