

# DIVORCED AND FAITHFUL: ALL IS RESTORED IN CHRIST

*The Church journeys with each person through moments of heartbreaking sadness such as divorce offering a message of hope, love and mercy that is found in a relationship with Jesus Christ.*

## SAINTS AND PRAYERS

### *Saint Helen, Feast Day: August 18*

Because she found the True Cross in Jerusalem, for many centuries devotion to St. Helen has been linked to devotion to the Holy Cross. It would be hard to find a painting, statue or holy card of her that does not depict her embracing the cross.

But there is another facet of Helen's life. After 22 years of marriage, Helen's husband, Constantius, divorced her in order to make a politically advantageous marriage with a young woman who was a member of Rome's imperial family.

Clearly, St. Helen would be a natural choice as patron of divorced and divorcing people, so why has this devotion to her arisen only recently? For most of the 1,700 years since Helen's death, divorce was rare, even among non-Catholics. Today, when divorce has become commonplace, St. Helen is offered to unhappy spouses as a heavenly patron who can truly sympathize with their anguish.

*(from [www.americancatholic.org](http://www.americancatholic.org))*



### *Prayer in Times of Family Strife*

God of compassion and grace,  
In your steadfast love accompany (Name) and (Name).  
As you ever work to restore and renew your people,  
overcome bitterness with your joy,  
hatred with your love, brokenness with your life;  
and give us hope  
through the death and Resurrection of your Son,  
Jesus Christ our Lord.  
Amen.