



“They are trees planted by streams of water; they bear fruit; their leaves do not wither; in all that they do they prosper.” Ps 1:3

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The Theme for 2018: “LISTEN AND OBEY” Jas:1:22 & Lk:8:21

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THE POWER OF THE ROSARY

We have just celebrated The Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, formerly known as Our Lady of Victory on 7 October, the anniversary of the decisive victory of the combined fleet of the Holy League of 1571 over the Ottoman navy at the Battle of Lepanto.

Let us understand some facts about the Rosary

Each bead on a rosary symbolizes a prayer. The English word Rosary comes from the Latin word “roserius,” meaning, “garland of roses.” The word “bead” comes from an Old English word, “biddan,” which means “to pray” or “to entreat.” Using beads to pray which dates to early Christianity, when clergy members would use knots or beads to help keep track of prayers. When we pray the rosary today, we are using the beads of the rosary to do the same thing -- to help keep track of our prayers.

History of the Rosary- The rosary originated in the 12th and 13th centuries. Since many people of that time could not afford a Psalm book, traveling clergy used a string of beads as he prayed with them. Each bead represented a prayer such as "The Lord's Prayer," the "Hail Mary" or the doxology, which is a "a short verse praising God." As time went on, other prayers were added.

The rosary is more than a devotion to our lady. The beads and chain of the rosary itself are often a reflection of our character and our hope. Catholics are buried with rosaries, wound carefully about folded hands. There is no greater symbol than this of the primacy the rosary has in the canon of Catholic devotion.

As Catholics, we know, we do not merely believe, we know, that the rosary is the most powerful recitation we can make when we desire a miracle or some other grace from God. By reflecting on our most Holy Mother's experiences and the life of Jesus, we become more like the woman who bore all things for the sake of obedience to God's will.

Sister Lucia of Fatima told us that "There is no problem, I tell you, no matter how difficult it is, that we cannot solve by the prayer of the Holy Rosary. With the Holy Rosary we will save ourselves. We will console Our Lord and obtain the salvation of many souls." Let us know and believe this is true.

What harm has the rosary ever done? None at all. Yet how many graces have we witnessed as a result of its recitation? Can we complete the list.

The Promises

We Catholics believe that if we faithfully say the rosary, Mary, the mother of Jesus, will fulfil 15 promises that she made to Saint Dominic, the preacher who first brought the rosary into widespread usage in the year 1208.

1. Whoever shall faithfully serve me by the recitation of the rosary, shall receive signal graces.

2. I promise my special protection and the greatest graces to all those who shall recite the rosary.
3. The rosary shall be a powerful armor against hell, it will destroy vice, decrease sin, and defeat heresies.
4. It will cause virtue and good works to flourish; it will obtain for souls the abundant mercy of God; it will withdraw the heart of men from the love of the world and its vanities, and will lift them to the desire of eternal things. Oh, that souls would sanctify themselves by this means.
5. The soul which recommends itself to me by the recitation of the rosary shall not perish.
6. Whoever shall recite the rosary devoutly, applying himself to the consideration of its sacred mysteries, shall never be conquered by misfortune. God will not chastise him in His justice, he shall not perish by an unprovided death; if he be just he shall remain in the grace of God, and become worthy of eternal life.
7. Whoever shall have a true devotion for the rosary shall not die without the sacraments of the Church.
8. Those who are faithful to recite the rosary shall have, during their life and at their death, the light of God and the plenitude of His graces; at the moment of death they shall participate in the merits of the saints in paradise.
9. I shall deliver from purgatory those who have been devoted to the rosary.
10. The faithful children of the rosary shall merit a high degree of glory in heaven.
11. You shall obtain all you ask of me by the recitation of the rosary.
12. All those who propagate the holy rosary shall be aided by me in their necessities.
13. I have obtained from my Divine Son that all the advocates of the rosary shall have for intercessors the entire celestial court during their life and at the hour of death.
14. All who recite the rosary are my children, and brothers and sisters of my only son Jesus Christ.
15. Devotion of my rosary is a great sign of predestination.

During days when we feel lost and uneasy but we don't know why, we muster up whatever energy we can and pray the Rosary.

Sometimes, when we don't even know what to pray for, let us just keep praying it. Almost immediately after, our mind will get clear, our anxiety is lifted, and things just get better. It's like getting a warm embrace from Mother Mary telling us that everything's going to be okay.

The rosary may be the most beloved devotion of the Catholic faith. It is quintessentially Catholic and the beads upon which the prayers are tracked are themselves a symbol of the Church. A Bible, a rosary, the medal of a saint, these are the material hallmarks of a Catholic. Combined with faith, prayer and action, the rosary lies at the heart of who we are.

So for the times you just don't know what to do, pray the Rosary. It brings an inexplicable sense of peace.

Inputs taken from Catholiconline.org by the Core Team

Power in the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary - A Testimony

My mother has had a series of ill-health since the beginning of this year when she had a silent heart failure in January and miraculously survived, Praise and Thanks to the mercy of Jesus and his beloved mother Mary to whom my mother has great devotion to. Recently in August, she was again seriously taken ill and spent ten days in hospital and the ICU but thanks to everyone's prayers including MIPC, she bounced back and came home to a recovery.

A week into recovery, she got choked one afternoon as I was feeding her lunch. She had a lot of fluid retention in her lungs and perhaps because of the narrowing of her food and windpipes, her coughed-up phlegm and food went the wrong way and she got choked. She was coughing incessantly and bringing up fluid for half an hour, as a result she couldn't get her breath back. In our anxiety we were hitting on her back, blowing in her ears and lifting her arms up to help her, but to no avail. At times of stress and fear, I panic and my mind freezes.....I couldn't think what else to do....I was so

much into the moment that I couldn't pray. I was desperate and then suddenly, the Holy Spirit hit me like lightening....call on the holy names of Jesus and Mary and I did just that. I asked them to come and be there with us, to help us and save my mother. She was gasping to get her next breath and exhausted. I thought the fifteen percent function of her heart that was left was going to collapse any time but gradually her gasping slowed down though her breathing was weak and with the doctor's advice, we called the ambulance and rushed her to hospital to be given oxygen to help her breathing.

All we could do was to call on the powerful names of Jesus and his beloved mother Mary to help us while we waited and they did! After two hours her breathing got back to normal, we brought her home and miraculously she has survived another fatal experience and is getting back her strength through the love, mercy and faithfulness of our loving and wonderful savior Jesus and his beloved mother Mary. The doctors and we didn't think she would pull through as her survival was very bleak but our God has been very gracious. Truly when all else's failsjust remember to call on the powerful, precious and holy names of Jesus and Mary.their names are higher than any other! All praise and thanks to the name above all names!!!

- *Charmaine D'Souza*

Why Do Catholics Pray to Saints?

As Catholics, we believe that our life doesn't end at death but simply changes. Those who have lived good lives and died in the faith of Christ will, as the Bible tells us, share in His Resurrection.

While we live together on earth as Christians, we are in communion, or unity, with one another. But that communion doesn't end when one of us dies. We believe that the saints, the Christians in heaven, remain in communion with those of us on earth. We call this the Communion of Saints, and it's an article of faith in every Christian creed from the Apostles' Creed on.

The Communion of Saints

But what does the Communion of Saints have to do with praying to saints? Everything. When we run into trouble in our lives, we frequently ask friends or family members to pray for us. That doesn't mean, of course, that we can't pray for ourselves. We ask them for their prayers even though we're praying, too, because we believe in the power of prayer. We know that God hears their prayers as well as ours, and we want as many voices as possible asking Him to help us in our time of need. James 5:16 says this: *“The fervent prayer of a righteous person is very powerful.”*

Now, who is more righteous than those perfected in heaven? Thus, we ask the Saints to pray for us, because they stand before God and offer Him their prayers, Yet, some might ask – can they hear us? The answer is yes. Jesus says in Matthew 22:31-32

“And concerning the resurrection of the dead, have you not read what was said to you by God, ‘I am the God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob’? He is not the God of the dead but of the living.” –Note that Jesus is telling us that those in heaven are alive. But, they now have a new and higher way of living. They have been glorified in Christ once they enter into heaven. In fact, it could be said that they are much more alive than those of us still on earth. *“And behold, Moses and Elijah appeared to them, conversing with him... .. well pleased; listen to him.”* -Matt 17:3-5

Here, during the Transfiguration, Jesus talks to Moses and Elijah, who are very aware of what has been happening on earth. So, from this we can come to the conclusion that death does not separate those in heaven from those on earth. Remember Paul teaches that we are all members of Christ's body, the Church. The Book of Hebrews echoes this when it teaches that those who have gone before us into heaven still witness what happens on earth. *“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us rid ourselves of every burden and sin that clings to us and persevere in running the race that lies before us”* -Hebrews 12:1.

Since we are all made members of Christ's mystical body, we are all connected to one another and even death cannot separate us from Christ.

Christ could have told us that praying for one another didn't matter, but he did the opposite. He told us (as did Paul and many others in Scripture) to pray for one another, because God acts through his Church on earth, and in heaven, to give us grace through the prayers of others.

We can find the most amazing evidence from the Bible of the Saints in heaven hearing our prayers is from the book of Revelation. *"When he took it, the four living creatures and the twenty-four elders fell down before the Lamb. Each of the elders held a harp and gold bowls filled with incense, which are the prayers of the holy ones."* -Rev 5:8. We see that the elders and four living creatures (who represent the Saints and Angels in heaven) are offering the prayers of those on earth before Jesus. In Revelation 8: 3-5, there is another incident of heavenly intercession. *"Another angel came and stood at the altar, holding a gold censer. He was given a great quantity of incense to offer, along with the prayers of all the holy ones, on the gold altar that was before the throne. The smoke of the incense along with the prayers of the holy ones went up before God from the hand of the angel. Then the angel took the censer, filled it with burning coals from the altar, and hurled it down to the earth. There were peals of thunder, rumblings, flashes of lightning, and an earthquake."*

Lastly, we can find Jesus talking about this subject is found in the parable of Lazarus and the rich man in Luke 16. Those who have suffered bodily death, still are asking for help for those on earth (intercession) with knowledge of what is happening.

Based on the overwhelming evidence from Scripture, the constant Tradition of the Church as well as the fact that it is theologically acceptable, we can be assured that the Saints in heaven can hear our prayers and are praying for us.

Nevertheless, let us remember that saints are not God. We Catholics do not worship or adore the saints. We worship God alone. So a "prayer" to saints is really asking them to intercede on our behalf, just as we would ask a friend on earth.

- *Compiled*

Fighting the Battle within

Originally written on 17th April 2016

It was the last month of the semester after which I had to make a big move. I had to leave the comfort of my college town in Lawrence, Kansas to pursue a long-term academic internship in a metropolitan city. Interviews were passed, offers were made. I was in an enviable situation with some good offers in great cities across the nation. Ultimately it boiled down to choosing between two firms, both in the top 5 of my industry, both in the promising cities of Atlanta and Seattle.

‘Seattle. Seattle. Seattle. It’s so beautiful. You have to go there! You won’t mind the rain!’ I heard these comments over and over again whenever I expressed my dilemma to my peers or academic advisors. As an afterthought, folks would say something positive about Atlanta as well. Although my dream office lay in Seattle, and had been the dream for over a year, it was the interview process that made me lean towards the Atlanta firm. I didn’t want to be the girl that chose Atlanta over Seattle and Los Angeles, but soon I was reminded that my future was upto me and not dependent on the glamour and reputation of a well-known city or firm.

Jesus, our Good Shepherd had a heavy mission with which he came to this Earth. It was His only Way- his Heavenly Father’s will, is what we believe. However, as per his Father’s will, he was born like one of us; human. He was tempted (Matt. 4: 1-11). He was angered (John 2: 13-25 KJV) . He felt weak and got depressed. (Matt 26: 36-46 KJV). He went through inner turmoil like you and me. Yet he didn’t escape his cup of suffering but went through with his Father’s plan, which sure wasn’t easy.

We all experience our own agony in the garden. God gave us this beautiful life filled with friends, family and opportunities to seize. This life is a garden; the fruits are plenty but we must pick wisely. We are sure to get bitten eventually but as Catholics who believe in free will, it is ultimately upon us to make the choices we do, including avoiding temptation.

We carve our own future. And so, this garden is not without agony. As the day came closer to my exciting move to a different state, I worried incessantly over starting over. I had internships before, but they were short-term and I always returned home to the comfort of friends and family. ‘Was public transportation going to be enough? Would my future accommodation be secure? Could I succeed at work without offending anyone? How do I make new friends again? Oh no, I wish hadn’t applied to places so far away!’ Then my father reminded me, “ You’re afraid of moving? You have already made the biggest move of your life”. How right he was. Four years ago, I moved climates, continents and cultures away to the States from my dear home in the Middle East. If I did that, surely this move was nothing.

What am I getting at here? When we experience internal conflict in our lives, be it choosing between job offers, universities, fields of study to even social constructs, political stances and decisions in romantic relationships, it is essential that we remember our past successes. God has blessed us with many things to be thankful for that have got us to where we are. And so, gratitude opens the door to abundance. Realizing how we may have dealt with roadblocks earlier to avail of the opportunities we are in now, will help remind us of the attitude we have to go after.

Most of all, we could just do what helped Jesus best : meditation. He walked the lonely road to Calvary and his moments of self-assurance and deep prayer with his Father helped him prepare for this and fight the Devil. A clear mind always helps us evaluate our situation better, when we keep the faith that we have. As per the Youth Catechism of the Catholic Church, relying on our own strengths would not get us far in our attempts to do good, but it is through faith that we discover that we are God’s children and that He makes us strong.

Soon, I found myself packing my bags for Atlanta. Another chapter in mine and His story has begun and I’m not afraid. For St. Teresa of Avila had some wisdom to share with me: “Let nothing trouble you/ let nothing frighten you. Everything passes/ God never changes. Patience obtains all. Whoever has God, wants for nothing. God alone is enough.” His Grace is enough for us. It makes the cross feel lighter!

- *Melanie D’Souza*

HOPEFUL ANTICIPATION

As we are at the threshold of entering into the season of advent it is time for us to know how to prepare for it. Advent looks forward to the threefold coming of Christ: His historical coming (the Incarnation), His Second Coming at the end of time, and His continual coming in every moment into our lives and hearts (St. Ignatius of Loyola). Advent prepares us for all three comings. (CCC 524).

Advent comes from a Latin word meaning “coming” or “arrival,” and marks the four Sundays preceding Christmas as a time to prepare for celebrating Christ's birth. This is a season for us to intentionally remember our need for God to come again in our lives.

As people of faith, we know that waiting is central to our journey with God. Throughout history, the faithful have had to patiently wait for the One whose sense of time is not the same as ours. Amidst our waiting, whether patiently or impatiently, we hear the reassuring words of hope from the prophet Isaiah that God works for those who wait. (Isaiah 64:3)

Advent not only points backward to the first coming, but also forward to the second coming, thus providing Christians with a vision of the future and toward the future. Advent, then, is a time of expectation: it is the acknowledgment of the fact that, although God has acted decisively on our behalf in Jesus' birth, there is still much outstanding. It is a time for us to express a desire for what God alone can give.

He came in a manger, in flesh; he will come again, glorified. But He also comes to us now, to live in us, to guide and lead us, and to help us change from the people we are into the people we were designed and destined to become.

Advent is a time that is filled with anticipation and therefore filled with vision and opportunity. It is a time to imagine what is possible in the limitless world of personal interaction with a loving God.

Advent is a time for taking stock of our lives and actions in light of the kingdom of God, which entered human history with Christ but still awaits

completion. Our expectation of the coming Lord demands that we anticipate in our actions the kingdom with which He has identified Himself and will bring to us.

It can be hard to wait for anything; we constantly look forward to the next thing. Advent shows us how to wait in joyful and hopeful anticipation. It teaches us that the question is not “will God become present in my life?” but the reality that “God is present in my life and is coming into it at every moment of every day. When we spend so much time looking forward, we miss the incredible blessings that God is pouring out upon us right now.

This liturgical season is a blessed time of waiting for Christ, and calls to mind about God keeping His promises to us and we are reminded once again that God is faithful and we can trust Him.

- *Compiled*

QUIZ CORNER - Quiz on Gospel of John Ch. 8 to 10

Refer the New Revised Standard Version Catholic Edition Bible

Tick (✓) for the right answer

1. The Jews answered and said to him, “Are we not right in saying that you are a and have a demon?
a. Galilean 2. Jew c. Samaritan
2. Who brought in a woman caught in adultery?
a. the Jews b. the disciples c. the Pharisees
3. Why do you not understand what I say? It is because you my word.
a. cannot hear b. cannot accept c. cannot believe
4. The one who sent me is with me. He has not left me alone, for I always do what
a. is right b. is good c. is pleasing to him
5. Again he bent down and wrote on
a. the sand b. the stone c. the ground

6. Jesus said, " I came into this world for, so that those who do not see may see and those who do see may become blind".
 - a. Salvation b. Righteousness c. Judgment
7. For this reason the Fatherme, because I lay down my life in order to take it up again.
 - a. knows b. loves c. saves
8. I am the gate. Whoeverby me will be saved
 - a. comes b. enters c. goes
9. What my Father has given, is greater than all else.
 - a. us b. me c. all
10. My sheep hear my voice; Ithem, and they follow me.
 - a. Love b. know c. find
11. The slave does not have a permanent place in the household, the son has a place there
 - a. always b. at all times c. forever
12. In ch. 10 when the Jews sought to arrest Jesus what feast was at hand?
 - a. Tabernacles b. Dedication c. Passover

ANSWERS FOR THE QUIZ ON JOHN Ch.4 to 6

- 1) b. this is truly the Savior of the world 2) b. False 3) a. to do the will of Him who sent me and to complete his work 4) b. Gather up the fragments leftover 5) b. The Jews said it to the man who had been cured 6) b False 7) c. The crowd that was there 8) b. it was Jesus who had made him well. 9) a. Walking on the sea 10) a. True 11. b. Bethesda 12.a. Capernaum.

Hearty congratulations to Aaron Menezes, Brenda Netto, Raymond Louis, Serene Louis, Juliet D'Souza and Savio Torres for the correct answers.

We also appreciate Ethel Fernandes and Yohan Yesudas for participating.



MIPC Prayer Meeting: Every Thursday at 8:00 pm in the Parish Hall.

General Intercessory Meeting: First Monday of every month at 8:00 pm.