

ENCOURAGEMENT ENCOURAGEMENT

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the host apostolate

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The Rosary as a means of Survival and Spiritual help!

Eight women were crowded together some of them, no more than girls, including Immaculée aged twenty two. They took it in turns to sit or crouch. Outside there was slaughter of their families and people. It was the Rwandan genocide. (1994) For three months they huddled together for fear of their lives... stayed and survived as Immaculée said, -' left to tell.' But what kept her alive in a remarkable way was the recitation of the Rosary. Daily, every minute, slowly line by line, stopping to meditate on the mysteries often terrified, hungry and exhausted she continued. In all this she forgave the killers of her family and she begged God that it would be so. This was her survival package.

The Rosary is a great prayer when other prayer is difficult... It comes with promises of heaven and healing given in so many places of accepted apparition, Lourdes, Fatima, Rwanda and in Medjugorje. St Dominic had the rosary revealed mystically to him in the twelfth century as a 'special' prayer to combat heresy It has been the mainstay of many great Saints, Sts. Padre Pio, Mother Teresa of Calcutta, Blessed John Paul 11, Blessed 'Pelé' Malla (Spanish Gypsy Martyr.) and countless of our forefathers. It was promoted in the 16th century by great saints such as St Francis de Sales as a path to virtue, St Teresa of Avila and St Philip Neri. St Ignatius of Loyola linked it with



Our Lady of the Rosary

Scripture. In the eighteenth Century St Louis de Montfort developed an even greater understanding of it, its 'secrets' each decade as roses flowers of beauty. We in more recent times have known priests such as Father Peyton who so promoted it as a prayer for the family.



Our Lady of Kibeho
Rwanda

It is useful to look at the great development of the rosary as we now know it. At first it came from the needs of ordinary illiterate lay people to join in the prayers of the church. Lay brothers could not know the Latin office recited by the priests. The one hundred and fifty psalms were used but it was thought too difficult to learn these by heart so they were substituted by 'Our Fathers', 'Paters', as the Jesus Psalter. However the life of Jesus is so closely associated with the life our/ His Mother that soon the 'Aves' were added. So by the fourteenth century these were arranged in groups of fifty 'Aves' and fifteen 'Paters'. As a means of counting these either pebbles were used or beads or knots in string.

But it was in the sixteenth century that we see the development of the Rosary as we now know it. First the Angels salutation was put together with the greeting of St Elisabeth (1498). Of interest too is that England and Ireland had a crucial role to play in this development. For example 'the students of Eton College in 1440 were required to daily recite the Psalter of the Virgin Mary fifteen Our Fathers and one hundred and fifty 'Hail Marys'. More was heard about this prayer from these lands than anywhere else.

"No one can live continually in sin and continue to say the Rosary. Either he will give up the sin or he will give up the Rosary"

Bishop Patrick Boyle

Then with the addition of the second part of the prayer... Holy Mary etc. and first, by use of pictures, and the work and 'inspiration' of St Dominic and Alan de Rupe the Rosary became what is familiar to us. After several battles including Lepanto where Our Lady's influence was felt to be the reason for the success the Feast of the Holy Rosary was ratified for October the 7th in 1573. (Pope Gregory XIII) By 1716 it was decreed as a universal feast of the church as it is today. Holy writers such as St Louis de Montfort added greatly to the understanding of the value and simplicity of the Rosary. Pope Leo XIII wrote twelve encyclical (letters) on the rosary. He stated that the month of October was to be the month of the Rosary. Subsequent Popes have added much to our appreciation of it and it develops as a wonderful gift to us. The addition of the Creed and then the Salve Regina as well the Fatima prayer and of course the Luminous Mysteries



The Church of
Our Lady and St Thomas
Willington Co Durham

which add so many reflections on the Life of Jesus have greatly enriched this prayer further.

What can be better than reflecting on the Scriptures in an easy form by bringing our prayer to Our Mother and have her intercede for us. Pope John XXIII said 'that The Rosary is both a meditative and contemplative prayer as well as a pious one which helps us unite the lives of Jesus and Mary'.

It can be said alone or in groups, families and congregations. It can be prayed simply and slowly a decade at a time or as a whole... it brings us

consolation and teaches us. It reminds us that God is with us through all time and help us even developing our prayer. It is truly a rose-garden of great fragrance. Make this month a special Rosary month and let us once again make England and the world Mary's Dowry.

Ref.' Left to Tell' Discovering God in the Rwandan Holocaust
Immaculée Ilibagiza
History of the Rosary. Richard Gribble C.S.C.



The Luminous Mysteries (The Mysteries of Light)

Blessed John Paul II on October 16th 2002 with the Apostolic Letter-Rosarium Virginis Mariae on the Most Holy Rosary added five new mysteries of Light.. These help us to deepen our awareness of Jesus' Life.

The Baptism in the Jordan: The voice of the Father declares Jesus the beloved Son.

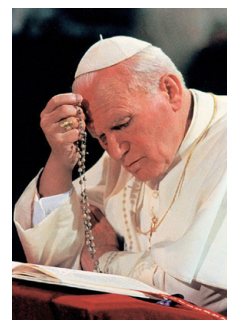
The Wedding at Cana: Christ changes water into wine, his first public miracle.

The Proclamation of the Kingdom: Jesus calls to conversion (cf. Mk 1:15) and forgives the sins of all who draw near to him.

The Transfiguration: The glory of the Godhead shines forth from the face of Christ.

The Institution of the Eucharist: Jesus offers the first Mass at the Last Supper with his apostles, establishing the sacramental foundation for all Christian living

These are often prayed on Thursday or Saturday. You could pray one decade a day during October.



Pope John Paul II

Pope Benedict XVI, on the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary 2011 invited us to "persist in the daily recitation of the rosary."

He reflected that through this prayer, families can be united with Our Lady, and "fully cooperate in the plans of salvation God has for you." He also recommends it as a special prayer for the Sick and says.....

"The rosary is a prayer to 'strengthen you ever more in faith, in hope and in love.'"

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