



## The Holy Rosary

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The Church celebrates the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary on October 7<sup>th</sup> and the anniversary of the last appearance of Our Lady of Fatima is on October 13<sup>th</sup>. In every apparition, the heavenly Mother has invited us to pray the Rosary as a powerful weapon against evil and to bring us true peace. I thought it appropriate that the topic for this month be The Holy Rosary.

According to a Dominican tradition, in the year 1208 the rosary was given to St. Dominic in an apparition by the Blessed Virgin Mary in the church of Prouille (France). This Marian apparition received the title of Our Lady of the Rosary.

On October 7<sup>th</sup>, the Roman Catholic Church celebrates the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. Known for several centuries by the alternate title of "Our Lady of Victory," the feast day takes place in honor of a 16th century naval victory, which secured Europe against Turkish invasion. Pope St. Pius V attributed the victory to the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, who was invoked on the day of the battle, through a campaign to pray the Rosary throughout Europe.

The Rosary is one of the most cherished prayers of our Catholic Church. It begins with the Creed, followed by the Our Father, three Hail Mary's, the Glory Be, and concludes with the Hail Holy Queen. During recitation, the individual meditates on the saving mysteries of our Lord's life and the faithful witness of our Blessed Mother.

Much of what I'm about to relate is from an article written by Father Gabriele Amorth, which I received from a Legion of Mary member here at Santa Maria Del Mar.

The title is: '**The Value of the Rosary**'. Although after reading it, I thought a more appropriate title would be the "The Value and Power of the Rosary".

But who am I to argue with Father Amorth who was an Italian Catholic priest, exorcist of the Diocese of Rome and who performed thousands of exorcisms over his sixty plus years as a priest. As the appointed exorcist for the diocese of Rome, he was also the Chief Exorcist of the Vatican.

He says the secret that makes the Rosary so effective is that it's both prayer and meditation. It's addressed to the Father, to the Blessed Virgin,

and to the Holy Trinity, and is a meditation centered on Christ.

When we pray the Rosary we should enunciate each word clearly and distinctly. We shouldn't trample on the heels' of the words of anyone, or speak over the leader if we are following, or the responders if we are leading the Rosary. Each one of us is speaking to our Mother and listening carefully to her response within our hearts.

When we are praying and we say, "**Holy Mary Mother of God, pray for us sinners now**" the Blessed Mother comes instantly to our side to pray with us. And she doesn't come alone. She brings angels with her. And not just one or two for she is the Queen of Angels, so choirs of angels come with her.

And since she and Jesus are joined at the heart, and cannot be separated, she brings Jesus with her. And Jesus can't be separated from the Trinity, so He brings the Father and the Holy Spirit with Him. And where the Holy Trinity is, all of creation is, and you are surrounded by such beauty and light as you can't imagine in this life.

Our Mother comes to us as **Our Lady of Grace**, with her arms out-stretched. Rays of light emit from her hands piercing our body, healing us and filling us with graces.

This is our inheritance which was poured out from the heart of Jesus on the Cross.

Now as we pray the Rosary, or even recite just one Hail Mary, we receive our portion of these graces.

Father Amorth says at this time, "Anyone who goes to Mary and prays the Rosary cannot be touched by Satan. Is it any wonder, that anyone who prays the Rosary from the heart, is so blessed, protected and powerful, in their prayers for others?"

I'll end with Father Amorth's opening sentence in his book. He writes: "One day a colleague of mine heard the devil say during an exorcism: **Every Hail Mary is like a blow to my head. If Christians knew how powerful the Rosary was, it would be my end.**"

Now, with these thoughts in mind, I invite you to pray the rosary every day.