



## ***Petition In Faith***

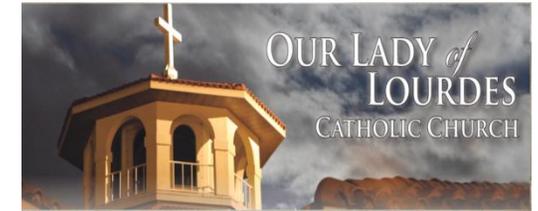
I am empty, Lord; fill me  
Sick with sorrow; heal me;  
Blinded by worldly ways; show me;  
I rush into foolishness, Lord; slow  
me.  
Like an earthly garden, Lord, I need  
You to tend me;  
Like a garment worn and torn; mend  
me  
Like an empty cup, fill me till I  
overflow,  
With Your loving goodness, Lord,  
So all the world may know;

That I was empty, Lord, and You  
filled me,  
Sick with sorrow; and You healed  
me;  
Blinded with worldly ways, until  
You came to show me  
That the only way to peace, dear  
Lord, is  
**To Know Thee**

Terry Tucker Francis, San Diego, Ca.



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## **Shawl Ministry**

“Shawls...made for  
centuries universal and  
embracing, symbolic of  
an inclusive,  
unconditionally loving  
God.

They wrap, enfold,  
comfort, cover, give  
solace, hug, shelter and  
beautify.

Those who have  
received these shawls  
have been uplifted and  
affirmed, as if given  
wings to fly above their  
troubles....”

Janet Bristow 1998-2004

## About the shawls

In 1988, Janet Bristow and Victoria Galo, two graduates of the 1997 Women's Leadership Institute at the Hartford Seminary in Hartford, Connecticut gave birth to a ministry as a result of their experience in this program of Spirituality, under the direction of Professor Miriam Therese Winter, MMS. Care and the love of knitting have been combined into a prayerful ministry that reaches out to those in need of comfort and solace. Many blessings are knitted into every shawl.

Whether they are called: "Prayer Shawls", "Comfort Shawls", "Peace Shawls" or "Manties", just to name a few; the knitter begins each shawl with prayers and blessings for the recipient. Intentions are continued throughout the creation of the shawl.

When the shawl is completed it is offered a final ritual before being sent on its way. Some recipients have returned the kindness themselves and passing it on to someone in need. Thus the blessing is rippled from person to person, with both giver and receiver feeling the unconditional embrace of a sheltering, loving God!

## This is your Prayer Shawl,

your cover, your mantle, your wings to take you above your troubles – a place you can enter whenever the need arises. Wrap It around you when you're happy, sad, needing comfort, cold, ill, worried, at peace, needing answers, have no questions or meditating. Let it be a sacred space where you can meet God, loving and non-judging. Where you can just be!

Many people across the country, and around the world, have received these covers, and are in turn passing them on. Little did we know that the simple act of knitting a shawl of comfort for someone would become a ministry that would take on a life of it's own! A person to person grassroots effort. It has become a way to reach out to others and pass on a blessing.

Traditionally, orthodox, Jewish men wear prayer shawls called a "tallit". There are the same as what Jesus wore. It is believed that the bleeding woman who touched the hem of his garment actually touched the fringe of his tallit, and was healed.

Wrapping yourself in a prayer shawl creates a barrier to outside distractions, much like a small room or tent for a meeting between you and God.

## The stitches of this shawl

have been knitted in groups of three, a very significant number. Often things occur in groups of three such as:

*Faith, Hope, Charity*  
*Creator, Redeemer, Sustainer*  
*Past, Present, Future*  
*Birth, Death, Rebirth*  
*Body, Mind, Spirit*  
*Farther, Son, Holy Spirit*  
Just to name a few.

Notice the beads tied to the fringe as a source of meditation and beauty in the decades of the Rosary. You will always have the Rosary around you. I have blessed this wrap with my intentions, prayers and good wishes as you journey on to new life experiences. May they be fulfilling and rewarding.

As you wrap yourself into this shawl, may the cradle of comfort, the keeper of deep places, the enfolder of all life, cradle, keep and enfold you with hope, joy, love and peace. May this cover bring you what you need.

With many blessings,  
Our Lady of Lourdes Of Venice, Fl.  
Shawl Ministry

