#### **Notifications**

Every last Monday of a month prayer meetings will be held in Germany. The holy Mass will be celebrated for the living and deceased sisters and brothers of the Marian Blessing Circle. Father Aniceth Mosha also includes all daily in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

Please inform us of any change of address and of members who have died. Thank you very much!

### Dear brothers and sisters in the MBC:

At this point we would like to extend a warm welcome to all new members worldwide, especially to a group of 150 faithful in Africa in the diocese of Boma/Congo. The Mother of God will have her joy in each one of them. And so, with faith and trust in the omnipotence of God, let us strive to bless the people around us, in the Church and in the world, especially the governments, and to recommend them to the protection of MARY. In union of prayer and

with Marian greetings

Manon Appel chairwoman

Marian Blessing Circle

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# **Newsletter**

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# Holy water - blessing and healing

Dear members of the Marian Blessing Circle! The holy water basins in our churches are empty. Danger of infection! – they say. Corona viruses can spread. But holy water is so important ...

In our home there was a holy water kettle in the hallway on the wall. There was a one-liter bottle of holy water in the coat closet. My father made sure the bottle and the kettle were always full. That's how I learned to appreciate holy water. And for my first own apartment, my father gave me a holy water kettle with a lid! So the holy water did not evaporate.



Crossing oneself with consecrated

water is a reminder of baptism in the name of the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit. Drawing a cross on the forehead of the children or the spouse with holy water is the request for blessing and protection by God. Because – as the popular saying goes – the devil fears nothing as much as holy water, it makes sense to sprinkle yourself and your home with consecrated water.

A fellow student told me that his mother would always draw a cross on his forehead with holy water when he left the house. So that no misfortune would happen to him on the road and he would come back healthy.

Germans from the Soviet Union, who were not allowed to practice their religion freely, told me after they moved to Germany that their grandmother used to go around the apartment in the evening with the holy water bottle and sprinkle the holy water. This was burned into their memory: The babushka blesses the apartment and their loved ones.

The first time I went to the South, I was amazed by the vessels on the tombs: a small basin with a sprinkling of holy water. To give the poor souls in purgatory the gift of relief and to comfort them, Jesus' parable draws our attention to this: the rich glutton asks Lazarus in Abraham's bosom to cool his tongue with a drop of water (Lk 16:24). That is how I have copied it: When I take holy water with my finger, I let one drop fall on the ground: For the poor souls. There is still enough holy water on the finger for one's own crossing.

The holy water basins in our churches are empty because of the pandemic. That makes it all the more important to have holy water at home. I always take a bottle of the water consecrated at the Easter Vigil home with me. Or, in the old Latin form, I bless the water. Have holy water given to you at your church! Talk to the sexton or the sacristan! Perhaps the holy water pot in the church is replenished, and you can fill a clean bottle with holy water to take it home.

In today's prayer of blessing over water, it says: "Almighty God, everything has its origin in You. Bless this water that is sprinkled over us as a sign of life and purification. With confidence we ask from You the forgiveness of our sins, so that we come to You with a pure heart. When sickness and danger and the temptations of evil threaten us, let us experience Your protection. Grant that the waters of life may always flow for us and bring us salvation."

Greetings to you all! May Almighty God, the Father and the Son and the Holy Spirit bless you + through the intercession of the Most Blessed Virgin and Mother of God Mary. Amen.

Your priest Monsignor Michael Haupt

### Let us pray!

Trusting in the perpetual intercession of MARY, Mother of GOD, and hoping for the constant assistance of the Holy Angels, relying on the intercession of St. Joseph and our patron saints, we may be assured of the presence of the ALMIGHTY. May GOD in His wise providence be gracious and merciful to us! May + the blessing of the FATHER, + the love of the SON, and + the power of the HOLY SPIRIT guide us everywhere and always. *Amen*.

### The Pope's prayer intentions

**November 2021:** We pray that people who suffer from depression or burn-out will find support and a light that opens them up to life.

**December 2021:** Let us pray for the catechists, summoned to announce the Word of God: may they be its witnesses, with courage and creativity and in the power of the Holy Spirit.

January 2022: We pray for all those suffering from religious discrimination and persecution; may their own rights and dignity be recognized, which originate from being brothers and sisters in the human family.

**February 2022:** We pray for religious sisters and consecrated women; thanking them for their mission and their courage; may they continue to find new responses to the challenges of our times.

**March 2022:** We pray for Christians facing new bioethical challenges; may they continue to defend the dignity of all human life with prayer and action.

**April 2022:** We pray for health care workers who serve the sick and the elderly, especially in the poorest countries; may they be adequately supported by governments and local communities.

**May 2022:** We pray for all young people, called to live life to the fullest; may they see in Mary's life the way to listen, the depth of discernment, the courage that faith generates, and the dedication to service.