

The Hail Mary Prayer and the Corona Virus

Many knowledgeable of the history of the Hail Mary prayer claim that the second part of the prayer – “Holy Mary, Mother of God...” was added during the Black Death epidemic. It was a plea for protection to the Blessed Mother during this deadly plague. Because in the prayer the author talks about two decisive moments of life - “now” and “in the hour of our death” – the historians suggest that this part of the prayer is a spontaneous loud scream of humanity in a great tragedy. The Black Death killed one-third of the whole population of Europe. At the time “now” and “in the hour of our death” were intertwined. To ask the Blessed Mother for help was, for them, an intuitive and essential step. Only in 1568 the whole prayer became the prayer of the Church and incorporated into the Roman Breviary. Let us pray the Hail Mary as often as we can.

- Learned from book of Father Donald H. Collway entitled “Archbishop Fulton Sheen, The Plague and Ave Maria”