

Quotations from Popes and Saints about the Holy Rosary

These were collated for the Year of the Rosary, October 2002 – October 2003

May these Quotations give us fresh encouragement to pray the Rosary regularly and well:

St Louis de Montfort: ‘Nevertheless, I well know that it is true; nor have I any better secret of knowing whether a person is for God than to examine if he likes to say the Hail Mary and the Rosary.’

Pope Pius XII : ‘There is no surer means of calling down God’s blessings upon the family than the daily recitation of the Rosary.’

Pope Leo XIII : ‘A powerful means of renewing our courage will undoubtedly be found in the Holy Rosary.’

Pope Leo XIII : ‘We have elsewhere brought it to the attention of the devout Christian that not least among the advantages of the Rosary is the ready means it puts in his hands to nurture his faith, and to keep him from ignorance of his religion and the danger of error.’

Pope Pius XII : ‘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.’

Bl Pope John XXIII : ‘Therefore we are sure that Our children will turn the Rosary into a school for learning true perfection, as, with a deep spirit of recollection, they contemplate the teachings that shine forth from the life of Christ and of Mary Most Holy.’

Bl Pope Pius IX : ‘among all the devotions approved by the Church none has been favoured by so many miracles as the devotion of the Most Holy Rosary.’

Marshal Foch, great military leader of WWI : ‘I think that I did not miss a single day in reciting it. How often did I see her manifest intercession in the decisions which I made in choosing a precise tactic. Take then, the advice of an old soldier seasoned by experience: Do not neglect the recitation of the Rosary for any reason.’

Pope Adrian VI : ‘The Rosary is the scourge of the devil.’

Pope Paul V : ‘The Rosary is a treasure of graces.’

St Louis de Montfort : ‘The Rosary is the most powerful weapon to touch the Heart of Jesus, Our Redeemer, who so loves His Mother.’

St Padre Pio: ‘This is my testament and my inheritance: love and lead all people to love Mary. Pray and make everyone pray the Rosary.’

Pope John Paul II : ‘By praying the Rosary, in fact, we contemplate Christ from a privileged point of view, that of Mary herself, His Mother.’

Pope John Paul II : ‘To pray the Rosary means to follow the example of Mary, Mother and Disciple of Christ, and to learn from her how to live the needs of the Christian faith deeply and fully.’

St Louis de Montfort : ‘No prayer is more rewarding for the soul and more glorious for Jesus and Mary than the Holy Rosary when it is well said.’

Bl Pope John XXIII : ‘The Rosary is a devout form of union with God, and always has a most uplifting effect on the soul.’

Bl Pope John XXIII : ‘O blessed Rosary of Mary! What joy to see it raised in the hands of innocent children, of holy priests, of the pure in heart, young and old, of all who understand the value and efficacy of

prayer; raised aloft by countless pious multitudes as an emblem or standard of that peace in men's hearts and among peoples for which we all hope.'

Pope John Paul II : 'The Rosary, through the repetition of the Hail Mary, leads us to contemplate the mysteries of faith. This simple prayer, feeding the love of the Christian people for the Mother of God, illustrates the purpose of Marian prayer more clearly, namely, the glorification of Christ.'

Catechism of the Catholic Church 2708 : 'Christian prayer tries above all to meditate on the mysteries of Christ, as in *lectio divina* or the Rosary.'

Pope Benedict XV: St Dominic knew that Mary is of a nature so kind and merciful that, seeing that it is her custom to succour the miserable of her own accord, it is impossible she should refuse the petitions of those who pray to her. Accordingly the Church, which is wont to salute her "the Mother of Grace and the Mother of Mercy," has so found her always, but especially in answer to the Rosary.

Blessed Pope John XXIII: The rosary is a very commendable form of prayer and meditation. In saying it we weave a mystic garland of Ave Maria's, Pater Noster's, and Gloria Patri's. And as we recite these vocal prayers, we meditate upon the principal mysteries of our religion; the Incarnation of Jesus Christ and the Redemption of the human race are proposed, one event after another, for our consideration.

Pope Leo XIII: If We have spent so large a share of our activities, in promoting the Rosary devotion, We can easily see with what benevolence the Queen of Heaven has come to Our aid when We prayed to her; and We express the confident conviction that she will continue to stand at Our side to lighten the burdens and the afflictions which the days to come will bring.

Pope Leo XIII: It is mainly to expand the kingdom of Christ that We look to the Rosary for the most effective help.

Pope Leo XIII: And so, in Mary, God has given us the most zealous guardian of Christian unity. There are, of course, more ways than one to win her protection by prayer, but as for Us, We think that the best and most effective way to her favour lies in the Rosary.

Pope Leo XIII: We have elsewhere brought it to the attention of the devout Christian and not least among the advantages of the Rosary is the ready and easy means it puts in his hands to nurture his faith, and to keep him from ignorance of his religion and the danger of error.

Pope Leo XIII: Every time we devoutly say the Rosary in supplication before her, we are once more brought face to face with the marvel of our salvation; we watch the mysteries of our Redemption as though they were unfolding before our eyes; and as one follows another, Mary stands revealed at once as God's Mother and our Mother.

Pope Leo XIII: We say that the Rosary is by far the best prayer by which to plead before her the cause of our separated brethren. To grant a favourable hearing belongs properly to her office of spiritual Mother.

Pope Leo XIII: We would not willingly leave you without Our letters this year, also once more urging you with all possible earnestness to strive by the recitation of the Rosary to aid both yourselves individually, and the Church in her need. This form of prayer appears, under the guidance of Divine Providence, to have been wonderfully developed at the close of the century, for the purpose of stimulating the lagging piety of the faithful.

Pope Leo XIII: From the fact that this warfare of prayer is "enrolled under the name of the Mother of God," fresh efficacy and fresh honour are thereby added to it. Hence the frequent repetition in the Rosary of the "Hail Mary" after each "Our Father." So far from this derogating in any way from the honour due to God, as though it indicated that we placed greater confidence in Mary's patronage than in God's power, it is rather this which especially moves God, and wins His mercy for us.

Pope Leo XIII: As often as, in reciting the Rosary, we meditate upon the mysteries of our Redemption, so often do we in a manner emulate the sacred duties once committed to the Angelic hosts. The Angels

revealed each of these mysteries in its due time; they played a great part in them; they were constantly present at them, with countenances indicative now of joy, now of sorrow, now of triumphant exultation.

Pope Leo XIII: 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.

Pope Leo XIII: We have in other letters issued from time to time extolled the devotion of the Rosary; for it is in many ways most pleasing to her in whose honour it is employed, and most advantageous to those who properly use it.

Pope Leo XIII: That old custom of our forefathers ought to be preserved or else restored, according to which Christian families, whether in town or country, were religiously wont at close of day, when their labours were at an end, to assemble before a figure of Our Lady and alternately recite the Rosary.

Pope Leo XIII: Now Christ stands forth clearly in the Rosary. We behold in meditation His life, whether His hidden life in joy, or His public life in excessive toil and sufferings unto death, or His glorious life from His triumphant resurrection to His eternal enthronement at the right hand of the Father. And since faith, to be full and sufficient, must display itself,—for with the heart we believe unto justice, but *with the mouth confession is made unto salvation* (Rom. x., 10),—so have we also in the Rosary an excellent means unto this, for by those vocal prayers with which it is intermingled, we are enabled to express and profess our faith in God, our most watchful Father; in the future life, the forgiveness of sins; in the mysteries of the august Trinity, the Incarnation of the Word, the Divine Maternity, and others.

Pope Leo XIII: To those therefore who are striving after supreme happiness this means of the Rosary has been most providentially offered, and it is one unsurpassed for facility and convenience. For any person, even moderately instructed in his religion can make use of it with fruit, and the time it occupies cannot delay any man's business.

Pope Pius XI: Among the various supplications with which we successfully appeal to the Virgin Mother of God, the Holy Rosary without doubt occupies a special and distinct place.

Pope Pius XI: The Holy Rosary, besides, not only serves admirably to overcome the enemies of God and Religion, but is also a stimulus and spur to the practice of evangelic virtues which it injects and cultivates in our souls. Above all, it nourishes the Catholic Faith, which flourishes again by due meditation on the sacred mysteries, and raises minds to the truth revealed to us by God.

Pope Pius XII: We well know the Rosary's powerful efficacy to obtain the maternal aid of the Virgin. By no means is there only one way to pray to obtain this aid. However, We consider the Holy Rosary the most convenient and most fruitful means, as is clearly suggested by the very origin of this practice, heavenly rather than human, and by its nature.

Pope Pius XII: 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 the frequent repetition of praises in honor 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.

Pope Pius XII: 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.

Pope Paul VI: We want you to take the lead in urging and encouraging people to pray ardently to our most merciful mother Mary by saying the Rosary. This prayer is well-suited to the devotion of the People of God, most pleasing to the Mother of God and most effective in gaining heaven's blessings.

Pope Paul VI: The Second Vatican Council recommended use of the Rosary to all the sons of the Church, not in express words but in unmistakable fashion in this phrase: "Let them value highly the pious practices and exercises directed to the Blessed Virgin and approved over the centuries by the magisterium."

Pope John Paul II: You young people will live most of your lives in the next Millennium. You must help the Holy Spirit to shape its social, moral and spiritual character. You must transmit your joy in being adopted sons and daughters of God through the creative power of the Holy Spirit. Do this with the help of Mary, Mother of Jesus. Cling to her Rosary, and you will never wander far from her side.

Pope John Paul II: Led by the hand of the Virgin Mary and accompanied by the example and intercession of the new Saints, we have revisited in prayer several moments in the life of Jesus. Indeed, in its simplicity and depth the Rosary is a true *compendium of the Gospel* and leads to the very heart of the Christian message.

Bl Maria and Bl Luigi Beltrame Quattrocchi, a married couple, were beatified on 21 October 2001. Every evening they prayed the *Rosary* together and the family was *consecrated to the Sacred Heart of Jesus*, solemnly placed on the mantelpiece of their dining room.