
THE ROSARY, "A COMPENDIUM OF THE GOSPEL"

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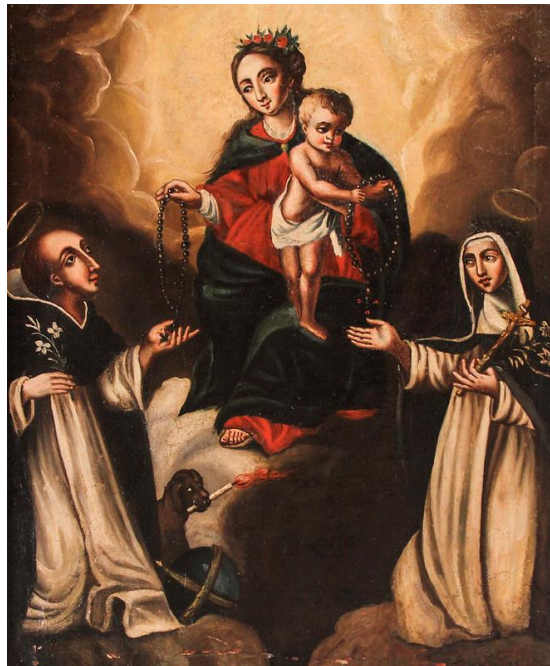


Image: Our Lady of the Rosary, Lawrence OP from Wikimedia Commons

When we begin to pray the rosary, the popes remind us, attentive listening, and contemplation of Christ's face should be of prime importance. Pope St. Paul VI said that the rosary is essentially a prayer with a Christological orientation and "the litany-like succession of Hail Mary's, becomes in itself an unceasing praise of Christ.... The Jesus that each Hail Mary recalls is the same Jesus, whom the succession of the mysteries proposes to us – now as the Son of God, now as the Son of the Virgin...." (Marialis Cultus, 46)

Pope St. John Paul II, who introduced the Luminous Mysteries, said that traditionally only a few mysteries of Christ's life were selected for the rosary – the number 150 is based on the number of Psalms in the Psalter. He, therefore, added the Mysteries of Light (Luminous Mysteries) projecting certain significant events in the public ministry of Christ because it is here that “the mystery of Christ is most evidently a mystery of light: “While I am in the world, I am the light of the world,” Jn 9:5 (Rosarium Virginis Mariae, 19).

We present here the Luminous Mysteries this October, so that as our Oremus at the Salve Regina recalls “meditating on the mysteries of Christ, we may imitate what they contain and obtain what they promise...” Let us remind ourselves of the famous saying: “The family that prays together, stays together”