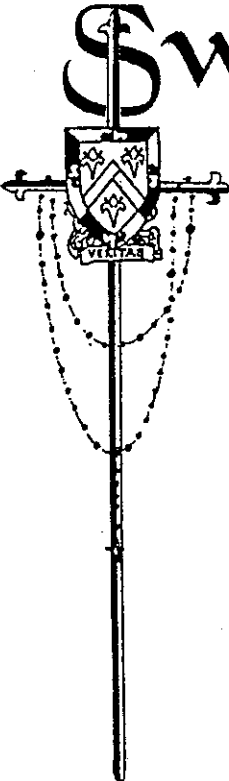


A Rosary Confraternity Publication

AUGUST 22 - FEAST OF THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

Act of Consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary (The Raccolta, #391, 1952)



Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, help of Christians, refuge of the human race, victorious in all the battles of God, we prostrate ourselves in supplication before thy throne, in the sure hope of obtaining mercy and of receiving grace and timely aid in our present calamities, not through any merits of our own on which we do not rely, but only through the immense goodness of thy mother's Heart. In thee and in thy Immaculate Heart, at this grave hour of human history, do we put our trust; to thee we consecrate ourselves, not only with all of Holy Church, which is the mystical body of thy Son Jesus, and which is suffering in so many of her members, being subjected to manifold tribulations and persecutions, but also with the whole world, torn by discords, agitated with hatred, the victim of its own iniquities. Be thou moved by the sight of such material and moral degradation, such sorrows, such anguish; so many tormented souls in danger of eternal loss! Do thou, O Mother of Mercy, obtain for us from God a Christ-like reconciliation of the nations, as well as those graces which can convert the souls of men in an instant, those graces which prepare the way and make certain the long desired coming of peace on earth. O Queen of Peace, pray for us, and grant peace unto the world in the truth, the justice, and the charity of Christ. Above all, give us peace in our hearts, so that the kingdom of God may spread its borders in the tranquillity of order. Accord thy protection to unbelievers and to all those who lie within the shadow of death; cause the Sun of Truth to rise upon them; may they be enabled to join with us in repeating before the Saviour of the world, "Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men of good will." Give peace to the nations that are separated from us by error or discord, and in a special manner to those peoples who profess a singular devotion toward thee; bring them back to Christ's one fold, under the one true Shepherd. Obtain full freedom for the holy Church of God; defend her from her enemies; check the ever-increasing torrent of immorality; arouse in the faithful a love of purity, a practical Christian life, and an apostolic zeal, so that the multitude of those who serve God may increase in merit and in number. Finally, even as the Church and all mankind were once consecrated to the Heart of thy Son Jesus, because He was for all those who put their hope in Him an inexhaustible source of victory and salvation, so in like manner do we consecrate ourselves forever to thee also and to thy Immaculate Heart, O Mother of us and Queen of the World; may thy love and patronage hasten the day when the kingdom of God shall be victorious and all the nations, at peace with God and with one another, shall call thee blessed and intone with thee, from the rising of the sun to its going down, the everlasting "Magnificat" of glory, of love, of gratitude to the Heart of Jesus, in which alone we can find truth, life, and peace. (Pope Pius XII) 3 years indulgence. A plenary on the usual conditions, if devoutly repeated everyday for a month.

A PRAYER TO THE HEART OF MARY

O Heart of Mary, Mother of God, and our Mother, most amiable heart, object of the complacency of the most adorable Trinity, and worthy of all the veneration of angels and men; heart most conformable to that of Jesus, of which thou art the most perfect likeness; heart full of goodness and compassion for our miseries, vouchsafe to melt our frozen hearts, and grant that they may be entirely turned towards the Heart of our divine Savior. Infuse into them the love of thy virtues; inflame them with that sacred fire with which thou continually burnest. Take under thy protection the holy Catholic Church; defend it, and be always its consolation, its asylum, and its invincible fortress against every assault of its enemies. Be thou our way to come to Jesus, and the channel through which we receive all graces necessary for our salvation. Be thou our help in our wants, our relief under afflictions, our comfort in temptations, or refuge in persecutions, and our support in all dangers; but especially in our last conflict at the time

of death, when all the powers of hell will use their utmost endeavors to seize our souls in that awful moment, in that terrible crisis, on which depends our eternal lot. Do thou, at that time, O most pious Virgin, make us experience the sweetness of thy maternal heart, and the efficacy of thy influence with Jesus, thy all-powerful Son, by opening into us, in the source itself of mercy, a secure refuge, that we may enjoy the happiness of blessing Him in heaven for all eternity. Amen.

May the divine Heart of Jesus, and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, be known, praised, blessed, loved, served, and glorified for ever, by all His creatures. Amen.

A message for our times !

The First Encyclical Letter by POPE LEO XIII

SUPREMI APOSTOLATUS - September 1, 1883

URGENT NEED OF DIVINE HELP IN THESE SERIOUS TIMES

THE supreme Apostolic office which we discharge, and the exceedingly difficult condition of these times, daily warn and almost compel us to watch carefully over the integrity of the Church, the more so seeing that the calamities from which she suffers are greater. While, therefore, we endeavor in every way to preserve the rights of the Church and to obviate or repel present or contingent dangers, we constantly seek for help from Heaven - the sole means of effecting anything - that our labors and our care may obtain their wished-for object.

We deem that there could be no surer and more efficacious means to this end than by religion and piety to obtain the favor of the great Virgin Mary, the Mother of God, the guardian of our peace and the minister to us of heavenly grace, who is placed on the highest summit of power and glory in heaven, in order that she may bestow the help of her patronage on men who, through so many labors and dangers, are striving to reach the eternal city. Now that the anniversary, therefore, of manifold and exceedingly great favors, obtained by a Christian people through the devotion of the Rosary, is at hand, we desire that the same devotion should be offered by the whole Catholic world, with the greatest earnestness, to the Blessed Virgin, that by her intercession her Divine Son may be appeased and softened in the evils that afflict us. And therefore we determined, Venerable Brethren, to dispatch to you these letters in order that, informed of our designs, your authority and zeal might excite the piety of your people to conform themselves to them.

CONFIDENCE IN MARY'S AID THROUGH THE ROSARY

It has always been the habit of Catholics in danger and in troublous times to fly for refuge to Mary, and to seek for peace in her maternal goodness; which shows that the Catholic Church has always, and with justice, put all her hope and trust in the Mother of God. And, truly, the Immaculate Virgin, chosen to be the Mother of God and thereby associated with Him in the work of man's Salvation, has a favor and power with her Son greater than any human or angelic creature has ever obtained or ever can gain. And, as it is her greatest pleasure to grant her help and comfort to those who seek her, it cannot be doubted that she would deign, and even be anxious, to receive the aspirations of the Universal Church.

This devotion, so great and so confident, to the August Queen of Heaven has never shone forth with such brilliancy as when the militant Church of God has seemed to be endangered by the violence of heresy spread abroad, or by an intolerable moral corruption, or by the attacks of powerful enemies. Ancient and modern history and the more sacred annals of the Church bear witness to public and private supplications addressed to the Mother of God, to the help she has granted in return, and to the peace and tranquility which she has obtained from God. Hence her illustrious titles of helper, consoler, mighty in war, victorious, and peace-giver. And among these is specially to be commemorated that familiar title derived from the Rosary, by which the signal benefits she has gained for the whole of Christendom have been solemnly perpetuated.

ORIGIN AND EFFICACY OF THE ROSARY

There are none among you, Venerable Brethren, who will not remember how great trouble and grief God's

Holy Church suffered from the Albigensian heretics, who sprang from the sect of the later Manicheans, and who filled the south of France and other portions of the Latin world with their pernicious errors, and carrying everywhere the terror of their arms, strove far and wide to rule by massacre and ruin. Our merciful God, as you know, raised up against these most direful enemies a most holy man, the illustrious parent and founder of the Dominican Order [August 4 Feastday of St. Dominic]. Great in the integrity of his doctrine, in his example of virtue, and by his apostolic labors, he proceeded undauntedly to attack the enemies of the Catholic Church, not by the force of arms, but trusting wholly to that devotion which he was the first to institute under the name of the Holy Rosary, which was disseminated through the length and breadth of the earth by him and his pupils. Guided, in fact, by divine inspiration and grace, he foresaw that his devotion, like a most powerful warlike weapon, would be the means of putting the enemy to flight, and of confounding their audacity and mad impiety. Such was indeed its result. Thanks to this new method of prayer - when adopted and properly carried out as instituted by the Holy Father St. Dominic - piety, faith, and union began to return, and the projects and devices of the heretics to fall to pieces. Many wanderers also returned to the way of Salvation, the wrath of the impious was restrained by the arms of those Catholics who had determined to repel their violence.

POWER OF THE ROSARY IN TIMES PAST

The efficacy and power of this devotion were also wondrously exhibited in the sixteenth century, when the vast forces of the Turks threatened to impose on nearly the whole of Europe the yoke of superstition and barbarism. At the time the Supreme Pontiff, St. Pius V, after rousing the sentiment of a common defense among all the Christian princes, strove, above all, with the greatest zeal to obtain for Christendom the favor of the most powerful Mother of God. So noble an example, offered to Heaven and earth in those times, rallied around him all the minds and hearts of the age. And thus Christ's faithful warriors, prepared to sacrifice their lives and blood for the salvation of their faith and their country, proceeded undauntedly to meet their foe near the Gulf of Corinth; while those who were unable to take part formed a pious band of supplicants, who called on Mary and unitedly saluted her again and again in the words of the Rosary, imploring her to grant the victory to their companions engaged in battle. Our Sovereign Lady did grant her aid; for in the naval battle near the Echinades Islands the Christian fleet gained, with no great loss to itself, a magnificent victory, in which the enemy were routed with great slaughter. And it was to preserve the memory of the great boon thus granted that the same most holy Pontiff desired that a feast in honor of Our Lady of Victories should celebrate the anniversary of so memorable a struggle, the feast which Gregory XIII dedicated under the title "The Holy Rosary."

Similarly important successes were in the last century gained over the Turks at Temesvar in Hungary, and at Corfu; and in both cases these engagements coincided with feasts of the Blessed Virgin and with the conclusion of public devotions of the Rosary. And this led our predecessor Clement XI, in his gratitude, to decree that the Blessed Mother of God should every year be especially honored in her Rosary by the whole Church.

NEED OF DIVINE AID TODAY THROUGH MARY'S INTERCESSION

Since, therefore, it is clearly evident that this form of prayer is particularly pleasing to the Blessed Virgin and that it is especially suitable as a means of defense for the Church and all Christians, it is in no way wonderful that several others of our predecessors have made it their aim to favor and increase its spread by their high recommendations. Thus, Urban IV testified that "every day the Rosary obtained fresh boons for Christianity." Sixtus IV declared that this method of prayer "redounded to the honor of God and the Blessed Virgin, and was well suited to obviate impending dangers," and Leo X, that "it was instituted to oppose pernicious heresiarchs and heresies"; while Julius III called it "the glory of the Church." St. Pius V said that "with the spread of this devotion the meditations of the faithful have begun to be more inflamed and their prayers more fervent, and they have suddenly become different men; the darkness of heresy has been dissipated, and the light of the Catholic faith has broken forth again." Lastly, Gregory XIII in his turn pronounced that "the Rosary had been instituted by St. Dominic to appease the anger of God and to implore the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary."

Moved by these thoughts and by the examples of our predecessors, we have deemed it most opportune for similar reasons to institute solemn prayers and to endeavor, by adopting those addressed to the Blessed Virgin in the recital of the Rosary, to obtain from her Son, Jesus Christ, a similar aid against present dangers. You have before your eyes, Venerable Brethren, the trials to which the Church is daily exposed: Christian piety, public morality, nay,

even faith itself, the supreme good and beginning of all the other virtues - all are daily menaced with the greatest perils.

Nor are you only spectators of the difficulty of the situation, but your charity, like ours, is keenly wounded; for it is one of the most painful and grievous sights to see so many souls, redeemed by the blood of Christ, snatched from Salvation by the whirlwind of an age of error, precipitated into the abyss of eternal death. Our need of divine help is as great today as when the great Dominic introduced the use of the Rosary of Mary as a balm for the wounds of his contemporaries. That great saint, indeed, divinely enlightened, perceived that no remedy would be more adapted to the evils of his time than that men should return to Christ, Who "is the Way, the Truth, and the Life," by frequent meditation on the Salvation obtained for us by Him, and should seek the intercession with God of that Virgin to whom it is given to destroy all heresies. He therefore so composed the Rosary as to recall the mysteries of our Salvation in succession; and the subject of meditation is mingled and, as it were, interlaced with the Angelic Salutation and with the prayer addressed to God, the Father of Our Lord Jesus Christ. We, who seek a remedy for similar evils, do not doubt therefore that the prayers introduced by that most blessed man with so much advantage to the Catholic world will have the greatest effect in removing the calamities of our times also. Not only do we earnestly exhort all Christians to give themselves to the recital of the pious devotion of the Rosary publicly, or privately in their own home and family, and that unceasingly, but we also desire that the whole of the month of October in this year should be consecrated to the Holy Queen of the Rosary.

CONSECRATION OF OCTOBER TO THE QUEEN OF THE ROSARY

We decree and order that in the whole Catholic world during this year the devotion of the Rosary shall be solemnly celebrated with special and splendid services. From the first day of next October, therefore, until the second day of the November following, in every parish and (if the ecclesiastical authority deem it opportune and of use) in every chapel dedicated to the Blessed Virgin, let five decades of the Rosary be recited with the addition of the Litany of Loreto. We desire that the people should frequent these pious exercises; and we will that either Mass shall be said at the altar or the Blessed Sacrament shall be exposed for the adoration of the faithful, Benediction being afterward given with the Sacred Host to the pious congregation. We highly approve of the confraternities of the Holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin going in procession, following ancient customs, through the town, as a public demonstration of their devotion. And in those places where this is not possible, let it be replaced by more assiduous visits to the churches, and let the fervor of piety display itself by a still greater diligence in the exercise of the Christian virtues.

And do you, Venerable Brethren, the more you have at heart the honor of Mary and the welfare of human society, the more diligently apply yourselves to nourish the piety of the people toward the great Virgin and to increase their confidence in her. We believe it to be part of the designs of Providence that in these times of trial for the Church the ancient devotion to the August Virgin should live and flourish amid the greatest part of the Christian world. May now the Christian nations, roused by our exhortations and inflamed by your appeals, seek the protection of Mary with an ardor growing greater day by day; may they cling more and more to the practice of the Rosary, to that devotion which our ancestors were in the habit of practicing, not only as an ever-ready remedy for their misfortunes but as the very badge of Christian piety. The heavenly Patroness of the human race will receive with joy these prayers and supplications and will easily obtain that the good shall grow in virtue, and the erring shall return to Salvation and repent, and that God, Who is the avenger of crime, moved to mercy and pity, will deliver Christendom and civil society from all dangers and restore to them the peace so much desired.

Encouraged by this hope, we beseech God Himself with the most earnest desire of our heart, through her in whom He has placed the fullness of all good, to grant you, Venerable Brethren, every gift of heavenly blessing. And as an augury and pledge of this, we lovingly impart to you, to your clergy, and to the people intrusted to your care, the Apostolic Benediction.

Given in Rome, at St. Peter's, the first day of September, in the year eighteen hundred and eighty-three, the sixth of our Pontificate. LEO XIII, Pope.

*First Sunday in October - Rosary Sunday with Solemn Octave - Dominican Rite
October 7 - Feast of the Most Holy Rosary - Roman Rite*

The Litany of Loreto

Lord, have mercy on us.
 Christ, have mercy on us.

Lord, have mercy on us.

Christ, graciously hear us.

God the Father of heaven, have mercy on us.

God the Son, Redeemer of the world, have mercy on us.

God the Holy Ghost, have mercy on us.

Holy Trinity, one God, have mercy on us.

Holy Mary, pray for us

Holy Mother of God, pray for us

Holy Virgin of virgins, pray for us

Mother of Christ, pray for us

Mother of divine grace, pray for us

Mother most pure, pray for us

Mother most chaste, pray for us

Mother inviolate, pray for us

Mother undefiled, pray for us

Mother most amiable, pray for us

Mother most admirable, pray for us

Mother of good counsel, pray for us

Mother of our Creator, pray for us

Mother of our Savior, pray for us

Virgin most prudent, pray for us

Virgin most venerable, pray for us

Virgin most renowned, pray for us

Virgin most powerful, pray for us

Virgin most merciful, pray for us

Virgin most faithful, pray for us

Mirror of justice, pray for us

Seat of wisdom,

Cause of our joy,

Spiritual vessel,

Vessel of honor,

Singular vessel of devotion,

Mystical rose,

Tower of David,

Tower of ivory,

House of gold,

Ark of the covenant,

Gate of Heaven,

Morning star,

Health of the sick,

Refuge of sinners,

Comforter of the afflicted,

Help of Christians,

Queen of Angels,

Queen of Patriarchs,

Queen of Prophets,

Queen of Apostles,

Queen of Martyrs,

Queen of Confessors,

Queen of Virgins,

Queen of all Saints,

Queen conceived without original sin,

Queen assumed into heaven,

Queen of the most holy Rosary,

Queen of peace,

pray for us

pray for us

pray for us

pray for us

pray for us

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pray for us

Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of the world, spare us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of the world, graciously hear us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, Who takest away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God, R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray

Grant, we beseech Thee, O Lord God, unto us Thy servants, that we may rejoice in continual health of mind and body; and, by the glorious intercession of Blessed Mary ever Virgin, may be delivered from present sadness, and enter into the joy of Thine eternal gladness. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

From The Raccolta #398:

The faithful who during the month of October recite at least a third part of the Rosary, either publicly or privately, may gain (in addition to the regular Rosary indulgences):

An indulgence of 7 years each day;

A plenary indulgence, if they perform this devout exercise on the Feast of the Rosary and throughout the Octave, and moreover, go to confession, receive Holy Communion and visit a church or public oratory;

A plenary indulgence, with the addition of confession, Communion and a visit to a church or public oratory, if they perform this same recitation of the holy Rosary for at least 10 days after the Octave of the aforesaid Feast.