

Sword of Truth

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A Rosary Confraternity Publication

The Message of Fatima from Simple Rosary Meditations by a Dominican Tertiary, 1950

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 was suffering, and threatened with grave evils at the time of the Message (1917), it is in even more deadly peril to-day, and that because the Message went largely unheeded. 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 this 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 the stricken world.

In 1917 three little peasant children in Portugal received the miraculous grace of six apparitions of the Blessed Virgin. In all the first five visions the "lovely lady" laid stress on the need for the recitation of the Rosary to obtain peace, and promised that she would tell them her name on October 13th, that is, the sixth vision. On that date, in answer to Lucy's question, she proclaimed her title as "Our Lady of the Rosary".

She repeated her urgent message that the Rosary must be recited daily adding: "**Men must correct their faults and ask pardon for their sins in order that they no longer offend our Lord, Who is already too much offended**". She gave clear warning of the dangers that would grow, especially from Russia, if her message were disregarded. We see only too clearly now how prophetic were her words.

This is not the first time in the history of the Church that the Blessed Virgin has promised help through the prayer of the Rosary. To St. Dominic himself she said: "Go and preach the Rosary, and the enemy of all will be confounded", and it is almost impossible to read the lives of any great saints without finding a unanimous veneration of, and love for the recitation of the Rosary. Pope after Pope has spoken to the whole Church begging the bishops and all the faithful to propagate this devotion by all the means in their power.

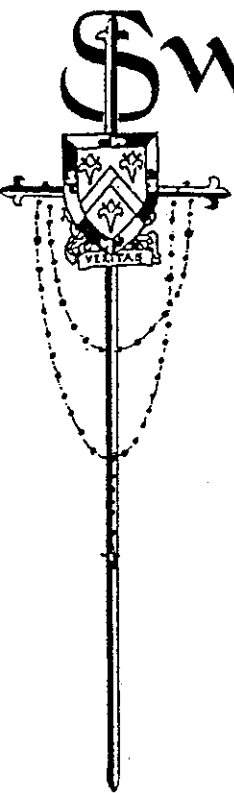
Leo XIII wrote twelve encyclicals and as many decrees and Apostolic Constitutions on this subject, gaining for himself the high title of "The Pope of the Rosary". It was he who added to the litanies of Our Lady the invocation, "Queen of the most holy Rosary, pray for us."

Pius X loved the Rosary deeply. While by what may truly be called a heavenly coincidence, eight days after Benedict XV had, on Saturday, May 5th, 1917 ordered that prayers for peace should be made to the Sacred Heart through Mary, and added the invocation "Queen of Peace, pray for us" to the litanies, the Blessed Virgin appeared for the first time to the three children at Fatima, telling them that the Rosary must be recited daily to obtain peace. The following prayer, taught by Our Lady to the children, should be added after each decade:

"O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fire of Hell, and lead all souls to Heaven, especially those who have most need of Thy mercy." (Second apparition.)

When Lucy, the only one of the three children left alive and now a Carmelite nun, is asked to describe the heavenly vision, she can use but one word, "Light". Our Lady was surrounded, bathed in heavenly radiance, which the children all found it impossible to describe in words.

**"And this is the judgement: because the light is come into the world,
and men loved darkness rather than the light: for their works were evil.
But he that doth truth cometh to the light, that his works may be made manifest,
because they are done in God."** John 3:19, 21



The Mother of the true Light of the world is clothed by Him in a glory of light, and she calls to us her children to come forth from the darkness of sin and evil to the light of Truth and Peace.

“We see the Blessed Virgin as a lamp of living light shining upon those in darkness; she enkindleth an unearthly light to lead all unto divine knowledge; she, the Radiance that enlighteneth the mind, is praised by our cry:

Hail ! ray of the spiritual Sun.

Hail ! ray-flash of never-waning light.

Hail ! lightning-flash, illumining souls.” Akathistos Hymn XI; trans. Fr. Vincent McNabb, O.P.

Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima, Pray for us now and at the hour of our death !



The Rosary, Center of the Apparitions

from More About Fatima by Fr. Montes de Oca, C.S.Sp., 1945

On Sunday, May 13th, 1917 the midday Angelus is heard from the tower of Fatima, and the three little children, trained by truly Christian parents, leave their play of their own accord, to recite the Rosary together. It is at that moment that the “Lady” appears to them as if in approval of their prayer. She herself has the Rosary hanging from her waist; she makes Francis recite the Rosary that he may see her on the tree, and tells him that he must recite many Rosaries to enter Heaven. Finally, before retiring, the heavenly Lady makes this recommendation: **“Continue, my children, reciting the Rosary with devotion, every day, to obtain peace for the world.”**

On Wednesday, June 13th, the three children await the apparition reciting the Rosary with the people: and the heavenly Lady recommends them a second time to recite the Rosary every day.

On Friday, July 13th, it is with a crowd of from four to five thousand people that the little seers recite the Rosary at Cova da Iria. The apparition insists a third time:

“You must recite the Rosary every day in honor of Our Lady of the Rosary to obtain peace for the world and the end of the war, for only she can obtain this.”

And then she promises the great miracle for October 13th, “in order that the world may believe” that it is indeed she who speaks. At the same time the Blessed Virgin promises to heal sick people recommended to her, but on condition that they recite the Rosary to that end.

It is also during this apparition that Lucy is heard to repeat, as if to retain well what the Lady has first recommended to her: “Yes, she wishes people to recite the Rosary, people must recite the Rosary...”

On Sunday, August 19th, the apparition insists again: “You must recite the Rosary every day,” and exhort the little ones to pray very much and to offer sacrifices for poor sinners, many of whom fall into hell because there is nobody to pray or to offer sacrifices for them!

On Thursday, September 13th, the three children recite the Rosary again with the thirty thousand pilgrims present: and the Blessed Virgin repeats once more: **“You must continue to recite the Rosary in honor of Our Lady of the Rosary, in order that she may put an end to the war!”**

Finally, on October 13th, all the requests made previously about the Rosary are repeated once more in the words of the Message and by means of the multiple apparitions beside the sun. In fact, in the Message of Fatima the heavenly apparition declares to the world that she is **Our Lady of the Rosary** come down to earth in person to exhort men to *amend their lives and to say the Rosary every day!*

In the multiple apparitions that took place during the great solar prodigy, it is the mysteries of the Rosary that Our Lady of Fatima recommends to us under the concrete form of the “tableaux vivants”. The first scene of the Holy Family, says Fr. Fonseca, represents to us the Joyful Mysteries of the infancy of Jesus. The scene of Our Lady of the Seven Dolours recalls to our minds the Sorrowful Mysteries and exhorts us to do penance. Lastly, Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, with the Sabbatine privilege, reminds us of the Glorious Mysteries and of our last end, and exhorts us to avoid hell, to live for heaven and to shorten as much as possible the expiation of purgatory.

The Rosary, Center of the Message

It can therefore be said in all truth, that if the Message of Fatima comprises a threefold object: penance, the Rosary, and the Immaculate Heart of Mary, it is the Rosary that forms the central point... To recite the Rosary devoutly every day, with sincere feelings of penance and reparation: *Such is the substance and the core of the heavenly Message of Fatima.*

“I am Our Lady of the Rosary”

Our Lady of the Rosary had already appeared previously to St. Dominic, charging him to preach the great devotion of the Rosary as an efficacious remedy for the regeneration of souls and as a powerful means of obtaining heavenly succor in public misfortunes. It is through the Rosary that Our Lady has come to the help of the Church and of Society during the critical periods of the Albigensian heresy and the Turkish invasions. And it is by this same simple means that Our Lady of Fatima wishes today to reform souls and to save the world from the awful calamities that overwhelm it.

The devout and constant recitation of the Rosary always works miracles. It tires neither the lips that recite it nor the heart that loves; but it finally tires God Who, importuned by Our Lady, grants at last the graces requested.

The Rosary is a treasury of prayer upon which the learned and ignorant can draw, to offer to God and the Blessed Virgin their tribute of homage and their share of penance and expiation.

The Rosary is a mark of Predestination. The mother, who on her deathbed makes her children promise to say the Rosary every day, can die in peace. She feels she is sure to find them all again one day beside her in heaven.

“The Rosary,” said Fr. Vaysiere, “is not a devotion to the Blessed Virgin, it is *the* devotion to Mary!” Let us then, like the little seers of Fatima and all the saints, learn to appreciate the immense value of the Rosary, which the Blessed Virgin recommends to us so strongly.



“MAKE SACRIFICES...” from Our Lady of Fatima by E. D. M., 1935

[Our Lady said at Fatima, “*Pray, pray much, make sacrifices for sinners. Remember that many souls are lost because there is nobody to pray and to make sacrifices for them... Sacrifice yourselves for sinners, and say often, especially when you make sacrifices:*

**O Jesus, it is for love of Thee,
for the conversion of sinners,**

and in reparation for the offences committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary”.]

Though the Rosary is the principal message of Fatima we must not neglect that other most important lesson which Our Lady has also taught us: make sacrifices for the glory of God and the salvation of souls. At least make small ones.

Above all let us accept with patience all the little disappointments and sufferings that we meet in every day life offering them in union with the sufferings of Our Lord. By doing so:

- a) we give God great pleasure and glory;
- b) we save many souls;
- c) we make our sufferings easy to bear and our lives more peaceful.

How many sick people confined to bed in their own homes or in hospitals, frequently in great pain, could amass immense merits for Heaven and reach a high degree of sanctity if only they offered their poor pains to Our Lord. He suffered so much for us surely we ought to suffer a little for Him.

There are others whose sight is not good, or whose hearing is bad, or who suffer from heart complaints or weak lungs. What great rewards they merit for Heaven if only they bear their sufferings with patience.

Here is a story of a sacrifice that will make the weakest of us strong.

A dear little girl in Italy, only three and a half years old, Sandra Cucchi, was about to make her First Communion. She was told that Jesus loved sacrifices. Sandra was very affectionate and very fond of her mother and loved to be kissed and caressed by her.

Some days before her First Communion her mother as usual wished to kiss her, but she exclaimed:

“No, no Mother, I want to offer Jesus a sacrifice. Don’t kiss me until after my First Communion.”

Who cannot do what this dear little child did?

Fatima’s lesson to Mothers.

What a glorious mission the three little children of Fatima got from God’s Mother. They were to take Her message of salvation to the whole World! We may well believe that Our Lady chose these children out of the hundreds and thousands of others whom she could have chosen simply because of their piety and goodness, virtues which they owed to the training they received from their mothers who were simple, ignorant but devout peasants.

Surely every mother could educate her children as did the mothers of Lucy, Francis and Jacinta.

They instilled into the minds of their little ones all Christian virtues and thus secured for them the greatest happiness they could possibly obtain on Earth and in Heaven.

Mothers exercise the most wonderful influence for good or evil on their children, especially in the early years of their lives. But many think much of their temporal welfare and little of their souls.

All you mothers who go to Fatima or pray to Our Lady of Fatima ought to ask Our Blessed Mother for this great grace to be good mothers and to give your children a solid Christian education especially in their early years. Woe, woe to you and to them if you fail.

The lesson taught by the mothers of the children in Fatima is not a mere isolated case. Every day mothers are giving similar beautiful examples. To quote one recent example, we see how the poor peasant mother of Maria Goretti brought up her little girl so well that this little one of only twelve years of age won the glorious crown of martyrdom and is now a canonized Saint, thanks to the training of her good mother.

The dear old mother assisted at the canonization on the 25th of June, 1950. It was the first time in the history of the Church that a mother assisted at the canonization of her child. What a reward!



Sanctity and Common Sense

from Whisperings to God by Stephen Sweeney, C.P.,

Often those who seem to have the most sense are the most senseless.

Is it common sense to labor for the things of this world and forget the things that are of the world to come!

Is it common sense to build a lovely home for your body and fail to build a comfortable place for your immortal soul?

Is it common sense to be most careful to avoid an injury and yet to place yourself in the position of being in pain forever?

Is it common sense to save money, and fail to amass eternal riches?

Is it common sense to hold resentment when you cannot be reconciled to God until you forgive your neighbor?

Is it common sense to allow your debts to accumulate when you know they must be paid, even to the last farthing, either here or in Purgatory, before you can enter heaven.

Is it common sense to seldom think of God, with whom we hope to live forever?

What is sense and what is nonsense?

Think this over.

It will show you that there are many who think they have sense but who in reality are very senseless.

SEVEN TIMELY RESOLVES

1. To love God with all your strength.
2. To avoid the smallest sin.
3. To pray the Rosary daily with great thought and devotion.
4. To make sacrifices for sinners.
5. To accept every act of unkindness and ingratitude in the spirit of penance.
6. To spend one's days in continual gratitude to God.
7. To lovingly meditate before your crucifix, morning and evening.

Novena to Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima

Immaculate Heart of Mary, my Mother, I come to you this day as a little child in prayer. I beg to make this offering of my heart as simple and childlike as I can. The three little ones of Fatima have taught us what it is that pleases your maternal heart. I earnestly desire that all the people of the world be brought back to a humble knowledge and love of the Sacred Heart of your dear Son. I pray, dear Mother of my God, that the undescribable beauty and the glowing-white purity of your own Immaculate Heart may so captivate our souls that we will detest all sin and dedicate our lives to the honor and glory of the God who created us.

As much as I feel the need of many things I do not dare in this novena, Mother Mary, to ask one selfish petition for myself. You revealed the secrets of your own sad heart at Fatima and begged for the restoration of the world to God. What can I ask of greater good than to unite my heart to yours in this great yearning? What can I add but the fervent prayer that all the world may listen to your pleading?

I give my heart to you, my heavenly Queen, and in utmost confidence I leave to you the choice of what is best for me in answer to my prayer of love and reparation.


Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima, I give you my heart.

Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima, I put my trust entirely in you.

Immaculate Heart of the Mother of my God we implore, through thy powerful intercession, the conversion of the hearts of men, complete victory over sin, and the return to peace which you have promised.

Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima, be our love - be our salvation !

ANYONE WISHING TO HAVE PRAYER INTENTIONS PLACED ON THE ROSARY ALTAR FOR THE MONTH OF OCTOBER, CUT AND SEND THE FORM BELOW TO THIS CHAPEL (address on back page)

cut here 

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Your Name: _____

Intentions: _____

