



'Legio Sanctae Familiae'

The Legion of the Holy Family

Under the Patronage of
The Sacred Heart of Jesus
The Immaculate Heart of Mary
The Most Chaste Heart of St Joseph



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**"Make me worthy to praise thee, Sacred Virgin;
Give me strength against thine enemies."**

(St Dominic)



Pray the Rosary Every Day to bring Peace to the World - Our Lady of Fatima

Pray The Rosary Every Day!



Sister Lucia, Saint Francisco Marto & Saint Jacintha Marto - Fatima 1917

When she visited the children of Fatima in 1917, Our Lady continually emphasised the importance of praying the Rosary every day. She also appeared to Sister Lucia after the deaths of St Francisco & St Jacintha with the great promise for those who keep the Five First Saturdays Devotion.

Fatima - May 13, 1917

“Pray the Rosary every day, in order to obtain peace for the world, and the end of the war.”

Fatima - June 13, 1917

“I wish you to come here on the 13th of next month, and to pray the Rosary each day.”

Fatima - July 13, 1917

“I want you to come here on the 13th of next month, and to continue praying the Rosary every day in honour of Our Lady of the Rosary, in order to obtain peace for the world and the end of the war; because only She can help you.”

Fatima - August 19, 1917

“I want you to continue praying the Rosary every day.”

Fatima - September 13, 1917

“Continue to say the Rosary to obtain the end of the war.”

Fatima - October 13, 1917

“I am Our Lady of the Rosary. Continue to say the Rosary every day.”

December 10, 1925 to Sister Lucia at Pontevedra

“You at least try to console Me and announce in My name that I promise to assist at the moment of death, with all the graces necessary for salvation, all those who, on the First Saturday of five consecutive months shall confess, receive Holy Communion, recite five decades of the Rosary, and keep Me company for fifteen minutes while meditating on the fifteen mysteries of the Rosary, with the intention of making Reparation to Me.”

The Popes & the Rosary - Pope St Pius V

These requests and promises of Our Lady have been confirmed by many of our Popes. Pope Saint Pius V, who was a Dominican, two years before the Battle of Lepanto, on 17th September 1569, issued a call to prayer - *Consueverunt Romani*. In it he tells us that St Dominic,

“... in circumstances similar to those in which we now find ourselves, when parts of France and of Italy were unhappily troubled by the heresy of the Albigenses, which blinded so many of the worldly that they were raging most savagely against the priests of the Lord and the clergy, raised his eyes up unto heaven, unto that mountain of the Glorious Virgin Mary, loving Mother of God. For she by her seed has crushed the head of the twisted serpent, and has alone destroyed all heresies, and by the blessed fruit of her womb has saved a world condemned by the fall of our first parent.



Pope Saint Pius V

From her, without human hand, was that stone cut, which, struck by wood, poured forth the abundantly flowing waters of graces. And so St Dominic looked to that simple way of praying and beseeching God, accessible to all and wholly pious, which is called the Rosary, or Psalter of the Blessed Virgin Mary, in which the same most Blessed Virgin is venerated by the angelic greeting repeated one hundred and fifty times, that is, according to the number of the Davidic Psalter, and by the Lord's Prayer with each decade.

Interposed with these prayers are certain meditations showing forth the entire life of Our Lord Jesus Christ, thus completing the method of prayer devised by the Fathers of the Holy Roman Church. This same method St. Dominic propagated, and it was spread by the Friars of Blessed Dominic, and accepted by not a few of the people. Christ's faithful, inflamed by these prayers, began immediately to be changed into new men. The darkness of heresy began to be dispelled, and the light of the Catholic Faith to be revealed. Sodalitys for this form of prayer began to be instituted in many places by the Dominican Friars, legitimately deputed to this work by their Superiors, and confreres began to be enrolled together.

The Popes & The Rosary!

Following the example of our predecessors, seeing that the Church militant, which God has placed in our hands, in these our times is tossed this way and that by so many heresies, and is grievously troubled and afflicted by so many wars, and by the depraved morals of men, we also raise our eyes, weeping but full of hope, unto that same mountain, whence every aid comes forth, and we encourage and admonish each member of Christ's faithful to do likewise in the Lord."

Pope Saint Pius V, like some of his predecessors, granted indulgences to those who pray the Rosary.

Pope Leo XIII

Pope Leo XIII might well be called the Rosary Pope. He issued many documents on the Rosary including an annual Encyclical letter from 1883. Here are quotes from some of those documents.

Supremi Apostolatus Officio -1883

"It has always been the habit of Catholics in danger and in troublous times to fly for refuge to Mary, and to seek for peace in her maternal goodness; showing that the Catholic Church has always, and with justice, put all her hope and trust in the Mother of God. And truly the Immaculate Virgin, chosen to be the Mother of God and thereby associated with Him in the work of man's salvation, has a favour and power with her Son greater than any human or angelic creature has ever obtained, or ever can gain..."

This devotion, so great and so confident, to the august Queen of Heaven, has never shone forth with such brilliancy as when the militant Church of God has seemed to be endangered by the violence of heresy spread abroad, or by an intolerable moral corruption, or by the attacks of powerful enemies. Ancient and modern history and the more sacred annals of the Church bear witness to public and private supplications addressed to the Mother of God, to the help she has granted in return, and to the peace and tranquillity which she had obtained from God. Hence her illustrious titles of helper, consoler, mighty in war, victorious, and peace-giver. And amongst these is specially to be commemorated that familiar title derived from the Rosary by which the signal benefits she has gained for the whole of Christendom have been solemnly perpetuated."



Pope Leo XIII Coronation Portrait

Superiore Anno - 1884

“Last year, as each of you is aware, We decreed by an Encyclical Letter that, to win the help of Heaven for the Church in her trials, the great Mother of God should be honoured by the means of the most holy Rosary during the whole of the month of October. In this We followed both Our own impulse and the example of Our predecessors, who in times of difficulty were wont to have recourse with increased fervour to the Blessed Virgin, and to seek her aid with special prayers. That wish of Ours has been complied with, with such a willingness and unanimity that it is more than ever apparent how real is the religion and how great is the fervour of the Christian peoples, and how great is the trust everywhere placed in the heavenly patronage of the Virgin Mary. For Us, weighed down with the burden of such and so great trials and evils, We confess that the sight of such intensity of open piety and faith has been a great consolation, and even gives Us new courage for the facing, if that be the wish of God, of still greater trials. Indeed, from the spirit of prayer which is poured out over the house of David and the dwellers in Jerusalem, we have a confident hope that God will at length let Himself be touched and have pity upon the state of His Church, and give ear to the prayers coming to Him through her whom He has chosen to be the dispenser of all heavenly graces.”

Vi E Ben Noto - 1887

“You know how We place amid present dangers Our confidence in the Glorious Virgin of the Holy Rosary, for the safety and prosperity of Christendom and the peace and tranquillity of the Church. Mindful that in moments of great trial, pastors and people have ever had recourse with entire confidence to the august Mother of God, in whose hands are all graces, certain too, that devotion to Our Lady of the Rosary is most opportune for the needs of these times, We have desired to revive everywhere this devotion, and to spread it far and wide among the faithful of the world.”

Octobri Mense - 1891

“At the coming of the month of October, dedicated and consecrated as it is to the Blessed Virgin of the Rosary, we recall with satisfaction the instant exhortations which in preceding years We addressed to you, venerable brethren, desiring, as We did, that the faithful, urged by your authority and by your zeal, should redouble their piety towards the august Mother of God, the mighty helper of Christians, and should pray to her throughout the month, invoking her by that most holy rite of the Rosary which the Church, especially in the passage of difficult times, has ever used for the accomplishment of all desires.”



Madonna of the Rosary - Murillo

The Popes & The Rosary

Magnae Dei Matris - 1892

“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 the punishment deserved, they who can and should correct matters seem in many cases, by their indifference or open connivance, to increase the spirit of evil... 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.”

Diuturni Temporis - 1898

“We have long desired to secure the welfare of the human race in an increase of devotion to the Blessed Virgin, as in a powerful citadel, and We have never ceased to encourage the constant use of the Rosary among Christians, by publishing every year since September 1, 1883, an Encyclical Letter on this subject, besides frequently issuing Decrees, as is well known...”

Impelled, therefore, by a constant desire that Christians should ever be convinced of the efficacy and dignity of the Rosary of Our Lady, We first of all pointed out that the origin of this form of prayer is divine rather than human, showing it to be an admirable garland woven from the Angelic Salutation, together with the Lord’s Prayer, joined to meditation, and that this form of prayer was most powerful and particularly efficacious for attaining eternal life. For besides the special excellence of the prayers, it affords a powerful protection to faith and conspicuous models of virtue in the mysteries proposed for contemplation.

We showed also how easy the devotion is and how suited to the people, offering an absolutely perfect model of domestic life in meditation on the Holy Family at Nazareth, and that therefore Christendom had never failed to experience its salutary effects.”



Madonna of Pompeii - Miraculous Image

The Family Rosary!

The Family that Prays Together, Stays Together

I can personally vouch for the incredible benefits attained from reciting the Rosary as a family. In my talks, when I mention the family Rosary, I tell people of my reluctance to pray the family Rosary when my children were small and that, to my shame, I was the enemy of the family Rosary in my home for the first 16 years of my marriage. I found the Rosary to be tedious and the children very distracting during the Rosary. So I agreed with my wife to pray one decade of the Rosary each night.

However, in February of 2004, my late great friend Fr Seán Cunningham O.P., in a sermon he preached in Holy Cross Priory in Sligo, said, “the decade is the death of the Rosary” In a follow up conversation he explained that those who agree to pray only one decade of the Rosary each day will rarely go on to pray the full Rosary as a Family. That evening, when I returned home from work, I told my wife that I would commit to praying the full five-decade Rosary, as a family, from that night forth. I can honestly tell you that it has changed my life and that I would not be producing these newsletters and promoting the Traditional Catholic Family through the apostolate ‘*Legio Sanctae Familiae*’, if I had not made that commitment in February 20 years ago. I earnestly desire to promote a return to the daily Family Rosary throughout Ireland and the world. May Our Lady give me the grace to assist her in this work which is so desirous of her Immaculate Heart.

Pope Pius XII

Pope Pius XII issued the Encyclical letter “*Ingruentium Malorum*” - On Reciting the Rosary - in 1951. There are some beautiful passages in it which relate to the practice of reciting the Rosary as a family.

“Ever since We were raised, by the design of Divine Providence, to the supreme Chair of Peter, We have never ceased, in the face of approaching evils, to entrust to the most powerful protection of the Mother of God the destiny of the human family, and, to this end, as you know, We have from time to time written letters of exhortation.”

“Through your efforts [Bishops of the world], the Christian people should be led to understand the dignity, the power, and the excellence of the Rosary.

But it is above all in the bosom of the family that We desire the custom of the Holy Rosary to be everywhere adopted, religiously preserved, and ever more intensely practiced. In vain is a remedy sought for the wavering fate of civil life, if the family, the principle and foundation of the human community, is not fashioned after the pattern of the Gospel.

To undertake such a difficult duty, We affirm that the custom of the family recitation of the Holy Rosary is a most efficacious means. What a sweet sight — most pleasing to God — when, at eventide, the Christian home resounds with

Please Support Me in Promoting the Daily Family Rosary

the frequent repetition of praises in honour of the august Queen of Heaven! Then the Rosary, recited in common, assembles before the image of the Virgin, in an admirable union of hearts, the parents and their children, who come back from their daily work. It unites them piously with those absent and those dead. It links all more tightly in a sweet bond of love, with the most Holy Virgin, who, like a loving mother, in the circle of her children, will be there bestowing upon them an abundance of the gifts of concord and family peace.

Then the home of the Christian family, like that of Nazareth, will become an earthly abode of sanctity, and, so to speak, a sacred temple, where the Holy Rosary will not only be the particular prayer which every day rises to heaven in an odour of sweetness, but will also form the most efficacious school of Christian discipline and Christian virtue. This meditation on the Divine Mysteries of the Redemption will teach the adults to live, admiring daily the shining examples of Jesus and Mary, and to draw from these examples comfort in adversity, striving towards those heavenly treasures "where neither thief draws near, nor moth destroys" (Luke 12:33). This meditation will bring to the knowledge of the little ones the main truths of the Christian Faith, making love for the Redeemer blossom almost spontaneously in their innocent hearts, while, seeing, their parents kneeling before the majesty of God, they will learn from their very early years how great before the throne of God is the value of prayers said in common.

We do not hesitate to affirm again publicly that We put great confidence in the Holy Rosary for the healing of evils which afflict our times. Not with force, not with arms, not with human power, but with Divine help obtained through the means of this prayer, strong like David with his sling, the Church undaunted shall be able to confront the infernal enemy, repeating to him the words of the young shepherd: "Thou comes to me with a sword, and a spear; and with a shield; but I come to thee in the name of the Lord of Hosts, the God of armies . . . and all this assembly shall know that the Lord saves not with sword and spear; for this is his battle, and he will deliver you into our hands" (I Kings 17, 45-47)"

May I encourage to continue praying the Rosary as a family every day. If you do not already pray the Rosary as a family every day, may I encourage you to make the commitment, so desired by Our Lady, to begin praying the Rosary every day. Your family will receive great spiritual benefits from this practice. May I also encourage you to invite others to your home to join with your family in praying the Rosary. The world is heading for disaster because of its rejection of Almighty God. Traditional Catholic families have a big part to play in the restoration of order to the world through our dedication and devotion to Our Lady and the prayer said in her honour, the Most Holy Rosary.



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