



# **PREFACE**

All of the components in this Millions of Monicas binder have been designed with specific intention and prayer.

Please do not add or omit any component or wording without prior written consent of the National Leadership Team.

# Weekly Reflection

It will be up to your leaders to choose the weekly reflection each week as well as the opening and closing songs.

Use the Pray As You Go APP (**can be accessed through the Laudate APP if needed**) to discern your reflection. These APPS can be downloaded for apple or android phones. They can also be downloaded as an APP to a computer.

## **To discern the reflection:**

On the day of your Millions of Monicas, do one of the following:

### **EITHER**

Open the Pray As You Go APP and access that day's reading

### **OR**

Open the Laudate App.

Choose Daily Readings and Saint of the Day.

Choose Pray-As-You-Go.org podcast.

Either way, you will be able to listen through the meditation to help you discern the appropriate reflection for your meeting.

# FLOW OF THE EVENING

† **Leaders pray together:** Holy Spirit, fill us with a sense of wonder in an understanding that St. Monica is prompting women everywhere to imitate her life. We ask that you guide us in our words and actions and guide this movement forward as more women join in the spiritual battle for the souls of our children.

**Arrival** – Leadership team greets women as they arrive and helps them select the folder or folder additions needed for the evening. The arrival table has weekly prayer sheets, signs and sowings cards, the email sign-up sheet, folders, and pens. It may include a statue of our Blessed Mother or a St. Monica statue. A table has also been placed at the front of the church. On it are the crucifixes and a small basket for the signs and sowings cards. Quiet music plays in church as women find their seats.

**Opening Remarks** – Facilitator

**Opening song** \_\_\_\_\_

**Meeting Reflection** \_\_\_\_\_

(Listen to the daily reflection to discern the theme)

**Play Meeting Reflection** – play on device from Pray-As-You-Go or Laudate APP

**Signs and Sowings** – Facilitator describes. Quiet meditative music plays while women are filling in and bringing forward their cards.

**Trust Me Prayer** – Facilitator

**Small Group Crucifixes** – Facilitator guides. Quiet meditative music plays during this activity.

**Mom Prayer** – Facilitator

**Rosary** – Facilitator or leadership team member leads. Quiet meditative music plays.

**Prayer to St. Monica** - Facilitator

**Closing Remarks** – Facilitator

**Closing Song** \_\_\_\_\_

**Departure** – Calm hopeful music plays in church as women leave.

*\*This page can be laminated and placed in the front pocket of the binder. We suggest having two, one for the leader and one for the musician. \*Dry erase markers work great to fill in the blanks as they change weekly.*



# **OPENING REMARKS**

**FACILITATOR:** Welcome! We pray to encounter God through prayer for ourselves, and for our children, as we grow in holiness and humility.

We are mothers, grandmothers, aunts, Godmothers and Confirmation sponsors who, together, bring all our concerns in prayer before our Heavenly Father. We know by coming together, that we are not alone, and this gives us blessed reassurance and hope.

Welcome especially if you are new. We are glad you are joining us.

Just like every week, we will be lifting up our children, and each other, in prayer. Some of our children are practicing Catholics, others have become disconnected from their Catholic faith. We pray for ALL OF OUR CHILDREN as we lift them up so that ALL may embrace and live more fully our beautiful Catholic faith.

To ensure the comfort of all, as well as maintain the privacy of those participating in Millions of Monicas, please do not share any information regarding prayer requests out of the group setting.

Take out the prayer sheet from your folder. The reflection we will be contemplating is \_\_\_\_\_, so fill that in on the prayer sheet, at the top, where it says reflection.

And now, let us begin by nourishing our own personal spiritual journey as we sing and meditate on the song \_\_\_\_\_.

Please stand.



**WEEKLY  
MEDITATION**

**Facilitator:** Please be seated. We will now play today's scripture reading and reflection, where we can see the work of God in our lives through His word. Today's reflection is approximately \_\_\_\_\_ minutes long.

**Facilitator, Musician or Leadership starts the APP playing by doing the following:**

**EITHER**

Open the Pray As You Go APP

Click on PLAY

The current day's reading will pop up

Press the PLAY arrow to begin

**OR**

Open the Laudate App.

Choose Daily Readings and Saint of the Day.

Then choose Pray-As-You-Go.org podcast.

It will start playing automatically



**SIGNS  
AND  
SOWINGS**



**FACILITATOR:** Next we will take some time to reflect on seeing the work of God in our lives this past week in a tangible way.

Take out the card located in your blue folder called Signs and Sowings. It is two-sided. What you write is anonymous, we do not read them.

This is a time for us to contemplate the signs we are seeing in the children we have been praying for, as well as to write down what we have done last week to sow the seeds of faith in the children of others. It might not have been the child of someone here, but we encounter the children of others throughout the week too and we have opportunities to evangelize and call others back to church as well as to encourage and strengthen those who are actively practicing their beautiful Catholic faith.

When you are finished filling it in, bring it up to the basket on the table and drop it in. Make sure to reverence our Lord in the tabernacle. This is an outward sign of surrendering our children over to God and placing them into His care.

***Facilitator or music person: Turn ON quiet background music now***

**FACILITATOR: Allow maybe 5 minutes total for this activity. Keep an eye on everyone to see when all are finished**

***Facilitator or music person: Turn OFF music when finished***



**TRUST  
ME  
PRAYER**

**FACILITATOR:** Now we will read the Trust Me prayer, as a reminder to all of us to place all of our trust in God always. The prayer card is found in your blue folder. Get that out now. Please stand.

**FACILITATOR:**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen. Do you believe that I am the Son of God? And do you believe that I died for all men and women and that I rose from the dead? Then why do you continue to be distracted and anxious about your loved ones? Do they not also belong to Me? Would I refuse to work in their lives just as I work in yours?

I have not put you in charge of redeeming them. I have already done that. Nor do you have the power to change their hearts; only my Holy Spirit searches and knows the deepest hearts of men and women, and only He can heal their deepest wounds. Your task is to love, to forgive, to pray for them and to turn them over to Me. Come closer to Me yourself, and I will do the rest. TRUST ME!



**SMALL GROUP  
CRUCIFIX  
PRAYER**

## **FACILITATOR:**

Next, we will take some time to pray SILENTLY for each child that we bring as an intention before the Lord. During this time, we will be sharing only the first and middle name of the child we are praying for. As each mother takes a turn, the rest of the women in the group will be praying SILENTLY for that mother and her intention.

We would like you to get into groups of 3 now. If able, please find some moms you don't know and gather with them if possible. Select one person from each group to come to the altar to get a crucifix.

*Facilitator or music person: Turn ON quiet background music now*

We will begin by having the mother holding the crucifix tell the rest of the people in her group the first and middle name of the child she is praying for. For rest of the members in that group, please write that name your prayer sheet so you can pray for that mother and that child SILENTLY now AND throughout the week. (PAUSE)

† Mother with the crucifix, as you gaze upon the face of Jesus on the cross, the questions for you to silently meditate on are: What does the phrase \_\_\_\_\_ make you think about in regard to your child and yourself AND in what special way do you and your child need \_\_\_\_\_?

*(Time passes, 2-3 minutes at least)*

When you are ready, please pass the crucifix.

† Mother with the crucifix – tell the group the first and middle name of the child you are praying for. **(PAUSE)** Mother with the crucifix, as you gaze upon the face of Jesus on the cross, the questions for you to silently meditate on are: What does the phrase \_\_\_\_\_ make you think about in regard to your child and yourself AND in what special way do you and your child need \_\_\_\_\_?

*(Time passes, 2-3 minutes at least)*

When you are ready, please pass the crucifix.

†Mother with the crucifix – tell the group the first and middle name of the child you are praying for.  
**(PAUSE)** Mother with the crucifix, as you gaze upon the face of Jesus on the cross, the questions for you to silently meditate on are: What does the phrase \_\_\_\_\_ make you think about in regard to your child and yourself AND in what special way do you and your child need \_\_\_\_\_?

*(Time passes, 2-3 minutes at least)*

**AND NOW WE WILL TAKE 1 MINUTE TO PRAY FOR ALL THOSE CHILDREN WHO HAVE NO ONE PRAYING FOR THEM.**

*(Time passes, 1 minute)*

Please bring the crucifixes back to the basket.

*Facilitator or music person: Turn OFF quiet background music now*



**MOM  
PRAYER**



**FACILITATOR:** Next we will read the MOM prayer together. It is on the reverse side of your Prayer Sheet. Where you see the long line, each of us will insert the first and middle name of the child we are praying for, spoken all at once, in unison. Please stand.

**FACILITATOR:**

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen. Almighty Father, soften the hearts of your children who have strayed from the true path You established for their salvation. Grant, that they may quickly return to the practice of every Christian virtue.

Also hold in your protection Your children who continue to walk in their Catholic faith in a struggling world. We pray for all of them; that their lives may shine with the integrity of faith, the fervor of piety and the ardor of charity.

We offer to you in prayer: \_\_\_\_\_ [Name].

Protect them and restore them all to your sacraments and the life of Your grace through the merits of the most precious blood of Your Son, our Savior, Jesus Christ.

May we also grow in virtue and humility so that they may see Your love reflected in us!

AMEN



# ROSARY

**FACILITATOR:** Next we will pray the rosary together. If you want to come forward now and join us in the front pews, we would love that, but if you want to stay where you are, that's fine too.

As we pray, let us hold in our hearts the intention of our children's return to our beautiful Catholic faith.

**FACILITATOR OR LEADER FROM THE CONGREGATION:** Leads Rosary.



**PRAYER  
TO  
ST. MONICA**

**FACILITATOR:** Next we will pray the prayer to St. Monica. This can be found in your folder on the reverse side of the Welcome Sheet. As we pray this beautiful prayer to St. Monica, when we see the word “Name” in parentheses each of us will say the first and middle name of the child we are praying for, out loud, all at once, in unison, lifting our chorus of names spoken to the Lord. Please stand.

**FACILITATOR:**

In the name of the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Under the weight of my heartfelt burden, I turn to you, dear St. Monica and request your assistance and intercession. From your place in heaven, I beg that you will plead before the Throne of the Holy One, for the sake of my child, \_\_\_\_\_ [NAME], who has wandered from the faith, and all that we have tried to teach. I know, dear Monica, that our children belong not to us, but to God, and that God often permits this wandering as part of one’s journey toward Him. Your son, Augustine, wandered, too; eventually he found the faith, and came to believe, and in that belief became a true teacher.

Help me, therefore, to have patience and to believe that all things – even this disappointing movement away from the faith – work ultimately to His own good purposes. For the sake of my child’s soul, I pray to understand and trust this. St. Monica, please teach me to persist in faithful prayer as you did for your son’s sake. Inspire me to behave in ways that will not further distance my child from Christ, but only draw \_\_\_\_\_ [NAME] gently toward His marvelous light. Please teach me what you know about this painful mystery of separation, and how it is reconciled in the re-orientation of our children toward heaven.

O Saint Monica, lover of Christ and His Church, pray for me and for my child \_\_\_\_\_ [NAME], that we may acquire heaven, joining with you, there, in offering constant and thankful praise to God. AMEN.



# **CLOSING REMARKS**

**FACILITATOR:** Before our closing song, we want to remind you to take your blue folder home and pray daily for the children whose names you wrote down. Bring your folders back next time and we will continue to add pages to it.

We will be meeting on most \_\_\_\_\_ (*say day/time of the week*) but there are a few times we won't. We have a calendar posted on our website: millions of monicas dot com. There, you will also find more information about St. Monica and why we have chosen her as our intercessor Saint.

Our prayer ministry is spread by sharing our experience with others, so if you know other women who would be blessed by joining us, we encourage you to invite them.

Also, there is an optional email sign up in the back if you want to get reminder emails on \_\_\_\_\_ mornings about whether or not we are meeting.

It has been a beautiful time with you, lifting all our children up in prayer, and we look forward to seeing you next week.

Please stand and join in singing our closing song:

\_\_\_\_\_.