

MAY 15

---

### *Intercession*

In 1988, cardiologist Randolph Byrd published a ten-month study of 393 patients. Half of the patients had been prayed for; the other half hadn't. The results of the study were astonishing. The prayed-for-patients (who hadn't known they were being prayed for) required fewer antibiotics, suffered less congestive heart failure, and experienced fewer cardiac arrests.

The conclusion: intercessory prayer works.

In some fashion, our prayers touch God in a way that can miraculously (but not magically) release healing for others. The scientific evidence is compelling: prayer does make a difference. As remarkable as it seems, we can intercede ("go between") another person's needs and God, asking God to act on that person's behalf.

That's exactly what Mary does for us when we ask for her prayers. The major difference between Mary's intercession and ours, however, is that Mary (because she's in heaven) knows God's will more clearly. She doesn't have to ask with the "blind faith" we must employ. Thus we can go with confidence to Mary, trusting that she'll take to God only those requests that are best for us and for others.

*Is there something I want right now that I'm willing  
to entrust to Mary's intercession?*

---

I PRAY FOR THOSE WHO ASK FOR MY PRAYERS.