

Sword of Truth

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"...Attend and see if there be any sorrow like to my sorrow."
Lamentations.1

Oh Most Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart of Mary, Mother of Jesus, Our Lady of Fatima, inspire me to grieve sincerely for the sins that weigh heavily upon the souls of men. Sorrowfully I recall the bitter and harsh punishments heaped upon Thy Divine Son, when He was cruelly scourged at the pillar, unmercifully crowned with thorns. I recall His sad journey to Calvary, His Crucifixion, and ignominious death on the Cross. Yet, they were but the instruments of pain. It was my sins that really caused His Precious Blood to be shed. His excessive love willed that He should suffer for my salvation. Thus, I will give my little love to make amends and atone for a thoughtless and unappreciative world.

Oh, Most Sorrowful and Immaculate Heart of Mary, you who suffered, and shared with Him each pain caused and inflicted by our sins, intercede for us that we may be privileged to unite our hearts with yours in an effort to make reparation for our sins, and the sins of an ungrateful world. Amen.

MAGNAE DEI MATRIS - Encyclical Letter by Pope Leo XIII, September 8, 1892
An important message for present times - "He who has ears let him hear..."

THE ROSARY A REMEDY FOR THE CORRUPTION OF THE WORLD

It is only too plain how many and of what nature are the corrupting agencies by which the wickedness of the world deceitfully strives to weaken and completely uproot from souls their Christian faith and the respect for God's law on which faith is fed and depends for its effectiveness. Already the fields cultivated by Our Lord are everywhere turning into a wilderness abounding in ignorance of the faith, in error and vice, as though blown upon by some hideous pest. And to add to the anguish of this thought, so far from putting a check on such insolent and destructive depravity, or imposing on them the punishment they deserve, the powers that can and should do it seem in many cases by their indifference or open connivance, to increase the spirit of evil. We have good reason to deplore the public institutions in which the teaching of the sciences and arts is purposely so organized that the name of God is passed over in silence or visited with vituperation; to deplore the licence - growing more shameless by the day - of the press in publishing whatever it pleases, and the licence of speech in addressing any kind of insult to Christ our God and His Church. And we deplore no less the consequent laxity and apathy in the practice of the Catholic religion which, if not quite open apostasy from the faith, is certainly going to prove an easy road to it, since it is a manner of life having nothing in common with the faith. Nobody who ponders this disorder and the surrender of the most fundamental principles will be astonished if afflicted nations everywhere are groaning under the heavy hand of God's vengeance and stand anxious and trembling in fear of worse calamities.

Now, to appease the might of an outraged God and to bring that health of soul so needed by those who are sorely afflicted, there is nothing better than devout and persevering prayer, provided it be joined with a love for and practice of Christian life. And both of these, the spirit of prayer and the practice of Christian life, are best attained through the devotion of the Rosary of Mary.

OUR LIFE AND CONDUCT SANCTIFIED BY CHRIST'S EXAMPLE

There is still another and not lesser advantage which the Church earnestly seeks for her children from the

Rosary, and that is the faithful regulation of their lives and their conduct in keeping with the rules and precepts of their religion. For if, as we all know from divine utterance, **faith without works is dead (James. II, 20)**, because faith draws its life from charity and charity flowers forth in a profusion of actions, then the Christian will gain nothing for eternal life from his faith unless his life be ordered in accordance with what faith prescribes. "What shall it profit, my brethren, if a man say he has faith but does not have works? Can the faith save him? (James II, 14) A man of this sort will incur a much heavier rebuke from Christ the Judge than those who are, unfortunately, ignorant of Christian faith and teaching: they, unlike the former, who believes one thing and practices another, have some excuse or at least are less blameworthy, because they lack the light of the Gospel.

In order therefore that the faith we profess may the better bring forth a harvest of fruits in keeping with its nature, while the mind is dwelling on the mysteries of the Rosary the heart is wonderfully enkindled by them to make virtuous resolutions. What an example we have set before us and shining everywhere in Our Lord Christ's work of salvation. The great Almighty God, in the excess of His love for us, takes upon Himself the form of lowly man; He dwells in our midst as one of the multitude; converses with us as a friend, instructs and teaches the way of justice to individuals and to multitudes. In His discourse He is the teacher unexcelled; in the authority of His teaching He is God. To all He shows Himself a doer of good: He relieves the sick of the ills of their bodies and, with paternal compassion, heals the more serious sickness of their souls. Those above all whom sorrow troubles or whom the weight of worry crushes, He constrains with the gently invitation: "**Come to Me, all you that labor and are heavily burdened, and I will refresh you.**" (Matt. XI, 28) Then into us, at rest in His embrace, He breathes that mystic fire which He had brought to all men, and benignly imbues us with the meekness and humility of His own heart, with the hope that, by the practice of these virtues, we may share the true and solid peace of which He is the Author: "**Learn of Me for I am meek and humble of heart, and you shall find rest for your souls.**" For Himself, in return for that light of heavenly wisdom and that stupendous abundance of blessings which only He could merit for mankind, He suffers the hatred of men and their most atrocious insults; and, nailed to the Cross, He pours out His blood and yields up His soul, holding it to be the highest glory to beget life in men by His death.

It would be utterly impossible for anyone to meditate on and attentively consider these most precious memorials of our loving Redeemer and not have a heart on fire with gratitude to Him. Such is the power of a faith sincerely practiced that, through the light it brings to man's mind and the vigor with which it moves his heart, he will straightway set out in the footsteps of Christ and follow them through every obstacle, making his own a protestation worthy of a St. Paul: "**Who then will separate us from the love of Christ? Shall tribulation, or distress, or famine, or nakedness, or danger, or persecution, or the sword?**" "I live now, not I; but Christ liveth in me."

EXAMPLE OF VIRTUE PROPOSED IN MARY'S MYSTERIES

But lest we be dismayed by the consciousness of our native weakness and grow faint when confronted with the unattainable example which Christ, Who is Man and at the same time God, has given, along with mysteries which portray Him, we have before our eyes for contemplation the mysteries of His Most Holy Mother. She was born, it is true, of the royal family of David, but she fell heir to none of the wealth and grandeur of her ancestors. She passed her life in obscurity, in a humble town, in a home humbler still, the more content with her retirement and the poverty of her home because they left her freer to lift up her heart to God and to cling to Him closely as the Supreme Goodness for which her heart yearned. The Lord is with her whom He has filled with His grace and made blessed. She is designated by the heavenly messenger sent to her as the Virgin from whom, by the power of the Holy Ghost, the expected Saviour of nations is to come forth clothed in our humanity. The more she wonders at the sublime dignity and gives thanks to the power and mercy of God, the more does she, conscious of no merit in herself, grow in humility, promptly proclaiming and consecrating herself the handmaid of God even while she becomes His Mother. Her sacred promise was as sacredly kept with a joyous heart; henceforth she leads a life in perpetual union with her Son Jesus, sharing with Him His joys and sorrows. It is thus that she will reach a height of glory granted to no other creature, whether human or angelic, because no one will receive a reward for virtue to be compared with hers; it is thus that the crown of the kingdom of Heaven and of earth will await her because she will be the invincible Queen of martyrs; it is thus that she will be seated in the heavenly city of God by the side of her Son, crowned for all eternity, because she will drink with Him the cup overflowing with sorrow, faithfully through all her life, most faithfully on Calvary. (Continued on the last page)

In Mary we see how truly good and provident God has established for us a most suitable example of every virtue. As we look upon her and think about her we are not cast down as though stricken by the overpowering splendor of God's power; but, on the contrary, attracted by the closeness of the common nature we share with her, we strive with greater confidence to imitate her. If we, with her powerful help, should dedicate ourselves wholly and entirely to this undertaking, we can portray at least an outline of such great virtue and sanctity, and reproducing that perfect conformity of our lives to all God's designs which she possessed in so marvelous a degree, we shall follow her into Heaven.

Let us go on with the pilgrimage we have undertaken even though the way be rough and full of obstacles, undaunted and full of courage. Amid the vexation and toil let us not cease to hold out suppliant hands to Mary with the words of the Church: ***"To thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears; turn then, most gracious advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us."*** "Keep our lives all spotless, make our way secure, till we find in Jesus, joys that will endure." Although she was never subject to the frailty and perversity of our nature, Mary well knows its condition and is the best and most solicitous of mothers. How willingly will she hasten to our aid when we need her; with what love will she refresh us, and with what strength sustain us. For those of us who follow the journey hallowed by the blood of Christ and by the tears of Mary, our entrance into their company and the enjoyment of their most blessed glory will be certain and easy.

THE SECRET OF THE ROSARY by St. Louis Marie de Montfort

One day Our Lady said to Blessed Alan: ***"Just as Almighty God chose the Angelic Salutation to bring about the Incarnation of His Word and the Redemption of mankind, in the same way those who want to bring about moral reforms and who want people reborn in Jesus Christ must honor me and greet me with the same salutation. I am the channel by which God came to men, and so, next to my Son Jesus Christ, it is through me that men must obtain grace and virtue."***

Fortieth Rose: Admirable Effects

Blessed Alan de la Roche, Father Jean Dumont, Father Thomas, the chronicles of Saint Dominic and other writers who have seen these things with their own eyes speak of the marvelous conversions that are brought about by the Holy Rosary. Great sinners — both men and women — have been converted after twenty, thirty or even forty years of sin and unspeakable vice, because they persevered in saying the Holy Rosary. And these have been people who, beforehand, had been deaf to all pleading!

Dear reader, I promise you that if you practice this devotion and help to spread it you will learn more from the Rosary than from any spiritual book. And what is more, you will have the happiness of being rewarded by Our Lady in accordance with the promises that she made to Saint Dominic, to Blessed Alan de la Roche, and to all those who practice and encourage this devotion which is so dear to her. For the Holy Rosary teaches people about the virtues of Jesus and Mary, and leads them to mental prayer and to imitate Our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It teaches them to approach the Sacraments often, to genuinely strive after Christian virtues and to do all kinds of good works, as well as interesting them in the many wonderful indulgences which can be gained through the Rosary.

People are often quite unaware of how rich the Rosary is in indulgences. This is because many priests, when preaching on the Rosary, hardly ever mention indulgences and gives rather a flowery and popular sermon which excites admiration but scarcely teaches anything. Be that as it may, I shall say no more than to assure you, in the words of Blessed Alan de la Roche, that the Holy Rosary is the root and the storehouse of countless blessings. For through the Holy Rosary: 1. Sinners are forgiven; 2. Souls that thirst are refreshed; 3. Those who are fettered have their bonds broken; 4. Those who weep find happiness; 5. Those who are tempted find peace; 6. The poor find help; 7. Religious are reformed; 8. Those who are ignorant are instructed; 9. The living learn to overcome pride; 10. The dead (the Holy Souls) have their pains eased by suffrages.

Our Lady to Blessed Alan: ***"I want people who have a devotion to my Rosary to have my Son's grace and blessing during their lifetime and at their death, and after their death I want them to be freed from all slavery so that they will be like kings wearing crowns and with scepters in their hands and enjoying eternal glory." Amen. So be it.***