

A Letter from the Governing Board of Pastors Monsignor Sangermano, Holy Saviour Parish

OCTOBER: MONTH OF THE HOLY ROSARY

Monsignor Sangermano, Holy Saviour

I am delighted that my “turn” to write this article in our monthly newsletter should occur in this month of October, dedicated by the Church for many centuries to the Most Holy Rosary. In a special way, this is “our” month at Holy Rosary Regional Catholic School, because we have the honor of bearing its name, the only school in the Archdiocese to do so. Obviously, our reflection this month should be on this sublime gift of the Holy Rosary.

The word Rosary comes from the Latin word *rosarium*, meaning “a garden of roses.” We all know how we make use of flowers to show love, joy and sorrow. We also know that while there may be flowers that are more rare, the rose is considered, in the minds of most, to be the best and most beautiful of flowers. We appropriately decorate Altars with flowers, and place them before beloved images of Our Lord, Our Lady and the Saints. However, since they are not here on earth, we obviously cannot physically present them with flowers! Remarkably, by means of the Rosary, that is exactly what we do. Each of the beads of the Rosary, representing a flower of prayer, is “sent up” to Our Lady in Heaven and woven into a great bouquet. This represents the exact purposes of flowers which we mentioned earlier: love, joy and sorrow. This brings us to the method of prayer that is the Rosary.

The Rosary is composed of the two principle forms of prayer: vocal and mental. The vocal prayers are the best we can give because they are made up of: the Our Father, the prayer given to us by Our Lord Himself; the Hail Mary, containing the message of the angel to Our Lady at the Annunciation, along with the second part, added by Catholic tradition; and the Glory be, honoring the Most Holy Trinity. These vocal prayers also serve as “background music” to the other form of prayer the Rosary makes use of: mental prayer. Mental prayer is simply thinking about the events in the lives of Our Lord and Our Lady, which we call the “Mysteries” of the Rosary, and drawing lessons from them for our own lives. What are these Mysteries expressive of? Love, joy and sorrow!

Finally, and most appropriately for us at Holy Rosary, the Rosary has been called a “school of prayer.” This is because we can learn so many lessons by reciting it and meditating upon its Mysteries. When our young people graduate from Holy Rosary School, they will receive a diploma saying that they have “completed the course of study.” Here is the difference with the “School of the Rosary.” It is one from which none of us will ever graduate, because the study of its lessons can never be exhausted! Our “graduation” from the School of the Rosary will take place in Heaven when, to paraphrase the prayer for the Feast of the Holy Rosary: ‘we will obtain the rewards promised by the mysteries we have meditated upon.’