

The FIAT Newsletter

A Family Ministry Publication

St. Robert Bellarmine Parish & School, Omaha, NE.

October 2011



Why is October the Month of the Rosary?

In 1883, Pope Leo XIII wrote a letter to the world encouraging people to dedicate the month of October to the Queen of the Holy Rosary, to ask for her intercession so that God will comfort and help His Church in her suffering.

Mary continues to have a vital cooperative role in God's plan. Through her motherly care, she intercedes for us and brings us closer to Her Son.



The Rosary – The School of Mary

John Paul II considered Mary as a teacher most qualified to teach us the mysteries of Her son, as is evident in the following reflections:

- In the nascent Church, Mary passed on to the disciples her memories of the Incarnation, the infancy, the hidden life and the mission of her divine Son as a priceless treasure, thus helping to make Him know and to strengthen the faith of believers.
- Mary lived with her eyes fixed on Christ, treasuring his every word. The memories of Jesus, impressed upon her heart, were always with her, leading her to reflect on the various moments of her life at her Son's side. In a way those memories were to be the "rosary" which she recited uninterruptedly throughout her earthly life.
- Contemplating the scenes of the Rosary in union with Mary is a means of learning from her to "read" Christ, to discover His secrets and to understand His message.

Incorporate the Rosary into Your Busy Life

- ◆ Instead of praying the Rosary all at once, meditate on one decade at a time at five different times during the day.
- ◆ Pray while traveling or waiting in the car.
- ◆ Pray while exercising.
- ◆ Pray using audio accompaniment.
- ◆ When praying the rosary, do not focus on the quantity of prayer, but rather on its depth.

Rediscovering the Mass

Beginning with the First Sunday of Advent, November 27, 2011, the Catholic Church in the United States will worship according to the new translation of the Roman Missal. This column will explore the meaning behind some of the changes.

The Confiteor

In the prayer known as the *Confiteor* (which begins, "I confess to almighty God..."), **the new translation better reflects the Latin text of the Mass and helps us cultivate a more humble, sorrowful attitude toward God as we confess our sins.** Instead of simply saying that I have sinned "through my own fault," as we have in the old translation, we will now repeat it three times while striking our breasts in a sign of repentance, saying: "Through my fault, through my fault, through my most grievous fault."

This repetition more fully expresses our sorrow over sin. When we are at fault over something small, we might simply say to the person whom we have wronged, "I'm sorry." But if the action is a more serious matter and we deeply feel sorrow over our actions, we sometimes apologize several times and in varying ways: "I'm so sorry...I really regret doing that...Please forgive me." This prayer in the liturgy helps us recognize that sinning against God is no light matter. We must take responsibility for whatever wrong we have done and whatever good we failed to do.

From [A Guide to the New Translation of the Mass](#)
by Edward Sri

Fr. Michael's Message

In the beginning, God created Adam and Eve. God had prepared everything in creation for this most spectacular moment. Sometimes, I think we can take this for granted. We are truly fearfully and wonderfully made. In fact, after God created us, he said it was "very good."

Adam and Eve were perfectly happy. All of creation was in harmony and peace reigned throughout! Suffering and death weren't even in Adam and Eve's dictionary. God promised to provide them with everything they needed for their happiness. The Garden of Eden was called paradise! This might be hard for us to imagine now, but if we listen, there is an echo of Eden, of paradise, deep within us all. Everyone longs to return to paradise. Everything we read, watch, and listen to in our world is focused on this return to paradise.

The story of Genesis, particularly the first three chapters, is our story! If we prayerfully read through Genesis chapters 1-3, we will begin to understand where we came from, who we are, and what exactly went wrong. So, where does the Blessed Virgin Mary fit into this all?

Well, in Genesis chapter 3, we read about the serpent attacking Adam's wife, Eve. We might ask, "Why didn't the serpent attack Adam?" This can only be understood when we understand how and why some of the angels (which we now call demons) fell from heaven. When God created the angels, he tested their fidelity and trust in his Word. The mystics tell us that the angels were told that one day God would become a man and they (the angels) would serve him as a man. Lucifer, a very brilliant and beautiful angel, asked God why he wouldn't want to become an angel like them instead. Lucifer was asked to submit to God's Word and trust God's plan, but Lucifer refused to believe God would become such a lowly creature. At this moment, in the book of Revelation, we read that a great war broke out in heaven between St. Michael and those rebellious angels. At this moment, one-third of the angels fell from heaven.

The serpent attacked Eve because the serpent was looking for the woman through which God would become man. The Church Fathers say that Mary is the New Eve because she undid what Eve did. Mary is the perfect model of the Church. Jesus is the New Adam because, unlike the first Adam, Jesus defends his bride, the Church.

It is not with physical force, not with arms, not with human power, but with the divine help obtained through the Rosary, that the Church and all its members, strong and undaunted like David with his sling, will be able to confront the infernal enemy.

- Pope Pius XII in Ingruentium Malorum

The Origins of the Hail Mary

The Hail Mary is one of the oldest and most popular of the Catholic Marian prayers. It is a very biblically rooted prayer, a salutation and petition to the Blessed Virgin from whom the Redeemer of mankind was born.

The first part of the Hail Mary is based on Luke 1:28. The Angel Gabriel announced, "Hail, Mary, full of grace; the LORD is with thee."

This is followed by St. Elizabeth's greeting to her cousin Mary based on Luke 1:42 with the "Jesus" portion of the prayer added by Pope Urban IV in 1261. "Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus."

The second part of the Hail Mary prayer: "Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen," is based on the declaration of the Council of Ephesus in 431 that Mary is Mother of God. This part of the prayer appeared in the mid-15th century, being codified by the Council of Trent in 1568.

From www.memorare.com

St. Mechtilde, who loved our Lady very much, was one day striving to compose a beautiful prayer in her honor.

Our Lady appeared to her, with the golden letters on her breast of: "Hail Mary full of grace."

She said to her: "Desist, dear child, from your labor for no prayer you could possibly compose would give me the joy and delight of the Hail Mary."

From www.holysouls.com

Need A Good Book?

The following book is available in the St. Robert Bellarmine Parish Library.

The Rosary: "The Little Summa" Fourth Edition by Robert Feeney highlights the significance of the Rosary in the life of the Church over many centuries. The meditations for each mystery of the Rosary, using thoughts from Scripture, Vatican II, the Catechism, Pope John Paul II, and St. Thomas Aquinas, make the book a useful companion to praying the Rosary.