

Today, the Church celebrates the Memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary, a feast that reminds us of the great importance of one of the most beautiful and powerful devotions entrusted to us through the intercession of the Blessed Mother. The Rosary is not simply a collection of familiar prayers or a pious practice that we turn to when we have a little extra time. It is a means of drawing us more deeply into the mysteries of the life of Jesus Christ, while placing ourselves under the loving guidance of His Mother. Through the Rosary, we contemplate the life of Christ through the eyes of the woman who knew Him most intimately, loved Him most perfectly, and remained faithful to Him even at the foot of the Cross.

We are reminded of the importance of this devotion through the apparitions of Our Lady at Fatima in 1917. At a time when the world was engulfed in war, violence, and spiritual disorder, Our Lady repeatedly urged the children to pray the Rosary every day for peace and for the conversion of sinners. Her message was remarkably simple, yet profoundly urgent. She called the faithful to prayer, penance, and

reparation for sin, reminding us that the spiritual evils of this world cannot be overcome through human effort alone. The conversion of the world must begin with the conversion of the human heart, and prayer is one of the principal means by which we open ourselves to the transforming grace of God.

The Rosary is especially powerful because it brings us into communion with Christ through the intercession of His Blessed Mother. As we meditate upon the mysteries of the Rosary, we contemplate the humility of the Incarnation, the suffering and death of Our Lord, and His glorious Resurrection. Mary teaches us how to receive the grace of God with humility, how to surrender ourselves to His divine will, and how to remain faithful even when the demands of discipleship become difficult. She is the perfect model of Christian holiness, because her entire life was an unreserved yes to God. And as we grow closer to Mary through the Rosary, she continually directs us toward her Son, teaching us to imitate His virtues and to conform our lives more closely to His.

The Rosary can be for us one of the most powerful means by which God transforms us. If we pray the Rosary faithfully, we should gradually become more patient, more charitable, more humble, and more willing to forgive. Our devotion begins to bear fruit in the way we live, in the way we treat others, and in our willingness to abandon our own desires in favor of the will of God. The Rosary should never become a mindless repetition of familiar words, but rather a daily opportunity to contemplate the mysteries of our salvation and allow them to shape our hearts.

The message of Fatima remains just as relevant today as it was more than a century ago. Our world continues to suffer from the consequences of sin, and so many souls remain distant from God. We worry about our families, our children, our communities, and the future of the Church, but how faithfully do we bring these concerns before God in prayer? Our Lady reminds us that the salvation of souls is of eternal consequence, and that our prayers and sacrifices can be offered for the conversion of sinners and the peace of the world. The Rosary gives us a

powerful way to intercede for those who have fallen away from God and to entrust them to the maternal care of the Blessed Virgin.

On this feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, let us take seriously the invitation our Blessed Mother has given us. Let us make the Rosary a faithful part of our daily lives, not merely a devotion reserved for times of difficulty or moments of convenience, but a regular expression of our love for God and our trust in the intercession of Mary. And may Our Lady, who pondered the mysteries of her Son in her own heart, teach us to do the same, so that through her powerful intercession, we may grow in holiness, persevere in faith, and one day share with her in the eternal glory of Heaven. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen!

Good morning Ladies and Gentlemen of St. Joseph! Today we celebrate the Memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary. The Rosary is one of the most beautiful prayers that we have as Catholics. It is a way for us to grow closer to the Blessed Mother, but even more importantly, it is a way for us to grow closer to Jesus. When we pray the Rosary, we walk with Mary through the most important moments in the life of her Son, Jesus. We remember His birth, His suffering and death, His Resurrection, and His glory in Heaven. As we pray, Mary helps us to understand just how much Jesus loves us.

Our Blessed Mother is the greatest example after Jesus of what it means to be holy. Think about how Mary lived her life. She trusted God, even when she did not understand everything that He was asking of her. She accepted His will, even when it was difficult. She loved Jesus with all her heart, cared for Him, and remained faithful to Him even when He suffered and died on the Cross. Mary shows us that holiness is not about being perfect or never making mistakes. It is about loving God, trusting Him, and trying every day to do what He asks of us.

This is why the Rosary is so important. When we pray it faithfully, we are not simply repeating the same prayers over and over again. We are spending time with Mary, asking her to help us become more like Jesus. Each Hail Mary is like taking another step closer to our Blessed Mother, who then leads us to her Son. The Rosary helps us slow down, quiet our hearts, and think about the life of Jesus. It teaches us to be patient, to be faithful, to forgive others, and to love God even when life is difficult.

One of the most important things we can do to grow in holiness is to develop a faithful devotion to Our Lady. Even if we cannot pray an entire Rosary every day, we can begin by praying a decade, or by setting aside a few minutes each day to pray with Mary. What matters is that we make a sincere effort to turn to her and ask for her help.

Remember that Mary is not someone who wants to take our attention away from Jesus. She always leads us to Him. Just as she cared for Jesus when He was a child, she wants to help each one of us grow in faith, become stronger in virtue, and learn to love God more deeply.

When we are afraid, she teaches us to trust. When we are tempted to do something wrong, she encourages us to choose what is right. When we have sinned, she helps us turn back to her Son and seek His mercy.

Today, let us ask Our Lady of the Rosary to help us develop a real love for this beautiful prayer. Let us not allow the Rosary to become something we pray only when we are in trouble or when someone reminds us to do it. Instead, let us make it a regular part of our lives, a way of spending time with our Heavenly Mother and learning from her example. And may Mary, who was so faithful to God throughout her life, help each one of us to become more faithful, more loving, and more holy, until one day we can join her and all the saints in the glory of Heaven. In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit, Amen!