

October is the Month of the Rosary. The Rosary is a prayer centered on Jesus Christ. As we meditate on the mysteries, our prayer helps us enter into the depth of the Gospel message in its entirety.

Jesus tells the parable of the landowner who planted a vineyard. "Then he leased it to tenants and went on a journey... But the tenants seized the servants and one they beat, another they killed, and a third they stoned" (Mt 21:33c, 35). In the beginning, the vineyard was the Garden of Eden, Adam and Eve lived in Paradise, but they rejected the Lord's ways in choosing to eat from the tree of the knowledge of good and evil.

In the first Luminous mystery, Jesus goes to the river Jordan to be baptized by John the Baptist. He who is without sin, wants to liberate us from sin. "Almighty ever living God who sent your son into the world to drive out from us the power of Satan, the spirit of evil, bring the human race, rescued from darkness into the marvelous Kingdom of your light: we humbly beseech you to free these children from original sin, to make them the temple of your glory, and to grant that your Holy Spirit may dwell in them through Christ our Lord. Amen." (Baptism Rite)

"When vintage time drew near, the landowner sent his servants to obtain his produce from the vineyard... Again, he sent other servants, more numerous than the first ones, but they treated them in the same way" (Mt21: 34, 36).

A young couple married in 1612. At their wedding, a beautiful white ribbon was tied around the hands of the husband and wife. It symbolized the indissoluble covenant between man and woman and God. In time, the joys of the wedding day gave way to the stress of daily life. Trust was broken. Each time the couple fought the wife tied a knot in the wedding ribbon. It soon became snarled and ugly like their marriage. The ribbon was so knotted that it was barely recognizable. Divorce was imminent.

In the second luminous mystery, Mary is concerned when the wine runs short at the wedding feast of Cana and asks Jesus to help. "Jesus said to her, 'Woman, how does your concern affect me? My hour has not yet come.' His mother said to the servers, 'Do whatever he tells you'" (John 2:4-5).

The husband threw a Hail Mary pass and asked a priest for help with the marriage. For four weeks straight, they prayed daily to the Blessed Mother. On the weekends the husband and wife spent time together praying with God at the local monastery.

Holding the dirty snarled ribbon full of knots, each day the priest prayed for the couple before an image of Our Lady. On 28 September 1615, the knots of the ribbon miraculously untied. It became as white and pure as it had been on the couples wedding day. Mary had heard their plea for help and God had come to their assistance. The fighting stopped. Love shone forth in their marriage once again and the couple lived ever thankful to Our Lady, Undoer of Knots.

Finally, the landowner sent his son to them, thinking, "They will respect my son"(Mt 21:37b). But the tenants saw the son and plotted to kill him. T

They brought a paralyzed man to Jesus. Jesus was impressed by their faith and responded with compassion. "He said to the paralytic, 'Courage, child, your sins are forgiven'" (Mt 9:2). Meanwhile, the scribes harbored evil thoughts. To show his power to forgive sins, Jesus told the man to pick up his mat and go home. He was cured. On another occasion, Jesus healed a man on the sabbath who had long suffered from a withered hand. "But the Pharisees went out and took counsel against him to put him to death" (Mt 12:14).

In the third luminous mystery, Jesus proclaims the kingdom of God with his call to conversion. In the Gospel of Mark, after John had been arrested, Jesus traveled to Galilee proclaiming the good news: "This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand.

Repent, and believe in the gospel” (1:15) In the Gospel of Luke, Jesus enters the house of Simon. A woman bathes the feet of Jesus with her own tears, dries them with her hair, kisses his feet and anoints them with oil. Jesus recognizes her contrition, praises her for her heartfelt love and proclaims, “I tell you, her many sins have been forgiven” (7:47).

The healing ministry of Jesus continues through the forgiveness of sins. In the Sacrament of Reconciliation entrusted to the Church, Jesus continues to reach out and to heal. In the locked room after the resurrection, Jesus tells the apostles “Peace be with you. As the Father has sent me, so I send you.” And when he had said this, he breathed on them and said to them, “Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained.” (John 20:22-23).

“The vineyard of the LORD of hosts is the house of Israel, and the people of Judah are his cherished plant; he looked for judgment, but see, bloodshed! for justice, but hark, the outcry!” (Isa 5:7).

In the fourth Luminous Mystery, the Transfiguration, Jesus is definitively identified as the son of the landowner. “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him” (Mt 17:5). At Christ’s transfiguration, the Apostles Peter, James, and John are entranced by the beauty of the Redeemer. We too are called to gaze upon the face of Christ in contemplation. Amid the daily events and the sufferings of this human life, we reflect on how Jesus responded to rejection, to violence, to sin. The face of Jesus that shone like the sun, offers light and a path for our own struggles. How can we respond in love amidst the tenants of our time who seek to persecute the righteous and destroy the sacred?

“The stone that the builders rejected has become the cornerstone” (Ps 118:22). In the fifth Luminous Mystery, Jesus institutes the Eucharist as the sacramental expression of the Paschal Mystery.

For on the night he was betrayed he himself took bread, and giving you thanks, he said the blessing, broke the bread and gave it to his disciples, saying: Take this, all of you and eat of it, for this is my Body, which will be given up for you.

In a similar way, when supper was ended, he took the chalice, and giving you thanks, he said the blessing, and gave the chalice to his disciples, saying: “Take this, all of you, and drink from it, for this is the chalice of my blood, the Blood of the new and eternal covenant, which will be poured out for you and for many for the forgiveness of sins. Do this in memory of me. (Eucharistic Prayer III)

Then on Good Friday, the Body of Christ is crucified. His Body is given up for you. Blood pours forth from his wounds for the forgiveness of our sins. “The eucharistic sacrifice ‘is wholly directed toward the intimate union of the faithful with Christ through communion.’ It is Christ himself who is received in Holy Communion” (GIRM # 6).

Jesus, the cornerstone who is rejected, does not reject us. The son of the landowner who others plot to kill, freely offers his life that you may be saved. Pray the Rosary. Meditate on all the mysteries: The Joyful, the Sorrowful, the Luminous and the Glorious. Jesus offers a path to holiness. He quietly reveals a way of living out our faith, of growing in holiness, of changing for the better, of bearing fruit to offer back to the Father, the landowner.

Sources:

1. vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/apost_letters/2002/documents/hf_jp-ii_apl_20021016_rosarium-virginis-mariae.html
2. Our Lady Untier of Knots from paxbonum.org