

The Rosary, Like David's Sling Shot Against the Giant - Evil!

Making the rosary a family prayer is very pleasing to me. I ask that all families strive to do so. But be careful to say it with great devotion, meditating on each mystery and striving to imitate in your daily lives the virtues depicted therein. Live the mysteries of the rosary as I lived them, and it will become a chain binding you to me forever. They who are found in the circle of my rosary will never be lost. I myself will lead them at death to the throne of my Son, to be eternally united to Him.

(Sister Mildred (Mary Ephrem) Neuzil, Diary, OUR LADY OF AMERICA®, Fostoria, Ohio, Pg. 21,)

This is a powerful promise Our Lady made to Sister Mildred (Mary Ephrem) Neuzil on the feast of the Most Holy Rosary, October 7, 1957. Over twenty years later, on February 11, 1981, she would again state:

If possible, the *family rosary* should be prayed every day with as many members of the family who may be present. (Diary, Pg. 39.)

The word “**rosary**” means “**rose garden,**” “**garland,**” “**bouquet of roses.**” Pagans, whose ritual of devotion to their gods included crowning their idols with roses, turned their hatred for the true God to persecution of Christians. To repudiate their practice, many Christian virgins went to their martyrdom dressed in their finest and wearing a crown of roses which the brethren later gathered and used in their prayer. An old legend tells of a youth praying the Rosary; as each Hail Mary left his lips and Our Lady gathered them, they became rose buds which she then wove into a crown for her own head. How many times have we followed this practice with our May crowning, weaving roses or other flowers to crown the head of Mary's image?

The 150 Psalms of David, called the Psalter, formed the Liturgy of God's people for centuries before Christ. Christ prayed these Psalms; so did the apostles. They are the chief form of Christian prayer. The Psalms were put into 7 groups of 3 hours each and would be chanted in the local churches by monks or cantors. The people were expected to attend, at least for Prime and Compline, morning and evening prayer. Since ordinary, uneducated people were often unable to attend or could not read to chant, Pater Nosters were eventually substituted for the Psalms. A method was needed to keep track of the number of times the prayer was said. Records indicate the origin of “beads” began with the desert Fathers who used pebbles to count their prayers, or put pegs in boards. Others claim the Muslims and Buddhists of the East were first to use “rosaries” or strings of beads for counting their prayers of praise to God, and that this

practice was brought to the West with the Crusades. Hence, rosaries were often referred to as “counters.” When Pater Nosters were substituted for psalms, this string of beads became known as a “paternoster.”

The Middle Ages saw an intense devotion to Mary and soon the Hail Mary was substituted for the Pater Nosters. First only the greeting of the Archangel Gabriel to Mary was used. Later the greeting of Elizabeth at the Visitation was added, and in 1568 Pope Saint Pius V added the remainder of the Hail Mary as we know it. The rosary kept the format of the 150 Psalms with 150 Hail Mary’s, but to be more easily said, the rosary was broken into groups of 50, with each set devoted to meditation on one of the great mysteries of Christ’s redemptive mission, his birth(Joyful), his death (Sorrowful), and his resurrection (the Glorious mysteries). Often the rosary was depicted with 10 white beads, roses, for the Hail Mary’s in honor of Mary’s purity, and 1 red for the Our Father in honor of the Precious Blood of Jesus shed for our salvation. Interestingly, there have been some rosaries found with six (6) decades and the three (3) extra beads we find in the beginning of our Rosary after the Creed, thought to have been devised to honor the 63 years Tradition tells us Mary lived on earth. Over time the Salve Regina was attached to the Rosary and today we attach also the Prayer to St. Michael, defender of God’s honor and protector of His people. There is no other devotion that has had as many indulgences attached to it as does the Rosary. The Rosary is the prayer Our Lady herself gave us for the conversion of sinners and the salvation of souls and for bringing the peace of Christ to our world. ***Our Lady gave the Rosary to St. Dominic as a weapon against the Albigensian heresy and all future error and vice.***

Reference: <http://www.newadvent.org/cathen/13184b.htm>

With so much false teaching, heresy and so many false messiahs in our world today, is it any wonder that Our Lady of America® is calling us to again renew our devotion to the Rosary, and especially to the family Rosary in order to protect the Christian family and Christian marriage from the many assaults being made upon them in society today?

In recent times, noting the gap between Christ’s hidden life and His death and resurrection, Pope John Paul II the Great, Mary’s Pope, added the Luminous Mysteries to recount the public life of Jesus. With the prayers of the rosary flowing from Scripture, and with Mary as the Mother of the Redeemer and of the Church, sharing so intimately in Christ’s redemptive mission, this prayer becomes a “compendium of the Gospel.” Although a vocal prayer, meditation and contemplation of these sacred mysteries of Christ’s life are an integral part of reciting the rosary. As stated so clearly in the message of Our Lady of America®, Mary is co-redemptrix with Christ in God’s plan of salvation for all mankind. Devotion to Mary is a sacred tradition in the Catholic Church, deeply celebrated in our Liturgy and rooted in the Scriptures and teachings of the early

Fathers and Popes throughout the centuries. Records show 22 encyclical letters have been written on devotion to Mary and the rosary. This “Gospel strung on beads” has wrought more miracles than any other prayer.

See the list: <http://tomsdomain.com/rosary/id19.htm>

Pope Paul VI wrote in “*Rosaries to the Mother of Christ*,” how we should especially turn to Mary in times of trouble.

If misfortunes increase, the dedication of the people of God should also increase. And for that reason we are anxious for you, venerable brothers, to give a lead and urge by exhortation a more persevering prayer to the gracious Virgin Mary by the devout recitation of the Rosary during the month of October, as we have already indicated. This prayer is well suited to God’s people, acceptable to the Mother of God and powerful in obtaining gifts from heaven.

(Daughters of St. Paul, *17 Papal Documents on the Rosary*, Boston, MA, 1980, Pg.12)

In his encyclical letter “*Marialis Cultis*,” page 4, Pope Paul VI states further that to increase in our love for Jesus is to naturally increase in our love for His Mother.

The development, desired by us, of devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary is an indication of the Church’s genuine piety. This devotion fits—as we have indicated above—into the only worship that is rightly called “Christian,” because it takes its origin and effectiveness from Christ, finds its complete expression in Christ, and leads through Christ in the Spirit to the Father. In the sphere of worship this devotion necessarily reflects God’s redemptive plan, in which a special form of veneration is appropriate to the singular place which Mary occupies in that plan. Indeed every authentic development of Christian worship is necessarily followed by a fitting increase of veneration for the Mother of the Lord.

On page 44 of *Marialis Cultis*, Pope Paul VI goes on to recommend the **family rosary**, calling **the Christian family the domestic Church** and addresses the common life of teaching, witnessing and praying together that must go on within the home.

We now desire, as a continuation of the thought of our predecessors, to recommend strongly the recitation of the family Rosary. The Second Vatican Council has pointed out how the family, **the primary and vital cell of society**, “shows itself to be the domestic sanctuary of the Church through the mutual affection of its members and the common prayer they offer to God.” The Christian family is

thus seen to be a domestic church, if its members, each according to his proper place and tasks, all together promote justice, practice works of mercy, devote themselves to helping their brethren, take part in the apostolate of the wider local community and play their part in its liturgical worship. This will be all the more true if together they offer up prayers to God. If this element of common prayer were missing, the family would lack its very character as a domestic Church. Thus there must logically follow a concrete effort to reinstate communal prayer in family life if there is to be a restoration of the theological concept of the family as the domestic Church.

Is it any wonder that already in the 1940's, Sister Mildred was led to understand that her mission was to converge on the renewal of the family? What better way than to pray together. Are we not reminded of Fr. Patrick Peyton's Rosary Crusades of the post WWII era and his two memorable claims: **"The family that prays together stays together,"** and **"A world at prayer is a world at peace."**

Pope John XXIII in his letter, *"On Grateful Memory,"* declares:

The Rosary, as is known to all, is in fact a very excellent means of prayer and meditation in the form of a mystical crown in which the prayers "Our Father," "Hail Mary" and "Glory be to the Father" are intertwined with meditation on the greatest mysteries of our Faith and which presents to the mind, like many pictures, the drama of the Incarnation of Our Lord and the Redemption."

(Daughters of St. Paul, Pg. 88)

Pope Leo XIII recounts the victory of the Rosary in history. In the 13th century, France was plagued with the Albigensian heresy which saw all matter as the work of Satan and evil. These views led to an anti-life agenda, refuting the dignity of human life, enabling a system of murder, making marriage a crime and suicide a victory over evil matter, thereby creating truly a **"culture of death."** Doesn't this sound familiar? St. Dominic was a gifted preacher but complained to Our Lady that he was ineffectual. In 1208 Our Lady appeared to him and gave him the Rosary as a weapon against heresy and vice.

Wonder not that until now you have obtained so little fruit by your labors: you have spent them on a barren soil, not yet watered with the dew of divine grace. When God willed to renew the face of the earth, He began by sending down on it the fertilizing rain of the Angelic Salutation. Preach my Psalter (rosary) composed of 150 Angelic Salutations and 15 Our Fathers and you will obtain an abundant harvest.

(Robert Feeney, *The Rosary – "The Little Summa,"* Aquinas Press, revised 2001, pg.35.)

St. Dominic immediately began preaching the rosary which he arranged in decades with meditations from the Gospels and conversions took place wherever he went. He especially preached in defense of the Truths of the Faith; thus the rosary became truly the **weapon against evil and error, and the means of victory over the Albigensian heresy.** The rosary is the earmark of the Dominican order. When it fell into public disuse, Our Lady again appeared, this time to Blessed Alan de la Roche in 1460, asking him to re-establish the devotion Dominic is credited with instituting. Alan then began the Confraternities of the Rosary which rooted it deeply in the lives of the faithful.

The power of the Rosary to change history is unforgettable in the famed Battle of Lepanto on October 7, 1571, in which Pope Pius V called for the recitation of the Rosary for victory for the small Christian fleets against the indomitable forces of the Ottoman empire in the Gulf of Patras off the coast of Greece. In a vision the Pope saw the victory before it was reported to him. Grateful, he established the feast of “Our Lady of Victories” and also added the invocation, “Mary, Help of Christians” to Our Lady’s Litany. Although the Turks later regained the island, this victory remains in history as a testament to the defeat of the Turks, preventing their control of all of Europe. It exhilarated the morale of the rest of Europe that this powerful force could be reckoned with, through the intercession of a singular Lady. Later, Pope Gregory XIII changed the feast of “Our Lady of Victories” to “The Feast of the Most Holy Rosary,” stating, **“the Rosary has been instituted by St. Dominic to appease the anger of God and to implore the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary.”**

It had become clear with these victories that the Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary is a defense for the Church and for all Christians. Pope Urban IV said “every day the Rosary obtained fresh blessings for Christianity.” Pope Leo XIII said “it was instituted to oppose pernicious heresiarchs [leaders of heretical movements] and heresies.” **Pope Pius XII compared the Rosary to the sling shot of David whereby he overcame the giant Goliath.**

It is not with physical force, not with arms, not with human power, but with the divine help obtained through the Rosary, that the Church and all its members, strong and undaunted like David with his sling shot, will be able to confront the infernal enemy.

Blessed John XXIII was quick to remind us that **it must come after the Mass and the Breviary for priests, and after the sacraments for the laity.** It should never be said during the liturgy of the most Holy Eucharist which is the source and summit of the Christian life, the most important prayer of the Church and the greatest of all the sacraments.

(Feeney, Pg. 58)

John Paul II the Great tells us to make the Rosary the chain that binds us to God, through Mary. He called the Rosary the “compendium of the Gospel.” In his encyclical, ***Rosarium Virginis Mariae***, he gave us the Luminous Mysteries and established the Year of the Rosary, October 2002 –October 2003. As the most traveled Pope in history,

we can still hear ringing in our ears, “John Paul II, we love you,” that endearing chant of the young. To the Youth of the world he said:

Dear young people, esteem the Rosary, raise a joyful song to the Queen of Heaven, and may you delight in reciting it. (Feeney, pg. 77)

The future lies in our Youth. No wonder Our Lady of America® calls especially on the Youth of America to assist her as “Torchbearers of the Queen” in leading Youth from around the world in renewing the face of the earth. Do our young people know the power of Our Lady’s Rosary in obtaining purity, peace and victory over evil?

At Fatima, during World War I, Our Lady told the shepherd children to pray the rosary every day for peace and the conversion of sinners and, if they did so, the war would end. It did. During World War II, four Jesuits whose residence was in the middle of the one-mile radius of the Hiroshima bomb, survived untouched while everything around them was incinerated. Scientists are still baffled; how could this be? The only answer is the protection of Our Lady in return for their devotion to her and her Rosary.

On January 3, 1984, Sister Mildred asked Our Lady: **“Dear Mother, will there be a nuclear war? Everyone is so afraid.”** Our Lady answered:

My faithful one, if my warnings are taken seriously and enough of my children strive constantly and faithfully to renew and reform themselves in their inward and outward lives, then there will be no nuclear war. What happens to the world depends upon those who live in it. There must be much more good than evil prevailing in order to prevent the holocaust that is so near approaching.

Yet I tell you, my daughter, even should such a destruction happen because there were not enough souls who took my warnings seriously, there will remain a remnant—untouched by the chaos who, having been faithful in following me and spreading my warnings, will gradually inhabit the earth again with their dedicated and holy lives. These will renew the earth in the power and light of the Holy Spirit. These faithful ones of my children will be under my protection and that of the Holy Angels, and they will partake of the life of the Divine Trinity in a most remarkable way.

Let my dear children know this, precious daughter, so that they will have no excuse if they fail to heed my warnings. (Diary, Pg. 45)

In this regard, we look at history again. In 1955 Fr. Peter Petrus called for a Rosary Crusade against the Soviets who took control of Austria after WWII. For seven years 10% of the Austrian people (a tithe) prayed the rosary. Then, on May 13, the anniversary of the Fatima apparition, the Russians suddenly left Austria, to the consternation and disbelief of the outside world. Those who had prayed knew the reason why. In 1960, the 43rd anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution, Khrushchev

boasted at the UN meetings that he would annihilate the US. It is said that Pope John XXIII, having opened and read the third secret of Fatima, asked the bishop of Fatima to invite all bishops of the world to a night of prayer and penance October 12-13, anniversary of the miracle of the sun. Over a million pilgrims spent the night in rain at Fatima and others joined in spirit. That night, after his shoe-pounding episode at the UN, Khrushchev suddenly left for home. A few days later, the Nedelin missile that was going to be presented to him by Russian scientists suddenly exploded, killing scientist Nedelin and others and setting back Russia's nuclear program for 20 years.

Reference: http://www.russianspaceweb.com/r16_disaster.html

On May 13, 1984, while crowds gathered at Fatima again, a massive explosion destroyed 2/3 of the surface-to-air missiles of the Soviet Union's mightiest fleet. Then there was the recent Chernobyl disaster. Chernobyl is Ukrainian for "**wormwood**," a bitter herb used as a tonic in rural Russia, a word with great Scriptural significance. Revelations speaks of a great star falling from the heavens making a third of the waters bitter. The name of the star is Wormwood (Apoc 8:10-11). In the 1980's a bloodless revolution took place in the Philippines as an army of Mary's children, rosaries in hand, confronted the army tanks. The soldiers refused to fire on their own people and the battle ended before it had begun, removing Ferdinand Marcos.

Reference: http://www.totustuuscruzade.com/ttcrusade_power.html

Seeing the power of the rosary to change history and work miracles, we invite every man, woman and child in America, and around the world, to lift high the Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary as our weapon against "the ring of evil" enveloping our world today, and against the "smoke of Satan" Our Lady warned at Fatima would, and has entered even into high places within the Church, lest the latter warning of Fatima, warnings renewed in the message of Our Lady of America®, bring us to World War III and the annihilation of whole nations. The need for divine intervention in our own day necessitates that the rosary become vital again as a prayer in the family of God, His Church, and in the domestic church, the home! With it we can place ourselves under the Mantle of Mary's mercy so well defined in Our Lady's words and prayer to Sister Mildred.

<http://www.ourladyofamerica.com/whatsnew/OurLadyofSorrowsandofMercy.pdf>

If you say the Rosary faithfully until death, I do assure you that, in spite of the gravity of your sins, "you shall receive a never fading crown of glory." Even if you are on the brink of damnation, even if you have one foot in Hell, even if you have sold your soul to the devil...sooner or later you will be converted and will amend your life and save your soul. If—and mark well what I say—if you say the Rosary devoutly every day of your life.

(St. Louis de Montfort, *The Secret of the Rosary*, Montfort Publications, 1954.)

I believe that, after the liturgical prayer of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, the prayer of the holy Rosary, because of its origin and the sublime nature of the prayers which compose it and also on account of the mysteries of our redemption which we recall and contemplate in each decade, is the most pleasing prayer we can offer to God, and the one most beneficial to our own souls. If this were not so, Our Lady would not have recommended it to us with such insistence.

(Sr. Lucia of Fatima.)

We are reminded here of the vision of St. John Bosco in which he saw a great ship, a man in white at the helm, bombarded on all sides by smaller ships as it made its way through stormy waters toward two large columns to pass through to safety. On top of one pillar was the Sacred Host for the Eucharist and on top of the other was the image of Our Blessed Mother. These are the two pillars that will bring God's Church through every battle that rages all around it in seas of deadly discord and determined destruction.

St. John's vision in greater detail: http://www.smcenter.org/stbosco_vision.htm

With Our Lady must be her Rosary and her Immaculate Conception, the weapons she herself gave us to do battle against every evil. **“By thy Holy and Immaculate Conception, O Mary, deliver us from evil.”** Let us go to battle then with Our Lord and Our Lady as our guarantee of total victory! Have we truly heard Our Lady of America's® plea to pray the family Rosary and to renew our spiritual sensitivity (Diary, pg. 40) to the awesome mystery contained in the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, our Eucharist?

In 1937, on September 29, feast of the archangel Michael, protector of the Church who would also become the protector of Sister Mildred and the devotion to Our Lady of America®, Pope Pius XI granted a **plenary indulgence for the recitation and meditation on the mysteries of the Holy Rosary in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament**, if the usual conditions of Confession, Communion and prayers for the Holy Father are likewise met. What extravagant grace for all of us!

The message of Our Lady of America® reaffirms the messages of Lourdes and Fatima, and especially promises “miracles, not of the body but of the soul, especially here in America, greater than those granted at Lourdes and Fatima if we do as Our Lady has asked. **Her main request is *reform of life, sanctification from within, through imitation of the simple virtues of the Holy Family (humility, obedience, prayer and penance, and the duties of life) as modeled in Mary and Joseph, and through communion with the Divine Indwelling Presence of the Most Holy Trinity.***

In that reform of life she asks that we pray the rosary, in the family of the Church and in the family of the home. **Only when we embrace this necessary interior reform of life will an enthronement of her statue in the National Shrine be the culminating external expression of true devotion to Mary as our Patroness and Mother of Mercy, Help of Christians, “Our Lady of America, the Immaculate Virgin.®”** Then we will see a revolution of grace as never before in America and around the world, crushing the head of the ancient serpent, resulting in the triumph of Mary’s Immaculate Heart promised nearly a century ago. Then we will see the reign of Jesus, our Redeemer and King, over all the earth.

Reign over us, then, O Virgin Immaculate, with your Son Jesus Christ. May His Divine Heart and your most chaste Heart be ever enthroned and glorified among us. Use us, your children of America, as your instruments in bringing peace among men and nations. Work your miracles of grace in us, so that we may be a glory to the Blessed Trinity, Who created, redeemed, and sanctifies us....Amen.

(Sister Mildred’s Prayer to the Immaculate Conception, Diary, Pg. 47.)

**Copyright © Contemplative Sisters of the Indwelling Trinity, Fostoria, Ohio,
October, 2009. Revised October, 2010.**

All rights reserved.