

Assumption Rosary Novena: Leader's Guide

1. Welcome and thank you to those present
2. Read the "Reflection of the Day": separate sheet
3. After a moment of silence, begin the rosary in the usual way
 - a. *Joyful Mysteries*: Mondays & Saturdays
 - i. (1) The Annunciation, (2) The Visitation, (3) The Nativity of Jesus, (4) The Presentation in the Temple, (5) The Finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple
 - b. *Sorrowful Mysteries*: Tuesdays & Fridays
 - i. (1) The Agony in the Garden, (2) The Scourging at the Pillar, (3) The Crowning with Thorns, (4) The Carrying of the Cross, (5) The Crucifixion
 - c. *Glorious Mysteries*: Sundays & Wednesdays
 - i. (1) The Resurrection, (2) The Ascension, (3) The Descent of the Holy Spirit, (4) The Assumption of Mary, (5) The Coronation of Mary
 - d. *Luminous Mysteries*: Thursdays
 - i. (1) The Baptism of Jesus, (2) The Wedding at Cana, (3) The Proclamation of the Kingdom of God, (4) The Transfiguration, (5) The Institution of the Most Holy Eucharist
4. The Holy Rosary
 - a. The Sign of the Cross
 - b. The Apostles' Creed
 - i. I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, His only Son Our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into Hell; on the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into Heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God, the Father almighty; from there He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and life everlasting. Amen.
 - c. Our Father (for the intentions of Pope Francis)
 - d. Three Hail Mary's (for the virtues of faith, hope, and charity)
 - e. Glory Be
 - f. **Announce**: The First _____ Mystery: The _____"
 - i. **Announce**: "For the unity of all Christians and the evangelization of all peoples"

- ii. Our Father, 10 Hail Mary's, Glory Be, Fatima Prayer (O My Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell, and lead all souls to heaven, especially those in most need of Thy mercy).
 - 1. Same prayers repeated for the following mysteries
 - g. **Announce:** "The Second _____ Mystery: The _____"
 - i. **Announce:** "For an end to war and nuclear proliferation"
 - h. **Announce:** "The Third _____ Mystery: The _____"
 - i. **Announce:** "For an end to the COVID-19 pandemic and the healing of all those suffering"
 - i. **Announce:** "The Fourth _____ Mystery: The _____"
 - i. **Announce:** "For the healing of all racial, religious, socioeconomic and political divisions"
 - j. **Announce:** "The Fifth _____ Mystery: The _____"
 - i. **Announce:** "For the protection of all human life from conception to natural death"
 - k. Hail Holy Queen
 - i. Hail, holy Queen, Mother of mercy, our life, our sweetness and our hope. To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve. To thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn, then, most gracious advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us, and after this, our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.
 - 1. V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.
 - 2. R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.
 - l. St. Michael Prayer
 - i. St. Michael, the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our defense against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly hosts, by the power of God, thrust into Hell Satan, and all the evil spirits who prowl about the world for the ruin of souls. Amen.
 - m. "Prayer in Time of Need: O God our refuge in trials"
 - i. O God our refuge in trials, our strength in sickness, our comfort in sorrow, spare your people, we pray, that undergoing at this time great affliction, they may find relief at last through your loving mercy. We especially invoke the intercession of our patroness, the Blessed Virgin Mary, Immaculately Conceived. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.
 - n. The Sign of the Cross
5. End

Reflection of the Day
August 6, 2020: The Feast of the Transfiguration

On War

Seventy-five years ago today, the United States dropped the first atomic weapon on Hiroshima, Japan. According to some estimates, 70,000 people, mostly civilians, died on the day of the bombing itself, while 70,000 more died over the subsequent weeks and months from radiation burns and poisoning. Pope Francis visited the Hiroshima Peace Memorial in November 2019 and spoke these words to those gathered:

“Here, in an incandescent burst of lightning and fire, so many men and women, so many dreams and hopes, disappeared, leaving behind only shadows and silence. In barely an instant, everything was devoured by a black hole of destruction and death. From that abyss of silence, we continue even today to hear the cries of those who are no longer. They came from different places, had different names, and some spoke different languages. Yet all were united in the same fate, in a terrifying hour that left its mark forever not only on the history of this country, but on the face of humanity.

With deep conviction I wish once more to declare that the use of atomic energy for purposes of war is today, more than ever, a crime not only against the dignity of human beings but against any possible future for our common home. The use of atomic energy for purposes of war is immoral, just as the possessing of nuclear weapons is immoral, as I already said two years ago. We will be judged on this. Future generations will rise to condemn our failure if we spoke of peace but did not act to bring it about among the peoples of the earth. How can we speak of peace even as we build terrifying new weapons of war? How can we speak about peace even as we justify illegitimate actions by speeches filled with discrimination and hate?

I am convinced that peace is no more than an empty word unless it is founded on truth, built up in justice, animated and perfected by charity, and attained in freedom (cf. SAINT JOHN XXIII, *Pacem in Terris*, 37).”

Reflection of the Day
August 7, 2020:
Optional Memorial of St. Sixtus II, Pope & Companions, Martyrs
Optional Memorial of St. Cajetan, Priest

On the Right to Life

From *Evangelium Vitae* (The Gospel of Life) by Pope St. John Paul II:

“The Gospel of life is at the heart of Jesus’ message. Lovingly received day after day by the Church, it is to be preached with dauntless fidelity as “good news” to the people of every age and culture.

At the dawn of salvation, it is the Birth of a Child which is proclaimed as joyful news: “I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the city of David a Savior, who is Christ the Lord” (Lk 2:10-11). The source of this “great joy” is the Birth of the Savior; but Christmas also reveals the full meaning of every human birth, and the joy which accompanies the Birth of the Messiah is thus seen to be the foundation and fulfilment of joy at every child born into the world (cf. Jn 16:21).

The Church knows that this Gospel of life, which she has received from her Lord, has a profound and persuasive echo in the heart of every person-believer and non-believer alike-because it marvelously fulfils all the heart’s expectations while infinitely surpassing them. Even in the midst of difficulties and uncertainties, every person sincerely open to truth and goodness can, by the light of reason and the hidden action of grace, come to recognize in the natural law written in the heart (cf. Rom 2:14-15) the sacred value of human life from its very beginning until its end, and can affirm the right of every human being to have this primary good respected to the highest degree. Upon the recognition of this right, every human community and the political community itself are founded.”

Reflection of the Day
August 8, 2020: The Memorial of St. Dominic

On Evangelization

Today is the memorial of St. Dominic de Guzmán, the founder of the Order of Preachers or Dominicans. The promotion of the rosary in the life of the church is largely the result of the Dominican Order. As their name implies, Dominicans are well known as preachers and expositors of Christian faith and doctrine, and St. Dominic himself founded the order to promote spiritual renewal after attempting to convert those following the Cathar heresy.

From a history of the Order of Preachers:

“Frequently [St. Dominic] made a special personal petition that God would deign to grant him a genuine charity, effective in caring for and obtaining the salvation of men. For he believed that only then would he be truly a member of Christ, when he had given himself totally for the salvation of men, just as the Lord Jesus, the Savior of all, had offered himself completely for our salvation. So, for this work, after a lengthy period of careful and provident planning, he founded the Order of Friars Preachers.”

St. Dominic on evangelization:

“We must sow the seed, not hoard it.”

From *Evangelii Nuntiandi* (Evangelization in the Modern World) by Pope St. Paul VI:

“Modern man listens more willingly to witnesses than to teachers, and if he does listen to teachers, it is because they are witnesses.”

Reflection of the Day
August 9, 2020: 19th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Optional Memorial of St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross (Edith Stein)

On War & the Right to Life

Seventy-five years ago today, the United States dropped a second atomic weapon on the city of Nagasaki, Japan. Some estimates put the death toll between 39,000 and 80,000 people, half of which occurred the same day of the bombing. Survivors continued to suffer the effects of radiation burns and poisoning as well as trauma and chronic health problems.

From *Pacem in Terris* (“Peace on Earth”) by Pope St. John XXIII:

“Everyone, however, must realize that, unless this process of disarmament be thoroughgoing and complete, and reach men's very souls, it is impossible to stop the arms race, or to reduce armaments, or—and this is the main thing—ultimately to abolish them entirely. Everyone must sincerely co-operate in the effort to banish fear and the anxious expectation of war from men's minds. But this requires that the fundamental principles upon which peace is based in today's world be replaced by an altogether different one, namely, the realization that true and lasting peace among nations cannot consist in the possession of an equal supply of armaments but only in mutual trust. And We are confident that this can be achieved, for it is a thing which not only is dictated by common sense, but is in itself most desirable and most fruitful of good.

From *Gaudium et spes* (Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World) of the Second Vatican Council:

“Furthermore, whatever is opposed to life itself, such as any type of murder, genocide, abortion, euthanasia or willful self-destruction, whatever violates the integrity of the human person, such as mutilation, torments inflicted on body or mind, attempts to coerce the will itself; whatever insults human dignity, such as subhuman living conditions, arbitrary imprisonment, deportation, slavery, prostitution, the selling of women and children; as well as disgraceful working conditions, where men are treated as mere tools for profit, rather than as free and responsible persons; all these things and others of their like are infamies indeed. They poison human society, but they do more harm to those who practice them than those who suffer from the injury. Moreover, they are supreme dishonor to the Creator.”

Reflection of the Day
August 10, 2020: The Feast of St. Lawrence, Deacon & Martyr

On Christian Unity & Evangelization

From *Unitatis Redintegratio* (Decree on Ecumenism) of the Second Vatican Council:

“The restoration of unity among all Christians is one of the principal concerns of the Second Vatican Council. Christ the Lord founded one Church and one Church only. However, many Christian communions present themselves to men as the true inheritors of Jesus Christ; all indeed profess to be followers of the Lord but differ in mind and go their different ways, as if Christ Himself were divided.⁽¹⁾ Such division openly contradicts the will of Christ, scandalizes the world, and damages the holy cause of preaching the Gospel to every creature.”

From *Evangelii Gaudium* (The Joy of the Gospel) by Pope Francis:

“I invite all Christians, everywhere, at this very moment, to a renewed personal encounter with Jesus Christ, or at least an openness to letting him encounter them; I ask all of you to do this unfailingly each day. No one should think that this invitation is not meant for him or her, since ‘no one is excluded from the joy brought by the Lord’.^[1] The Lord does not disappoint those who take this risk; whenever we take a step towards Jesus, we come to realize that he is already there, waiting for us with open arms. Now is the time to say to Jesus: ‘Lord, I have let myself be deceived; in a thousand ways I have shunned your love, yet here I am once more, to renew my covenant with you. I need you. Save me once again, Lord, take me once more into your redeeming embrace’.”

Reflection of the Day
August 11, 2020: Memorial of St. Clare of Assisi

On the COVID-19 pandemic

From the introduction to the *Pastoral Care of the Sick*:

“Suffering and illness have always been among the greatest problems that trouble the human spirit. Christians feel and experience pain as do all other people; yet their faith helps them to grasp more deeply the mystery of suffering and to bear their pain with greater courage. From Christ's words they know that sickness has meaning and value for their own salvation and for the salvation of the world. They also know that Christ, who during his life often visited and healed the sick, loves them in their illness.”

From the “Extraordinary Moment of Prayer” with Pope Francis, 27 March 2020

“When evening had come” (*Mk* 4:35). The Gospel passage we have just heard begins like this. For weeks now it has been evening. Thick darkness has gathered over our squares, our streets and our cities; it has taken over our lives, filling everything with a deafening silence and a distressing void, that stops everything as it passes by; we feel it in the air, we notice in people’s gestures, their glances give them away. We find ourselves afraid and lost. Like the disciples in the Gospel we were caught off guard by an unexpected, turbulent storm. We have realized that we are on the same boat, all of us fragile and disoriented, but at the same time important and needed, all of us called to row together, each of us in need of comforting the other. On this boat... are all of us. Just like those disciples, who spoke anxiously with one voice, saying “We are perishing” (v. 38), so we too have realized that we cannot go on thinking of ourselves, but only together can we do this.”

Reflection of the Day
August 12, 2020: Optional Memorial of St. Jane Frances de Chantal

On the COVID-19 pandemic

St. Jane Frances de Chantal accepted women into her order who were of poorer health and older. When she received criticism for this, she said: “What do you want me to do? I like sick people myself; I'm on their side.”

From the introduction to the *Pastoral Care of the Sick*:

“If one member suffers in the Body of Christ, which is the Church, all members suffer with that member (1 Cor 12:26). For this reason, kindness shown toward the sick and works of charity and mutual help for the relief of every kind of human want are held in special honor. Every scientific effort to prolong life and every act of care for the sick, on the part of any person, may be considered a preparation for the Gospel and a sharing in Christ's healing ministry.”

From the “Extraordinary Moment of Prayer” with Pope Francis, 27 March 2020:

“*Why are you afraid? Have you no faith*”? Faith begins when we realize we are in need of salvation. We are not self-sufficient; by ourselves we founder: we need the Lord, like ancient navigators needed the stars. Let us invite Jesus into the boats of our lives. Let us hand over our fears to him so that he can conquer them. Like the disciples, we will experience that with him on board there will be no shipwreck. Because this is God's strength: turning to the good everything that happens to us, even the bad things. He brings serenity into our storms, because with God life never dies.”

Reflection of the Day
August 13, 2020: Optional Memorial of Sts. Pontian and Hippolytus, Martyrs

On the Healing of Division

From the first letter of St. Paul to the Corinthians:

“For just as the body is one and has many members, and all the members of the body, though many, are one body, so it is with Christ. For in the one Spirit we were all baptized into one body—Jews or Greeks, slaves or free—and we were all made to drink of one Spirit.

Indeed, the body does not consist of one member but of many. If the foot would say, “Because I am not a hand, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. And if the ear would say, “Because I am not an eye, I do not belong to the body,” that would not make it any less a part of the body. If the whole body were an eye, where would the hearing be? If the whole body were hearing, where would the sense of smell be? But as it is, God arranged the members in the body, each one of them, as he chose.”

From *Gaudium et spes* (Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World) of the Second Vatican Council:

“God, Who has fatherly concern for everyone, has willed that all men should constitute one family and treat one another in a spirit of brotherhood. For having been created in the image of God, Who "from one man has created the whole human race and made them live all over the face of the earth" (Acts 17:26), all men are called to one and the same goal, namely God Himself.

For this reason, love for God and neighbor is the first and greatest commandment. Sacred Scripture, however, teaches us that the love of God cannot be separated from love of neighbor: "If there is any other commandment, it is summed up in this saying: Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself... Love therefore is the fulfillment of the Law" (Rom. 13:9-10; cf. 1 John 4:20). To men growing daily more dependent on one another, and to a world becoming more unified every day, this truth proves to be of paramount importance.”

Reflection of the Day
August 14, 2020: Memorial of St. Maximilian Kolbe, Priest & Martyr

On the Healing of Division

From the writings of St. Maximilian Kolbe, martyr of Auschwitz:

“No one in the world can change Truth. What we can do and should do is to seek truth and to serve it when we have found it. The real conflict is the inner conflict. Beyond armies of occupation and the hecatombs of extermination camps, there are two irreconcilable enemies in the depth of every soul: good and evil, sin and love. And what use are the victories on the battlefield if we are ourselves are defeated in our innermost personal selves?”

From *Gaudium et spes* (Pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World) of the Second Vatican Council:

“To those, therefore, who believe in divine love, [Jesus] gives assurance that the way of love lies open to men and that the effort to establish a universal brotherhood is not a hopeless one. He cautions them at the same time that this charity is not something to be reserved for important matters, but must be pursued chiefly in the ordinary circumstances of life. Undergoing death itself for all of us sinners, He taught us by example that we too must shoulder that cross which the world and the flesh inflict upon those who search after peace and justice. Appointed Lord by His resurrection and given plenary power in heaven and on earth, Christ is now at work in the hearts of men through the energy of His Holy Spirit, arousing not only a desire for the age to come, but by that very fact animating, purifying and strengthening those noble longings too by which the human family makes its life more human and strives to render the whole earth submissive to this goal.”