



March 2009

Dear Apostle of the Immaculate Heart of Mary,

May God bless your whole family for all that you do for souls! We are deeply grateful for your support of our missionary efforts. You are remembered in a special Novena of Holy Masses, this month, in Ukraine and in the Holy Land. These are offered for you and your family, your special needs and intentions. May you be blessed eternally for the great love you have for God's suffering!

Lent offers us an opportunity to deepen the value and meaning of our Christian lives. We can rediscover the depth of the mercy of God by ourselves becoming more merciful. Prayer, fasting and almsgiving represent ways in which we can practice self-denial and become free from worldly attachments. We are not the owners of what we possess, but the administrators! They are not our exclusive possession; rather, they are the means through which Our Blessed Lord calls each one of us to act as a Steward of His Providence for our neighbor. It is more out of justice than charity that we are compelled to give to the poor. There is joy in giving! When we do things out of love for God, we discover the fullness of life. All, that has been given, returns to us in the form of peace of soul. Almsgiving covers a multitude of sins! By drawing close to others through the gift of self, we draw close to God.

The presence of war in the world makes the praying of our Daily Decade and its promotion all the more **URGENT!** War is not so much about fighting and killing, but about the raw human heart - the seat of hatred and sin - which only God can refine and transform into His dwelling place. The radiation of the humblest prayer affects the whole Body of Christ and, when we fail to do our part, the whole Body suffers.

May Our Queen and Mother, help all of us to enter into the spiritual battle of Lent, armed with prayer, fasting and almsgiving, so as to arrive at the tomb on Easter Sunday emptied of self and filled with the Spirit of Christ. Our martyrdom is now beginning. Let us go forth to suffer together and let us offer up our sufferings to Jesus for the salvation of souls.

Bon Courage, dear Child of Mary!

*Patti Melvin*

**PATTI MELVIN, ULRA Director**  
Please pray for me!