

Sword of Truth

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A Rosary Confraternity Publication

Devotion to the Most Holy Rosary,
Pass it on ...
Be a "friend for life" - eternal life!



"I am the Lady of the Rosary"

FIFTEEN PROMISES OF OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

to those who devoutly recite her beads:

(recorded by Blessed Alan de Rupe, 1428-1475, a famous Dominican Rosary Apostle)

1. Those who shall have served me constantly by reciting the Rosary shall receive some special grace.
2. I promise my special protection and great graces to all who devoutly recite my Rosary.
3. The Rosary shall be a most powerful armor against hell; it shall destroy vices, weaken sin, overthrow unbelief.
4. It shall make virtues and good works to flourish again; it shall obtain for souls abundant mercies of God; it shall win the hearts of men from the love of the world and its vanities; and lift them to a desire of things eternal. Oh, how many souls will be sanctified by this means!
5. The soul which has recourse to me through the Rosary shall not perish.
6. Whoever shall have recited the Rosary devoutly and with meditation on its mysteries, shall never be overcome by misfortunes, shall not experience the anger of God, shall not be lost by a sudden death; but if he be in sin, he shall be converted; and if he be in grace, he shall persevere and be made worthy of eternal life.
7. Truly devoted servants of my Rosary shall not die without the Sacraments.
8. It is my will that those who recite my Rosary have, in life and in death, light and the plenitude of graces; and in life and death, may participate in the merits of the saints.
9. Every day I deliver from Purgatory souls devoted to my Rosary.
10. True servants of my Rosary shall enjoy great glory in heaven.
11. Whatever you shall ask through the Rosary, you shall obtain.
12. **I will assist in every necessity those who propagate my Rosary.**
13. I have obtained from my Son that all members of the Confraternity of my Rosary may have in life and in death all the blessed as their associates.
14. All who recite my Rosary are my children and the brethren of my Only Begotten Son, Jesus Christ.
15. Devotion to my Rosary is a great sign of predestination.

OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY AT FATIMA: "Say the Rosary every day..."

But among the various methods and forms of prayer which are devoutly and profitably used in the Catholic Church, that which is called the Rosary of Mary is for many reasons to be especially recommended. And among them, as we have insisted in our Encyclical Letter, is this weighty reason, that the Rosary was instituted principally to implore the protection of the Mother of God against the enemies of the Catholic name, and, as everyone knows, has often been greatly effectual in delivering the Church from calamities. It is therefore not only agreeable to the devotion of private persons, but also suitable to the public needs of the times, that this kind of prayer should be restored to that place of honor which it long held, when each Christian family would suffer no day to pass without the recitation of the Rosary. For these reasons we exhort and beseech all to persist religiously and constantly in the daily use of the Rosary; and we declare it to be our wish that in the principal church of each diocese it should be recited daily, and that in all parish churches it should be said on every feast day. In stimulating and maintaining this pious exercise, the Religious Orders, and especially (by a kind of right) the Dominicans, will be able to be of great use, and we hold it for certain that they will by no means be wanting in the fulfillment of so fruitful and noble a service. (Pope Leo XIII in his Apostolic Letter SALUTARIS ILLE, December 24, 1883)



For centuries, in the Church of God, ever since the time of the great St. Dominic, the Rosary has been one of the chiefest means of Catholic devotion. Few prayers have become so widespread among the faithful. The popularity of the Rosary is due alike to its simplicity, which makes it suited to the capacity of all classes, and to the sublime character of the prayers and meditations which it embraces and excites. All can say the Rosary - rich and poor, learned and unlearned, young and old. And no prayers assuredly could be better accommodated to the needs of a Christian life and Christian perfection than those of which it is composed. The Our Father and Hail Mary, the mysteries of our Saviour's life and death; His infancy and youth, His trials, sorrows, sufferings, and triumphs, what subjects of thought can be more conducive to Christian elevation and highest perfection than these! But not only is the Rosary, by reason of its lofty prayers and meditations, a powerful help to spiritual life and progress; it is also a very special means of expiation. Most richly has it been endowed with indulgences both for the living and the dead. And thus it is that the proper exercise of this great devotion, while making for personal sanctification through the use of sweetest prayers and holiest reflections, is likewise designed to clear away the temporal effects of sin and prepare the soul for its supreme beatitude. (James Cardinal Gibbons in THE TREASURE OF THE ROSARY by Father McKenna, O.P., copyright 1913)



The criticisms which have said, at one time or another, that the Rosary is merely a meaningless, monotonous, mechanical form of prayer, come from those who simply do not understand it, and are therefore not worth discussing. Do pearls grow dull when strung together? Does the sunrise grow staler from repetition day by day? Does a mother leave her baby unheeded because it repeats its cry? Yet beautiful as pearls are in themselves, they would have a greater value still for their possessor if each one had been bought with toil and sacrifice and the very life of a loved one. The sunrise, fair in its own right, would have yet greater worth than the blessed light it brings if its rays struck doubts and fears and sorrows from the mind even as it banishes darkness and coldness from the earth. And a mother, if her infant were in such pain that its sobs came in murmuring monotonies, would scarcely abandon it because its tiny cries were on one note. The Rosary is that string of pearls, dearly bought; is the soft sunrise of a mother's smile; is the cry of Mary's children to her in their hours of joy and sorrow and triumph. (Isidore O'Brien, O.F.M. in THE DRAMA OF THE ROSARY, copyright 1944)

If an apple a day keeps the doctor away — a Rosary a day keeps the devil at bay!

Act of Reparation

Oh Most Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart of Mary, Mother of Jesus, Our Lady of Fatima, inspire me to grieve sincerely for the sins that weigh heavily upon the souls of men. Sorrowfully I recall the bitter and harsh punishments heaped upon Thy Divine Son, when He was cruelly scourged at the pillar, unmercifully crowned with thorns. I recall His sad journey to Calvary, His Crucifixion, and ignominious death on the Cross. Yet, they were but the instruments of pain. It was my sins that really caused His Precious Blood to be shed. His excessive love willed that He should suffer for my salvation. Thus, I will give my little love to make amends and atone for a thoughtless and unappreciative world.

Oh Most Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart of Mary, you who suffered, and shared with Him each pain caused and inflicted by our sins, intercede for us that we may be privileged to unite our hearts with yours in an effort to make reparation for our sins, and the sins of an ungrateful world. Amen.

ACT OF CONSECRATION TO THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

O Immaculate Heart of Mary, Queen of Heaven and Earth, and tender Mother of men, in accordance with thy ardent wish made known at Fatima, I consecrate to thee myself, my brethren, my country, and the whole human race.

Reign over us and teach us how to make the Heart of Jesus reign and triumph in us and around us, as It has reigned and triumphed in thee.

Reign over us, dearest Mother, that we may be thine in prosperity and in adversity, in joy and in sorrow, in health and in sickness, in life and in death. O most compassionate Heart of Mary, Queen of Virgins, watch over our minds and hearts and preserve them from the deluge of impurity which thou didst lament so sorrowfully at Fatima. We want to call down upon our country and the whole world the peace of God in justice and charity.

Therefore, we now promise to imitate thy virtues by the practice of a Christian life without regard to human respect. We resolve to receive Holy Communion on the First Saturday of every month, and to offer thee five decades of the Rosary each day together with our sacrifices, in the spirit of reparation and penance. Amen.

NOVENA TO

Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima

Immaculate Heart of Mary, my Mother, I come to you this day as a little child in prayer. I beg to make this offering of my heart as simple and childlike as I can. The three little ones of Fatima have taught us what it is that pleases your maternal heart. I earnestly desire that all the people of the world be brought back to a humble knowledge and love of the Sacred Heart of your dear Son. I pray, dear Mother of my God, that the indescribable beauty and the glow-white purity of your own Immaculate Heart may so captivate our souls that we will detest all sin and dedicate our lives to the honor and glory of the God who created us.

As much as I feel the need of many things I do not dare in this novena, Mother Mary, to ask one selfish petition for myself. You revealed the secrets of your own sad heart at Fatima and begged for the restoration of the world to God. What can I ask of greater good than to unite my heart to yours in this great yearning? What can I add but the fervent prayer that all the world may listen to your pleading?

I give my heart to you, my heavenly Queen, and in utmost confidence I leave to you the choice of what is best for me in answer to my prayer of love and reparation.

Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima I put my trust entirely in thee.

Immaculate Heart of the Mother of my God we implore, through your powerful intercession, the conversion of the hearts of men, complete victory over sin, and the return of peace which you have promised.

Prayer to

Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima

O LADY OF THE ROSARY OF FATIMA, who through the intercession of the three little shepherds have come to teach us the love of prayer by the recitation of the Rosary, and the spirit of Penance; by true repentance and the humble confession of our sins, obtain for us the grace, always to follow your maternal counsels, so that by the practice of these efficacious means we may arrive at a happy eternity. Amen.