

To The Bishops, Clergy and Faithful on the Most Holy Rosary – The GLORIOUS MYSTERIES

How many graces I received from the Blessed Virgin through the Rosary: Magnificat anima mea Dominum! I wish to lift up my thanks to the Lord in words of his Most Holy Mother, under whose protection I placed my Petrine ministry: Totus Tuus! I felt drawn to offer a reflection on the Rosary, an exhortation to contemplate the face of Christ in union with, and at the school of, his Most Holy Mother. To recite the Rosary is to contemplate with Mary the face of Christ “when the Mother is honoured, the Son ... is duly known, loved and glorified”.⁸ In the present historical and theological context the Rosary can risk being wrongly devalued, and no longer taught to the younger generation. I desire that the Rosary should be especially emphasized and promoted in the various Christian communities. *(The following texts are from Pope JP II’s Letter on the Year of the Rosary 2002-3.)*

The Glorious Mysteries – (Wednesday, Sunday) – with accompanying prayers to end the decade

23. *“The contemplation of Christ's face cannot stop at the image of the Crucified One. He is the Risen One!”²⁹ The Rosary has always expressed this knowledge born of faith and invited the believer to pass beyond the darkness of the Passion in order to gaze upon Christ's glory in the Resurrection and Ascension. The glorious mysteries thus lead the faithful to greater hope for the eschatological goal towards which they journey as members of the pilgrim People of God in history. This can only impel them to bear courageous witness to that “good news” which gives meaning to their entire existence.*

1st – The Resurrection of Jesus – “Jesus, who with the Holy Spirit rises from among the dead”

Contemplating the Risen One, Christians rediscover the reasons for their own faith (cf. 1Cor 15:14) and relive the joy not only of those to whom Christ appeared – the Apostles, Mary Magdalene and the disciples on the road to Emmaus – but also the joy of Mary, who must have had an equally intense experience of the new life of her glorified Son.

Let us pray: Father, may Jesus’ radiant Resurrection victory over sin, suffering and death instil in us the faith to obey You as He did and surrender our lives with trust to Jesus’ Lordship. Amen.

2nd – The Ascension of Jesus – “Jesus, who makes us reign with Him in loving service”

In the Ascension, Christ was raised in glory to the right hand of the Father. (All of humanity must now wait until the end of time to see Him again, when He comes on the clouds at the sound of the trumpet to judge the nations and hand over the kingdom to his Father. Only with faith may we now know Him and be touched by Him in the Sacraments – through which He draws us into participation in his saving mysteries – incorporating us into the divine life and love of the Blessed Trinity.)

Let us pray: Father, in Jesus’ Ascent into Heaven we see his confidence that your will in us shall be fulfilled. Let this hope inflame our hearts to obey Jesus’ command to love. Amen.

3rd – The Descent of the Holy Spirit – “Jesus, who sends the Holy Spirit from beside the Father”

At the centre of this unfolding sequence of the glory of the Son and the Mother, the Rosary sets before us the third glorious mystery, Pentecost, which reveals the face of the Church as a family gathered together with Mary, enlivened by the powerful outpouring of the Spirit and ready for the mission of evangelization. The contemplation of this scene, like that of the other glorious mysteries, ought to lead the faithful to an ever greater appreciation of their new life in Christ, lived in the heart of the Church, a life of which the scene of Pentecost itself is the great “icon”.

Let us pray: Father, let your Holy Spirit – the purifying fire of divine love – transform us into living images of Jesus, your Love incarnate, loving You and others today and every day. Amen.

4th – The Assumption of Mary – “Jesus, who makes of you the living Temple of the Lord”

Mary herself would be raised to that same glory in the Assumption, enjoying beforehand, by a unique

privilege, the destiny reserved for all the just at the resurrection of the dead. (In Jesus' resurrection, we see his glory as Lord of all, King of Kings, and the Alpha and Omega. In Mary's assumption, we are encouraged to hope with confidence in the Father's will to fulfill Jesus' promise to grant us a place in his heavenly dwelling and at the wedding feast of the Lamb, the Beloved Bridegroom of the Church.)

Let us pray: Lord Jesus, You have placed your Church and us in your Mother Mary's care. As we honor You in her, keep us in the intimate embrace of your love until our death. Amen.

5th – The Coronation of Mary – “Jesus, who makes of you the Mother of the Church”

Crowned in glory – as she appears in the last glorious mystery – Mary shines forth as Queen of the Angels and Saints, anticipation and supreme realization of the eschatological state of the Church.

(How can we, poor sinners that we are, fail to honor she whom our Lord so gladly honors for her share in his saving mission – even to the bitter end of his passion and death? She who surrendered all things to her Son and King will receive all things in equal measure into eternity, as Jesus promised to all.)

Let us pray: Holy Spirit, it pleases the Father and the Son to share with Mary their work of grace. Grant us trust in her intercession and deeper communion with Father and Son in You. Amen.

Let us pray together: O God, whose only begotten Son, by his life, death, and resurrection has purchased for us the rewards of eternal life; grant, we beseech Thee; that meditating upon these mysteries in the most Holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we may imitate what they contain, and obtain what they promise; through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer to St. Michael – St. Michael the Archangel, defend us in the day of battle. Be our safeguard against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the Power of God, cast into hell Satan and all the other evil spirits, who prowl through the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

The Memorare of St. Bernard

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it known that anyone who fled to thy protection, implored thy help, or sought thy intercession, was left unaided. Inspired by this confidence, I fly to Thee, O Virgin of Virgins, my Mother! To Thee do I come, before Thee I stand, sinful and sorrowful. O Mother of the Word Incarnate, despise not my petitions, but in thy mercy, hear and answer me. Amen.

Mary, Queen of Holy Angels, pray for us!

Prayer for Vocations

God our Father, Lord of the harvest, we come to you with confidence. Raise up priests to proclaim your Son Jesus to all, to reveal his presence among us, to gather your people in unity and help us to grow. May our community be truly alive and our families firm in faith so that the pastors of tomorrow may spring from their midst. Nurture men and women with hearts to be faithful and devoted husbands and wives, witnesses of faith, and generous parents. Raise up deacons, missionaries, and consecrated persons to also teach us to give of ourselves in service to others. Build us up, married and celibate, as one family to spread your Kingdom and to share the joy of being your children. Amen.

Prayer for Our Country

Heavenly Father, we commit this, our beloved land, to the Kingship and Lordship of Jesus Christ. We ask You to renew our country in the power of the Holy Spirit that all Canadians will bow their knee and confess with their tongue that Jesus Christ is Lord. We pray that our political leaders receive wisdom and knowledge from on high to govern this land according to your sovereign Will; so we may prosper in justice and in peace, in love and in truth; until Christ our Lord is indeed the King of Canada from coast to coast, from sea to sea. We pledge a covenant of prayer and witness so that the powers of evil be defeated and the enemy of God, Satan, be subdued. Let Jesus Christ be Sovereign in every City Hall, every Parliament and every Court in our land until the day of his glorious coming. Amen.