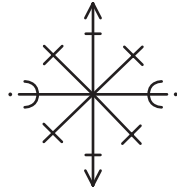


Tarot de la Bonne Mère



Meanings and prayers

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MAJOR ARCANAS

0 The Fool St Roch

The Fool talks about daring, going forward, making a leap of faith. It evokes the beginning of a pilgrimage, confidence, the road which unfolds before us. St Roch went against fear, prejudice, by coming to the aid of the plague victims, those rejected by society.

St Roch, born around 1350 in Montpellier, is a doctor by training. Coming from a wealthy family, he distributed all his fortune to the poor before leaving on a pilgrimage to Rome. Crossing epidemics (plague), he rescues the sick. Himself affected, he miraculously healed by having retired to a wood, fed for days by a dog who brought him bread. Improperly imprisoned in the Milan region (then at war) he remained locked up until his death, around 1378.

He is the Patron Saint of pilgrims, surgeons (for the bubonic incisions he practiced), dermatologists, apothecaries ... but also all the excluded from society "plagued" literally or figuratively.

Prayer to St Roch (by abbot Pierre Savoie, 1988)

St Roch, the love of God flooding your heart made you leave everything for a new life. Going on a pilgrimage to the Eternal City, with the breath of the Spirit, you were full of zeal. Friend of the living God, St Roch, enlighten us! St Roch, in your love for the most destitute, you imitate Christ leaning on distress, offering freedom to those who are oppressed and the Good News to all the unhappy. Friend of the poorest, St Roch, watch over us! St Roch, in five years among the bruised people, you have relieved many human pains: under your inspired fingers the wounds became healthy and the plague victims found themselves healed. Friend of the sick, St Roch, help us! St Roch, over the years, as fervent pilgrims,

we come to pray to you in its beautiful landscapes. Our confidence in you appears on our faces: you are our guide enlightening our paths. Friend of the pilgrims, St Roch, protect us!

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1 The Magician St Jean Bosco

The Magician symbolizes know-how, intelligence, creation... all the possibilities are offered to us! He holds the chalice, link with the spiritual; a book, portal to intellectual knowledge; a chisel and a piece of wood, proof that he can shape matter.

St John Bosco, or Don Bosco, born Giovanni Melchior Bosco on August 16, 1815, and died on January 31, 1888, is an Italian priest. He dedicated his life to the education of street children. Thanks to him, these particularly underprivileged children benefited from learning a craft, enabling them to establish themselves and to escape from destitution. To entertain them, he performed little magic tricks, which is why he is the Patron Saint of conjurers, in addition to being the one of apprentices.

Prayer of St John Bosco

Jesus, take my eyes, my hurtful looks and my selfish blindness; give me Your eyes to marvel as You do, and to see with Your heart. Jesus, take my hands that are so often lazy and quarrelsome; give me Your hands to share and serve, to work and build, Your hands pierced with nails to offer me to Your Father with You! Jesus, take my greedy and slanderous lips; give me Your lips to shut up and to pray, to bless and to thank, to smile and to sing. Jesus, take my heart with its hardness and anger; give me Your heart, a peaceful heart to make peace, a beautiful heart to give wit-

hout counting, a humble and gentle heart to recognize You in the most impoverished brother. Lord, grant that my soul may live on You and always experience the sweetness of Your presence! Amen.

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2 The High Priestess St Mary Magdalene

The High Priestess usually represents an intimidating woman, who has knowledge of ineffable secrets. Here, Mary Magdalene promises us luck and knowledge, dedication, intuition and faith. All the graces she obtained from God, choosing to follow Christ and His teaching.

Mary Magdalene (or Mary of Magdala) is first of all a sinful woman, prisoner of "seven demons" (Gospel of Luke, VIII, 2) from whom Christ delivers her. She then becomes a disciple of Jesus, mentioned several times in the Gospels. She is the first to have seen the resurrected Jesus and it is she who warns the apostles of the miracle.

Prayer to St Mary Magdalene

Holy Mary Magdalene, you who knew how to see the invisible, you whose faith carried the mountains, you so close to us all, receive our prayers and accept to transmit them for us to Jesus, to whom you are so close. Protect our families, may love and peace reign supreme, give health, love, well-being and abundance to all those we love. Bring to those who suffer all the support they need, whether their suffering is physical, linked to illness, or moral and psychological. Give comfort to all those who are forgotten, in danger, humiliated, mistreated, tell them that they are not alone and that more peaceful times will come. Help those who work to carry out their mission with all their heart, allow those who

are looking for work to find their way. Allow everyone to live in abundance and in the acceptance of what is good and fair. Accompany our personal and professional projects so that our lives may be more beautiful and luminous. Welcome all those whom we love and who have left their earthly life, draw them into the light of eternity. We humbly ask you to allow small miracles to take place for each one of us and beyond us, so that we may come out of isolation and solitude, so that bonds may be created, so that hope may be born, so that new horizons may be opened... Allow our prayer to contribute to the installation of peace, fraternity, joy and light on earth for all humanity. Receive, dear Saint, all our gratitude and thanks from the bottom of our hearts.

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3 The Empress Blessed Virgin Mary

The Blessed Virgin Mary, mother of Jesus Christ, is the most important female figure in Christianity. Often called Queen of Heaven, or Queen of Peace, she is, according to the Bible, of royal and priestly descent (she descended from David and Aaron). Christ makes her the mother of all humanity, the absolute symbol of motherhood. The Empress signifies fecundity, stability, hospitality, mercy... All the virtues of unconditional maternal love. Her heart pierced with a dagger, girded with a crown of roses and carrying a flame symbolizes this total love, accepting suffering, burning with charity.

In Marseilles, the Blessed Virgin is Our Lady of the Guard, guardian of those who go to sea and those who wait for them in the port, she watches over hearts and distresses, welcomes and blesses all the people of Marseilles, wherever they come from. She calms the storms at sea, as in our minds.

Prayer to Our Lady of the Guard

Virgin Mary, I come to pray to you, whom I call Our Lady of the Guard here, you present your Son to me. He says to me: "Here is your Mother". I am and I want to remain your child. Keep me healthy in body and soul. Keep the health of my soul and body healthy for me and for all those who are dear to me. Help us to be faithful to the faith of our Baptism, and obedient to all that your Son asks of us. Grant that we may love all those

around us. May our love radiate kindness, understanding and indulgence. Help us to serve our brothers and sisters more and more. Support us in our trials. Protect all those who suffer in body and heart. O Virgin of the Guard, O Mother of Heaven, I speak to you with the heart of a child. Pray for us your Son Jesus. Obtain for us the grace to love Him more and more and to resemble Him more and more each day.

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4 The Emperor St Joseph

St Joseph, Jesus' foster father, is a carpenter. He shapes the material to make it a refuge, he is also the refuge and protection of Mary, of whom he is the benevolent spouse. The Emperor, like St Joseph, embodies protection, shelter, wisdom, gentleness, work well done, perseverance, practicality, stability.

Mary was promised to Joseph when she became pregnant by the action of the Holy Spirit. He still marries Mary and accepts the child as his own son, following an angelic message. In the Gospel according to Matthew (13:55) we read "Isn't this the carpenter's son?" when speaking of Jesus the Christ. However, we do not know if this appellation really speaks of Joseph's trade, or of his being a wise, honest and upright man.

St Joseph is the Patron Saint of carpenters, workers, young husbands and fathers.

Prayer to St Joseph (Monseigneur Léon Soulier)

Joseph, they call you the righteous, the carpenter, the silent one... I want to call you my friend. With Jesus, your son and my Saviour, with Mary your wife and my mother, you have your place in my heart, you have your place in my life. Take my hand and lead me when the shadow and the night make my steps uncertain. You who have sought the Lord, you who have found him, tell me where he is! Tell me where he is when days follow days, full of work and worry or loneliness and boredom! Tell me where he is when trial and suffering are the daily bread! Tell me where he is when hope lifts my courage and invites me to go forward with more spirit! Tell me where he is when my heart wants to love him, him first and the others, with him and in him! Tell me where he is when someone comes near me

seeking comfort, friendship and joy! Joseph, my friend, you who have walked through rays and shadows, teach me how to meet the Lord in the daily routine of my life. You, the astonished witness of the action of the Spirit, help me to recognize his marvels and to be subject to him. You, the great one attentive to the needs of your people, keep my heart and my hand well open.

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5 The Pope St Peter

St Peter is one of the apostles, and one of the major leaders of the first Christian communities. He is considered by Catholics as the first Pope. His first name is Simon, he's called, in Aramaic, "the rock" and the Gospel tells us (Matthew 16, 17-18): Then Jesus said to him, "Simon, son of Jonah, (...) you are Peter, and upon this rock* I will build my Church, and the gates of Hell shall not prevail against it." So St Peter is, like the Pope's card, a symbol of authority. He is a guide, a man of responsibility. (*In Greek, in Latin and other languages that come from Latin, the word for "rock" and the name "Peter" sounds the same. Petros/Petros, Petrus/Petrus, Pierre/Pierre...)

Prayer to St Peter

St Peter, prince of the apostles, pray for us. St Peter, you're the first one to leave everything to follow Jesus. St Peter, you received your name from the Lord Jesus. St Peter, you walked on the waters with Jesus. St Peter, you knew and confessed the divinity of Jesus by revelation from the heavenly Father. St Peter, you accompanied Jesus to the Garden of Olives. St Peter, out of fear you denied Jesus after His arrest, but touched by grace you wept for your humanity. St Peter, you were established by Jesus as the foundation of His Church. St Peter, you received three keys from the Lord, to open up earthly existence, to open up to wisdom, to open up to eternal life. St Peter, open to us the entrance to happiness on earth, open to us spiritual knowledge, open to us Paradise. St Peter, close for us the paths of evil, open for us the paths of good. St Peter, enlighten our minds so that we may see well and keep us away from evil, enlighten us to God's call and allow us to follow His paths.

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6 The Lovers St Paul

St Paul is an apostle of Jesus, who is not, however, one of the "Twelve" mentioned in the Gospels. He is a Roman citizen and soldier, a Jew, and sensitive to philosophy. As he persecuted the first Christians, a mystical event occurred. On the road to Damascus, he meets the risen Christ. He became blind for three days and only regained his sight after his baptism. He then became an apostle, travelled extensively around the Mediterranean, and founded several churches. The letters he wrote to the first Christian communities, full of wise teachings, are an integral part of the New Testament, today. It is this threefold personality of Paul: fighter, preacher, author, that the card picks up. Like the original card of the Tarot de Marseille, St Paul calls us to make a choice, to come out of our blindness, to follow the paths of our own selves.

Prayer of St Paul (Letter to the Ephesians, 6, 14-20)

Therefore, stand firm, having been girded about your waist with truth, and having been clothed with the breastplate of justice, and having feet which have been shod by the preparation of the Gospel of peace. In all things, take up the shield of faith, with which you may be able to extinguish all the fiery darts of the most wicked one. And take up the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit (which is the Word of God). Through every kind of prayer and supplication, pray all the times in spirit, and so be vigilant with every kind of earnest supplication, for all the saints, and also for me, so that words may be given to me, as I open my mouth with faith to make known the mystery of the Gospel, in such a manner that I may dare to speak exactly as I ought to speak. For I act as an ambassador in chains for the Gospel.

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7 The Chariot St Sarah

St Sara the Black, or Sara e kali in Rromani language, is the patron saint of the Rromani communities, who venerate her in Saintes-Maries-de-la-Mer.

Legend has it that she arrived in Ca-

margue (South of France) by boat with Marie Salomé (mother of the apostles John and James the Major), Marie Jacobé (mother of the apostle James the Minor), Marie Madeleine, Lazarus, Marthe (sister of Lazarus) and Maximin. All these saints are important figures of Provençal traditions. Sara is said to be an Egyptian woman, the repudiated wife of a king, who became the servant of Marie Salomé and Marie Jacobé. The Rromani people claim Sara as one of their own, the first to adopt Christianity. For them, Sara was queen of the Rrom tribe in Camargue and would have welcomed the boat from Palestine, but was not aboard herself. She helped the occupants to settle in the region. The Rrom emblem is the Wheel of Chariot, which adorns the halo of St Sara. Like the Chariot, Sara represents movement, moral strength, intuition, determination, to which she adds faith and humility.

Prayer to St Sara

Sara, Saint and friend, listen to me, hear my voice. Sara, you're from all the journeys. Sara, you see into my heart. Sara, you give me courage in times of trouble. Sara, you offer us life and joy, beauty and faith. Sara, you believed in our Lord Jesus Christ and brought his light on my path. Sara, you know my secrets, my sufferings, my hopes. Sara, you guide and accompany me through my trials. Sara, you have always been guided by your intuition, by the Holy Spirit, pray for me the Lord that I may also receive this grace. Sara, give me the warmth of a fire, the joy of a dance, make my heart beat more fervently and make me marvel at the world around me. Sara, give me the grace to give thanks every day for the blessings the Lord grants me.

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8 Justice St Antoninus of Florence

St Antoninus of Florence (born 1389), was an Italian religious, appointed Archbishop of Florence in 1446. A discreet man, he is known for his work of reforming monastic rules, his writings on practical morality and his great charity. During the plague of his time, and then by creating the "Buonomini di San Martino" brotherhood, he dedicated himself to relieving the needy and young girls without a dowry (at that time, a young girl whose family could not finance

a marriage had, without public assistance, only the choice of prostitution or begging). In his writings on moral theology, he develops many innovative ideas, especially on the proper use of money and the sharing of wealth.

Justice here represents balance, intelligence, the common good, morality, ethics, righteousness and charity.

Prayer to St Antoninus of Florence

St Antoninus, I thank the Lord for the gifts he grants me. You, who are known for the great qualities of your spirit, be the shepherd of my heart, and teach me the love of my neighbor. St Antoninus, you have lived in a dark and troubled century, and you have been a light of humanity, wisdom, and justice; allow me to shine a similar light in my own existence. Pray with me, St Antoninus, for the children of all, for the opening of hearts, for peace among mankind. St Antoninus, I beg you, call for me the grace of discernment, that I may see and do what is right and good, for me and around me.

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9 The Hermit St Jerome

Jerome was born in Stridon (now Slovenia or Croatia) in 347. A monk known for his work of translating the Bible into Latin and his exegeses, he is considered as Doctor of the Church and Church Father. He lived a large part of his life as a hermit in the Syrian desert. He founded a monastery in Bethlehem dedicated to ascetics and biblical research. His method of translation and commentary is based on historical, allegorical and spiritual explanation. He invites to be cautious with words and deeds, to wisdom, recollection and sobriety.

He is the patron saint of archaeologists, archivists, librarians, translators and students.

Prayer to St Jerome

Glorious St Jerome, Father and Doctor of the Church, you who, by translating the Bible into Latin, have made it more accessible, you who are committed to going back to the source and to "finding in the streams all that is born from the source", you who are gifted with such an intelligence for meaning and what is hidden, allow me to turn around, to discover

and know myself. Teach me the rigor of reflection and the love of knowledge, teach me patience and simplicity. Teach me to cling to my inner being, to discover my own truth which is the part of God in me. Teach me to remain equally open to the world, open to new ideas, to the perceptions and thoughts of my neighbor, may they make me grow.

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10 Wheel of Fortune St Catherine of Alexandria

According to legend, St. Catherine of Alexandria was a very erudite young woman, born around 294 in Alexandria. The emperor, a pagan, commissioned philosophers to make her renounce her faith. But after their exchanges with the young woman, they converted to Christianity. The emperor was impressed and wanted to make her his wife. She refused and found herself imprisoned. After various divine interventions, she converted the soldiers who guarded her. She was then promised a terrible torture, so that the example of this death would frighten the other Christians: four wheels surrounded by iron saws and nails would tear and crush her body. But, again, after an intervention, the machine was destroyed and she was finally beheaded. She's the patron saint of girls' schools and philosophy students. The Wheel of Fortune represents change, destiny in motion, experience gained. Like Catherine of Alexandria, who through her great wisdom manages to convert, to dialogue, to remain faithful to herself, to keep her faith and trust in divine intercession.

Prayer to St Catherine of Alexandria

St Catherine, you who are gifted with such great intelligence, great patience and total trust in God, allow me to discern good from evil, to keep hope and to know that everything is transitory. Allow me to know my victories, my progress in life, the risks and opportunities that surround me. St Catherine, you who has always held to your ideal, allow me to define my own path in life as best I can and to do everything possible to reach it, with respect for all.

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11 Strength St Blandina

St Blandina is a martyr of the 2nd century. As a young Christian woman, she was part of a group of 46 persecuted in Lugdunum (Lyon, France), subjected to several tortures that did not make her deny her faith, she was finally delivered to wild animals during a circus show. But then a miracle happened, the animals refused to attack her and lay at her feet. Strength here is tranquillity, gentleness, trust in something superior that overcomes all dangers and violence.

Prayer to St Blandina

St Blandina, you who was so discreet and so courageous, call upon me these graces that you received from the Lord. St Blandina, you declared to your executioners, "I am a Christian and we never do any harm," give me this moral strength, to never give in to violence or evil. St Blandina, always remind me that goodness and benevolence overcome all difficulties. St Blandina, pray for me the Lord, that I may always be aware of the great strength that resides in me, that strength of peace and light that is found in every child of the Universe. Help me to cultivate it and make it prosper, like a lamp that I could hold out to the world.

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12 The Hanged Man St James

James of Zebedee (or James the Greater) is one of the Twelve Apostles of Jesus Christ. Legend has it that he went west to evangelize and was buried in Compostela. A legend circulates on the Pilgrim's Way to Compostela, that of the miracle of the unhanged hanged man. It was around 1130 when a pilgrim and his son, on their way to Compostela, stopped near Santo Domingo de la Calzada. The servant of the inn made advances to the son, who remained insensitive. Offended, she hid silverware in his luggage and accused him of theft; according to the law, he was hanged. Twenty-six days later, the father, returning from Compostela, passed by the gallows and heard his son talking: he was still alive because he was protected by St James. The father went to the judge,

who did not take him seriously and continued his meal. The roast chicken he was eating began to sing, and he ordered the pilgrim's son to be unhanged.

The Hanged Man takes distance and goes on a mystical quest. St James comes to his rescue to enlighten him and allow him to continue his quest without sacrificing his life.

Prayer to St James

St James, sustain me in the dangers, and lighten my march on earth; be my protection against physical and moral difficulties, be my comfort in the torment and my light in the darkness that may rise in my spirit. St James, indicate to me the goal of my interior journey and guide me towards it. Ask God to forgive me if I have scorned him or if I have lacked piety. St James, help me to find a healthy soul, a greater understanding of the spiritual realm. St James, remove from me boredom, pain, intolerance, call upon me the graces of joy, humility and enlightenment.

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13 St Mary of Egypt

Born in Egypt in the 5th century, legend has it that she was a prostitute. One day she decided to follow a group of pilgrims to Jerusalem. When she found herself in front of the Basilica of the Resurrection, a mysterious force prevented her from entering. Unable to cross the threshold, she turned to the icon of the Virgin Mary at the entrance and begged her to intercede on her behalf. She was then able to enter, and heard a voice say to her, "If you cross the Jordan River, you will find rest there". She took communion in the basilica and went beyond the Jordan into the desert, where she lived in the greatest destitution. St Zosim found her dead, naked and skeletal, forty-seven years later.

The nameless arcana symbolizes a metaphorical and metaphysical death, a radical change, a symbolic mourning, an existential upheaval.

Prayer to St Mary the Egyptian

With you, Egyptian Mary, I want to turn to a new life. You are the embodiment of radical change, the disappearance of darkness and the path to light. You have received the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary and from Christ, forgiveness and salvation. You show us that everything can be transformed, that every sin can be forgiven. Holy Mary the Egypt-

tian, you see the pains and torments that surround my soul, allow me to be delivered from them, help me to purify my spirit and my body of all that is dark. Holy Mary the Egyptian, allow me to be born again, to find peace of soul, ask with me Jesus Christ to welcome me into the light.

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14 Temperance St Catherine of Siena

Catherine Benincasa was born on March 25, 1347 in Siena (Tuscany, Italy) and died on April 29, 1380 in Rome. A nun, a great mystic, her work had a major influence on the Catholic Church, which recognized her as Doctor of the Church. She received the stigmata at a very young age, as well as other mystical phenomena. This made her known to the ecclesiastical administration, and she was sent as ambassador of Florence to the Pope. She negotiated peace between the Holy See and the Republic of Florence. Her career as ambassador continued during the great schism of the West. She wrote many letters to church leaders calling on them to preserve the unity of the Church. Throughout her life, she also dictated spiritual treatises which are still reference texts.

She is the patron saint of journalists, the media and all communication professions.

Temperance here represents patience, prudence, diplomacy, acceptance, reasoning. Just like St Catherine of Siena, who knew how to welcome God's love entirely, and how to work with diplomacy and philosophy.

Prayer to St Catherine of Siena

O St Catherine of Siena, your word has always conquered the harshest of hearts; it has been heard by sinners, by the irascible, by the powerful as well as the humble. With your right words and your chosen phrases, you have been able to convince and reason. I pray to you today, St Catherine, to draw Peace and Dialogue into the hearts of this world, beginning with mine. Call upon me the graces of patience, calm, humility, openness and understanding. St Catherine, relieve the oppressed and dissolve injustices, pray with me for Peace in the whole world, for the unity of humanity, for the common good, and for respect for all.

...

15 The Devil St George

St George was a Christian officer and prefect of the Roman army, of noble origin. However, in 303, the Emperor ordered the destruction of the Christian churches and the persecution of the clergy. George tried unsuccessfully to prevent this edict, and eventually gave him back his sword. He distributed his fortune to the poor and went on a pilgrimage to the Holy Land. Passing through Lydda, he neutralized a band of looters led by a certain "Nahfr" (snake, or dragon, in the local language). The local population, freed from these torments, wanted to pay St George. He refused and asked them to convert to Christianity. It is this "dragon" that George killed, and not a real monster, as legend has it. The emperor eventually had him arrested for his acts of help to Christians and evangelization. He survived many tortures in prison, which led to the conversion of the Emperor Diocletian's wife, as well as many high-ranking personalities. Finally, he died beheaded.

St George is the patron saint of Christian chivalry, gunsmiths, and many states. He is represented as a knight slaying a dragon, an allegory of the Christian faith triumphing over the devil, or more broadly the victory of good over evil.

The Devil represents here the defeated fatality, the valour, the pride put to evil, the virtues of the fighter with a big heart, but also the charm of the warrior.

Prayer to St Georges

St George, you have given the world an example of your virtue. Great martyr of God, invincible fighter of divine grace, inspire courage in me. St George, call for justice for me, help me to fight evil within myself, deliver me from the traps that others or I set in my path. St George, I implore your help, lead me to the best version of myself. St George, you know how easy it is to get lost in our life's paths, show me the way to the light, give me the strength to fight the darkness in me. St George, calm my spirit, call upon me the divine intelligence and do not allow me to remain plaintive and inactive in the face of injustice and suffering. St George, protect me in every place, make me invisible to evil eyes, make me a just and valiant soul.

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16 The Tower St Camille de Lellis

Camille de Lellis, born May 25, 1550 in Italy. Orphaned, he became a soldier at a fairly young age. He then sought to enter the orders, but his angry temper and his taste for gambling made him get thrown out of several monasteries. He obtained a nursing post at the Hospital of St. James of the Incurables (Rome), where he hoped to be treated himself. An abscess on his leg was beginning to handicap him. He was chased away again, became a soldier again, tried again to enter the orders, and suddenly abandoned his bad habits by becoming a nurse in Rome again. Soon after, spotted for his resourcefulness, piety and wisdom, he became director of the said hospital. Around the age of 30 he chose to become a priest, and created an order dedicated to helping the sick, both in hospitals and during home visits. All his life he suffered because of his leg, but continued to visit the dying, without concern for his own health. He died at the age of 64, which was quite advanced for the time.

The Tower represents upheaval, radical change, instability, trials and necessary humility. This is why I chose St Camille de Lellis who sought himself for so long, suffered and showed violence in his youth, before reforming his life completely and coming to the aid of others. I have portrayed him as coming to the aid of the two figures that fall, no doubt greatly burnt, in the original map. It is interesting to note, moreover, that, in French, the card is named "Maison Dieu" (House of God) while hospitals for the poorest people have long been called "hôpital-Dieu" (hostel of God).

Prayer to St Camille de Lellis

St Camille, you are the example of charity and care, allow me to place myself under your protection. You who knew how to overcome your weaknesses to reach a great spirituality, you who knew how to heal yourself and then come to help others, enlighten the trials I am going through so that I can see the opportunity for improvement, learning and change that is there. St Camille, I also pray to you for all the sick, that all may feel loved by God, at peace and protected. St Camille, I pray to you for those who follow in your footsteps in care:

doctors, nurses, volunteers, all those who put themselves at the service of the health of their neighbor, that they may keep at heart the concern for humanity of their vocation, and a benevolent view of the world.

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17 The Star St Anthony of Padua

St Anthony was born into a noble family in Portugal. He entered the orders very early and was ordained priest. In 1220, he chose the Friars Minor and took the name of Anthony (until then his name was Fernando), and wished to go to Morocco to become a martyr. However, he quickly returned to Europe for health reasons... His talents as a public speaker and theologian were then discovered by the Order. He taught in Bologna, Toulouse, Montpellier and Limoges. Miraculously, he found a stolen manuscript in the region of Brive-la-Gaillarde, hence his present veneration for finding lost objects. He was then posted in Padua, where he died at the age of 36.

He is the Patron Saint of sailors, the shipwrecked and prisoners; as well as the poor, the elderly, animals, the oppressed, pregnant women, the hungry, and many more.

The Star is hope in divine realization, miracle, protection and serenity. Like the believer, trusting in the intercession of St Anthony to find what he is looking for. The card, like St Anthony, whispers to us to believe and to follow our path, even if, as for him, destiny takes us elsewhere... We have to trust in what is coming.

Prayer to St Anthony of Padua

O St Anthony, full of compassion and talent, give me hope. Allow me to hear my inner voice, to know and reveal, like you, my place in the world. St Anthony, make God's gifts blossom in me, and teach me to put them at the service of the community. St Anthony, if I feel lost, if I feel pity for what I do not have or no longer have, show me what I am looking for, show me the graces that I have in my possession. St Anthony, reassure me, anchor in me confidence in God and in the future.

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18 The Moon St Francis of Assisi

St Francis of Assisi (1181-1226), is an Italian Catholic religious. He is the founder of the Order of Friars Minor, characterized by prayer, joy, poverty, evangelization, and love for Creation as a whole. He is known to be the author of the Canticle of the Creatures (below), which thanks God for all of nature, the world, the Earth, its mysteries ... Francis of Assisi is considered the precursor of interreligious dialogue, for his great humility and his constantly renewed interest in all things of the world.

He is the Patron Saint of nature, animals and ecology.

The Moon is a card of mystery, of contemplation, of what is hidden. In other words, everything that the figure of St Francis calls us to love and contemplate as a whole, with humility.

Canticle of the Creatures

Most high, omnipotent, good Lord, praise, glory and honor and benediction all, are Thine. To Thee alone do they belong, most High, and there is no man fit to mention Thee. Praise be to Thee, my Lord, with all Thy creatures, especially to my worshipful brother sun, the which lights up the day, and through him dost Thou brightness give; and beautiful is he and radiant with splendor great; of Thee, most High, signification gives. Praised be my Lord, for sister moon and for the stars, in heaven Thou hast formed them clear and precious and fair. Praised be my Lord for brother wind and for the air and clouds and fair and every kind of weather, by the which Thou givest to Thy creatures nourishment. Praised be my Lord for sister water, the which is greatly helpful and humble and precious and pure. Praised be my Lord for brother fire, by the which Thou lightest up the dark. And fair is he and gay and mighty and strong. Praised be my Lord for our sister, mother earth, the which sustains and keeps us and brings forth diverse fruits with grass and flowers bright. Praised be my Lord for those who for Thy love forgive and weakness bear and tribulation. Blessed those who shall in peace endure, for by Thee, most High, shall they be crowned. Praised be my Lord for our sister, the bodily death, from the which no living man can flee. Woe to them who die in mortal sin; blessed those who shall find themselves in Thy most holy will, for the second death shall do them

no ill. Praise ye and bless ye my Lord, and give Him thanks, and be subject unto Him with great humility.

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19 The Sun St Rita

St Rita was born in Umbria (Italy) in 1381, and died in 1457. This Italian nun is the Patron Saint of desperate causes and unhappy women, who always works for the transformation of hearts, the preservation of hope and the triumph of divine love. Before entering into orders, she was married to a violent man, her family was strongly touched by the tradition of blood feuds, and she never ceased to pray for the pacification of souls. Even after her death, she continues to be the very image of patience, fervor and the will to be joyful. When she died, she asked for a rose to be brought to her. Alas, it was not the season, and yet ... they found the rosebush in her garden in bloom, by miracle. After her death, her body did not become corrupted and it can still be seen in the Basilica of Santa Rita de Cascia.

St Rita is the expression of the most complete faith there is, the infallible hope in divine intercession. The success, vitality, clarity and recognition promised by The Sun will come.

Prayer to St Rita

St Rita, who is with the Lord, help me. You see my distress, the despair approaching me, allow me to gaze at the horizon with confidence, to know that my luck is on the way. St Rita, give me the strength, in your image, never to give up. St Rita, teach me patience, to avoid falling into the traps of a negative thought. St Rita, show me the areas of light in my existence, which I can give thanks for. St Rita, like a light house, guide me towards ever more optimism and joy. St Rita, in bad luck, may the Lord give me the grace of always having a good heart: that I do not forget my human brothers, that I do not sink into badness, immobility, anger or hatred. On the contrary, St Rita, always remind me, as you have had the strength to do all your life, that the Lord is preparing the best for my life, that miracles are on my path. St Rita, open my eyes so that I can see them, open my hands that I take them, amplify my voice as I sing them and share them.

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20 Judgement St John of Matha

John of Matha is a French religious man born in 1160. He is the founder, with St Felix de Valois, of the Order of the Holy Trinity, or Trinitarians (also called the Order of the Most Holy Trinity for the Redemption of captives) who had for the purpose of freeing the slaves of the time. Thousands of people are thus redeemed from the Saracens and set free. This is the only mission of the order: to work for the redemption, by exchange and without violence, of the prisoners.

The Judgment echoes the Last Judgment, of course, the hope of the resurrection, the absolution. This call offers healing and freedom, this is the feast day we can be reborn.

Prayer to St John of Matha

St John of Matha, you who came from an illustrious family, you chose to give up everything to put yourself at the service of those who no longer own their own life. In a process of peace, of dialogue, and guided by an irrevocable light, you have worked to redeem the bodies and the spirits of the captives. May this concrete mission that you accomplished during your lifetime become symbolic. Allow me to redeem myself, to be reborn to true life by embracing the will of the Universe. St John of Matha, offer me the strength, the courage and the inspiration to follow your steps: that I free myself from my chains and help my neighbor to be free also. With you, I abandon the negative thoughts, the patterns that drag me out of my soul, the harmful feelings, I move away without return from the habits, social, family, friendly pressures that push me towards what I am not. With you, I finally find my mission on Earth, I feel in my soul the strength, the solidity, the desire, the course to follow. Thanks to you, I find the center of my soul which is sheltered from storms, I will now know how to return there.

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21 The World The Four Evangelists

The four Evangelists: St Matthew, St Mark, St Luke and St John, are the four writers of the Gospel, relating the life of Christ. Each of their figures is associated with an angel, a

lion, an ox, an eagle. These are the symbols that are found on the original card of the Tarot de Marseille. The world card is an accomplishment, it is about being in its place and shining. I placed in the center a detail of the mosaics of the Basilica of Notre-Dame de la Garde, showing a boat sailing towards new horizons. St Matthew is the Patron Saint of tax auditors, bankers, accountants, customs officers. St Mark is the Patron Saint of notaries and clerks. St Luke is the Patron Saint of physicians (and caregivers) and painters (and related). St John is the Patron Saint of printers, booksellers, stationers, typographers.

Prayer to the Evangelists

Saints Matthew, Mark, Luke and John, I rely on your protection. My journey seems to be ending, yet I know it's only just beginning. The lessons I have learned, the troubles I have overcome, have not been in vain. I must now share all this experience, I must have the courage to shine, to say yes to my life and the meaning of my soul. Support me with kindness, share with me some of your virtues. Matthew, you who are the Angel, lend me your wings to see further and lend me your goodness to love unconditionally. Mark, you who are the lion, lend me your moral strength and teach me to respect as well as to gain the respect of my peers. Luke, you who are the ox, lend me your endurance in trials, your strength, and call upon me abundance. John, you who are the eagle, lend me your sharpened senses so as not to let me be fooled and keep me on my guard, vis-à-vis my own faults as traps that could be set for me. Matthew, you who have a sense of order and justice, inscribe this in me. Mark, you who have a sense of testimony, allow me to pass on my knowledge and share my soul. Luke, you who have a sense of image and health, help me to worry about the truth, and to reach out to my neighbor. John, you who have the sense of the craft of the verb, draws my attention to the accuracy of the means that I implement and to every detail of my life.

The Hosts

What is a host?

A host is unleavened bread consecrated by the priest. From this blessing ("This is my body delivered for you"), the host symbolically becomes the body of the Risen Christ, and believers share together this presence of Christ within and among them. Catholics therefore distinguish the unconsecrated host, a simple fragment of bread, and the consecrated host, the true body of Christ under the sole appearance of bread. The symbolism retained here and the gift, the sharing, the abundance of divine graces and mysteries.

- Ace represents material potentiality: whatever this piece of bread can become, it calls to have confidence in oneself and in the miracles to come.
- Two represents the balance and harmony found: the host is both bread and Christ.
- Three represents the three forms of God (of course): collaboration and plurality are necessary to learn and to build well.
- Four represents security: there is one more host for the stranger who comes.
- Five represents sadness: who has not come to take their part? A missing person? Someone we expect?
- Six represents charity: the surplus is there to be shared.
- Seven represents the harvest: on the seventh day, that of rest, we become aware of the work accomplished.
- Eight represents profit: on the first day of the new week, we share Christ's meal.
- Nine represents the accomplishment: all is new, renovated, accomplished.
- Ten represents abundance and wealth: however, be careful not to sleep on your laurels or become selfish.

Servant of Hosts St Barbara

The servant of Hosts brings you promising premises, such as the cereals sown at Sainte Barbe (according to Provençal tradition) promise good harvests for the year to come. She also cautions against the lack of preparation which can be fatal. St Barbara lived in the 3rd century in northwestern Anatolia. Refusing a marriage chosen by her parents,

she consecrates herself to Christ. Her father locks her in a tower with two windows where she pierces a third opening to symbolize the Trinity. Her furious father set the tower on fire. She manages to escape, but denounced, she is taken to the Roman governor to be judged and tortured. Her name comes from what Christians wanting to bury her called her— "the barbarian woman"—hence Barbe or Barbara. They did not wish to use either her pagan name or her baptismal name so as not to arouse suspicion.

She is the Patron Saint of firefighters, miners, fireworks, and of all professions related to fire and the basement. In Provence, on December 4, everyone must sow wheat or lentils on cotton soaked in water in three cups that are placed on the table on Christmas Eve. Good growth is a sign of abundance and prosperity.

Prayer to St Barbara

O St Barbara, help me. Give me the strength to be available to others, the courage to follow the call of God. Allow me to prepare as well as possible for all eventualities, so that negligence does not put me in danger in the adventures I undertake. St Barbara, remove the anguish of daring from me, clear my mind so that the road is straight in my soul, so that I do not doubt what I have to do, so that I can calmly contemplate the future. St Barbara, show me reliable and complete plans for my actions, and meetings that help me progress and assist me. St Barbara, you encourage me and bring me good news in my projects, I thank you. With you, I hope for the best for the future, and I pray for all the women and men who every day put their lives in danger for the lives of others facing the flames, the depths, the explosions. Give them the courage and determination to know what is right and not to be paralyzed by fear.

Knight of Hosts St Tarcisus

St Tarcisus is a very young martyr. In the third century, when he was 8 years old, he brought Communion to imprisoned Christians, but soldiers stopped him on the way and beat him to death because he refused to show them the consecrated bread. Since then, he has been the Patron Saint of choirboys, who perpetuate the tradition of youth carrying the

Eucharist.

The Knight of Hosts brings us the Good News, but also alerts us to the dangers of the road, to the strength it takes to face the world. He promises us progress in our projects, but slowly, with reflection and application and a great sense of responsibility.

Prayer to St Tarcisus

O St Tarcisus, you who have accepted with gaiety your charge of carrying the consecrated bread, allow me to accept with so much enthusiasm and certainty in divine intercession the responsibilities which are offered to me. Lend me the courage you have shown to accomplish my daily tasks and achieve my ambitions. Keep me from jealousy, from violence due to the incomprehension of my choices. Always remind me that God loves me as his child and that every human being is worthy to live in his difference and his freedom. O St Tarcisus, with you I remember that the service is worthy, that every gesture can be a priesthood if it is done with the heart. I pray with you for the purity of my intentions and the favorable outcome of my undertakings.

Queen of Hosts St Teresa of Ávila

Teresa of Ávila is a Spanish nun, born March 28, 1515 and died October 4, 1582. After a frivolous and materialistic adolescence, she transfigures and gives meaning to her life through Christ. Deeply mystical, she leaves writings on her spiritual experience which make her considered as a major figure of Christian spirituality. In her reform of the Carmelite order, in addition to a vow of very strict poverty, we mainly note the renewed importance of times for prayer. They represent two hours a day, in addition to the seven liturgical offices that punctuate the day. The mystique of her work has had a lasting influence on theologians. She was declared a Doctor of the Church in 1970. In 2011, Benedict XVI said: "May the example of this saint, deeply contemplative and effectively active, urge us too to devote the right time every day to prayer, to this openness towards God, to this path to seek God, to see him, to find his friendship and thus find true life". The Queen of Hosts primarily represents the practicality and determination that leads to abundance and

success. The great tenacity of St Teresa of Ávila throughout her life, her ability to always give thanks, and to feel safe in the shadow of God joins this symbolism. The Queen of Hosts also warns against the flight of our commitments for fallacious pretexts, or the excess of materialism as of disembodiment.

Prayer to St Teresa of Ávila

O St Teresa of Ávila, you who wrote "Let nothing disturb you, let nothing frighten you; everything passes, God does not change, patience obtains everything; he who has God lacks nothing. God alone is enough", let me stay true to these words. Such a pious and fervent saint, you have received the grace to enter into direct communion with the Lord. Help me to have the determination and the rigor to achieve the goals that I have set for myself. With you, I implore God to give me strength, discernment, confidence and blessings along my journey. St Teresa of Ávila, obtain for me the grace to feel loved by God, and to know how to contemplate his work.

King of Hosts St Benedict the Moor

St Benedict the Moor (1526 – 1589) is an Italian Reformed Franciscan. Son of Christianized slaves, he worked very young in the fields before being freed at 18. A very pious person, he shares his meager salary with the poor and the sick, and prays a lot. A nobleman, who is a creator of a hermit community, is impressed by his personality and brings him into said community. He then entered the Franciscans, where it is said that he miraculously multiplied bread and food to meet the needs of all. Although illiterate, he has a great ability to explain the Bible and grasp major theological issues. He quickly rose through the ranks to be at the top of the community. His reputation for holiness spread in Sicily during his lifetime. Gifted with great compassion, he is even credited with the power to read the minds of others.

The King of Host brings us material security, the certainty of abundance, we will have something to share. However, we must not lose sight of humility and listening to others.

Prayer to St Benedict the Moor

O St Benedict! You who have suffered the pain, the insults, the mockery because of your skin color, you have always kept a pure and charitable heart. You announce success

and prosperity to me, I thank God for that. Give me the concern for charity and compassion, that my heart does not close on itself because of my success. With you, I pray that people stricken with extreme poverty, those in need, will get help and come out of their precarious condition. With you, I also pray for the advent of equality and love between people, whatever their skin color. St Benedict, open the hearts of each one so that we see in each human being a brother, a sister, a part of ourselves and act accordingly, with compassion.



The Chalice

What is a chalice?

The chalice is a sacred cup in the Christian liturgy. It is used in the Eucharistic celebration for the consecration of wine mixed with water, thus becoming the blood of Christ. In the same way as the bread becoming the body of Christ, from the blessing of the priest ("This is my blood shed for you"), wine symbolically becomes the blood of the risen Christ. The chalice recalls the cup of wine from the Last Supper, the Holy Chalice (or Grail), it is the place of transformation, of the miracle. I am delivering here a symbolism oriented towards the story of the Last Supper and the Passion.

- Ace represents the potentiality of the emotions: the cup is still empty and can receive everything, express everything.
- Two represents great harmony and complementarity: the wine is poured.
- Three represents the three forms of God (of course): here joy and the sharing between wine, water and their symbolic future.
- Four represents stability: Christ has now blessed these chalices.
- Five represents regrets: we remember that at the end of this meal Christ will be betrayed.
- Six represents childhood and memories: Christ is in the Garden of Olives with his close friends to speak to God.
- Seven represents temptation: Christ in prayer, seized with a desire to live, asks God to transform his destiny and not to let him die crucified.
- Eight represents deception: Christ is betrayed by Judas' kiss.
- Nine represents the fulfillment: everything that was announced by the Old Testament is fulfilled,

Christ gave his life out of love for us, to redeem our sins and to open heaven to us.

- Ten represents joy, union: today we remember that He rose from the dead and that God loves us unconditionally.

Servant of Chalices St John the Baptist

In Christianity, John the Baptist is the prophet who announced the coming of Jesus. He is called the "precursor" of the Messiah, and shares many specificities with the prophet Elijah. He baptized in the waters of the Jordan River those who wished to be cleansed from their sins. In his great humility, questioned by the crowd, he made it clear (see the Gospel of John, I, 1-34) that he is neither the Messiah nor a prophet, but simply a man who baptizes in water, while the Son of God will come and will baptize in the Holy Spirit. Christians are always baptized in water in memory of this, and during baptism the Holy Spirit is called upon the baptized, to welcome them fully into the community of believers, and to purify both body and soul.

St John the Baptist is therefore quite naturally the Servant of Chalices, he announces the coming of the Messiah, the redemption, the purification of acts, thoughts and hearts.

Prayer to St John the Baptist

O St John the Baptist! You who wash bodies soiled by evil in the water of the Jordan, you announce the great joy of the arrival of God and of the full light in our hearts and souls. With you, I renounce all my bad ways, I want to proclaim the benefits and graces that are in my life, I want to transform myself to become the best version of myself. Guide me, St John the Baptist, towards the paths of light. Give me confidence in the future, give me the joy you feel of knowing the arrival of the Good.

Knight of Chalices St Lawrence

St Lawrence was born between 220 and 225 in Osca (today Huesca, Spain). He died a martyr on a grill, in 258 in Rome, as deacon of Pope Sixtus II, in charge of the custody of the Treasury. A man from a very pious family, he studied liturgy where he met the future Pope Sixtus II, who appointed him deacon. He showed great charity, sharing the funds collected by the Church with the poor. In the

Pontifical Treasury for which he was in charge, it is said that the Holy Cup was located, which he would have sent to Osca before being arrested by the authorities. Faced with his persecutors, he responds with courage and humor, remaining dignified and firm in his faith until his death. The Knight of Chalices speaks to us of charm, imagination and sharing, qualities that St Lawrence has shown in his life to escape the authorities and protect the poorest Christians. He also warns us against jealousy and anger.

Prayer to St Lawrence

O St Lawrence you who responded to violence with humor and benevolence, lend me this same courage. You have always stood up for what was dear and precious, you have always had your heart in your hand. Allow me to be as honest, charitable and loving as you. Give me the virtue of knowing how to express my emotions with accuracy and calmness. Always remind me that every feeling has the right to exist, that none is to be rejected or banished, but only to be understood. Always remind me that everyone deserves kindness, including myself. St Lawrence, with you, I ask God to show me what is really precious to me, what I must preserve and cherish in my life.

Queen of Chalices St Clare of Montefalco

St Clare of Montefalco was born in 1268 and died in 1308. She is an Italian Augustinian nun. She experienced an "interior stigmatization", instead of receiving like some the wounds of Christ on her body, she said to feel the suffering of the Cross marked in her heart. To her convent sisters, she would say before dying: "Be humble, patient, and united in charity. Be such that God is honored in you and that the work that He has started in you is not lost". This sentence sums up his personal mystique, made up of a great asceticism and an unconditional love for his neighbor.

The Queen of Chalices shows us love, in every imaginable form, that a human being can feel. It also invites us to feel safe and to feel compassion and caring.

Prayer to St Clare of Montefalco

O St Clare of Montefalco, you who teach me love, humility, patience and charity, inscribe well in me, in my heart, these virtues, as Christ inscribed his Cross in yours. May I always feel loved by God, and that I have

the courage to love too. All your life you have poured out your kindness on the world. Give me the grace to follow your steps. With you, St Clare of Montefalco, I ask for the strength to be able to see myself as a child of God, to forgive and forgive me for my mistakes, to know that I am worthy of love. I would also like to pray here for people who are judged and persecuted for their love, be it homosexual, inter-religious or inter-ethnic. I would like to proclaim with you the beauty of all love between two people who are respectful and sincere in their attachment, in a desire to do good and to be accomplished.

King of Chalices St Thomas Aquinas

St Thomas Aquinas was born on January 28, 1225 in a noble Italian family. He is a religious person known for his theological and philosophical work, which earned him the nickname of "fountain of wisdom", and of being considered as Doctor of the Church. His teaching strongly influenced the reforms of the Church, in particular the Second Vatican Council. Based on a reconciliation of reason and faith, of Aristotelian philosophy and the teachings of Christ, his thought categorizes truths into two categories, those which pertain to reason and those which pertain to faith, which must be reconciled in order to access true knowledge. Not being able to summarize the immensity of his works, I encourage you to read the Wikipedia article, which is very complete.

This great figure of Catholicism knew, like the King of Chalices, how to reconcile passions and reason, wisdom and intuition. He teaches us balance, welcoming everything that makes us human, understanding nuance, the courage to assert oneself.

Prayer to St Thomas Aquinas

O St Thomas Aquinas, who holds such great wisdom, teach me to welcome my emotions, to understand them, to know how to act in accordance with them, without being slave to them. Help me to seek truth and righteousness in everything, to contemplate the work of God with benevolence. Remind me to exercise my discernment every day in front of my life and the world, to recognize what I can know and what I must accept, what I must learn and what I must turn away from. St Thomas Aquinas, obtain for me the concentration in my studies, the intelligence, the lu-

idity and the open-mindedness necessary for my path of life.

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The Pilgrimages

What is a pilgrimage?

This is an easy concept known by almost all religions and even pop culture, which has its own pilgrimages, like the grave of Jim Morrison, and others. It is about going to a place that is holy, or associated with a figure of holiness. During the journey, often on foot and lasting at least several hours, if not days or weeks, the pilgrim takes stock of his interior life, recollects himself, prays, reflects. By this act he inscribes his faith in his body, through physical fatigue, and in the space he travels. He discovers a new geography, where the landscapes he crosses are all stretched towards the goal of the journey. His vision of the world is changed by his inner journey.

- Ace represents the first momentum: "let's take the road!" cried the pilgrim.
- Two represents doubt: after the first day of walking, will we be able to continue?
- Three represents the return of movement: a stroke of will, we go back on the road.
- Four represents the group: together we support each other, we experience the joy of doing this together.
- Five represents the challenges. In a group, tensions can arise, or fatigue can be more present.
- Six represents recognition: looking back on the map, you can see how far you have come and you are proud of it.
- Seven represents the effort: we must not lose hope, the point of no return has been passed, we must go to the end.
- Eight represents speed: so close to the goal, we want to reach it faster.
- Nine represents courage: it takes courage to take the last steps, in front of the door, do you have the courage to push it?
- Ten represents the need for rest: welcomed, happy to finally be there, the pilgrim relaxes, sighs.

Servant of Pilgrimages St Bernadette of Lourdes

St Bernadette of Lourdes was born on January 7, 1844. She is a little girl, a shepherdess, when the Blessed

Virgin, who calls herself "Immaculate Conception", appears to her. Very pious, she turns to the religious authorities to report the fact to them. She sticks to the strict testimony of what she saw and heard "a luminous woman claiming to be the Immaculate Conception and asking for a pilgrimage", very little educated, she does not know what this name means and does not know that it is about Holy Mary. The priests take her for a storyteller. She continues to have apparitions, and perseveres in her affirmations. Popular curiosity is growing, and we wonder more and more about these visions. The idea that it would be the Mother of God is gaining ground. There is a spring near the cave, and the first miraculous healings are whispered. It was not until two years later that the apparitions were deemed credible by the commissions of inquiry. During these two years, Bernadette did not stop praying, to be questioned with more or less courtesy, and to remain humble and honest about her statements. She will subsequently enter orders, while Lourdes becomes one of the most important pilgrimages of Catholicism.

The Servant of Pilgrimages calls us to almost childish enthusiasm, to the desire to discover, to believe, to be open-minded and to welcome the world as it comes. She also asks us for perseverance and warns us of possible obstacles to come, which should be considered without being discouraged.

Prayer to St Bernadette of Lourdes

O St Bernadette, you who have been so pure and fervent all your life, lend me your childish eyes to marvel at the world and open up new perspectives for me. You who have been treated without regard by the authorities, give me the patience to cross the obstacles in my undertakings. You who have been touched by the word of the Blessed Virgin, who spoke to you with all her kindness and respect, always remind me that she watches over each of us and loves us like a mother. With you, St Bernadette, I pray for the world, that Peace will settle in hearts and souls, that the gushing spring of Lourdes washes away hatred and pain and draws the world towards more trust and solidarity.

Knight of Pilgrimages St Christopher

St Christopher is a relatively legendary character, who is said to have

died around 250. His name comes from the Greek *Khristos* (Christ) and *phorein* (porter). According to tradition, Christophe was a man of gigantic size, seeking to serve the most powerful man in the world. After many adventures, he understands that the person who even frightens the Devil is Christ. A hermit explains to him the foundations of Christianity and recommends him to put himself at the service of others. Considering his stature and his musculature, he advised him to become a ferryman at the edge of a particularly impetuous river. One day a small child came to him to cross. He took it on his shoulders, but as he advanced towards the other bank, the child became heavier and heavier, to the point that he had great difficulty in reaching the other bank. The child then revealed himself as being Christ: "Christophe, you did not only have everyone on you, but you carried on your shoulders the one who created the world: for I am Christ your king, to whom you have done a service in this; and to prove to you that I am speaking the truth, when you are ironed, drive your staff into the ground opposite your little house, and in the morning you will see that it has blossomed and borne fruit." Many conversions are then attributed to Christophe, until his death as a martyr.

St Christopher is the Patron Saint of travelers. Against all odds he protects them, like a true knight.

The Knight of Pilgrimages gives us the strength and dedication to undertake our life missions. It is also a sign of solid external help that we can solicit.

Prayer to St Christopher

O St Christopher, you who protect travelers and roads, you know how numerous the paths of my life were, and will be. Protect me on the way, from malice, error, despair, misguidance. I have full confidence in you, in your strength and your sense of discernment, with you I am serene, I fear nothing. Always guide me towards what is best for me, I will listen to you with humility, you who will whisper the words of God to me. Save me from the worst, and allow me, with you, to pray for those who are always on the roads: the drivers, the pilots, the guides, may God ensure their sight, their footing, their sense of direction, that they never get lost and do not cause an accident.

Queen of Pilgrimages St Bridget of Sweden

As its name suggests, St Bridget is Swedish. Born in 1303, she is a princess, from a very noble family, mother of eight children, including the future Catherine of Sweden (also a saint), before becoming a widow and taking the veil. She founded an abbey in 1346 and a new rule, which today is called the Bridgettines. She made many pilgrimages, to Compostela, Rome, Jerusalem, which she visited at the age of 69! She wrote many "revelations" following visions, and diplomatically worked for the unity of Christians, which earned her to be one of the Patronesses of Europe.

The queen of pilgrimages opens the way for us, let us follow her in her open-mindedness, her courage, her sense of diplomacy. With her, let's find the paths to hearts and souls, let's go beyond borders and limitations, let's not be afraid of what we will find.

Prayer to St Bridget of Sweden

O St Bridget, you have never feared the road, despite the difficulties and the insecurity that reigns there, you have often gone alone to the holy places! Allow me to taste your courage, your fervor, and keep me from the threats of this world. That in your image, I have no doubts when time comes to engage in projects that are right. That in your image, I know how to argue, explain, value and debate my choices. That in your image, I manage to leave a benevolent, positive, respectful trace in my entourage and my community. That with you, my words acquire a weight and a credibility, which some might doubt because of my age, my gender, my social position. May I pray with you for the unity of peoples and for Peace. May with your intercession, each one gain in this world, his place in dialogue and respect.

King of Pilgrimages St Judas Thaddaeus

The various traditions attribute different lives to St Judas Thaddaeus. He is one of the apostles, very close to Jesus, sometimes described as "his brother" which in the tradition of the time can describe a first cousin. This is what the Catholic tradition retains. After the resurrection of Christ, carrying the Holy Spirit received at Pentecost (represented by the flame above his head) which allows him to perform miracles in

the name of God, he preaches in Mesopotamia, Syria, Armenia. Then, with Simon the Zealot, his brother, he left for Persia where they died in martyrdom after having obtained a large number of conversions. Today he is the Patron Saint of difficult or desperate causes, to be brought closer to St Rita.

The king of pilgrimages invites us to go with confidence, miracles will accompany us, God will accompany us, even if we feel alone, abandoned, desperate... St Jude affirms, too, that we have the capacity to perform our own miracles, to create our own reality.

Prayer to St Judas Thaddaeus

O St Judas Thaddaeus, you see me in doubt, in uncertainty, you see me on the verge of despair. The situation I am going through weighs me down, you know the efforts I make to stay positive, but I no longer see a way out. O St Judas Thaddaeus, help me, give me back the hope in my abilities, the intelligence to apprehend my difficulties with a new eye, and the grace of finally being able to find my way back to the best. O St Judas Thaddaeus, if I have strayed, extend your hand to guide me. O St Judas Thaddaeus, you who have such a big heart, who went to others to bring them the love of God, sow in me your determination, your charity, your hope. Allow me, St Judas Thaddaeus, to shine in the world, to understand my trials, to make peace with my sufferings, to stand upright in my existence. With you, St Judas Thaddaeus, I want to pray for those who are going through the greatest misfortunes, that they do not fall into despair or defeatism, that their hearts always contain the love and optimism that leads to the peace of soul.

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The Fights

What is a fight?

There, it is not really a religious term, and this tarot does not call for the crusade (God, keep us)! It is a question, here, of thinking of the fight which each one carries out, every day, against their own demons, their own faults. Sometimes we have a tendency to sink into anger, to dream of revenge, or simply wanting to triumph in our actions by crushing others. This series brings reasonable doubt, seriousness of action, awareness, and righteousness. As the Marseille poet Akhénaton says: "The

so-called Satan wants us to fall for it but I fight the demon like the Lord of the Rings" (I invite you to read the lyrics, here in French, but maybe Google translate can help...), or even Massilia Sound System "But as Marseillais we do not have the right to lose the smile nor to lose the faith. If we lose our identity, we will regret it. We have to mix, yes we have to show the way, the people of Marseille, united, will always win, what there is to invent, together we will invent it, what there is to harvest, together we will share it. "(in Massilia Fai Avans, here in French also, but same, Brother Google intercede for us!...)

- Ace says: "who are you to fight?"
- Two says: "why and for whom are you going to fight?"
- Three says: "do you want to suffer or forgive?"
- Four says: "are you afraid of balance and peace?"
- Five says: "win, but at what cost?"
- Six says: "what are you afraid of losing?"
- Seven says: "what's your tipping point?"
- Eight says: "whose burden are you really carrying? Do you want to keep it?"
- Nine says: "what is the real victory?"
- Ten says: "the fight is over, what are you going to do now?"

Servant of Fights St Lucy

St Lucy of Syracuse is a virgin and martyr from a noble and very rich Sicilian family. She suffered martyrdom at the beginning of the 4th century, during the persecutions of Diocletian. One day, praying to St Agatha for the health of her mother, the Saint appeared to her: "Virgin Lucia, my sister, why are you coming to ask me what you will soon be able to grant to your mother? As I have been made guardian of the city of Catania, you will be made guardian of the city of Syracuse". Lucy's mother recovered the very next day, and Lucy encouraged her to distribute her share of the inheritance to the poor. Lucy had also taken the vow of perpetual virginity, but her mother had promised her to a man. He got into a very violent anger when he discovered that she was squandering the money he coveted and that she was refusing him. He therefore went to denounce her as a Christian to the consul, so that she could be tortured. In particular, her eyes were

gougued out, which made her patron saint of opticians, ophthalmologists, visually impaired. This was done before attempting to burn her alive, and finally slitting her throat with a sword.

St Lucy is also the patron saint of electricians and writers, of all those who want to shed light or bring light. The Servant of Fights invites us to have our eyes wide open, to be filled with curiosity, like Lucy who lost her eyes to see a new reality.

Prayer to St Lucy

O St Lucy, you who have such great faith, give me confidence in God, remind me that great news are coming my way, that my life will be transformed. O St Lucy, you who know the light that illuminates my heart, whisper to me that my wishes are granted, that I have but a little patience to have yet. St Lucy, if my eyes are closed, are veiled to the beauty of the world, are filled with darkness, sweep it all away with your goodness! May I recover a correct, loving, insightful view! With you, I want to see higher, further, see more opportunities and no longer use my eyes to judge or belittle. St Lucy, breathe in me the courage of the young woman that you are, who took the risk of doing what you thought was right. With you, finally, I want to pray for all those who are persecuted or judged for their religious affiliation, may the love of God protect them and change the hearts of their judges. With you, I also want to pray for all believers, that they never lose sight of their interior light and the common good, that their fervor never leads them to hate their neighbor.

Knight of Fights St Martin of Tours

St Martin of Tours was born in 316 in present-day Hungary, and died in Gaul, in 397. He was high-ranking in the Roman army, while being Christian in secret. One day, when he was posted around Amiens, after having distributed his salary to the needy, he shared his coat with a destitute man, chilled with cold. As soon as he could, he left the army and settled in Poitiers, near to a bishop he knew. Unable to become a priest because of his military past, he decides to become a hermit. During his travels, he was credited with several miracles: curing the sick, raising the dead, meeting the Devil and exorcising him ... He was appointed, against his will, bishop of the city of Tours and still shines there by his charity and his fervor.

The Knight of Fights calls us to act with determination, to combine impulse and reason.

Prayer to St Martin of Tours

O St Martin of Tours, you who are the bearer of the word and the charity of God, remind me of the importance of these virtues and always place them before my eyes. Bring me to know the battles that call me, and give me the intelligence to win them without anyone suffering. Arm me with patience and courage, instinct and heart. St Martin, allow me to find the battles that suit me, and that serve the common good. With you, I pray for those who live in conflict zones, watch over them, calm the spirits of the belligerents, remind them that we are all children, that each one deserves life and peace. St Martin, you who embody mercy, as you shared your mantle, share it on Earth.

Queen of Fights St Josephine Bakhita

St Josephine Bakhita was born in 1869 in Sudan and died on February 8, 1947 in Schio, Italy. Kidnapped from her family by traffickers, she was reduced to slavery at the age of nine, the treatments she undergoes are so harsh that she forgets her first name. She was then given the name of bakhita which means "lucky" in Arabic, implied "to still be alive". In 1883, she belonged to the Italian consul in Khartoum, who gave her the first name of Joséphine. Attached to the little girl, he takes her with him when he returns to Italy. She entered the service of another family, in Venice, where she attended catechism classes with the children. She then asks, one day, to stay in the convent which houses these courses. After bitter negotiations with the family who refused to give her her freedom, justice decided in favor of Josephine, free since slavery does not exist on Italian soil. She therefore entered the convent where she was baptized in 1890, then became a sister. She is then transferred to Schio, where she will remain until her death. Her image, of a good Black sister, appreciated by all for her gentleness and her devotion, will be used against her will by the fascist government, like that of the "good negro". All her life she responded to the violence and injustice that surrounded her with gentleness and compassion. John Paul II will say of her "This holy girl of Africa, shows that she is truly a child of God: the love and forgiveness of God are tangible realities which transform

her life in an extraordinary way". The queen of fights calls us to resilience, to wonder at the smallest things in the world, to look for the best in everyone.

Prayer to St Josephine Bakhita

O St Josephine Bakhita, you who suffered so much, you who have been subjected to all the outrages of the contemporary world, you have been dispossessed of your body, of your life, of your image, but you have always responded with patience and compassion. This great strength you have keeps me in check, I want to beg for some of it for my own daily struggles. St Josephine Bakhita, you who under the bombardments was no longer afraid of anything, teach me to have complete confidence, always remind me that I have survived everything so far in my life, and that it will continue to be. Thus, the force within my being is much greater than I realize. St Joséphine Bakhita, with you I pray for all those who still today are arbitrarily and violently deprived of their freedom, their body, their image, let us pray for all those reduced to slavery, that their suffering comes to an end, may the heart of their torturer become human and set them free.

King of Fights St Maurice

St Maurice is a Roman legionary. Belonging, like the other "martyrs of Valais", to the Theban legion (coming from Thebes, in Egypt), he is of the Coptic faith. This legion, and its leader, Maurice, are acclaimed for their great efficiency, tenacity in combat and bravery. At the time of Diocletian's anti-Christian persecutions, he was asked to massacre Christians in the province of North of the Alps. Maurice, and all of his troop, refused, and were condemned to death.

The king of fights speaks to us of our just struggles, of our ability to discern Good and Evil, and to sometimes lay down our arms to choose dialogue, or simply surrender.

Prayer to St Maurice

O St Maurice, you who is recognized as one of the most valiant warriors of your time, it is nevertheless for having laid down your weapons and accepting to die for not having wanted to kill, that you are acclaimed. Remind me, St Maurice, that true bravery and true mastery are not necessarily those of weapons. I know I am capable, able, in full control of my means, like you, and yet, I am afraid. You too experienced this doubt, this

anguish, on the day you decided not to carry out orders. Teach me to always keep a deep awareness of my actions. Teach me to never lose my soul by identifying with my skills, with my social image. Always remind me that I am more than I appear, more than what I have mastered, and that I can feel what is invisible to the eyes. Give me confidence in these invisible forces, reweave in me the bond of instinct and listening to the messages of God. Don't let me stray from my spirituality to obey the expectations of others.