



# APOSTLES THE ROSARY

## Newsletter

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### *The Honor of His Mother*

*from The Ave Maria, Volume 1*

The honor of His Mother. This is another chief interest of Jesus, and the whole history of the Church shows how near it lies to His Sacred Heart. It was the love of Her that specially drew Him down from Heaven, and it was She who merited the time of the Incarnation.

She was the chosen one of the Most Holy and Undivided Trinity, the elected daughter of the Father, the predestined Mother of the Son, and the chosen Spouse of the Holy Ghost.

The right doctrine of Jesus has in all ages been wrapped up with the true devotion to Mary.

Thus Mary is the heritage of humble and obedient Catholics. As devotion to Her increases, so does holiness increase. The saints are molded on the love of Her. Sin has no greater enemy than Mary, for the thought of Her is a barrier against it, and the devils tremble at Her name.

No one can love the Son, but the love of the Mother grows in him also; no one can love the Mother, without his heart melting with tenderness toward the Son. Thus has Jesus put Her in the front of His Church, that She should be the token of all good, and the stumbling block of His enemies.

What wonder, then, that His interests are deeply

concerned with Her honor. Every heretical blasphemy against Her dignity, for which you make reparation by an act of love, or an act of thanksgiving for Her Immaculate Conception and Her Perpetual Virginity,<sup>1</sup> gives you opportunity of advancing the interests of Jesus.

Everything you can do to spread devotion to Her, and especially to make Catholics feel more tenderly toward Her, is a distinct work for Jesus, and one which He will most lovingly repay. To get people to go to Communion on Her feasts, to be enrolled in Her Confraternities, to have a picture of Her, to gain indulgences for the souls in purgatory that in lifetime were most devoted to Her, to say five decades of the Rosary every day, – everybody has an opportunity of doing one or the other of these things, and they are all for the interests of Jesus.

Ah! there is one devotion I will mention! I wish we were all inspired with it. We should do well then, for the interests of Jesus, and our dear Lord would get such abundance of new love all the world over! It is, – to have more confidence in our Blessed Mother's prayers, more undoubting trust, more bold petition, more real faith in Her.

There would be more love for Mary, if there were more faith in Mary. But we are in a heretical country; and it is hard to live among icebergs, and not be cold.

O Jesus! animate our confidence in Mary, not only that we may work the more for Thy sweet interests, but that we may work in the way Thou wouldst have us work, letting no creature be dearer to us than the one who was dearer to Thee than all other creatures put together! †

1. The devotion of the Five First Saturdays of the month, which was requested by Our Lord, is a particularly efficacious act of reparation and love to the wounded Heart of Mary.



*The Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin*

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# Catholic Doctrine Regarding Images

published by Blessed Pope Pius IX

**Q:** What is [the Catholic] doctrine as to images?

**A:** We hold that the images or pictures of Christ, of His blessed Mother, ever Virgin, and of other saints, are to be had and retained; and that due honor and veneration are to be given to them.

**Q:** Do you not worship images?

**A:** No, by no means; if by worship you mean divine honor: for this we do not give to the highest angel or saint, not even to the Virgin Mary, much less to images.

**Q:** Do you not pray to images?

**A:** No, we do not; because, as both our catechism and common sense teach us, they can neither see, nor hear, nor help us.

**Q:** Why then do you pray before an image or crucifix?

**A:** Because the sight of a good picture or image, for example, of Christ upon the cross, helps to enkindle devotion in our hearts towards Him that has loved us to that excess as to lay down His life for the love of us.

**Q:** Are you not taught to put your trust and confidence in images, as the heathens did in their idols; as if there were a certain virtue, power, or divinity residing in them?

**A:** No, we are expressly taught the contrary by the Council of Trent, Session 25.

**Q:** How do you prove that it is lawful to make or keep the image of Christ and His saints?

**A:** Because God Himself commanded Moses, Exod. xxv. 18, 19, 20, 21, to make two cherubims of beaten gold, and place them at the two ends of the mercy-seat, over the ark of the covenant, in the very sanctuary. "And there," says He, (ver. 22,) "will I meet with thee, and I will commune with thee from

above the mercy-seat, from between the two cherubims which are upon the ark of the testimony, of all things which I will give thee in commandment unto the children of Israel." God also commanded, (Numb. xxi. 8, 9), a serpent of brass to be made, for the healing of those who were bit by the fiery serpent: which serpent was an emblem of Christ, (John, iii. 14, 15.).

**Q:** But is it not forbidden, (Exod. xx. 4,) to make the likeness of any thing in heaven above or in the earth beneath, or in the waters under the earth?

**A:** It is forbidden to make to ourselves any such image or likeness; that is to say, to make it our God, or put our trust in it, or give it the honor which belongs to God: which is explained by the following words, "Thou shalt not bow down thyself to them," that is, thou shalt not adore them, for so both the Septuagint and the Vulgate translate it, "nor serve them." Otherwise, if all likenesses were forbidden by this commandment we should be obliged to fling down our sign-posts and deface our coin.

**Q:** What kind of honor do Catholics give to the images of Christ and His saints?

**A:** A relative honor.

**Q:** What do you mean by a relative honor?

**A:** By a relative honor, I mean an honor which is given to a thing, not for any intrinsic excellence or dignity in the thing itself, but only for the relation it has to something else; as when courtiers bow to the chair of state or Christians to the name of Jesus, which is an image or remembrance of our Savior to the ear, as the crucifix is to the eye.

**Q:** Have you any instances of this relative honor allowed by Protestants?

**A:** Yes; in the honor they give to the name of Jesus, to their churches, to the altar, to the Bible, to the symbols of bread and wine. Such also was the honor which the Jews gave to the ark and cherubims, and which Moses and Joshua gave to the land on which they stood, as being holy ground. (Exod. iii. 5; Josh. v. 15, &c.)



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## *An Awesome Example*

In her 1957 interview with Father Fuentes, Sister Lucy spoke of the gravity of offending God's holy Mother, the Blessed Virgin Mary, saying: "Let us remember that Jesus Christ is a very good Son and that He does not permit that we offend and despise His Most Holy Mother. We have recorded through many centuries of Church history, the evident testimony which demonstrates by the terrible chastisements which have befallen those who have attacked the honor of His Most Holy Mother, how Our Lord Jesus Christ has always defended the honor of His Mother". Cartagena, of the Order of Saint Francis, relates the following, which illustrates this truth:

"While the venerable Sprenger and his Religious were laboring with great zeal to re-establish the devotion of the Rosary in Cologne, two priests sought, by every means in their power, to check it. As they possessed a good deal of influence, they prevented many from joining, and cooled the devotion of many who had inscribed their names, by saying it was an abuse, that there were many other ways of honoring Mary, etc., so that the devotion sensibly diminished, and the faithful of Cologne scarcely dared to say their beads.

"One of those two priests resolved to preach from the pulpit against the Rosary. An eloquent sermon was consequently announced for the following Sunday. When the moment for delivering the oration arrived, the orator did not appear. After waiting some time, they sent for him, but he could not be found. The crowd finally became impatient, and commenced to murmur. At that moment a messenger appeared, announcing that the preacher no longer belonged to this world; he was found dead, with the pen in his hand; dead without the Sacraments, without any spiritual or human aid; dead while writing against the Rosary of Mary.

"The second priest, in his blindness, saw in this nothing but a natural accident, and he resolved to carry out the intention of his colleague. Therefore, he announced a second sermon, but when he ascended the pulpit his tongue became paralyzed and his body powerless. He was forced to undergo one of the most shameful humiliations that could possibly happen to him. Recognizing, then, the finger of God, and understanding that this affliction, as well as the sad death of his companion, was the chastisement of their impiety, he invoked Mary in his heart, deeply contrite for having wished to prevent Her praises. He besought Her to obtain his cure, promising to do all in his power to extend the devotion of the Rosary. Scarcely had he made the vow when he was entirely cured. Then, rising like a second Saul, he became the panegyrist and ardent missionary of the devotion of the Rosary." †

### **CATHOLIC DOCTRINE REGARDING IMAGES**

*Continued from page 2*

**Q:** How do you prove that there is a relative honor due to the images or the pictures of Christ and His saints?

**A:** From the dictates of common sense and reason, as well as of piety and religion, which teach us to express our love and esteem for the persons whom we honor, by setting a value upon all things that belong to them, or have any relation to them: thus, a loyal subject, a dutiful child, a loving friend, value the pictures of their king, father, or friend: and those who make no scruple of abusing the image of Christ, would severely punish the man that would abuse the image of their king.

**Q:** Does your Church allow of images of God the Father, or of the Blessed Trinity?

**A:** Our profession of faith makes no mention of such images as these; yet we do not think them unlawful, provided that they be not understood to bear any likeness or resemblance of the divinity, which cannot be expressed in colors, or represented by any human workmanship. For as Protestants make no difficulty of painting the Holy Ghost under the figure of a dove, because He appeared so when Christ was baptized, (Matt. iii. 16,) so we make no difficulty of painting God the Father under the figure of a venerable old man, because He appeared in that manner to the prophet Daniel, (vii. 9.) †



Dear Father Gruner,

I would like to tell you a story of Our Lady's Brown Scapular. A young man was taken to the hospital in a coma. He was bleeding inside his throat, the result of heavy drinking. At his bedside was a sister, mother and two brothers. The sister attends a prayer meeting every Thursday at our church. During Christmas, gifts were exchanged. I gave a friend of hers in the group a Brown Scapular as part of a gift. This friend, seeing the boy in such a state, put the scapular on the wrist of the boy.

We said many prayers for him. He did not come around and they were told that he would not live. They air-lifted him to our capital city for further treatment. They brought him around and when he woke up he read the words on the scapular and believed that he was saved by Our Lady. As a result of his near death experience his mother and brothers are asking questions about God and Mary, and are showing quite an interest in being saved.

Father, could you send me some more scapulars and rosaries, that we might have them on hand to pass on to someone else who might need to be pressed into God's care? Keep up your work Father.

God Bless,

Joseph A., N.S.

Dear Father Gruner,

I always include you in my prayers. Because of you I say the Rosary every day, and you introduced me back to saying my prayers and I learned again how to pray. We don't have much money, but we have our faith.

Thank you for your letters and thank you again for introducing me back to the Rosary. Our prayers are with you.

Yours in Jesus, Mary and Joseph,

Emma M., ON

Dear Father Gruner and staff,

We pray the Rosary every day for you, for peace in the world, to stop abortion, and for health for all Our Lady's workers.

I was at Fatima about twelve years ago. I always got severe asthma attacks; I've never had one since I was there. Our Blessed Mother sure helped me.

I hope in 2004 we will be able to increase the praying of the holy Rosary by the millions.

Thank you Father Gruner for the faith you have in Our Lady and also in me and Alice. Thank you very much.

Joe and Alice M., AB

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

**The Editor,**

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## Help Promote the Rosary

One of the goals of the Apostles of the Rosary is to promote the Rosary as Heaven's chosen weapon and best refuge in times of war, uncertainty and crisis.

Additionally, we strive to circulate materials and literature which have been designed to promote this devotion, enkindle a deeper love for it and foster a better understanding of its tremendous power. We are endeavoring to promote 25 million Rosaries for peace, and we need your help to achieve our goal.

The Rosary leaflet pictured here contains simple instructions on how to pray the Rosary, and provides all of the required prayers. It lists the Fifteen Mysteries of the Rosary, and each mystery is accompanied by a picture and Scriptural verse to aid in meditation.

We urge you to help us reach our goal by ordering these free leaflets, as well as Rosaries, to give to your friends, family members and neighbors. †

To order, call the telephone number or write to one of the addresses on this page. Please specify you would like leaflet #LF087.