



day. Our Blessed Lord expressly recommended common prayer to His apostles and disciples and promised that whenever two or three were gathered together in His name, He would be there in the midst of them.

What a wonderful thing to have Jesus Christ in our midst! And the only thing we have to do to get Him to come is to say the Rosary in a group. This is why the early Christians often gathered together to pray in spite of all the Roman Emperor's persecutions and the fact that assemblies were forbidden. They preferred to risk the danger of death rather than to miss their gatherings, at which Our Lord was present.

This way of praying is of the greatest benefit to our souls because:

1. Normally our minds are far more alert during public prayer than they are when we pray alone.
2. When we pray in common, the prayer of each one belongs to us all and these make but one great prayer together, so that if one person is not praying well, someone else in the same gathering who prays better may make up for his deficiency. In this way those who are strong uphold the weak, those who are fervent inspire the lukewarm, the rich enrich the poor, the bad are counted as good. How can a measure of cockle be sold? This can be done very easily by mixing it up with four or five barrels of good wheat.
3. Somebody who says his Rosary alone only gains the merit of one Rosary, but if he says it together with thirty other people he gains the merit of thirty Rosaries. This is the law of public prayer. How profitable, how advantageous this is!
4. Urban VIII, who was very pleased to see how devotion to the Holy Rosary had spread in Rome and how it was being said in two groups or choirs, particularly at the convent of Santa Maria Sopra Minerva, attached one hundred days' extra indulgence, *toties quoties*, whenever the Rosary was said in two choirs. This was set out in his brief "Ad perpetuam rei memoriam," written in

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Group Recitation of the Most Holy Rosary

by Saint Louis de Montfort

There are several ways of saying the Holy Rosary, but that which gives Almighty God the greatest glory, does the most for our souls, and which the devil fears more than any other, is that of saying or chanting the Rosary publicly.

Almighty God is very pleased to have people gathered together in prayer; the angels and the blessed unite to praise Him unceasingly. The just on earth in several communities join in communal prayer night and



GROUP RECITATION OF THE MOST HOLY ROSARY
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the year 1626. So every time you say the Rosary in two groups you gain one hundred days' extra indulgence.

5. Public prayer is far more powerful than private prayer to appease the anger of God and call down His Mercy; and Holy Mother Church, guided by the Holy Ghost, has always advocated public prayer in times of public tragedy and suffering.

In his bull on the Rosary, Pope Gregory XIII says very clearly that we must believe (on pious faith) that the public prayers and processions of members of the Confraternity of the Holy Rosary were largely responsible for the great victory over the Turkish navy at Lepanto, which Almighty God granted to Christians on the first Sunday of October, 1571.

When King Louis the Just, of blessed memory, was besieging La Rochelle, where the revolutionary heretics had their stronghold, he wrote to his mother to beg her to have public prayers offered for a victorious outcome. The Queen-Mother decided to have the Rosary recited publicly in Paris in the Dominican Church of Faubourg Saint Honore and this was done by the Archbishop of Paris. It was begun on May 20, 1628.

Both the Queen-Mother and the reigning Queen attended the recitation of the Rosary together with the Duke of Orleans, Cardinal de La Rochefoucault and Cardinal de Berulle, as well as other prelates. The court turned out in full force as well as a large proportion of the general populace. The Archbishop used to read the meditations on the mysteries aloud and then begin the Our Fathers and Hail Marys of each decade while the congregation made up of religious and lay folk answered him. At the end of the Rosary, a statue of the Blessed Mother was solemnly carried in procession while the Litany of Our Lady was sung.

This devotion was kept up with admirable fervor every Saturday and resulted in a manifest blessing from Heaven: for on All Saints' Day of the same year the king defeated the English at the island of Re and made his triumphant entry into La Rochelle. This goes to show the great power of public prayer.

Finally, when people say the Rosary together, it is far more formidable to the devil than one said privately, because in this public prayer it is an army that is attacking him. He can often overcome the prayer of an

individual, but if this prayer is joined to that of other Christians, the devil has much more trouble in getting the best of it. It is very easy to break a single stick, but if you join it to others to make a bundle it cannot be broken. "In union there is strength." Soldiers join together in an army to overcome their enemies; wicked people often get together for parties of debauchery and dancing, and evil spirits join forces in order to make us lose our souls. So why, then, should not Christians join forces to have Jesus Christ present with them when they pray, to appease Almighty God's anger, to draw down His grace and mercy upon us, and to frustrate and overcome the devil and his angels more forcefully?

Whether you live in town or in the country, near your parish church or near a chapel, go there at least every evening (with the parish priest's approval, of course), together with all those who want to recite the Rosary in two choirs. If a church or a chapel is not available, say the Rosary together in your own or a neighbor's house. This is a holy practice which Almighty God, in His mercy, has set up in places where I have preached missions – to safeguard and increase the good brought about by these missions and to prevent further sin.

Before the Holy Rosary took root in these small towns and villages, dances and parties of debauchery went on all the time; dissoluteness and wantonness, blasphemy, quarrels and feuds flourished. One heard nothing but evil songs and double-meaning talk. But now nothing is heard but hymns and the chant of the Our Father and Hail Mary. The only gatherings to be seen are those of twenty, thirty or a hundred or more people who, at a fixed hour, sing Almighty God's praises just as religious do. There are even places where the Rosary is recited in common – five mysteries at a time – at three special times every day. What a blessing from Heaven this is!

Just as there are wicked people everywhere, do not expect to find that the place you live in is free of them; there will be some who will be certain to avoid coming to church for the Rosary and they may even make fun of it and will probably do everything in their power to stop you from going, exerting their influence by bad example and bad language. But do not give up. As these wretched souls will have to be separated from God and Heaven for all eternity because their place will be in hell, already here on earth they have to be separated from the company of Christ Our Lord and His servants and hand-maids. †

Story of the Blessed Sacrament

Taken from the book *Moments Divine*

St. Alphonsus in his book, *Visits to the Blessed Sacrament*, relates a most wonderful occurrence in connection with the Holy Eucharist. He obtained the full narration of the facts written by a priest who was one of the eyewitnesses of the miracle. He also states that he read the authentic process which was drawn up by the archiepiscopal court of Naples by order of His Eminence, Cardinal Sersale, the Archbishop of Naples.

On the morning of the twenty-eighth of January, 1772, at a place called St. Pietro-a-Paterno, in the diocese of Naples, the tabernacle of the parish church in which the Blessed Sacrament was reserved was found open, and the two ciboriums, a large and small one, containing many Sacred Particles, were missing.

A search was made but for a time nothing was heard about the robbers nor could any clue be obtained as to what they had done with the Sacred Hosts. At length, however, on Thursday the eighteenth of February, a certain youth, Giuseppe Crefici, saw a number of bright lights resembling stars as he was passing, in the evening, near the property of the Duke of Grottolle. The neighbors, when they became aware of the prodigy, were quite astonished and puzzled at the strange appearances. Night after night they were to be seen, and at last the conviction began to gain ground that these extraordinary lights might be a divine manifestation designating the secret spot of the missing Hosts.

Accordingly, a number of pious persons gathered together and made a most careful search in the neighborhood of the lights, but all in vain. Monday evening, the twenty-third of February, a great flame was seen moving around a heap of straw. With many others, the two brothers, Giuseppe and Giovanni Crefici, went there, and as Paccino, who was a companion of the others, approached the spot, he fell suddenly upon his face; and after a few steps, Giuseppe felt himself pushed forward on the shoulders, and he also at once fell on the ground. In the same way and at the same moment the other two, Carlo Marrota and Giovanni, also fell, and all four felt their heads wounded, as if they had received a severe blow with a stick. With

some difficulty the four got on their feet, and to their great amazement, beheld a light brilliant as the sun coming forth from beneath a poplar tree; and rising out of this light, to the height of about five feet, a dove fluttered in the air. Instead of rising higher, however, the dove, gliding down again to the earth at the foot of the poplar tree, disappeared, as did the light also. All the persons present gave evidence of this fact upon oath, before the Vicar General of Naples.

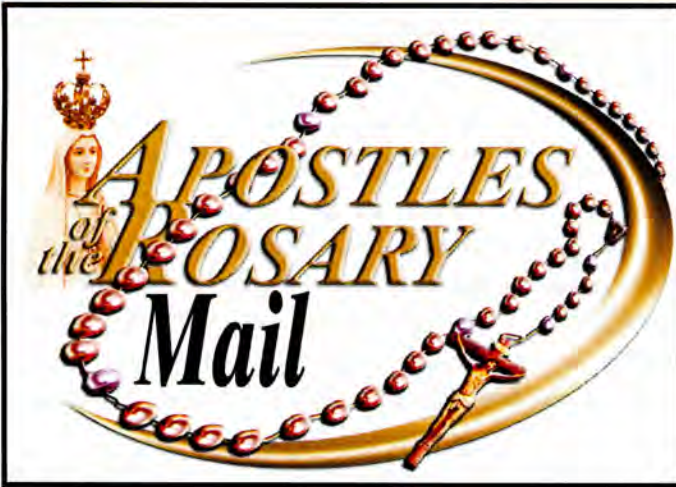
Several persons at once went to work digging up the ground around the poplar tree, and at length one of the diggers came upon the Sacred Hosts buried some little depth in the earth. A priest who was with them placed the Hosts, some fifty in number, in a clean linen cloth, and amid general rejoicing carried them back to the tabernacle. It has been confirmed that the Particles found on this spot had not lost their whiteness, although they had been buried for nearly a month.

On Tuesday evening, lights again appeared in the same field. From this the people concluded that they had not yet found all the Hosts. Another search was made, but in vain. Next night a quantity of tiny flames appeared around the heap of straw. A careful search was made at the exact spot, until, on raising a clod of earth, a large quantity of Particles was found lying underneath. The parish priest, after being informed what had happened, came quickly to the spot, where he found everybody kneeling before the hidden Treasure. The Sacred Particles

were placed in a Chalice, and a table with a silk covering was prepared. The Blessed Sacrament reposed on this improvised altar and around it a number of persons knelt with lighted torches, until many people, with their priests, arrived from the surrounding villages. A procession was then formed, and amid the blaze of tapers and the music of sweet hymns, the Blessed Sacrament was carried triumphantly to the Church of St. Pietro-a-Paterno. As soon as they arrived at the church, Benediction was given with the Chalice, amid the tears and cries of devotion of the people, thanking God Who had by such wonderful signs given proof of His Real Presence in the Holy Eucharist. †



The Blessed Sacrament



Dear Father,

Please accept my sincere thanks for your recent gift of rosaries. You wonderful people really bring joy to my heart when I see the great love you have for Jesus and Our Blessed Mother and your faithfulness in gifts of love. Your rosaries with their Heavenly blessings are saving many souls, which delights Jesus and Mary. We are very appreciative.

It must be a great consolation to each of you to realize you are an important part of these happenings.

You are all remembered in my daily Masses and Communions and I thank God you are part of our team.

God bless you,

Father N., California

Dear Father Gruner,

I have just finished reading your letter in which you addressed your concerns regarding disturbing reports about you and your works. Father, I need to tell you a little story.

I am a Protestant, Episcopalian to be exact. Approximately ten years ago, a friend of mine introduced me to the Rosary beads and I proceeded to teach myself how to say the Rosary. I said the Rosary daily for a while, then stopped. Some of the prayers were the same prayers that I had learned during my Sunday School years, through the Episcopal Church. However, some prayers seemed strange to me and so I put the Rosary beads aside.

I placed these beads in my pocketbook and carried them with me every day, even though I wasn't saying them. I continued to search for a religion that was reverent and very close to the teachings of Christ. Another friend introduced me to a book entitled, "Mother of Christ Crusade", which is the story of Fatima taken directly from

Our Lady of Fatima

Novena Prayer

Most Holy Virgin, Who hast deigned to come to Fatima, to reveal the treasures of graces hidden in the recitation of the Rosary, inspire our hearts with a sincere love of this devotion, that meditating on the Mysteries of our Redemption recalled therein, we may obtain the conversion of sinners, the conversion of Russia, and (here name the other favors you are praying for), which we ask of you in this Novena, for the greater glory of God, for your own honor, and for the good of souls.

Amen

Our Lady of the Rosary of Fatima, pray for us!

With Ecclesiastical Approbation

Lucy's Memoirs. I was so taken by the story of Fatima, the message of the Mother of Christ to the world is so clear. My search to find that one Church has ended with the "Traditional Catholic Church". I began saying the Rosary again and this time there was nothing strange about it. It was absolutely the most beautiful and right thing to do.

I am now working on my conversion and plan to have a conditional Baptism sometime this fall. Fatima played a huge role in my conversion.

Every family should read about the Apparitions and the story of Fatima. Our Lady's message of love should be told to every person on this earth, perhaps then there would be many more conversions and finally world peace.

God bless you for all your good works.

Sincerely,

Marcia C., Massachusetts

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

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