



The Fifteen Mysteries of the Rosary

by St. Louis De Montfort

A mystery is a sacred thing which is difficult to understand. The works of Our Lord Jesus Christ are all sacred and divine because He is God and man at one and the same time. The works of the Most Blessed Virgin are very holy because She is the most perfect and the most pure of God's creatures. The works of Our Lord and of His Blessed Mother can be rightly called mysteries because they are so full of wonders and all kinds of perfections and deep and sublime truths which the Holy Spirit reveals to the humble and simple souls who honor these mysteries.

The works of Jesus and Mary can also be called wonderful flowers; but their perfume and beauty can only be appreciated by those who study them carefully – and who open them and drink in their scent by diligent and sincere meditation.

Saint Dominic has divided up the lives of Our Lord and Our Lady into fifteen mysteries which stand for Their virtues and Their most important actions. These are the fifteen *tableaux* or pictures whose every detail must rule and inspire our lives. They are fifteen flaming torches to guide our steps throughout this earthly life.

They are fifteen shining mirrors which help us to know Jesus and Mary and to know ourselves as well. They will

In This Issue:

The Fifteen Mysteries of the Rosary.....	1
Story of the Blessed Sacrament.....	2
News from the Apostolate.....	2
Saint Scholastica, Virgin.....	3
Letters to the Editor.....	4

also help light the fire of Their love in our hearts.

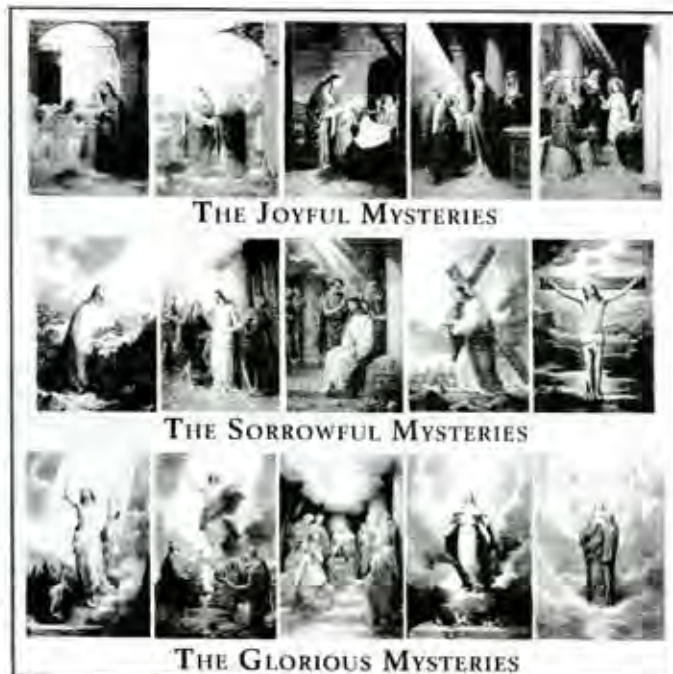
They are fifteen fiery furnaces which can consume us completely in their heavenly flames.

Our Lady taught Saint Dominic this excellent method of praying and ordered him to preach it far and wide so as to reawaken the fervor of Christians and to revive in their hearts a love for Our Blessed Lord.

She also taught it to Blessed Alan de la Roche and said to him in a vision: "When people say one hundred and fifty Angelic Salutations this prayer is very helpful to them and is a very pleasing tribute to Me. But they will do better still and will please Me even more if they say these salutations while meditating on the life, death and passion of Jesus Christ – for this meditation is the soul of this prayer."

For, in reality, the Rosary said without meditating on the sacred mysteries of our salvation would be almost like a body without a soul: excellent *matter* but without the *form* which is meditation – this latter being that which sets it apart from all other devotions.

The first part of the Rosary contains five mysteries: the



first is the Annunciation of the Archangel Saint Gabriel to Our Lady; the second, the Visitation of Our Lady to Her cousin Saint Elizabeth; the third, the Nativity of Jesus Christ; the fourth, the Presentation of the Child Jesus in the temple and the Purification of Our Lady; and the fifth, the Finding of Jesus in the Temple among the doctors.

These are called the **Joyful Mysteries** because of the joy which they gave to the whole universe. Our Lady and the angels were overwhelmed with joy the moment when the

continued on page 4

Story of the Blessed Sacrament

from *Moments Divine Before the Blessed Sacrament*
by Father Frederick A. Reuter, K.C.B.S.

A very remarkable event is recorded to have happened on February 5, 1876, in a small town in Poland called Dubna, during the celebration of the Forty Hours' Devotion in the Church of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Amid the terrors of the revolution, the church of Dubna had been fortunate enough to escape molestation, and that reason, added to religious motives, contributed to make the number of religious worshipers thronging the edifice particularly large. As the Blessed Sacrament was exposed to the view of the multitude, soft brilliant rays of light began emanating from the monstrance, in plain sight of the people kneeling close to the sanctuary. Then a wonderful apparition took place. The figure of the Savior appeared distinctly in the place of the Host, and remained there throughout the entire forty hours. Catholics and heretics, some from motives of strong Faith, others out of mere curiosity, repaired to the church to witness the miracle, until persons in every walk of life and of every form of belief offered their solemn testimony as to the fact of the manifestation. This wide acknowledgment brought the affair to

the ears of the city officials and as a result the parish priest was called upon to give testimony before the director of police. The Governor of Schitomar being informed, it was forbidden under pain of imprisonment to speak of the apparition. But the witnesses were not anxious to parade God's work before the incredulous, and consequently they were content that God saw fit to exhibit His marvelous power in their behalf. A written statement of the miracle having been submitted by the priest to the bishop of the diocese, the latter requested that the event should be kept secret, lest the church should be closed by the civil authorities.

Prayer

I adore Thee in Thy Sacrament, O Jesus, eternal Love and Source of all graces, and I beseech Thee to cast a look of mercy upon Thy children prostrate before Thee. See, O Lord, how great is our poverty, and deign to help us.

Bless us in our thoughts, our sentiments, our words and actions. Bless us in our relations, in our labors, our trials, our sufferings. Grant by Thy grace that, doing what Thou requirest of us, we may become worthy to be the object of the blessings by which Thou wilt call Thy elect to the Kingdom of Thy Father. †

Amen

News from the Apostolate

Rosary Rallies

In December, Father Gruner travelled to Toronto, Ontario; Portland, Maine; and Merrimack, New Hampshire for Rosary Rallies. During these Rallies, many highly favorable comments were received on the most recently published Fatima book, *The Devil's Final Battle*. Although the number of attendees was not as high as we had expected, Father's talks were superb and those who attended were very appreciative of hearing new insights on Our Lady of Fatima's message to the world.

Literature Distribution:

Earlier this year, over 17,000 copies of an interview with Father Gruner was mailed from our Philippines office to priests and lay people. The response has been great, with many volunteers asking for more copies to pass on to friends and family.

During the month of September, our North American Volunteers distributed over 70,000 pieces of literature and sacramentals. Among these were a new prayer card, Our Lady's Seven Sorrows, and the leaflet *The Devotion of the Seven Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin Mary*.

Many priests write and thank us for the sacramentals and literature they have received and request more. They offer prayers and Masses for the success of our work as a means of thanks.

If you are interested in becoming one of Our Lady's Volunteers, please call our volunteer department at 1-866-871-7723.

To obtain your copy of

***The Devil's Final Battle*, call or write to the telephone number or address on page 4 of this newsletter.**



Regular price - \$14.95

\$11.25 for Members!

Saint Scholastica, Virgin

February 10 (About the year 543 A.D.)

This saint was sister to the great Saint Benedict. She consecrated herself to God from her earliest youth, as Saint Gregory testifies. Where her first monastery was situated is not mentioned; but after her brother moved to Monte Cassino she chose her retreat at Plombariola, where she founded and governed a nunnery about five miles to the south of Saint Benedict's monastery. Saint Bertharius, who was Abbot of Monte Cassino three hundred years after, says that she instructed in virtue several of her own sex. And whereas Saint Gregory informs us that Saint Benedict governed nuns as well as monks, his sister must have been their abbess under his rule and direction. She visited her holy brother once a year, and as she was not allowed to enter his monastery, he went out with some of his monks to meet her at a house at some small distance.

They spent these visits in the praises of God, and in conferring together on spiritual matters. Saint Gregory relates a remarkable circumstance on the last of these visits. Having passed the day as usual in singing psalms and pious discourse, they sat down in the evening to eat. After it was over, Scholastica, perhaps knowing it would be their last interview in this world, or at least eager for some further spiritual improvement, was very insistent with her brother to delay his return till the next day, so they might entertain themselves till morning upon the happiness of the other life. Saint Benedict, unwilling to transgress his rule, told her he could not pass a night out of his monastery, so he asked her not to insist upon such a breach of monastic discipline. Scholastica, finding him determined to go home, joined her hands, laid them on the table, placed her head upon them and, with many tears, begged Almighty God to interpose in her behalf. Her prayer was barely ended when there came such a storm of rain, thunder, and lightning, that neither Saint Benedict nor any of his companions could set a foot out of doors. He complained to his sister, saying "God forgive you, sister; what have you done?" She answered, "I asked a favor of you, and you refused me; I asked it of Almighty God, and He has granted it." Saint Benedict was therefore obliged to

comply with her request, and they spent the night in conferences on pious subjects, chiefly on the happiness of the blessed, to which both most ardently aspired, and which she was soon to enjoy.

The next morning they parted, and three days later Saint Scholastica died in her solitude. Saint Benedict was then alone in contemplation on Monte Cassino, and lifting up his eyes to Heaven, he saw the soul of his sister ascending in the shape of a dove. Filled with joy at her happy passage, he gave thanks for it to God, and declared her death to his brethren, some of whom he sent to bring her corpse to his monastery, where he laid her in the tomb which he had prepared for himself. She died about the year 543.

Louis of Granada mentions the miraculous storm obtained by Saint Scholastica to show with what excess of goodness God is always ready to hear the petitions and desires of His servants. This pious soul must have received strong pledges and most sensi-



ST. SCHOLASTICA

ble tokens of His love, seeing she depended on receiving so readily what she asked of Him. The love which God bears us, and His readiness to comfort us, if we humbly confess and lay before Him our wants, infinitely surpasses all that can be found in creatures. Nor can we be surprised that He so easily heard the prayer of this holy virgin, since at the command of Joshua He stopped the heavens. He hears the most secret desires of those that fear and love Him, and does their will: if He sometimes seems deaf to their cries, it is to grant their main desire by doing what is most expedient for them. The short prayer by which Saint Scholastica gained this remarkable victory over her brother, who was one of the greatest saints on earth, was doubtless no more than a single act of her pure desires, which

she continually turned toward, and fixed on her Beloved. By placing herself, as a docile scholar, continually at the feet of the Divine Majesty, Who filled all the powers of her soul with the sweetness of His heavenly communications, she learned that sublime science of perfection in which she became a mistress to so many other chaste souls by this divine exercise. Her life in her retirement, to that happy moment which closed her mortal pilgrimage, was a continued uniform contemplation, by which all her powers were united to and transformed into God. †



My Dear Father Nicholas Gruner,

I would like to thank you for your love to the people like me. I have just received a Guide for Volunteers, a reply form and samples of the literature. I read from cover to cover immediately when I received it.

I'm very happy to read a message from you. Thanks a lot for promising me to pray every day. I have decided to spread the Fatima Message to all Catholics and others of good will. For sure, Father Gruner, beloved of Jesus, Mary and Joseph, the world needs people like you to spread the devotion of Our Lady.

I pray the Rosary every day that The Fatima Center will keep going on and that Pope John Paul II and all the bishops of the world together at the same time will consecrate Russia to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

I thank you again for adding me to the list of volunteers. Please keep praying for me so that I may do this work peacefully. I am 28 years old, teaching the children in my Parish for the preparation of the Holy Communion and teaching religion at secondary school.

I wish you good health so that you may work joyfully. May the Lord bless you always.

Yours in Jesus, Mary and Joseph,

Sr. Mary, East Africa

Dear Father Gruner and Staff,

Thank you for everything you have done for Our Blessed Lord, Our Blessed Mother, and for us. I will continue to support you as much as I can for as long as God gives me the strength to do so. God bless you.

Yours in Jesus and Mary,

Jim P., TX

Dear Father Gruner,

Fatima Crusaders from St. Augustine, Florida, would like you to know that we are so proud of your work in the struggle to spread the Fatima Message. We hope that you will continue your work concerning the Message of Fatima being spread to all the faithful. Please know that from our hearts we love and care for you.

Thank you and God Bless.

J. via the internet.

THE FIFTEEN MYSTERIES OF THE ROSARY continued from page 1

Son of God was incarnate. Saint Elizabeth and Saint John the Baptist were filled with joy by the visit of Jesus and Mary. Heaven and earth rejoiced at the birth of Our Savior. Holy Simeon felt great consolation and was filled with joy when he took the Holy Child in his arms. The doctors were lost in admiration and wonderment at the answers which Jesus gave – and how could anyone describe the joy of Mary and Joseph when they found the Child Jesus after He had been lost for three days?

The second part of the Rosary is also composed of five mysteries which are called the **Sorrowful Mysteries** because they show us Our Lord weighed down with sadness, covered with wounds, laden with insults, sufferings and torments. The first of these mysteries is Jesus' Prayer and Agony in the Garden of Olives; the second, His Scourging; the third, His Crowning with Thorns; the fourth, Jesus carrying His Cross; and the fifth, His Crucifixion and Death on Mount Calvary.

The third part of the Rosary contains five other mysteries which are called the **Glorious Mysteries** because when we say them we meditate on Jesus and Mary in their triumph and glory. The first is the Resurrection of Jesus Christ; the second, His Ascension into Heaven; the third, the Descent of the Holy Ghost upon the Apostles; the fourth, Our Lady's glorious Assumption into Heaven; and the fifth, Her Crowning in Heaven.

These are the fifteen fragrant flowers of the Mystical Rose Tree; devout souls fly to them like wise bees, so as to gather their nectar and make the honey of a solid devotion. †

We'd like to hear from YOU! Write or call:

The Editor,

Apostles of the Rosary

IN U.S.A. – 17000 State Route 30, Constable, NY 12926

IN CANADA – 452 Kraft Rd., Fort Erie, ON L2A 4M7

Call us toll-free at: 1-800-263-8160 or fax us at: (905) 871-3646

Visit Our Lady's Web Site at: www.fatima.org

or e-mail us at: info@fatima.org