

Dear Friends,

Praised be Jesus Christ!

“The Rosary is a prayer that always accompanies me; it is also the prayer of the ordinary people and the saints...it is a prayer from my heart” – Pope Francis.

October is the month of the Rosary, honoring that great prayer of mediation where we draw close to the Immaculate Heart of Mary and rest in her Divine Motherhood. The Marian months of the year have a particular importance for us since we call upon Mary as our Patroness. The Rosary is one of the great devotional prayers of the Church. By meditation on the various mysteries we enter into the life of Christ to whom Mary always leads. It is the repetition of the prayers that draw into a state of mediation where we feel one with God in prayer.

I can tell you the Rosary is a very powerful prayer. From its inception in the 13th Century to St. Dominic to this very day, the Rosary has been invoked to overcome the powers of evil. It has been the source of grace through which intercessions have been asked and answered. Some weeks ago, a mainstream publication claimed that the Rosary is a violent extremist symbol. This particular article actually attempted to make a link between a desire to commit acts of terrorism to the Most Holy Rosary. The original title of this article was “How the Rosary Became an Extremist Symbol”. Obviously, this is yet further evidence of where our society has gone. In an ironic sense the Rosary is extreme. Extreme in the positive sense of having faith in God and the intercession of our Blessed Mother. It is radical to believe in the Incarnate God who took on human flesh in His Son Jesus and then died on a cross and rose from the dead. All of that is extreme yet so very real, so very powerful, and full of love. The Rosary is incredibly powerful not with forces of evil or worldly extremism but powerful in being a source of God’s grace.

In regards to the change in our culture we are going to a parish-wide book study on the book “From Christendom to Apostolic Mission” written by Monsignor James Shea. This book, which is more of an essay, provides a lot of thought-provoking claims on the state of our culture. The main premise being that we no longer live in a predominantly Christian society. The Church is now just one voice among many and oftentimes not the loudest voice. Articles like the one I mentioned above prove this point.

One thing we know for sure is that with God all things are possible. We know that love never fails and neither does God. In this month of the Rosary let us turn to this great devotion and trust in the radical power of love, of prayer, and protection of our Blessed Mother.

Our Lady of the Rosary...pray for us!

Sincerely yours in Christ,

Rev. Aaron R. Laskiewicz