

Our Lady on the Rosary as Family Prayer

and as a Spiritual Weapon Against Evil of Every Kind

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.

If possible, the family rosary should be prayed every day with as many members of the family who may be present.

(Sister Mildred (Mary Ephrem) Neuzil, Diary, OUR LADY OF AMERICA©, Fostoria, Ohio, Pgs. 21, 39.)

These are the words spoken by Our Lady herself to Sister Mildred (Mary Ephrem) Neuzil as recorded in her fully copyrighted 48 page Diary entitled OUR LADY OF AMERICA©. There are some who demean the Rosary as the prayer of the simple minded but who do not understand what a great gift from heaven and spiritual weapon against evil the Rosary truly is. Some object that it detracts from Christ but fail to see that, though Marian in its character, the Rosary is completely Christocentric, a summary of the doctrines of our Faith and a compendium of the Gospel; it is a walk with Mary in contemplating the mysteries of Christ's life, death and Resurrection as celebrated in the Liturgy of the Church. It is both a formal prayer and a prayer of contemplation of the Face of Jesus. Our Lady's words as Our Lady of America©, as in so many of her previous appearances, confirm the importance of this prayer, the pleasure it gives her, and her desire that the Rosary be ***the prayer of the family***, all families, for it inevitably brings us into a more profound knowledge of Jesus, her Son.

The Rosary has a long tradition in the life of the Church. Over 18 papal documents have been written on the subject. St. Dominic is attributed with the origin of the Rosary, the Psalter of 150 Hail Mary's, in the 1200's, both as a weapon against the Albigensian heresy and as a means for the conversion of sinners. Around 1475 Blessed Alan de la Roche re-established the Confraternity of the Rosary which had almost died out after the death of St. Dominic. St. Pius V established the feast of the Most Holy Rosary after the divinely ordained Christian victory over the Turks in the Battle of Lepanto on October 7, 1571. When devotion to the Rosary wanes, evil seems to afflict the world and Our Lady appears to reaffirm the Rosary's power over evil and error. **Pope Leo XIII** alone wrote twelve documents on the rosary, embedding it as a

public devotion within the Church and proclaiming it “**a spiritual weapon against the evils afflicting society.**” It was also Pope Leo XIII who established October as the Month of the Rosary. In France the Rosary Basilica was built on the site of Our Lady’s apparitions in 1858 at Lourdes. In Portugal, on October 13, 1917, during World War I, Our Lady appeared to the Fatima children and identified herself, “**I am Our Lady of the Rosary,**” and asked them to pray many rosaries in **reparation for the sins committed against her Immaculate Heart, to pray for the end of the war and for peace, for the conversion of Russia, the conversion of sinners and the salvation of souls.** **Pope John XXIII** asked the synod of bishops to pray the Rosary in preparation for the second Vatican Council. Our beloved **Pope John Paul II**, Mary’s Pope, issued his encyclical **Rosarium Virginis Mariae**, adding the **Luminous Mysteries** recounting the public life of Jesus to the recitation of the Rosary and declared **October 2002 – October 2003 the Year of the Rosary.** Truly, the Rosary is a Mother’s gift from heaven to her children on earth, a gift that in Mary’s own words, is like a chain binding us to her forever in covenant-love -- we as her children pledging our devotion to and confidence in her, and she as our Mother pledging us salvation through her favor with Jesus, her Divine Son.

It was already in the 1940’s during locutions with Our Lord and Our Lady that Sister Mildred Neuzil came to understand that her mission was to converge on the renewal of the family. Later it would be revealed to her that the **family would be renewed through imitation of the simple virtues of the Holy Family which had Christ always at its center and was a paradise on earth, a dwelling place for the Indwelling Trinity.** In an apparition Our Lady revealed to Sister the Medallion she wished to be struck and worn with great devotion for protection against evil, a medal Sister sketched in detail according to Our

Lady’s revelation. On the **front of the medal is the image of Our Lady of America®** and that powerful ejaculation, “By the Holy and Immaculate Conception, O Mary, deliver us from evil.” On the **back of the medal is the**



Coat of Arms of the Christian Family showing the red shield of the Precious Blood by which sanctifying grace was made possible to fallen man. At the center of the shield is the all seeing Eye of God symbolizing the Indwelling Trinity. Sanctification of the family through imitation of the Holy Family is represented by the Cross and the two lilies on each of which is depicted a burning heart. The flaming sword is a symbol of Divine Love so necessary to attain union with God, while the rosary beads around the shield indicate a most profitable means of drawing closer to the Holy Family through devout meditation on the various Mysteries of our Faith. The scroll above bears the inscription, “Gloria Patri et Filio et Spiritu Sancto” for the heavenly Trinity Who created, redeemed and sanctifies us, and the one below, “Jesu, Maria, Joseph” for the Holy Family, model

for every family on earth. These aspirations are simply explanations of the whole theme and are also acts of praise to the Trinity and the Holy Family. The rosary on the medal is again shown to be a powerful means of uniting us to the Indwelling God and to the Holy Family, God's instrument in bringing us the saving grace of Jesus in union with Mary and Joseph, co-redeemers with Him in God's plan of salvation. We must ponder these words of Our Lady of America® that express so well her covenant with us, sealed with her Medallion, and again with the Rosary that carries so great a promise: ***“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.”*** What a small act of devotion for so great a promise from the Mother of God herself! And she always keeps her promise!

To understand the deep Scriptural roots and the vast theological soundness and scope of the Rosary as a Christocentric and liturgical prayer, a contemplation of the mysteries of our Faith celebrated in the Sacraments and prayer of the Church, we must look at the composition of its individual prayers.

We start the Rosary with the **Apostles' Creed**. Tradition claims that this Creed was composed by the 12 Apostles while still under the influence of the Holy Spirit on Pentecost, though others refute that claim. Since history gives evidence that some form of a Creed did exist from the time of the apostles and was used as a summary of beliefs in the profession of faith for Baptism, the name Apostles' Creed has endured despite diverse views on the time and place of its origin in its present form. Others attribute the name Apostles' Creed to the fact that the doctrines outlined in the Creed were addressed and defined during the Apostolic Period of the Church between the second and ninth centuries. Regardless of differing views, this Creed was formulated to refute the **Gnostic heresy that denied the Sacred Humanity of Jesus**. It contains the central doctrines of our Faith: the Trinity, Creation, the Incarnation, Redemption, Resurrection and the Sanctification of all mankind through the power of the Holy Spirit at work through the Sacraments and within the Church. It has a simple and concise wording suitable to the understanding of any person new to or already schooled in the Faith. In 325, however, Emperor Constantine of Rome, in union with the bishops, convened the Council of Nicaea to refute the **Arian heresy that denied the Divinity of Jesus**. The Nicene Creed formulated at the Council of Nicaea, with its more theological wording, is fittingly used in all our Eucharistic liturgies where the priest consecrates bread and wine into the sacred body, blood, soul and divinity of Jesus.

After the Creed we recite the **Pater Noster, the Our Father**, that most perfect prayer after the Eucharist because it was taught to us by Jesus Himself and praises the Father as the Hallowed One worthy of our adoration and Whose Will decides all things in heaven and on earth. It reveals God to us as a “Father” Who provides all that we need, and Who forgives us our sins and asks that we imitate His mercy in forgiving

others. We ask Him to deliver us from evil because He is the only One Who truly can. This prayer defines the relationship God desires for each of us as other sons and daughters, brothers and sisters to Jesus and heirs with Jesus in Our Father's House.

The prayer that makes the Rosary a **“crown of roses” for Mary is the Ave Maria, the Hail Mary**, that wondrous salutation of the Archangel Gabriel. It was Gabriel who came from heaven to greet Mary and proclaim her fullness of grace, her Immaculate Conception, and all that it means for her and for us, especially as our Patroness. It was Elizabeth, Mother of the Baptist, who first proclaimed Mary the “Mother of God” and the blessed one among women, the Virgin-Mother foretold in the Hebrew Scriptures who would bear into our flesh and into our world the Messiah, the Son of God, the King of kings and Lord of lords, Savior of His people. It was the Church who added the **“Holy Mary, Mother of God” at the Council of Ephesus in 430 A.D.** in order to refute the **Nestorian heresy that attacked the idea of “Theotokos,” “God bearer,” the Divine Maternity of Mary.** The Council declared **Mary is *Mother of the Person of Jesus Who is God, not merely of His human nature; therefore she is “Mother of God.”*** Mary's Divine Maternity is a dogma of our Faith. As Mother of Jesus in the flesh, Mary is also **Mother of the Mystical Jesus, His Mystical Body, the Church, which is all of us who are united to Him.** How fitting it is that we should ask the Mother of God to pray for us now and at the hour of our death, for who better than she can intercede for us with a Mother's heart so dear to her Son's? If we ponder Our Lady's words to Saint Mechtilde, we will never again be able to say the Hail Mary's of the Rosary in monotony or without being deeply moved by this Angelic Salutation!

One day when Saint Mechtilde was praying and was trying to think of some way in which she could express her love of the Blessed Mother better than she had done before, she fell into ecstasy. Our Lady appeared to her with the Angelic Salutation in flaming letters of gold upon her bosom and said to her: “My daughter, I want you to know that no one can please me more than by saying the salutation which the Most Adorable Trinity sent to me and by which He raised me to the dignity of Mother of God.

By the word Ave (which is the name Eve, Eva), I learned that in His infinite power God had preserved me from all sin and its attendant misery which the first woman had been subject to.

The name *Mary* which means ‘lady of light’ shows that God has filled me with wisdom and light, like a shining star, to light up heaven and earth.

The words *full of grace* remind me that the Holy Spirit has showered so many graces upon me that I am able to give these graces in abundance to those who ask for them through me as Mediatrix.

When people say *The Lord is with thee* they renew the indescribable joy that was mine when the Eternal Word became incarnate in my womb.

When you say to me *blessed art thou among women* I praise Almighty God's divine mercy which lifted me to this exalted plane of happiness.

And at the words *blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus, the whole of heaven rejoices with me to see my Son Jesus Christ adored and glorified for having saved mankind.*"

(St. Louis Mary De Montfort, *THE SECRET OF THE ROSARY*, Montfort Publications, Bay Shore, NY 11706, Pgs. 44-45.)

At the end of each decade of Ave's is the **Doxology, the Glory be to each of the three persons of the Trinity**, a magnificent act of praise that recognizes their eternal existence and unchangeable nature as God. Should not every prayer we say begin or include such a profession of faith in our Triune God?

Our Lady described the meaning of her name, Mary, to St. Mechtilde as "**lady of light.**" When Our Lady came to Sister Mildred as Our Lady of America® she was "**enveloped in a soft glow of light.**" (Diary, pg. 10) When she appeared to Sister Mildred on November 22-23, 1957 and revealed herself as **Our Lady of the Divine Indwelling, Handmaid of Him Who dwells within®**, Our Lady was saturated with light.

She seemed suffused in a soft glow of light that appeared to come from within her. It seemed to permeate and, as it were, saturate her whole being, even her apparel and the roses. (Diary, Pg. 23.)

As the **new Eve**, Mary was filled with sanctifying grace from the first moment of her conception, as was Eve, but Mary never lost it as Eve did for herself and her posterity. Mary shared intimately in the mission of Jesus, the **new Adam**, restoring that blessed state of grace so we might live in the light of God's glory which dissipates the darkness of sin. But so often we, like Eve, choose to move out of the light of God's grace and into the deep abyss of sin. God, in His great mercy, having already sent us His Son Whom we so often reject, now sends us His Mother, again and again, in the hope we will at last listen to a Mother's voice. Thus on **October 7, 1957, the feast of the Most Holy Rosary**, Our Lady appeared to Sister Mildred with her hands clasped in an attitude of prayer. Sister wrote:

Her look was serious, though her countenance retained its usual deep serenity. Hanging from her right hand was a blue rosary of a glass-like quality. I was conscious of the fact that what she was about to say

to me was not only very grave but of the utmost importance. Our Lady reiterated in a similar manner her first warnings:

“My beloved daughter, what I am about to tell you concerns in a particular way my children in America. Unless they do penance by mortification and self-denial and thus reform their lives, God will visit them with punishments hitherto unknown to them.

My child, there will be peace, as has been promised, but not until my children are purified and cleansed from defilement, and clothed thus with the white garment of grace, are made ready to receive this peace, so long promised and so long held back because of the sins of men.

My dear children, either you will do as I desire and reform your lives, or God Himself will need to cleanse you in the fires of untold punishments. You must be prepared to receive His great gift of peace. If you will not prepare yourselves, God will Himself be forced to do so in His justice and mercy. (Diary, Pgs. 20-21.)

It was immediately after these words warning America in particular of its need for purification that **Our Lady of America®**, rosary in hand, gave us the beautiful words on the Rosary at the beginning of this newsletter, and reminded us again of the power of this **spiritual weapon** against the culture of death and the evil that afflicts our land from within, and against the forces of evil from without that are turned on America because of the Divine Mandate given to it to lead the world back to Faith and Purity. With the weapon of her Rosary she renewed her promise of protection if we live up to our part in this covenant with her: **“They who are found in the circle of my rosary will never be lost.”** Oh how we ought to cling to our Rosary beads, carry them in our pocket, wrap them around our fingers in sleep, and never leave home without them. Oh how the evil one hates and fears this “jewel” from heaven.

While Sister Mildred was understanding her mission for the renewal of the family in the 1940's, a young seminarian at Notre Dame University in Indiana was ordained Father Patrick Peyton. Having been cured of tuberculosis, he felt equally called to heal the family so distressed in the post-War and Depression period of our Nation with the power of the Rosary that brought healing to him. He began the famed Family Rosary Crusades to unite and strengthen the family through Mary's favor. His slogan: **“The family that prays together stays together.”** Sister Lucia of Fatima wrote that the Rosary is the most powerful prayer after the Eucharist itself because of the sublime nature of the prayers which compose it and on account of the mysteries of Redemption that are contemplated during its recitation. **Pope Pius XII said, “There is no surer means of calling down God's blessings upon the family ... than the daily recitation of the Rosary.”** Richard of Saint Laurent believed priests should say a Hail Mary at the beginning of each sermon because the devil, enemy of the human race and

the preaching of the Gospel, comes to take the word of God out of the hearts of the people so they will not be saved. Perhaps that is why so many churches used to say the Rosary before each Mass. In a sermon on the Rosary Clement Losoun stated:

After Saint Dominic had gone to heaven devotion to the Rosary waned until it was very nearly dead, when a terrible pestilence broke out in several parts of the country. The wretched people sought the advice of a saintly hermit who lived in the desert in great austerity. They besought him to intercede to Almighty God for them. So the hermit called upon the Mother of God, imploring her, as Advocate of Sinners, to come to their aid.

Our Lady then appeared and said: "These people have stopped singing my praises. This is why they have been visited with such a scourge. If they will only go back to the ancient devotion of the Most Holy Rosary, they will enjoy my protection. I shall see to their salvation if only they will sing the Rosary, for I love this type of chanting."

So the people did what Mary asked and made themselves rosaries, which they started saying with all their heart and soul. (De Montfort, THE SECRET OF THE ROSARY, Pg. 123.)

On September 8, 1892, Pope Leo XIII wrote in his encyclical on the Rosary:

This simple weapon given by the Mother of God and conceived by the eternal Wisdom of God is far-reaching in its effects. It leads wandering man to the Queen of Mercy, it destroys ignorance of the fundamentals of the Faith, ignorance which is the food of heresy, and it teaches him to find once more "the paths consecrated by the Blood of the Man-God, and by the tears of His Mother."

We would have to be spiritually blind not to see the enormity of the evil that is enveloping the world as Our Lady of America® has warned, and just as blind not to see how our own Christian Nation is abandoning God and His Laws and His Ways, both in private and in public life. Does this current culture of death and pattern of self-destruction that is becoming so pervasive throughout our land follow upon so many people abandoning Our Lady's Rosary? Will we get down on our knees and raise our Rosary beads to heaven and use the Rosary again, as so many ages before us have done, as heaven's weapon against evil, evil of every kind?

Will we get down on our knees and wear the sweet victory of Our Lady's beads?

**Copyright © Contemplative Sisters of the Indwelling Trinity, Fostoria, Ohio,
Feast of the Holy Rosary, October 7, 2010.
All rights reserved.**