



### **The Rosary: A Way to Pray for Global, Parish and Personal Needs**

This Wednesday, October 7<sup>th</sup>, is the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary.

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

*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.*

In his *Apostolic Letter* on the Rosary (Oct. 2002), the late Pope John Paul II shared with us his special love for the Rosary when he wrote: “*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* (Para.2). During her many apparitions here on earth, our Blessed Mother has encouraged us to pray the Rosary. Her exhortation alone should be reason enough for us to seek to develop a love for this form of prayer.

#### ***Contemplating the Face of Christ with Mary***

“Mary lived with her eyes fixed on Christ, treasuring his every word” (Apostolic Letter #11). In the Rosary, we join with Mary in contemplating key events in the life of Jesus and in our salvation. “Without this contemplative dimension, the Rosary loses its meaning. Without contemplation, the Rosary is a body without a soul, and its recitation runs the risk of becoming a mechanical repetition of formulas...” (ibid #62). So as we make our way through the various mysteries of the Rosary, Mary is our companion and guide leading us to appreciate ever more deeply such events as the Annunciation, the wedding feast at Cana, Jesus dying on the cross, the descent of the Holy Spirit, etc.

#### ***The Rosary as a Prayer of Intercession***

“*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.*”

Anthony de Mello S.J.

In intercessory prayer, we follow the example of Mary at Cana (John 2:1-12). We bring to Jesus the concerns of others, trusting that he will take appropriate action.

As we ponder our own lives, the Church, and the world we live in, we see a host of needs and intentions that we need to pray for. I have found the 20 decades of the Rosary to be a very practical way to pray for many personal, parish and global needs. Below you will find many suggestions of intentions we can pray for as we meditate on the 20 mysteries of the Rosary. Many of the intentions are related to the particular mystery or event in the life of Jesus and Mary; some are not. We can add and delete intentions that will best speak to our life situation.

People always ask us to pray for their needs. A decade of the Rosary is one easy way for us to keep our promise to pray for intentions of parishioners, friends, strangers, and for many global needs.

#### **Joyful Mysteries (Mondays)**

*Annunciation.* For the grace to say ‘yes’ to God’s call. For couples seeking to conceive or adopt a child. For women who have recently undergone a miscarriage or abortion. For women experiencing a painful and difficult pregnancy. That those considering abortion will choose life. For the conversion of pro-choice advocates.

*Mary Visits her Cousin Elizabeth.* For God’s blessing on all who visit the sick and homebound. For all abandoned in nursing homes. For all anxiously awaiting the results of medical tests. For all who will receive bad news today. For all who have asked us to pray for them.

*Birth of Jesus.* That the gift of a healthy child will lead parents to a closer walk with Christ and his Church. For parents who will receive the bad news that their child is deformed in some way. For midwives. For families in our parish going through a bad time. For God’s blessing and protection on our own family and friends.

*Presentation of Jesus in the Temple.* For parents, that they may dedicate their children to God and raise them in the ways of Christ and his Church. For our universal Church family. For school and religious education ministries.

*Finding of Jesus in the Temple.* For missing children and their families. For children and teenagers forced into slave

labor and prostitution. For the conversion of those who harm children.

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

*Agony in the Garden.* For all suffering agony of any kind—physical, emotional or spiritual. For all who work daily with distressed and sick people. For all engaged in research to find a cure for all the diseases that plague our human family.

*Scourging at the Pillar.* For victims of domestic abuse and street violence. For victims of war, torture and terrorism. For the conversion of terrorists and violent people. For the safety of all engaged in the war against terrorism. For an end to war.

*Crowning with Thorns.* For all who suffer from migraine headaches and mental illness. For the blind and the deaf. For those in jail—especially the innocent. For the reform of our legal system.

*Carrying of the Cross.* For all who are carrying a big cross at this time and for their loved ones and caregivers. That the crosses of life will make us better, not bitter. For all who have asked us to pray for them. For all who will receive bad news today.

*Crucifixion and Death.* For all who are dying at this time, that they may have a peaceful death. For all grieving a loss. For hospice and respite workers. For those who will be executed today—especially the innocent. For the conversion of all who believe in capital punishment and euthanasia.

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

*Baptism of Jesus.* For all who are preparing for baptism and entry into our Church. For us who are baptized, that we may live as faithful disciples of Jesus. For Church leaders.

*Wedding Feast at Cana.* For engaged and married couples. For hurting couples, that they will reach out for divine and human help. For all engaged in marriage and family life ministry.

*Proclamation of the Kingdom of God.* For all who are engaged in spreading the Good News. For all who teach our Catholic faith to children, teenagers and adults. For the courage to witness the message of Christ by word and deed.

*Transfiguration.* That we, like the Apostles, may listen to Jesus and be transfigured into his likeness. For all who work in Houses of Prayer. For all who have asked us to pray for them. For all who will receive bad news today.

*Institution of the Eucharist.* That the Holy Spirit will open our eyes to help us appreciate the wonderful gift of the Eucharist. That the Holy Spirit will move non-church going Catholics to return to the Eucharist. For the spread of Perpetual Adoration. For an increase of vocations to the priesthood and religious life.

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

*Resurrection.* For God's blessing on those fighting the forces of evil in our world: poverty, terrorism, culture of death, injustices. For a spiritual awakening of all who are spiritually asleep. For all who will be preaching in churches this weekend.

*Ascension.* For the deceased and living members of our Church family. In thanksgiving for all who generously give of their time, treasure and talent to our parish and wider community.

*Descent of the Holy Spirit.* That we, individually and as a community, may be more open and responsive to the promptings of the Holy Spirit. For the Holy Spirit's guidance on all making difficult decisions.

*Assumption of Mary into Heaven.* For the dying and for the souls in purgatory. For our deceased relatives and friends. For the grace of a peaceful death. For all who will receive bad news today.

*Crowning of Mary, Queen of Heaven.* For leaders of nations. For the conversion of unbelievers. For our own ongoing conversion. For an increase of true devotion to Mary. For all who have asked us to pray for them.

### **Respect Life Sunday**

Today is Respect Life Sunday. I have written many articles on this issue. If you wish to view them, go to our website: [www.ascensioncatholic.net](http://www.ascensioncatholic.net), click on Welcome at the top; then Archives, then Topical Index of Writings and scroll down to Respect life issues and click on that.

Have a blessed week,

