

*~We greet you Saint Raymond, who visited, consoled, refreshed, and strengthened the faith of those Christians deprived of liberty.*

*Hail Mary ...*

Repeat these following prayers for each decade of the chaplet:

On the separating bead of the chaplet pray one *Our Father* and the following prayer:

*O God, by Your grace, Saint Raymond accomplished wonders in the redemption of Your faithful people from the hands of wicked people; grant, I implore You, by his prayerful intercession, that freed from the bondage of my sins, I may, with a liberated mind, always do what is pleasing to Your holy will.*

Recite on each of the 10 red beads one *Hail Mary*.

On the final separating bead, pray the *Glory Be*.

**V.** Pray for us, O holy Saint Raymond

**R.** That we may become worthy of the promises of Christ.

*O God, You have granted remarkable success to the efforts of Saint Raymond in releasing Christians from the slavery of unbelievers. May his prayers free us from the slavery of sin, so that we may fulfill Your holy will with complete freedom. Amen.*



*This devotion is based on the ancient tradition of the Order of Our Lady of Mercy.*

*Cover art by Brother Enrique José, Mercedarian Novice.*

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## Chaplet of Saint Raymond Nonnatus



## Brief Biography of Saint Raymond Nonnatus Cardinal Saint of the Mercedarian Order

Saint Raymond Nonnatus was born at the end of the twelfth century in Portell, Spain. According to tradition, he was taken from the womb of his mother following her death, hence, his name "nonnatus," which means "not born." In 1221, he entered the Order of Our Lady of Mercy, founded by Saint Peter Nolasco in 1218 to ransom Christian captives. Sent to Algiers, Africa, he bought the liberty of many Christian captives with the alms gathered for that purpose by his order and, when the money failed, he gave himself as a hostage.

After several months of torture, another Mercedarian arrived to ransom Raymond and other captives. After his return to Spain, he was elevated to the College of Cardinals by Pope Gregory IX in 1239, and was called to Rome by the Pope. But he went as far as Cardona, Spain, where he became gravely ill. According to Mercedarian tradition, before dying, Raymond was privileged with a vision of our Lord who comforted and gave him viaticum. His body was carried to the Shrine of Our Lady in Lerida, Spain, where Raymond prayed as a youth. Later, a church was built in his honor there, the Sanctuary of St. Raymond Nonnatus, which became a popular place of pilgrimage.

In 1657, Raymond's name was placed in the Roman Martyrology by Pope Alexander VII. He is usually depicted in the white Mercedarian habit holding in his right hand a monstrance as a sign of his deep devotion to the Blessed Sacrament. In his left hand is a palm branch surrounded by three crowns symbolizing his chastity, his heroic Christian witness, and his suffering.

He is known to be the patron of Christian families and expectant mothers. Many have called upon his intercession to overcome spiritual lukewarmness and to be freed from bodily pain.

### INSTRUCTIONS FOR PRAYING THE CHAPLET

The chaplet in honor of Saint Raymond consists of three groups of 10 red beads separated with a white bead between the groups. On the medal of Saint Raymond, which is attached to the strand that begins this devotion, pray:

*O God, come to my assistance.  
O Lord, make haste to help me.*

Then invoke Saint Raymond, praying for your spiritual conversion from lukewarmness and the captivity of sin, by saying:

*Blessed Saint Raymond, whose birth was the special object of the Lord's mercy and who was accepted by the Most Holy Virgin of Mercy as her very own son, I ask that you attain for me the virtues that transformed you to the service of captive Christians; the love of the most holy virgin, Mary; the exemplary practice of faith, hope, and love; the mortification of the senses; the spirit of prayer; and intimate union with Christ in the Eucharist. I ask you to intercede before the Lord and His virgin mother to liberate me from the evils of this world, the tyranny of my own passions, and inspire me with a lively faith and a sincere interest in my salvation. Obtain for me divine mercy, true contrition for my sins, fortitude in faith, the grace to love God and neighbor, and final perseverance in God's holy will. Amen.*

On each of the three initial red beads, recite the following salutations to Saint Raymond on each bead:

*~We greet you Saint Raymond, recognizing the special providence which God had in giving you such a special birth, declaring you the singular protector of expectant mothers and Christian families.*

*Hail Mary ...*

*~We greet you Saint Raymond, who through your great love and suffering even to the point of being silenced for the sake of the Gospel endured all for the sake of the Christian captives.*  
*Hail Mary ...*