

Medal of Our Lady of Discernment

Her image:

You show Yourself dear Mother, radiant and full of splendor, Your mantle represents purity, the sublime virtue with which God has rewarded You. Your smile reflects the joyous expression of one who welcomes the Divine Will with love and freedom. Your open arms, as a sign of praise, accompany the joy of welcoming the Father's will. Your Son Jesus, close to your lap, shows us the trust that we place in you as our heavenly mother and model of discernment, to draw us closer to Him and to our Father. Your foot and Your Son's, crush with force the head of the serpent, the evil spirit that leads us to sin and twists our desire for God. At your feet, kind Mother, a path is shown that is unseen on the horizon, this path is our life. Help us then, as You did, to get going, so that our life is not infertile, so that on that horizon we find the reason for our life, to find God.

Our Lady of Discernment, you are walking, with the palms of your hands in front of you, keeping a posture of balance, of discernment, of not being afraid. Your poise tells us that we must make a stop in our lives to fill ourselves with courage in the face of adversity and face tenaciously, as you did in the most difficult times, the adversities that make us lose our way and darken our horizon.

Our Lady of Discernment is an important leader for our present time; it is She who, from Her low profile, loving, observant and reflective, discerns and gives an opportunity to this Godless, wounded and bewildered humanity. It was She who summoned the First Church and encouraged it to remain united despite darkness and adversities. She comes to us today to illuminate us in the current human uncertainty.

Mary is the lighthouse for the Church.

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Pope Benedict XVI noted that the Mother of the Savior is the luminous lighthouse of the Church from which Christians can draw the enthusiasm and joy to live a coherent Christian life.

"Mary's faith precedes and accompanies us as a lighthouse and a model of Christian maturity, to which we may look with trust and from which we may draw enthusiasm and joy in order to live with ever greater commitment and consistency our vocation as children of God, brothers and sisters in Christ, and living members of His Body which is the Church".

“Ask the Blessed Virgin to be your guide: to be the star, the lighthouse that shines in the midst of the darkness of life”. **Saint Teresa of the Andes.**

Meaning of the eyes of Our Lady of Discernment.

Her motherly and merciful eyes are receptors of the grateful and pleading gazes of Her children, as well as transmitters of love and maternal help. **Her eyes are like a lighthouse that illuminate our paths.** - **Pope Francis.**

Mary, attentive at the suffering of the people, gives us new eyes and heart for compassion. Mary, as a luminous light, guides our steps toward Jesus. Mary, joyful experience of Jesus, draws the Gospel into our lives.

Explanation of the lighthouse:

The port, the lighthouse and the captain’s steering wheel are very closely linked to the Holy Trinity. The captain is the Holy Spirit! To obtain the presence of God in our lives, the Holy Spirit is The One who indicates to us the port to which we are heading and the paths we will find on our journey. It is He who allows us to take the steering wheel of our lives in silence and prayer. What a blessing it is to listen to His advice during storms, darkness and fog!

The Lighthouse represents Jesus with His Blessed Mother. They are the light that guides our journey with their Words. Their teachings are a sure light to stay on course. Powerful light that pierces the night of our lives to provide us with reliable direction to advance towards the port.

The port is the Father, the origin of everything. Towards Him, we go forth and from Him we depart. In Him we find the comfort to settle and draw strength. It is Him Whom we will be happy to see at the dusk of our journey from this earth. It is He, through His Son Jesus, Who offers us the Sacraments to enable us to support the sea of our lives, and to move forward, without getting lost, in the midst of unbridled seas and devouring winds!

With The Eternal Father, Jesus, the Holy Spirit and Our Blessed Mother, we can embark with confidence.

That luminous lighthouse is also the Universal Church that, like Our Lady of Discernment, we can see and approach as a lighthouse of health and shelter in the tempests of life.

The 7 handles that form the steering wheel, represent the Theological and Cardinal virtues. (The **Cardinal** virtues are **4**: Prudence, Justice, Fortitude, and Temperance. The **Theological** virtues are **3**: Faith, Hope, and Charity).

Mary lived those virtues in Her life.

The 2 windows of the lighthouse, represent two main moments in the life of Our Blessed Mother Mary, in which the Holy Spirit assisted Her: The **Annunciation** and The **Incarnation**.

The light at the top is Our Blessed Mother Mary's discernment. That discernment is in communion with and moved by the Holy Spirit. In The Annunciation and in The Incarnation, in which the Holy Spirit actively participates, Mary understands that Her mission is to be the Mother of the Son of God, and **that** desire is moved by the Divine Will, not by Her personal desire. That's the key to discernment.

Meaning of the Gate with the Cross.

On the cross is salvation, on the cross is life, on the cross is the repulsion of the enemy, on the cross is the strength of the heart, on the cross is the joy of the spirit, on the cross is the ultimate virtue, on the cross is the perfection of holiness.

It is only on the Cross that we find health for the soul and hope for eternal life.

Everything is in the Cross and dying on it.

There is no other way to life and to true endearing peace but the way of the holy cross and continuous mortification. That is why we have to go through the gate of the cross in the lighthouse.

The way of the holy cross, the way of Discernment, is the holy beam of light that illuminates our lives.

Act according to your own will and you will always find uninvited affliction. Patience is required if we want to have inner peace to deserve the perpetual crown. Let's seek the Mother of Discernment.

"The Cross of Christ is like a lighthouse that indicates the port to ships that are still in the stormy sea. It is the sign of hope that does not disappoint and that tells us that not even a tear, not even a lament is lost in God's plan of salvation". -Pope Francis

GIVE ME YOUR SANDALS, MARY

I want to feel the dust of the road
to go to God detached from everything.

I want to trust in the Word
and not to rely on everyday food.

GIVE ME YOUR SANDALS, MARY

To transform my path
in a personal and definite encounter with God
To trust the One who speaks from on high
when I insist to only look down.

GIVE ME YOUR SANDALS, MARY

To be and live a little like You
no compass other than Your faith
no more shelter than the moonlight.

GIVE ME YOUR SANDALS, MARY

To tell Jesus that, even with my weaknesses,
His resurrection is a source of joy for me,
Call to conversion,
Opportunity for a new life,
Fresh water in my dark and thirsty existence.

GIVE ME YOUR SANDALS, MARY

And, if you want and can,
Tell me what is Your shoe size
To walk the same way like You.
Amen.

“Christ does not force our will; He takes only what we give him. But he does not give himself entirely until He sees that we yield ourselves entirely to Him”. - St. Teresa of Avila

St. Augustine: Lord Jesus – Let me Know Myself

Lord Jesus, let me know myself and know You,
And desire nothing save only You.
Let me hate myself and love You.
Let me do everything for the sake of You.
Let me humble myself and exalt You.
Let me think of nothing except You.
Let me die to myself and live in You.
Let me accept whatever happens as from You.
Let me banish self and follow You,
And ever desire to follow You.
Let me fly from myself and take refuge in You,
That I may deserve to be defended by You.
Let me fear for myself, let me fear You,
And let me be among those who are chosen by You.
Let me distrust myself and put my trust in You.
Let me be willing to obey for the sake of You.
Let me cling to nothing save only to You,
And let me be poor because of You.
Look upon me, that I may love You.
Call me that I may see You,
And forever enjoy You. Amen.

Lord, leave me blind.

Take me in Your ways;

those ways that are Yours.

I don't want to know which way You are heading

I am your child.

You, who are the Father of Wisdom,

You are also my Father.

Take me through the night,

but take me with You.

(Saint Edith Stein, Carmelite)

Prayer of serenity

“Lord, grant me the strength to accept things I cannot change, the courage to change the things I can, and the wisdom to know the difference.”

St. Francis of Assisi