

## FROM FR. JASON



Dear Brothers and Sisters,

We are more than halfway through October, the month of the Holy Rosary. Did you know that it was Pope Leo XIII who officially dedicated this month to the Rosary through an encyclical in 1883? The Holy Rosary is an enormous source of grace and spiritual protection, and one of the most powerful sacramentals of the Catholic Church. One of the children to whom Our Lady appeared at Fatima, Sister Lucia dos Santos, once said: “There is no problem, no matter how difficult it is, whether temporal or above all spiritual, in the personal life of each one of us, of our families...that cannot be solved by the Rosary.” Let us remember that the Rosary is a clear and easy path to sanctity.

After the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass, the Holy Rosary is the prayer most pleasing to Our Lady. Why is it so pleasing to her? Because it brings us closer to Jesus. That is the single most important reason we should pray the Holy Rosary: through it, we grow closer to Our Lord. St. Louis de Montfort once said: “If you say the Rosary faithfully until death, I do assure you that, in spite of the gravity of your sins, you shall receive a never fading crown of glory. For even if you are now on the brink of damnation, even if you have one foot in hell, even if you have sold your soul to the devil...sooner or later you will be converted and will amend your life and save your soul. If—you say the Rosary devoutly every day of your life.”

If you strive to pray the Rosary daily and devoutly, one of two things will happen: either you will sin less and less, becoming more like Christ—or you will give up on the Rosary. In this way, devotion to the Rosary is a direct battle between grace and sin within us. If we persevere in the Rosary, Mary will prevail. In particular, Our Lady has made fifteen specific promises to those who faithfully pray the Rosary throughout their lives. Let us yearn for these special graces. Here are the 1<sup>st</sup> five promises. Let us contemplate these this week and next week I will give you the rest!

1. Whoever shall faithfully serve me by the recitation of the Rosary, shall receive signal graces. (A signal grace may be a simple sign in daily life that answers a question made in prayer or points towards God’s will. For example, seeing a rose after finishing a novena to St. Therese of Lisieux could be considered a signal grace. Signal graces are often subtle or seemingly coincidental.)
2. I promise my special protection and the greatest graces to all those who shall recite the Rosary.
3. The Rosary shall be a powerful armor against hell, it will destroy vice, decrease sin, and defeat heresies.
4. It will cause virtue and good works to flourish; it will obtain for souls the abundant mercy of God; it will withdraw the hearts of men from the love of the world and its vanities, and will lift them to the desire of eternal things. Oh, that souls would sanctify themselves by this means.
5. The soul which recommends itself to me by the recitation of the Rosary shall not perish. (In other words, anyone who faithfully prays the Rosary and asks for Mary’s intercession will not go to hell.)

It is amazing to recognize how much grace and heavenly help we can receive by an act so simple as praying the Rosary regularly. And it only takes fifteen minutes to pray! Set aside time alone, with your family, or with some friends and start reciting a daily Rosary. If you don’t think you have time, try praying on the way to work in the morning. You will surely notice the graces it brings into your life, just as Our Lady promised!

Peace,