

## MY MOTHER, MY CONFIDENCE – MATER MEA, FEDUCIA MEA!



**PIME Missionaries' Annual Novena to**

*Our Lady of Confidence*

**May 6-14**

**PIME Missionaries**  
Crossing Cultures Transforming Lives  
Through the Gospel

### **Novena Prayer**

O Mary, Mother of God and Mother of the Church, to you we entrust our life. We are your children and in your hands we place all our needs. To you, Virgin of Nazareth, we humbly offer our desire to follow Jesus on the path of love with fidelity and perseverance, so that we may serve Him with an undivided and generous heart. Guide us always with motherly love. Sustain us in our weakness; strengthen us in hope. Increase our trust in God, our love for Christ, and our fidelity to the Church. Amen.

### **The Story**

The Madonna della Fiducia (Our Lady of Confidence) is a beautiful portrait of the Blessed Virgin Mary with the Infant Jesus in her arms. It is small, copper, oval picture painted by Carlo Maratta (1625 – 1713). Maratta donated it to Sister Clare Isabella, the Abbess of the Poor Clares of St. Francis Convent of Todi, Italy. Sister Isabella developed a deep and tender devotion to the Blessed Mother through the beautiful painting. She received a promise of particular consolation from the Blessed Virgin Mary for all who venerate her through the image. Mary's intercession is typically invoked through the short prayer "My Mother, My Confidence," or by the recitation of the novena prayer that follows.

### **The Promise**

"The divine Lady deigned to reveal to me that every soul that confidently presents herself before this picture will obtain from her Divine Son the general pardon for all her sins. Moreover, my divine Lady assured me with the love of a true mother that she would grant a special tenderness to everyone who contemplated this picture."

### **The History**

The devotion to Our Lady of Confidence by the seminarians of the Pontifical Major Seminary in Rome goes back to the late 18th century. A copy of the picture is venerated today in the chapel of the seminary, next to the Basilica of St. John Lateran. The seminary has always held the picture in great esteem. During World War I, the Blessed Virgin watched over the more than 100 seminarians and alumni who had recourse to her. Among them was the young Angelo Roncalli the future St. John XXIII. The late Fr. Nicolas Maestrini, PIME, an alumnus of the Roman Major Seminary, obtained a canvas copy of the image from his alma mater. The picture came as a gift and was installed in the chapel of the newly built Maryglade PIME College in Memphis, Michigan in the 1960's. Today, the painting hangs in the chapel of the PIME USA Regional Headquarters in Detroit.