



# APOSTLES THE ROSARY

## Newsletter

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### Reflections on the Rosary: Lourdes and Fatima

It was the Rosary that kept the Faith alive in Ireland during the long centuries of the Penal Times when one could not find a way to hear Mass — even the type of Mass that was then permitted by the Church to outwit the persecutors, in which the priest would lie supine in the fields with the Sacred Offerings held on his breast for an altar, while the small group of worshippers hovered around him, apparently at work in the fields. During times like these a person could and did find a way to knot strings to keep tabs on the prayers of the Rosary. In any case, a man generally does have 10 fingers.

When Japan was opened again to the outside world after three hundred years of no priests, no Mass, and no sacraments except baptism and matrimony, missionaries were asked questions designed to determine whether they had brought back with them the true Faith. Among the first questions asked the missionaries after "Where are your wives?" (for which they knew the answer should be: we have none) was: "Where are your rosaries?" When the visitors showed the beads they carried they found doors opened to them, and they heard a tale of the preservation of the Faith such as is not recorded in the whole history of Christianity.

If Our Lady had not brought the Rosary with Her to St. Dominic, even as tradition reports, it is still true that She had brought it with Her to Lourdes. Why could we not say, then, that the power of the Rosary was pretty much the same as the power of the waters in the spring at Lourdes; waters that have

no curative powers in themselves but which have many times worked even startling cures? There is no evidence of any sort that Our Lady promised to cure anyone at Lourdes, but scarcely had the waters started to



well up out of the ground when an unfortunate man in the town of Lourdes asked his daughter to bring some of the water to him. This man, Burtiette by name, had had his right eye destroyed in a quarry explosion some years before and it still caused him pain from time to time. He bathed his eye in the water, explaining that if this was from the Blessed Virgin She could cure his eye. The eye was cured. A day or so after this a child in its death-throes was dipped into the cold waters and was restored to its mother alive. At Fatima Our Blessed Mother promised She would work cures, and at Fatima the work of mercy goes forward, intertwined as at Lourdes with the Rosary.

For almost a hundred years the list of cures has continued to grow at Lourdes — of tubercular lungs made whole, and even of missing bone tissue restored, as in the case of Pierre de Rudder who was never near Lourdes, in France, but who went to a

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# Apostolate News

Things have been busy at the Fatima Center!

Our Fatima Rosary Rallies are important means for spreading the complete Message of Fatima. They also are opportunities to meet Fatima Center staff members, and for volunteers and friends to meet and talk about their own efforts on behalf of the Fatima Message. A Rally held in June of last year in Florida introduced the Apostolate to a number of people. And last September's Rally in Pasadena, California brought out nearly 800 people to honor the Pilgrim Virgin, hear Mass, pray the Rosary together, listen to the presentations and exchange ideas for the success of Our Lady's Apostolate. The joy was infectious, especially for the accounts of Our Lady's intercession, which attendees shared.

The Fatima Center is planning the 2006 schedule. Most of the arrangements for such visits are organized by the Apostolate office. But we rely on those volunteers who are eager to have a Rosary Rally in their own area, and will provide the name and phone number of a local hotel where the Rally could be held. Would you like to learn how to help arrange a Fatima Rosary Rally in your area? Please contact the Fatima Center at **1-866-871-7723** and ask for Brunetta.



**Arrange a Fatima Rosary Rally in your area, contact us at the Fatima Center 1-866-871-7723.**

**Web News** - Our own web radio site, which will broadcast twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week, is in final stages of development. Though it is not officially launched yet, you can hear test programming by linking to "[www.fatimaradio.org](http://www.fatimaradio.org)" and clicking on "ListenLive." The Rosary is broadcast three times a day, at 8 a.m., 2 p.m. and 8 p.m. EST. You can unite your prayers with others' by joining the Rosary at those times. Since this is a pre-recorded electronic transmission, you must recite both halves of the prayers of the Rosary – not just one half of the prayer as if you were responding to a live person – to gain



the graces of all the Rosaries being prayed together in this manner. After you have had a chance to listen to the programming, let us know your reactions. There is a survey form which many listeners have already used to help us fine-tune our programming plans. Thank you to all those who have supported the development of this site, which will be available worldwide.

**Other Web News** - December marked the debut of "Weekends with Father Gruner," a new program on web radio at "[KathleenKeating.com](http://KathleenKeating.com)". These programs reprise some of the best broadcasts from *Fatima*: "*The Moment Has Come.*" Listen for your favorites!

**Follow-Up** - "*Three Hail Marys*": You probably have the leaflet "Heaven Opened by the Practice of The Three Hail Marys" which was sent out last summer. The Apostolate has sent this leaflet to many of its friends. During the Fall months, the initial mailings totaled over 190,000 copies. But since then, individual requests for more leaflets has reached over 130,000 additional leaflets sent out. This total does not include the requests for bulk packages of the leaflet, which volunteers like you distribute! We have also begun targeted mailings of the leaflet to priests and bishops all over the world. The leaflets have been extremely well received, especially abroad. Requests have continued to come in for more! One bishop asked for 30,000; another asked for 5,000. Yet another bishop responded to the mailing and asked for 6,000. It happened that a volunteer from our office there was able to fulfill this last request himself: he walked the packages to the bishop's office and hand-delivered them. The bishop was not in at the time, but the next day he himself called the Fatima Center to thank our volunteer personally, promising to distribute them right away. We

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## *Saint Mary Magdalen: The Desire for Grace*

From all eternity God foresaw and permitted the falls of Mary Magdalen, but He had His designs on her and willed to restore life to that dead soul. He decided, however, that this life would be restored to her only on condition that she desired it. He also decided to give her a very strong and gentle actual grace that would make her pray. This is the source of the efficacy of prayer. Because Magdalen prayed, sanctifying grace was given to her; but, certainly, without prayer she would have remained in her sin. It is, therefore, as necessary to pray if we are to obtain God's assistance which we need for the observance of the divine law and for perseverance in it, as it is necessary to sow seed if we are to reap grain. †

— Father Garrigou-Lagrange



## *About Blessed Rosaries*

In order to pray the Rosary it is not necessary to use blessed beads; one would still be saying the Rosary, and a few of the Rosary indulgences would come to him, but it is not fitting that a Catholic should have an object of devotion or of religious veneration which has not been especially set apart as given to God, which is what we mean by a "blessing." A blessed article is in a sense given away, for after it receives a blessing it may not enter into commerce, nor may it be exchanged for anything of value. Neither may it be sold privately, even for the purpose of recovering one's cost out of it. An article which has been blessed and then is exchanged for anything of value becomes secularized. It would not be sinful in itself to sell a rosary if one has to, but if the intention is to transfer the spiritual good by means of a sale, it could be the sin of simony. It is pure carelessness which could prompt a Catholic to use an article of devotion without the blessing of the Church being placed upon it. The principal blessings for rosaries are the Apostolic, Brigittine, Crozier, and

Dominican. Almost every priest has faculties for imparting the first three, and many have faculties for the Dominican blessing.

The physical beads themselves now carry the indulgences. Accordingly, the chains may be removed and exchanged at will. One may rewire the beads at will and they need not go back in the same order they had before. One may have such work done by others and pay for the same, as it does not affect the blessings. When beads are lost or broken through no fault of the holder, they may be replaced without loss of indulgences even if such replacements come to include all the beads in the course of time. Some of the beads may be removed even if they are not broken, as long as care is taken not to exchange in this fashion as many as half of the beads. We should not, for example, attempt to divide the beads in such a way as to replace enough beads so as to make one rosary come out as two, so that we have two rosaries that are blessed. †

replica shrine of Lourdes at Oostracker in Belgium. There was also a very famous case which the novelist Zola wrote up in his novel, *Lourdes*. His story followed the case closely enough to the very end. There the novelist had the young lady, who was back on the train to take her home, suffer a relapse and die quite miserably. The truth of the matter is that the young lady continued in her cure until she died a natural death many, many years afterwards, and from another cause. Then there was the case in the 1930's of the complete cure of a British war veteran from the loss of nerve tissue in his arm. Since His Majesty's medical services, Anglican partisans, refused to take notice of a miracle, and since the case was utterly incurable by all medical standards, the man's disability pension was paid to him to the day of his death some time later, from an injury suffered while he was unloading coal.

At Lourdes, very simply stated, Our Lady came and prayed the Rosary with Bernadette. It was a message of penance to the world to help ward off the disasters which were even then impending. She bade Bernadette dig into the bare soil high on the rocky hill above any possible flow-line for water, to uncover a spring which did not until then exist. "The Lady" asked that there a chapel be built, and on Her last visit She identified Herself. "I am the Immaculate Conception," She said in the patois of the district – but it was an expression that had no meaning at the time for Bernadette, who was sickly and badly schooled for her years. The name given to Herself by the Blessed Virgin showed Her pleasure in the definition of the doctrine of Her Immaculate Conception by Pius IX. The reality of Her visitations is proved by the cures effected. A person of good-will can never doubt but that the Blessed Virgin was really at Massabielle with a Rosary.

Whoever objects that but few persons of the crowds who go there ever receive miraculous cures, has missed the point of Lourdes and of the Rosary. Not all twisted legs are straightened; not all eyes that were blind are opened; but the real secret of

Lourdes is that whoever goes there prayerfully, does receive a wider miracle. He does have his heart opened to accept the will of God. That is one fact which has struck visitors to Lourdes with tremendous force. The cure of a withered limb is one thing, but the acceptance of the grace to carry it through life without murmuring against God is greater. Too many of us think that all prayers should be directed to having the burdens of life taken away, rather than addressed to the will of God to take them away or to leave them with us as He in His wisdom thinks best. It is hard for us at times to see that sickness and its attendant failures are better for us than the work we feel we should be able to do for God if we had full health and strength; but many a person who was careening straight to the loss of his immortal soul, has been brought to other and better ends through poor health. ... The chances are that all of us are going to have to do our work as well, and that most of our burdens are not going to be lifted from us. God has not willed to restore the terrestrial Paradise. This is one of the besetting sins of our age: to want the answer to prayer to be the taking away of some cross we do not like. If we want to defeat Communism and the forces of organized naturalism, we can do it by being patient in the face of adversities we cannot remove, while doing all we can to better our own and others' conditions. We cannot be apathetic and passive in the face of wrongs and difficulties. Civilization has to be extended and the message of Christ has to be given to every man upon this earth. But work and patience must go together.

Yet Our Lady did bring the Rosary to Lourdes, and She did bring it to Fatima with a promise attached to it. See, then, how great must be the power of the Rosary which takes the best means of salvation and attaches thereto the promise of Her Who is the established channel of grace.

The Rosary is aimed at the pride of life; its greatest victories have been over the proud and haughty. †

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are trying to fill the other orders as quickly as we can, but the cost of shipping is prohibitive, sometimes, as in the first case, into the thousands of dollars. Would you like to help with the cost of mailing? Would you like to help distribute this soul-saving pamphlet to others?

Please remember in your prayers Father Francis LeBlanc, who is recovering from a recent hospital stay. Also remember Brother Bart, a friend of Our Lady's Apostolate, who assisted Father Soroka for many years. Brother Bart died last November. R.I.P. †

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

**The Editor,**  
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