

Sword of Truth

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A Rosary Confraternity Publication

April 28 - Feast of St. Louis Marie de Montfort - "Extraordinary Preacher of the Rosary"

Born in a little town in Brittany, Louis de Montfort, from his early childhood, gave clear signs of what he would do for the rest of his life. At a very early age, Louis organized Rosary societies, told stories of the lives of the saints, preached sermons, and led the Rosary for the children in his neighborhood. With a great love and devotion to Our Lady, he chose her name in Confirmation and went on to the priesthood furthering this love and devotion and sharing it with all he met. Louis joined the Third Order of St. Dominic and, as a good son of Dominic, preached and established devotion to Our Lady and to her Rosary everywhere he went. It is estimated that he enrolled over 100,000 people into the Rosary Confraternity. It is no wonder that Holy Mother Church hails him as an "Extraordinary Preacher of the Rosary".

The following two "roses" are sent to you, the Members of the Rosary Confraternity, by St. Louis Marie de Montfort from his book, "The Secret of the Rosary". Anyone wishing to obtain a free copy of this book may do so by sending your name and address to the return address shown on the back of this newsletter.

The Twenty-Ninth Rose - Means of Salvation

Saint Dennis said that there is nothing more noble and more pleasing to God than to cooperate in the work of saving souls and to frustrate the devil's plans for ruining them. The Son of God came down to earth for no other reason than to save souls. He upset Satan's empire by founding the Church, but the former rallied his strength and wreaked cruel violence on souls by the Albigensian heresy, by the hatred, dissensions and abominable vices which he spread throughout the world in the 11th, 12th, and 13th centuries.

Only stringent measures could possibly cure such terrible disorders and repel Satan's forces. The Blessed Virgin, Protectress of the Church, has given us a most powerful means for appeasing her Son's anger, uprooting heresy and reforming Christian morals, in the Confraternity of the Holy Rosary. [How much more do we need this today!] It has proved its worth for it has brought back [in the past] charity and frequent reception of the Sacraments which flourished in the first golden centuries of the Church and it has reformed Christian morals.

Pope Leo X said in his Bull that this Confraternity had been founded in honor of God and of the Blessed Virgin as a wall to hold back the evils that were going to break upon the Church. Pope Gregory XIII said that the Rosary was given us from heaven as a means of appeasing God's anger and of imploring Our Lady's intercession. Pope Jules III said that the Rosary was inspired by God in order that heaven might be more easily opened to us through the favors of Our Lady. Pope Paul III and Pope St. Pius V stated that the Rosary was given to the faithful in order that they might have spiritual peace and consolation more easily. Surely everyone will want to join a confraternity which was founded for such noble purposes.

Father Dominic, the Carthusian, who was deeply devoted to the Holy Rosary, had this vision: Heaven was opened for him to see and the whole heavenly court was assembled in magnificent array. He heard them sing the Rosary in an enchanting melody and each decade was in honor of a mystery of the life, passion, or glory of Our Lord, Jesus Christ, and of His Blessed Mother. Father Dominic noticed that whenever they said the sacred name of Mary they bowed their heads and at the name of Jesus they genuflected and gave thanks to God for the great good that He had wrought in heaven and on earth through the Holy Rosary, which the Confraternity members say here on earth. He noticed too that they were praying for those who practice this devotion. He also saw beautiful crowns without number which were made of gorgeous perfumed flowers held in readiness for those who say the Holy Rosary

devoutly. He learned that by every Rosary that they say they make a crown for themselves which they will be able to wear in heaven.

This holy Carthusian's vision is very much like that which St. John the Beloved Disciple had. He had a vision of a great multitude of angels and saints who continually praised and blessed Our Savior Jesus Christ for all that He had done and suffered on earth for our salvation. This is precisely what the devout members of the Rosary Confraternity do.

It must not be thought that the Rosary is only for women and for simple and ignorant people; it is also for men and for the greatest of men. As soon as St. Dominic acquainted Pope Innocent III with the fact that he had received a command from heaven to establish the Confraternity of the Most Holy Rosary, the Holy Father gave it his full approval, urged St. Dominic to preach it and said that he wished to become a member himself. Many Cardinals embraced the devotion with great fervor too, which prompted Lopez to say: "Neither sex nor age nor any other condition has kept anyone from devotion to the Holy Rosary." Members of the Confraternity have always been from all walks of life: dukes, princes, kings, as well as prelates, cardinals, and Sovereign Pontiffs.

The Thirty-First Rose

Alphonsus VIII, King of Aragon and Castille, had been leading a disorderly life and therefore had been punished by God in several ways, one of these being that he was worsted in battle and had to take refuge in a city belonging to one of his allies.

St. Dominic happened to be in this city on Christmas Day and preached on the Holy Rosary as he always did, pointing out how great are the graces that we can obtain through it. He mentioned, among other things, that those who said the Rosary devoutly would overcome their enemies and would regain all that they had lost in warfare. The King listened attentively and sent for St. Dominic to ask if what he had said about the Rosary was really true. St. Dominic assured him that nothing was more true, and that if only he would practice this devotion and join the Confraternity, he would see for himself. The King firmly resolved to say his Rosary every day and persevered for a year in doing so. The very next Christmas Our Lady appeared to him at the end of his Rosary and said: "Alphonsus, you have served me for a year by saying my Rosary devoutly every day, so I have come to reward you: I have obtained the forgiveness of your sins from my Son, and I am going to give you this rosary; wear it, and I promise you that none of your enemies will ever be able to harm you again."

Our Lady vanished leaving the King overjoyed and greatly encouraged; he immediately went in search of the Queen to tell her all about Our Lady's gift and the promise that went with it. He held the rosary to her eyes (she had been blind for some time) and her sight was instantly restored.

Shortly afterwards the King rallied some troops with the help of his allies and boldly attacked his enemies. He forced them to give back the territory that they had taken from him and to make amends for their other offences against him, and put them completely to rout. In fact, he became so lucky in war that soldiers rushed from all sides to fight under his standard because it seemed that whenever he went to battle the victory was sure to be his.

This is not surprising because he never went to battle without first saying his Rosary devoutly on his knees. He made certain that all the members of his court joined the Confraternity of the Most Holy Rosary and he also saw that his officers and servants were devoted to it. The Queen joined the Confraternity and started saying the Rosary too, and she and her husband persevered in Our Lady's service and lived really holy lives.

Simple Rosary Meditations by a Dominican Tertiary

"The final word on the importance of the Rosary has been pronounced by Our Blessed Lady herself in the Message of Fatima, wherein she laid such emphasis on the vital need for the daily recitation of this prayer. If the world were suffering, and threatened with grave evils at the time of the Message (1917), it is in even more deadly peril today... The forces of evil have gathered strength, and the followers of Christ are fighting against 'principalities and powers, against the rulers of the world of darkness; we need, as never before, the realization of the truths of the Incarnation and the intercession of Our Heavenly Mother to stem the tide of evil and restore peace to a stricken world."

Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, pray for us now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Don't go to heaven by yourself - take someone with you!

Enclosed with this issue of the Sword of Truth is an informational brochure on the Rosary Confraternity which includes the Confraternity Enrollment Form. Be good to someone today, and pass it on. In the words of St. Louis Marie de Montfort on page 1, "Surely everyone will want to join a confraternity which was founded on such noble purposes."

"REMEMBER MAN that THOU ART DUST, AND UNTO DUST THOU SHALT RETURN!"

I wonder what condition my soul will be in at the hour of death.

Oh, is it not terrible folly to put off one's preparation for it!

If for five minutes a day we considered life in the light of the great truth of death, we would not so easily become intoxicated with the pleasures and vanities of the world.

Let me seriously ask myself: Am I preparing for death?

Am I content to die in the way I am living at present?

O Sweet, Loving, Master, Jesus Christ, there is never a moment in which I do not need Thy great mercy. Poor, miserable creature that I am, I am the recipient of so much love from Thee, and yet my tepidity, ingratitude, and sinfulness are so constant and so great. From the depths of my soul I cry out to Thee for mercy. You know, Lord, what I am. Not only am I miserable, but I am a sinner.

"O Thou Who art my hope, be not to me a subject of dread in the day of affliction." (Jer.17:17) On that dreadful day of my death, O Lord Jesus, be my solace, my support.

Since I know not how near death is, my Lord - since at this moment it may be playing with the chords of my heart - since it may call me, as it has called many others before this day has completed its course - oh, then, permit me to do this action in preparation for my death. Let this meditation be a fervent incentive to prepare for its approach.

Bitterly do I bewail every sin of my life, dearest Lord.

Firmly do I promise with the aid of Thy grace to sin no more.

Strengthen this my resolution.

O Mary, sweetest of Mothers, and Queen of the Holy Rosary, pray for me, that I may learn to prepare for the moment of death.

Sweet St. Joseph, Patron of a happy death, intercede for me.

SEVEN JOYS THAT COME FROM MEDITATION UPON THE SACRED PASSION *taken from "Whisperings to God" by Stephen Sweeney, C.P.*

- 1. The Joy that we have consoled Jesus for the pains we have caused Him by our sins.**
- 2. The Joy that we have answered His appeal for our love.**
- 3. The Joy that we are repenting of past sins.**
- 4. The Joy that we are co-operating with Him in His work of man's redemption.**
- 5. The Joy that follows upon a clearer knowledge that He has redeemed us.**
- 6. The Joy that he is enabling us to form staunch resolutions to amend our lives.**
- 7. The Joy in knowing that through the power of His Most Precious Blood the devil is frustrated in his hatred of us.**