

Rosary Ministry

By John Miller

Praying can be at times a very personal conversation between God and an individual. I will share some of my reasons as why I pray the daily Rosary and live the message of Fatima.

Briefly, in 1917 our Blessed Mother appeared to three children in Fatima Portugal. They were Lucia (10 yrs old), Jacinta (9 yrs old) and Francisco (7 yrs old). Jacinta and Francisco were siblings and Lucia was their cousin. Our Blessed Mother showed them a vision of hell and explained that so many poor souls go there because they have no one to pray for them. She asked for all to pray the daily Rosary for the conversion of sinners, nonbelievers and for world peace (WWI was on going at this time).

I have been living this message of Fatima for almost 28 years and I can earnestly state that this has been the best that has happened in my life for my family and myself!

It has been said that praying the Rosary is the second most powerful prayer we can offer God. The first being attending Mass when we can. God in His infinite wisdom makes things easy for us to get to know Him. But we must take that first step. The two predominate prayers of the Rosary are the Our Father and Hail Mary. Both very beautiful yet very simple! When the Rosary Mysteries are prayed, we are praying the Gospel since each mystery comes from one of the 4 Gospels. St. James has instructed us that "faith of itself, if it does not have works, is dead." (James 2,17). When we pray for others, and ourselves, especially the Rosary, we have "works". I believe that this is one reason why the Rosary is so powerful.

It takes about 20-30 minutes to pray one of the five Rosary Mysteries. We all have at least this much time each day. And, we don't have to pray all five decades at once. I have split up the decades a number of times. This is another way how God makes it easy for us! And we don't need to be on our knees. I have relaxed from an otherwise tough day by lying in bed and praying a Rosary.

Jesus gave us His Mother to be our spiritual Mother when He was on the Cross for our sins. Being the great Mother she is, she will help us in every way she can, all in accordance with God's Will. When we offer a Holy Rosary to her, we fulfill the commandment to "honor thy Father and Mother". When we honor her, we also honor the Blessed Trinity. We get a four for one! Jesus prayed many times showing us the importance of prayer. The Holy Rosary is an easy and powerful way to pray.

The Rosary ministry meets at St. Catherine's and offers the Holy Rosary on Wednesday evening at 6:15 PM and on Saturday morning at 8:00 AM. People attending bring special petitions and requests so all in attendance add to the efficacy of the Holy Rosary. Additionally, Kathy McGourty coordinates a 1st Friday group that meets immediately following the 8:00 am Mass at St. Catherine. Together, the 1st Friday attendees pray the Rosary for those suffering from mental health issues and addictions.

Please come join us to experience what the Holy Rosary is all about.

If there are any questions, (I'm very poor at checking my email) so please feel free to call me, John Miller, at (978) 692-7651. I hope to see you soon! (For information on the 1st Friday Rosary group, send an email to mcgourtykathy@comcast.net to contact Kathy McGourty.)