

The Rosary, The Prayer That Will Bind You to Me Forever

The 61st Anniversary of Our Lady of America

October is the month of the Holy Rosary and this year marks the 100th anniversary of the apparitions at Fatima. It was on the 13th of October, 1917, that Our Lady told the three shepherd children who she was: **“I am the Lady of the Rosary.”** In the previous months she had urged them to pray the rosary often and with great devotion to honor her Immaculate Heart and to pray for the conversion of sinners and for world peace. The October 13th visit was the last official visit at which time Our Lady performed the promised miracle so people would believe, the miracle of the sun. For some time the sun danced in the sky with a brilliance of color like an exploding rainbow, zigzagging and swirling like a gigantic fire-wheel before it plummeted toward earth and then returned to its proper place in the sky. Many thought it was the end of the world and fell on their knees in contrition, begging for God’s mercy. While the people watched the sun the children beheld the mysteries of the rosary in a tableaux in the sky, first the Holy Family in the Joyful mysteries, then Our Lord carrying His cross and Our Lady of Sorrows for the Sorrowful mysteries, but only Lucia saw Our Lady of Mount Carmel, holding out the brown scapular, for the glorious mysteries.

(Francis Johnston, FATIMA, THE GREAT SIGN, ami Press, 1980.)

This year also marks the 61st anniversary of the apparitions of Our Lady to Sister Mildred Mary Neuzil in which she identified herself, **“I am Our Lady of America,”** and called on America to be the nation dedicated to her purity. She asked for a reform of life, sanctification from within through imitation of the simple virtues of the Holy Family and through union with the Divine Indwelling Presence of the Most Holy Trinity. Part of that call for renewal of the family was her request that we pray the rosary, especially as a family. It was on the evening of the feast of the Most Holy Rosary, October 7, 1957, a little over a year after her first appearance on September 26, 1956, that Our Lady appeared to Sister with her hands clasped as in prayer and with a blue rosary of a glass-like quality hanging from her right hand. With a countenance serious but serene, she gave a particular warning to her children in America. If we do not do penance and reform our lives, God will visit her children in America with **“punishments hitherto unknown to them.”** She said we must be purified in order to receive the peace that has so long been held back because of the sins of mankind. But at this visit Our Lady also gave us this **beautiful promise:**

“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.

Write these words upon your hearts, my dear children, because of the compassion I have for you in my Immaculate Heart. Oh, if you knew the punishments I am holding back from you by my pleading and intercession on your behalf. Will you do as I wish at last, my children?"

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

On March 30, 1958, St. Joseph appeared to Sister and told her that the Sacred Hearts of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph have been chosen by the Most Holy Trinity to bring peace to the world. St. Joseph said:

"I am the protector of the Church and the home, as I was the protector of Christ and His Mother while I lived upon earth. Jesus and Mary desire that my pure heart, so long hidden and unknown, be now honored in a special way. Let my children honor my most pure heart in a special manner on the First Wednesday of the month by reciting the Joyful Mysteries of the rosary in memory of my life with Jesus and Mary and the love I bore them, the sorrow I suffered with them. Let them receive Holy Communion in union with the love with which I received the Savior for the first time and each time I held Him in my arms." (The Diary, Pg. 31.)

What a magnificent way to live out the Joyful mysteries of the rosary on the First Wednesday of each month in union with St. Joseph. How blest we are to be under the protection of the Protector of Jesus and Mary in our own little "homes of Nazareth" and in the big family of Christ's Church. May St. Joseph be a father to us, too, and hold us in his arms as he did Jesus before giving us to Mary to press close to her heart.

The Rosary, a circle of love, a garland of roses, repeats that Divine Salutation composed by the Eternal Word and spoken by the Archangel Gabriel to Mary, announcing to her the Good News of the salvation of the world and of our reconciliation with God in the Word that took flesh within her. **"Hail Mary, full of grace. The Lord is with thee."** To that hymn of glory to the Trinity Elizabeth, moved by the Holy Spirit, declared that Mary was blessed above all women, for the Child she carried within her was the Promised One of God. In those blessed words Elizabeth professed the divinity of the Child and the divine Motherhood of Mary. Later, the Church would add the element of petition to this hymn of praise in asking the Mother of our Redeemer to pray for us poor sinners, both now and at the hour of our death.

Saint Louis de Montfort writes in **THE SECRET OF THE ROSARY**, how Saint Mechtilde longed to express her love for Mary better than she had ever done before. While thus praying she went into ecstasy and saw Our Lady bearing the Divine Salutation in flaming letters of gold upon her bosom. Our Lady explained:

“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.

When Our Lady appeared at Fatima, World War I had not ended. She warned of a second and a third World War if people did not stop offending God who is already too much offended. She warned the errors of atheism would spread all over the world and create chaos, wars and persecution of the Church. She asked for our repentance and for the consecration of Russia to her Immaculate Heart for its conversion and for an end to war. We failed to obey her request fully and in a timely manner. Our Lady has now appeared here in America as a last resort, hopefully to avoid World War III, warning us how short the time is to prevent the scourge of heaven from falling upon this sinful generation with its blasphemy, its reversal of the Divine Order, widespread impurity, such disregard for the sacredness of life at all stages, and the **flagrant celebration of sin in the marketplace in mockery of God**. God will not be mocked! Our Lady’s message indicates that evil has enveloped the world and is focused on America, the land chosen by God to lead the world to peace, Christ’s peace, by means of sanctification from within through union with the Divine Indwelling Presence of the Trinity, a holiness that will overcome all the hate that Satan instills in the hearts of many. At Fatima Christ said he wished to establish devotion to the Immaculate Heart of Mary in the world, for it is her Immaculate Heart that will triumph over Satan.

Every day we seem closer to the brink of that Third World War, a nuclear war that would annihilate much of the earth and devastate the rest. Mary has done all she can to warn us, to call us to a reform of life, to ask us to honor her in our homes with an

image of her under the title of our country and her Purity, to wear the medal she has given us as a protection from evil. **She has asked our bishops to place a statue of her in our Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. as a safeguard for our country.** Our greatest prayer is the Eucharistic Sacrifice of Jesus to the Almighty Father for His glory and the atonement of our sins. The next most powerful prayer against evil is the rosary. Pope Pius XII compared the Rosary to the sling shot of David. With such a seemingly small set of beads we can conquer the giants of evil.

Sister Lucia of the Fatima children left us with these bits of wisdom.

“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.”

The Most Holy Virgin in these last times in which we live has given a new efficacy to the recitation of the Rosary to such an extent that there is no problem, no matter how difficult it is, whether temporal or above all spiritual, in the personal life of each one of us, of our families...that cannot be solved by the Rosary. There is no problem, I tell you, no matter how difficult it is, that we cannot resolve by the prayer of the Holy Rosary.”

That great devotee of Our Lady’s, Louis de Montfort, with great confidence gives hope to every sinner on the face of the earth, no matter how bleak their life seems to be, through the power of Our Lady’s rosary. He also tells us saying the rosary with others is more formidable to the devil than one said privately; hence, the importance of the family rosary and rosary confraternities or groups that pray together, especially before the Blessed Sacrament.

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.)

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