



## Thirty-Third Sunday in Ordinary Time B November 18, 2018

- **The Rosary: A Way to Pray for Global and Personal Intentions**
- **Words that Remain**

People are always asking us to pray for them. I assume all of us say, “Yes, I will.” But do we? Do we pray for all those who ask us to pray for them? Also, there are so many important things going on in our world that we should be praying for. A decade of the Rosary is a concrete way:

- ◆ to make good on our promise to pray for the intentions of others, and
- ◆ to pray for global needs.

In his spiritual classic, *True Devotion to Mary*, St. Louis de Montfort wrote:

*“The holy rosary is a gift come down from heaven; a great present that God gives to His most faithful servants. God is the Author of the prayers of which it is composed and of the mysteries it contains.”*

Speaking about the Rosary, St. John Paul II said:

*“The Rosary has accompanied me in moments of joy and in moments of difficulty. To it I have entrusted any number of concerns; in it I have always found comfort. The Rosary is my favorite prayer. It is marvelous in its simplicity and its depth.”*

Concerning the importance of intercessory prayer, the late Anthony de Mello, S.J., said:

*“Until the next life we shall not realize how the destinies of persons and nations have been shaped, not so much by the external actions of powerful people and by events that seemed inevitable, but by the quiet, silent, irresistible daily prayer of persons the world will never know.”*

Personally, I find the Rosary to be a wonderful way to pray for a wide range of global, church and personal needs, and a great way to fulfill my promise to pray for people who have asked me to pray for them.

The intentions listed here are all connected to each of the mysteries of the Rosary. Most times, the connection is obvious. With others, the link may not be evident. For example, in the fourth Mystery of Light (The Transfiguration), I suggest prayers for people in retreat houses. The Transfiguration on Mt. Tabor was like a retreat experience for the Apostles. Of course you can add your own intentions as you pray each decade.

### **Joyful Mysteries** (Mondays/Saturdays)

***The Annunciation (Lk 1:26-38).*** As we ponder Mary carrying Jesus, let us pray for all women with an unwanted or difficult pregnancy, that they will have the courage and support to choose life.

***The Visitation (Lk 1:39-45).*** For all who visit the sick and homebound. For all who work and live in nursing homes.

***The Nativity (Lk 2:1-8).*** For all pregnant women. For those seeking to conceive or adopt a child. For parents and adoption agencies. For all those who have asked us to pray for them.

***The Presentation in the Temple (Lk 2:22-28).*** For parents, that they will dedicate their children to Jesus and raise them in a church family. For all who have asked us to pray for them.

***The Finding in the Temple (Lk 2:41-50).*** For missing children and their grieving parents. For the liberation of children and teenagers forced into slavery or prostitution.

### **Sorrowful Mysteries** (Tuesdays/Fridays)

***The Agony in the Garden (Mk 14:32-42).*** For all suffering in body, mind and spirit. For all who work with the suffering.

***The Scourging at the Pillar (Mt 27:26).*** For all who live in violent situations. For the apprehension or conversion of violent people. For all engaged in the war against terrorism.

**The Crowning with Thorns (Mk 15:16-20).** For all who are mentally ill. For those who suffer from depression or migraine headaches.

**The Carrying of the Cross (Mk 15:21-22).** For all who are carrying a cross at this time and for their loved ones, that the crosses of life will make them better and not bitter. For all who have asked us to pray for them.

**The Crucifixion and Death (Mk 15:23-41).** For all who are dying at this time, that they may have a peaceful death. For hospice workers. For an end to capital punishment and euthanasia.

### **Luminous Mysteries (Thursdays)**

**The Baptism of Jesus (Lk 3:21-22).** For all who are preparing for Baptism and entry into our Church. For all who have asked us to pray for them.

**The Wedding Feast at Cana (Jn 2:1-12).** For engaged and married couples, especially struggling marriages.

**The Proclamation of the Kingdom (Lk 4:14-15).** For all engaged in the teaching and preaching ministry of the Church.

**The Transfiguration (Lk 9:28-36).** For all who work and minister in retreat houses. For spiritual directors and retreatants.

**The Institution of the Eucharist (Lk 22:19).** For Catholics who no longer come to Mass. In thanksgiving for our Adoration Chapel and for all who help us to maintain prayer 24/7 on our campus.

### **Glorious Mysteries (Wednesdays/Sundays)**

**The Resurrection (Mk 16:1-20).** As we meditate on Jesus' victory over evil, let us pray for all engaged in fighting the forces of evil in our world—poverty, human trafficking, terrorism, abortion. For all who will be preaching in churches next weekend.

**The Ascension (Acts 1:6-11).** For the deceased and living members of our Church family. In thanksgiving for all who give of their time, treasure and talent to our parish and wider community.

**The Descent of the Holy Spirit (Acts 2:1-13).** For a greater awareness of the Holy Spirit's presence and activity in our lives. For all making difficult decisions.

**The Assumption of Mary into Heaven (Rev. 12:1).** For the dying. For the souls in purgatory. For all those who have asked us to pray for them.

**The Coronation of Mary (Rev. 12:1).** For government and Church leaders. For the conversion of unbelievers. For a greater awareness of Mary's presence in our lives. The following reflections are by Fr. Flor McCarthy.

### **Words That Remain**

*In the course of our lives we hear a lot of words. Most of these we quickly forget. Others remain with us for a while. But a precious few burn themselves into our memory, and probably will remain with us until our dying day. Most of us can remember some such words, even if it's only fragments of poems we learned at school. (I can still remember some lovely words of encouragement a teacher said to me when I was in primary school.)*

*Words do remain. Of course, words can harm as well as help; they can wound as well as heal.*

*Jesus said: "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away." The words of Jesus remain with us to this very day.*

*Teaching was one of the main components of his ministry. As a teacher he made an immediate impact. Crowds flocked to listen to him. A number of times in the Gospel we read: "His words made a deep impression on them."*

*One incident in the Gospel is especially revealing in this regard. One day when he was teaching in the Temple in Jerusalem, the Pharisees sent the Temple police to arrest him. However, instead of arresting him, they began to listen to him. The result was that they returned to the Pharisees without him. The reason they gave for not arresting him was: "No one has ever spoken like this man" (Jn 7:46). That statement, coming from people who would not have been disposed in his favour, says it all.*

*The words of Jesus were remembered by those who heard them, and later written down (sometime between 66-99AD) under the guidance of the Holy Spirit. At the last supper Jesus said to the apostles: "The Holy Spirit, whom the Father will send in my name, will remind you of all I have said to you" (Jn 14:26).*

*The words of Jesus remain with us to this very day, comforting us, guiding us, and challenging us. They turn our values upside down. Once heard, they can never be forgotten.*

*But for all that, they will benefit us little unless we act on them. They are like precious seeds. If left in a jar, they remain just so many seeds. But if they are taken out and planted, they produce a rich harvest.*

*We should keep in mind that our words also remain. They are often remembered, though we have forgotten them. They continue to help or to harm, to heal or to wound, for many years after they have been spoken. The challenge then is to speak words that unite rather than divide, that heal rather than wound.*

*The poet, Sir Walter Scott, wrote these lovely lines:*

*O! many a shaft, at random sent,  
Finds mark the archer little meant!  
And many a word, at random spoken,  
May soothe or wound a heart that's broken.*

*Once uttered, words take on a life of their own. Therefore, we must be careful how we use words. A good rule is: When angry better to remain silent.*

*But in the liturgy it is God's word that we are concerned with. In the end, all we have is God's word. That's why we place the book of the Gospels on the coffin of a deceased member of the community.*

*God's word is a word of love. It enables us to cast off from this earth and set sail for the other world, buoyed up with hope. Writing several centuries before Jesus, the prophet Isaiah said: "The grass withers, the flower fades...but the word of our God remains forever" (40:8).*

### **Story**

*Words can be very hurtful, and inflict deep and lasting wounds. A woman recalls: "When we were young, mother sometimes said very hurtful things to us, mean-spirited, critical, accusatory things. And she would never apologize for them. When we raised the matter years later she excused herself by saying, 'But I never meant them.' And we were left wondering, Well then, if you didn't mean them, why did you say them?"*

*But words can remain to inspire us. A nun who studied theology recalls: 'During the course of my theology lectures I heard a lot of things. Most of these I will forget in time. Indeed, I've already forgotten a lot of them. But there is one thing that one professor said that I will never forget. He said: "Love keeps a low profile."*

*I know it sounds a simple thing, but somehow it went straight to my heart, and has stayed there ever since. Love keeps a low profile.*

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Have a blessed week and a wonderful Thanksgiving!

*Le Sarah*