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## THE POWER OF THE ROSARY by Gabriel Castillo

### Discussion Questions

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## 1. INTRODUCTION & START WITH THE END IN MIND

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### KEY IDEAS

- Rosary = Transformation
- Goal of Spiritual Life
- Essential Elements of Holiness

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Introduction:

1) The author calls the Rosary "a divine weapon." How does this term shift your view of the Rosary as simply a devotional prayer?

2) The author implies that the Rosary is meant for "transformation". What implications does this have for your own prayer life?

Chapter 1:

3) What did Pope Leo XIII (1895) say about the Rosary?

4) What is the goal of the spiritual life? How does the Rosary lead us to this goal?

5) What 4 areas must every one of us prioritize if we are to become holy?

6) According to the author, why did the Virgin Mary design the Holy Rosary for us to pray?



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## 2. ORIGINS OF THE ROSARY

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### KEY IDEAS

- 150 Hail Marys = 150 Psalms
- St. Dominic and the first Rosary
- Bl. Alan de la Roche & Rosary Renewal
- St. Pope Pius V and the Battle of Lepanto
- Lourdes, Fatima, St. Pope John Paul II, St. Louis deMontfort

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1) What are the 2 necessary elements of the Rosary? How is the Rosary a way to encounter Christ?
- 2) How did St. Dominic use the Rosary as a preaching tool? What struck you most about the story of St. Dominic and the first rosary?
- 3) What contributions to the devotion to the Rosary did Blessed Alan achieve?
- 4) How are St. Pope Pius V and the Battle of Lepanto important to the power of the Rosary?
- 5) How are Our Lady of Fatima and Pope St. John Paul II stories intertwined?
- 6) How does understanding the Rosary's origins and structure help you pray the Rosary with more intention or meaning?



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### 3. THE SCIENCE OF THE ROSARY

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#### KEY IDEAS

- Virtues: Humility and Self-Denial
- Vocal Prayer
- The "Gospel in Miniature"

#### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1) What virtue is essential for praying the Rosary?
- 2) What are 3 Truths about ourself?
- 3) There are 3 powerful ingredients to the Rosary. What is the "first ingredient" found in praying the Rosary, and how does this help us to discern God's will in our lives?
- 4) What is the "second ingredient" found in the Rosary? How do these essential prayers originate in Sacred Scriptures? What 3 things take place when you accept Mary as your mother?
- 5) What is the "third ingredient" of the Rosary? What important theological principle is manifested?
- 6) What does the author conclude about the effectiveness of the Rosary?



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## 4. MENTAL PRAYER & THE MYSTERIES

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### KEY IDEAS

- Method of the Saints
- Mental Prayer: Enhances, Simplifies, Make it a Habit
- Recollection, Consideration, Conversation

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1) According to the author, "Learning to apply mental prayer to your Rosary will transform every aspect of your spiritual life." What else does St. Peter of Alcantara emphasize about mental prayer?
- 2) The Rosary enhances, simplifies and makes mental prayer a habit. Describe each of these aspects.
- 3) The author offers 3 steps to move from mechanical recitation to meditative engagement of the mysteries. Explain each of these 3 steps:  
Recollection-  
Consideration-  
Conversation-
- 4) What is the RCC acronym to remember?
- 5) What is the difference between meditative prayer versus mental prayer?
- 6) Reflect: When you pray a Rosary, do you find it mostly verbal or do you engage your mind and heart in the mystery? What could you improve based on the suggestions in this chapter?



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## 5. SPIRITUAL WARFARE

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### KEY IDEAS

- Children of Mary
- Rosary and the Family
- The Holy Angels
- Discernment of Spirits

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1) What does the chapter suggest about the role of the Blessed Virgin Mother in the battle against evil?
- 2) What today is being specifically attacked by demons?
- 3) What habits or attitudes does the author recommend to make your Rosary prayer more effective in spiritual combat?
- 4) How are the Holy Angels and the Rosary connected?
- 5) It is essential that we discern God's will in our life. How can we know during our prayer time that it is the "voice of God" and a "consolation"? What will we feel during times of "desolation"?
- 6) The author discusses diabolical obsession and oppression. What mystery of the Rosary resonates most with your current spiritual struggles and why?
- 7) Which of the 7 reasons priests should pray a daily rosary listed by the author, moved you to pray for a particular priest in your life?



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## 6. BENEFITS AND PROMISES OF THE ROSARY

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### KEY IDEAS

- Benefits of the Rosary
- Promises of the Rosary

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1) Summarize the author's list of the 5 major benefits of the Rosary. Which benefit did you find most compelling or surprising? Why?
- 2) Do you have your own personal benefit of praying a Rosary that you would add to the author's list?
- 3) Which of the Rosary's 15 Promises resonates most with you, and how does it influence your desire to pray the Rosary?
- 4) Which promise or benefit of praying a Rosary does the author emphasize as most urgent for the modern world?
- 5) Does the idea of Mary's intercession change or strengthen your motivation to pray the Rosary regularly?
- 6) How can we help others see these promises as credible and meaningful?



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## 7. ROSARY SUCCESS: IMPORTANT TIPS

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### KEY IDEAS

- Tips on praying a Rosary
- Family Rosary
- Promoting the Rosary

### DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- 1) What 5 important tips on praying the Rosary does the author highlight? What tip was the most helpful to you?
- 2) What are 2 important points to keep in mind before embarking upon a Family Rosary?
- 3) What is the author's advice to you if you feel like you have failed your family by not introducing prayer to them in the past?
- 4) What practical tips on implementing the Rosary within your family were helpful to your state of life (young couple, newlyweds, young children, teens or unique family situations)?
- 5) Consider your own household, circle of friends, or parish: How might you begin to promote the devotion of the Rosary more consciously?
- 6) In Chapter 8, did any particular testimony letter leave a significant impression with you?