

*“Pray
the Holy Rosary
every day,
pray together”*



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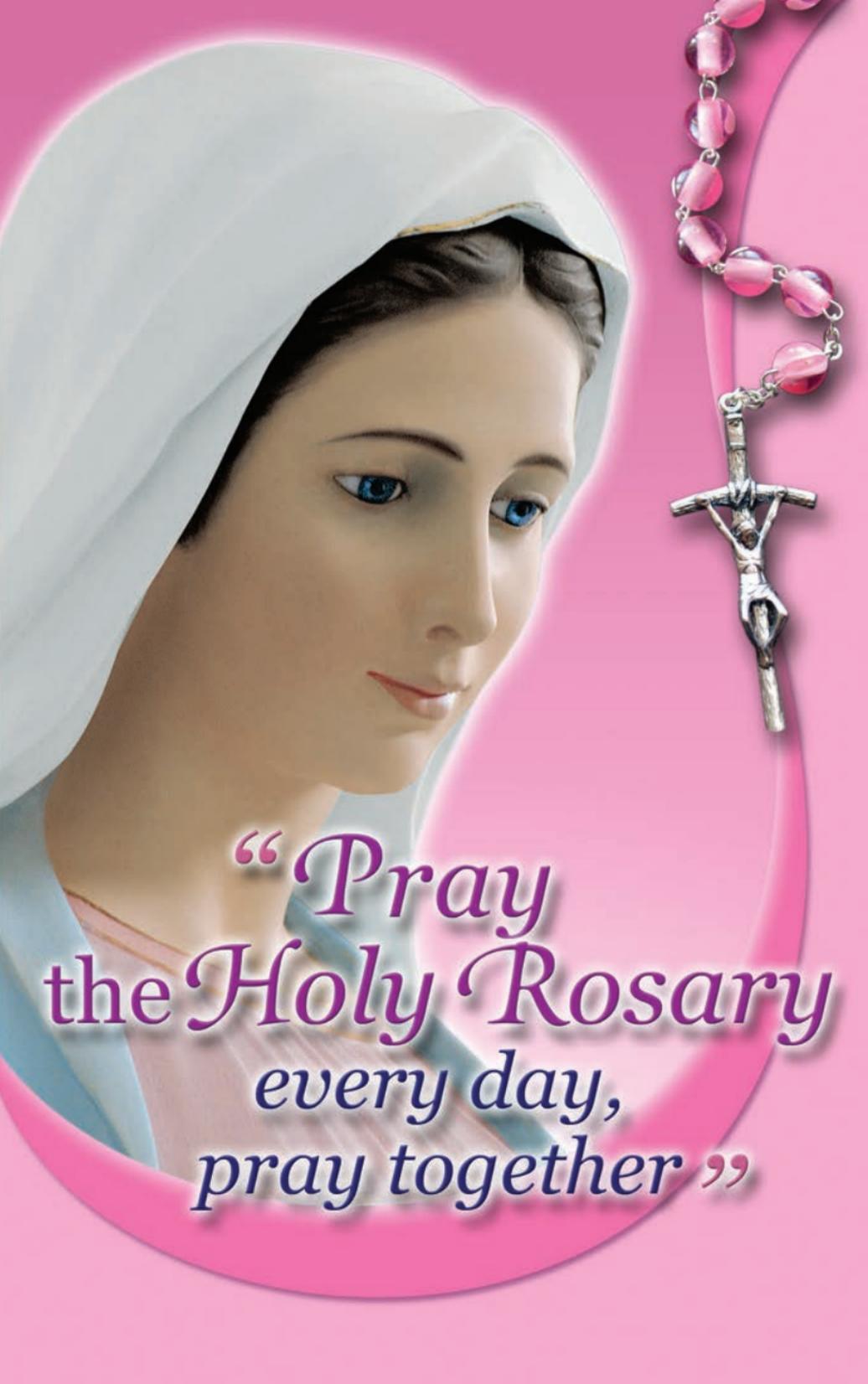
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Exultation of the Holy Cross



*“Pray
the Holy Rosary
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Witnesses of love speak about the Rosary

A LETTER FROM SISTER LUCIA OF FATIMA

Dear Brothers and Sisters, Our Lady herself urges us to pray her Rosary more faithfully, contemplating the joyful mysteries, the passion and the glory of her Son who wanted her to partake in the saving mystery of our redemption. For this reason, I urge you to read and meditate on the message that Our Lady has given to us regarding the power that the Holy Rosary has always had on the Heart of God.

This is why, in her apparitions, Our Lady herself takes part in the recital of the Rosary as she did in the Grotto in Lourdes with St. Bernadette and in Fatima with Francesco and Giacinta and me. It was during the Rosary that the Blessed Virgin came out of the cloud and rested on the holm oak, enveloping us in Her light. I too, from here, from the monastery of Coimbra, will be united with all of you in forming a stronger and more universal crusade of prayer, calling back all those who have forgotten her latest messages and above all the shadow of the third secret of Fatima, towards which the epilogue of this century is falling.

Remember, however, that I am not the only one to be united with you; the whole of Heaven will be united with the harmony of your Rosary and all the souls of purgatory will be united with the echo of your plea. Angels and Saints will be united with you as you grasp your Rosary beads in your hands. I would therefore urge you to pray it with profound recollection and faith, meditating with religious piety on the meaning of its mysteries.

I urge you not to mutter the “Hail Mary” distractedly, nor to say it late at night when you are oppressed by the trials of the day. Remember that this is the most beautiful hour of your life; Our

Lady and your Guardian Angel are united in prayer with you.

Pray your Rosary privately or with others, at home or in Church or even on the street. If you don't have a set of rosary beads or a rosary ring with its little beads, pray it [continuously] uniting yourself with the choirs of angels as people did long ago. Pray it with simplicity of heart, following the pathway of Our Lady with her Son, step by step.

Always pray your Rosary with living faith for those who are born, for those who are suffering, for those who are working and for those who are dying. Be united with all of the just men on this earth and with all the Marian communities; but above all, pray with the simplicity of a child whose voice is united with that of the angels. Never before has the world been so in need of your Rosary.

Remember that on earth there are consciences that have no light of faith, sinners to be converted, atheists to be snatched away from satan, unhappy people to be tended to, young people who are unemployed, families at a moral crossroads, souls to snatched away from hell. On many occasions, a single Rosary has calmed the cry of Divine Justice, obtaining Divine Mercy for the world and saving many souls. Only in this way will you bring closer the hour in which the Immaculate Heart of Our Lady will triumph over the world.

(Sister Lucia Dos Santos)

JOHN PAUL II: MY FAVORITE PRAYER

Today I would like once again to invite all Christian families to pray the Rosary, so that they may taste the beauty of pausing together to meditate, with Mary, on the joyful, sorrowful and glorious mysteries of our Redemption, and thus to sanctify the joyful and difficult moments of daily life. Praying together helps the family to be more united, peaceful and faithful to the Gospel.

May Mary, Queen of the Holy Rosary, be every family's teacher and guide in this prayer, which is particularly dear to me!
(Angelus, October 26, 1997)

Praying the Rosary means going to the school of Mary and learning from Her, Mother and Disciple of Christ, how to live fully in depth the demands of the Christian faith. She was the first believer. She was the center of unity and charity of the ecclesiastical life in the Cenacle, among the first disciples of her Son.

When reciting the Rosary it is not so much a question of repeating formulas, but rather of entering into a confidential dialogue with Mary; talking to Her, manifesting our hopes to Her, confiding our willingness to accept God's plans, promising our faithfulness in every circumstance, especially in the most difficult and painful ones; certain of her protection and convinced that She will obtain from her Son all the necessary graces for our salvation.

When reciting the Rosary we, in fact, contemplate Christ from a privileged point of view, namely, the very same one of Mary, his Mother. Therefore, meditating on the life and resurrection of Our Lord with the same eyes and heart of she who was nearest to Her Son.

Let us be assiduous in reciting the Rosary both in the church community and in the intimacy of our homes; as this, in the wake of the repeated invocations, will unite our hearts, rekindle the heart and home, strengthen our hopes and bring the peace and glory of Christ, born, dead and risen for us.

(Angelus, October 2, 1988)

Joannes Paulus a. II

ST. LOUIS MARIA GRIGNION DE MONTFORT

No prayer is more meritorious for the soul and more glorious for Jesus and Mary than a well recited Rosary. But it is also difficult to pray it as it should be done, as it requires on our part a great effort of perseverance due to the particular distractions which almost naturally arise from the continual repetition of the same prayer. In praying the Holy Rosary, which involves the continual repetition of the Our Father and Hail Mary, it is exceedingly difficult not to become bored or even to fall asleep. This, in fact, leads to the temptation to give it up in favor of more pleasurable and less tedious prayers.

Put yourself in the presence of God; think that God and His Blessed Mother are looking at you; that your guardian Angel at your right side gathers up your Hail Mary, if well said, as so many roses to make them into a crown for Jesus and Mary; instead, think that, on your left, the devil is circling around trying to devour your Hail Mary, if recited without attention, devotion and humility... Above all do not forget to offer the various decades in honor of the mysteries and to contemplate Our Lord and His Holy Mother in the mystery which you want to exhalt. Adding to our difficulties, there are both our imagination, so fickle as to remain hardly quiet for a moment, and the malice of the evil one, always tireless in distracting and preventing us from praying. What does the evil one not do to us, seeing us intent on praying the Rosary, with the purpose of thwarting his snares? He increases our listlessness and lack of attention even before we start praying; he increases our tediousness, distractions and fatigue.

In short, during our prayers he assails us from all sides so that, after having recited them with great effort and through distractions, he makes fun of us and tells us, "You have said nothing worth anything. Your Rosary is of no value; you would have done better to have worked and attended to your affairs. Are you not aware that it is only a waste of time to mumble so many prayers

without paying attention to them, while a half an hour of meditation or a good book would be much more to your advantage? Tomorrow, when you are less sleepy, you will be able to pray with greater concentration. So, put off the rest of your Rosary until tomorrow!” In this way the devil succeeds with his craftiness to make you neglect it, either totally or in part, or at least to make you postpone the prayer of the Rosary.

Even if you should have to fight against distractions during the whole of the Rosary, fight courageously with all your might, namely, continue to pray it; it will be a terrible struggle, but so beneficial for the faithful soul. The Rosary must be prayed with faith, remembering the words of Jesus: “All that you ask for in prayer, believe that you will receive it and it shall be yours” (Mk 11:24). He will tell you [as to the centurion] “You may go; as you have believed, let it be done for you” (Mt 8:13).

ST. “PADRE” PIO OF PIETRELCINA

Followers and fellow brothers of St. Padre Pio always saw him with a Rosary in his hands. His life was one continuous prayer, “This is my testament and my inheritance: love Our Lady and ensure that she is loved by others. Pray the Holy Rosary and ensure that it is prayed by others.”

One day someone pointed out to him that there are lots of other beautiful prayers that can be recited instead of the Rosary, which is considered by some an almost outdated practice. He answered sternly saying that through the recital of the Holy Rosary Our Lady never denied him a grace!

This is a testimony of the great love and devotion that Padre Pio had for the Holy Rosary, it comes from Brother Daniele Natale, “Padre Pio would usually leave the door of his room half open, and so we could always see if he was in bed or up. One evening, I looked in and I noticed that Padre Pio was still sitting down at his desk, with a Rosary in his hands. I entered the room and

said to him, 'Padre, you're still up?' He answered, 'Ah, yes son, I still have to pray the Rosary.' I was surprised and I courageously answered him back saying, 'Father, is it possible that you didn't have time to pray the Rosary today?' He replied saying, 'I only prayed a few of them today, I didn't even manage to say thirty.' I was utterly amazed. However hard I had tried, throughout my whole life I had never managed to say thirty rosaries in one day. How Padre Pio managed to do this still remains a mystery to me."

Lastly, is an account by another brother who used to accompany Padre Pio, "One evening, while I was in my cell watching over Padre Pio when he was ill, he asked me in his typical southern Italian dialect, 'Son, get me my weapon out of my habit.'" The brother searched the pockets of the habit but could not find any weapon and replied to Padre Pio, "Padre, there is no weapon in here ... just a Rosary." At that, Padre Pio answered him saying, "What weapon did you think I wanted? There is no weapon more powerful than the Rosary!"

BLESSED CARDINAL STEPINAC

Blessed Cardinal Louis Stepinac, primate of Yugoslavia, who died in 1960, sacrificed himself enormously for the cause of peace in a country scourged by extreme and long-standing ethnic violence, pain and division.

The Rosary was the only weapon that the Cardinal used to defend the Catholic Church in Croatia. With that weapon he won. Among his personal belongings, lots of Rosaries were found - those same Rosaries he would always hold between his fingers. Every day, from the time he was a young boy, Alojzije Stepinac recited the entire Rosary. However, it is nearly impossible to understand Stepinac, his heroic history of holiness and his martyrdom, without first knowing something about his mother Barbara.

She prayed the Rosary every day and fasted three days a week