

Dear Friend in Christ,

We are very excited to provide you with an initiative entitled “**Going Deeper in Prayer.**” The essence of this initiative is to pray a specific prayer each day, while deepening your understanding of the words and underlying principles. Praying the *Hail Mary* each day allows for an encounter with Our Blessed Mother, leading to conversation with her that becomes more personal.

The goal is that you continue to deepen your friendship with Jesus Christ and Mary. When you complete the year of praying the *Hail Mary* and learning more about this specific prayer, it will become a part of your life that you will never forget.

The *Hail Mary* prayer card can be downloaded from the website and inserted into a plastic sleeve to protect it. Go to <https://diolc.org/deeper> and click on **Going Deeper in Prayer.**



Resources for the *Hail Mary*:

The following **Resources** are also provided for use in helping you to go deeper in your understanding of the *Hail Mary*: <https://diolc.org/deeper> and click on **Going Deeper in Prayer.**

- A simple introduction about God’s love
- The goals for praying this prayer each day
- The meaning of the words of the prayer
- Learning the Principles
- Activities to help students remember the words
- Spiritual Comprehension: do they understand
- Encountering God in Prayer
- The Scriptural Foundation of the words of the prayer
- Resources

The following truths underlie any formation in prayer:

1. *The Person of Christ desires that you develop a friendship with Him.* This relationship is prayer. It is necessary to learn about Jesus, but even more importantly, you must encounter and develop a friendship with the Person of Christ in personal and communal prayer.

2. *It is also necessary to learn how to pray.* “Like a wise teacher Jesus takes hold of you where you are and leads you progressively toward the Father.” (CCC 2607). *Jesus will teach you how to pray!*

3. *The Holy Spirit dwells within you and guides you in prayer!* “The Holy Spirit is the interior Master of Christian prayer” (CCC 2672). The Holy Spirit will help and guide you to develop/deepen your daily habit of prayer. If you ask, He will even give you the desire to pray.

