

Stay with My Son



Icons have a way of drawing you into prayer, sometimes very unexpectedly. Stop for a moment and just look at this image of “Our Lady of Perpetual Help”- take a long, loving look.

As you stare at this Icon of Jesus and Mary – what speaks to you? Do the images call your attention?

Notice Jesus gripping Mary’s hand with both of his tiny fingers turning away from a vision of an angel presenting him with the cross in the future. Mary holds firmly in a stance that portrays stability and strength as if to say, “Jesus, you can count on me. I will always be there for you.”

In your imagination what feelings or desires do you notice within yourself. What do you feel about the energy exhibited between Mary

and Jesus? As you go deeper into prayer, can you grab Mary's hand too, placing your fingers over Jesus' fingers as if to also share in the mystery of the redemption. What happens to you when you do this?

Notice Mary's eyes. They are not looking down at Jesus. They're looking at the viewer – you and I. Can you hear Mary's invitation – “Hold my son close. Never let go of him.” Can you speak to Mary as you would one friend to another about what you are experiencing?

Mary models how to walk with Jesus. In this pandemic where many are suffering isolation and quarantine for the common good, It might be a good time to ask Mary to intercede on our behalf for the end of this pandemic.