

*Shrine to Our
Lady of the
Most Holy
Rosary*



“Today, together we confirm that the Holy Rosary is not a pious practice banished to the past, like prayers of other times thought of with nostalgia. Instead, the Rosary is experiencing a new springtime. Without a doubt, this is one of the most eloquent signs of love that the young generations nourish for Jesus and his Mother Mary. In the current world, so dispersive, this prayer helps to put Christ at the center, as the Virgin did, who meditated within all that was said about her Son and also what he did and said. When reciting the Rosary, the important and meaningful moments of salvation history are relived.” (Pope Benedict XVI May 3, 2008)

Introduction

In each of the six apparitions at Fatima, Portugal in 1917, the Blessed Virgin Mary identified herself as Our Lady of the Rosary. Every month she asked that the Rosary be prayed daily for world peace. All the Popes since 1917 have affirmed the authenticity of the Fatima Message and have encouraged the daily recitation of the Rosary. Many of these Popes have visited Fatima including Paul VI, John Paul I, John Paul II and Benedict XVI.

On February 2, 1974 Pope Paul VI issued the apostolic exhortation *Marialis Cultus*. In it our Holy Father called the Rosary a “compendium of the Gospel” because it draws from the Gospel the presentation of the mysteries of the life, death and resurrection of Jesus. The Holy Father’s promotion of the Rosary shows that it was meant to be practiced by all Catholics after, as it had been before, the Second Vatican Council.

One of the Rosary’s contemporary proponents was the beloved Saint Pope John Paul II who proclaimed a Year of the Rosary to begin in October 2002 and to conclude in October 2003. He issued an Apostolic Letter, *Rosarium Virginis Mariae*, in order to rekindle devotion to the Rosary throughout the world and to show how the Church has valued this devotion for centuries as a means to bring about peace and the salvation of souls.

When Pope John Paul II returned to Fatima on May 13, 1982, one year after the assassination attempt to thank Our Lady for her protection, he said: “The call to repentance is linked, as always, with a call to prayer. In harmony with the tradition of many centuries, the Lady of the Message (Fatima) indicates the Rosary, which can rightly be defined as ‘Mary’s prayer’ the prayer in which

she feels particularly united to us...The Rosary prayer embraces the problems of the Church, of the See of Peter, the problems of the whole world. In it we also remember sinners, that they may be converted and saved and the Souls in Purgatory.”

On the feast of the Holy Rosary October 7, 2007, Pope Benedict XVI requested that the Rosary be prayed for peace in families and in the world. “This is something that Mary has also offered in various apparitions...I am thinking of her appearance at Fatima which took place 90 years ago...presenting herself as the Madonna of the Rosary, she insistently recommended praying the Rosary every day to bring an end to the war.” He continued, “The Rosary is a means, given by the Virgin, for contemplating Jesus and meditating on His life, for loving and following Him always more faithfully.”

Shrine Vision

The impetus for a Shrine to Our Lady of the Rosary originates with the pleas of the Blessed Virgin Mary at Fatima and continues with the objectives of the Year of the Rosary.

Because there is no major shrine to Our Lady of the Rosary in the United States, it is hoped that this shrine will eventually become national in scope. The Shrine to Our Lady of the Rosary will be a place where the Blessed Virgin Mary will be honored as Queen of the Most Holy Rosary; it will acknowledge her intercessory power through the praying of the Rosary. Visitors will offer prayers to Our Lady for their personal needs, for the needs of all of humanity and for peace in the world.

“...all Marian shrines are, in a certain sense, a development of Nazareth, of Mary of Nazareth.” (Bishop Giacinto-Boulos Marcuzzo, Auxiliary Bishop of Jerusalem)

Location

Sixty-five miles south of Saint Louis, Missouri, in Saint Francois County, is the proposed site for the Rosary Shrine. On October 13, 2014, Bishop Emeritus Robert Hermann offered Holy Mass to inaugurate the Shrine to Our Lady of the Rosary in a temporary structure. The chapel is located at 7762 Richardson Road, Bonne Terre, Missouri 63628. The permanent building will be erected on the same property.

Shrine Mission

The mission of the Rosary Shrine is to instruct visitors on the importance of the daily recitation of the Rosary. That will be accomplished through printed materials, frequent guest speakers, days of recollection, etc. The goal is to inspire a closer union with Jesus Christ through meditation on the mysteries of the Holy Rosary and to more frequent reception of the Sacraments. At the same time people will learn how to enter more deeply into the Rosary's mysteries so that they become part of their lives.

The Shrine will be a place of spirituality and of theological reflection. It will encourage people to turn to Mary for refuge and hope in all their needs. The current crisis in our nation and around the world calls for an earnestness in Marian devotion.

War, greed, poverty, terrorism and the annual slaughter of millions of innocent babies are evidence of pervasive evil. Through the praying of the Rosary many souls can be converted.

Why A Shrine

In the 1953 encyclical *Fulgens Corona*, Pope Pius XII declared that every diocese should have a special shrine at which the Virgin Mary received fuller homage. Given that the Church continues to insist on the efficacy of the Rosary and the fact that there is no major shrine to Our Lady of the Rosary in the United States, the Shrine in Bonne Terre will fulfill the Church's directives.

Pope Paul VI spoke often about shrines and said: “Shrines are spiritual clinics” (1965), testimonies of miraculous deeds and of a continual wave of devotion (1966), luminous stars in the Church’s sky...centers of devotion, prayer, recollection and spiritual refreshment.(1970)”.

At a meeting of rectors of Marian shrines, the Holy Father instructed them to “lift their voices and let their existence be known in the Church.” He recommended that shrines have a full program of sacramental and pastoral programs and that they be centers of religious intensity. He said that shrines exhibit the rule that devotion is a continuation of the liturgy and a preparation for it because all devotion should lead to Christ.

The 1983 Code of Canon Law defines a shrine as a “church or sacred place to which the faithful make pilgrimages for a particular pious reason, with the approval of the local ordinary” (c1230) In 2004, Archbishop Raymond Burke gave permission for the establishment of a Shrine to Our Lady of the Rosary in the Saint Louis Archdiocese. His successor, Archbishop Robert Carlson, also approved this initiative shortly after his tenure began.

An instructional letter was issued by the Central Committee for the 1987-1988 Marian Year that directed shrines to:

- develop a sense of God’s beauty revealed in Mary.
- provide an atmosphere for discerning and responding to a vocation, for a shrine is a mysterious relationship between God’s call and the person’s response.
- be associated with or to sponsor a work of charity such as a home for the sick, a school for the disadvantaged, a retirement center.
- foster ecumenical prayer, encounters, dialogues.

Shrines are places where votive Masses in honor of Our Ladyr are celebrated. In 1986 the *Collection of Masses of the Blessed Virgin Mary* was published in response to petitions from shrine rectors for a volume of the best of proper

Masses in honor of Our Lady and for new Masses that would be composed for her. The Shrine of Our Lady of the Rosary will offer these votive Masses on appropriate occasions.

Millions of people the world over make pilgrimages to sacred places in imitation of the early and medieval practice of visiting Jerusalem and Bethlehem. Pilgrims flock to the tombs of apostles and martyrs, to sacred places in Rome and to holy places holding relics of the saints.

Eighty percent of the shrines in the world are dedicated to the Mother of God.

In 1992 the First World Congress on Shrines and Pilgrimages stated that shrines have become gathering places for refugees who have been uprooted from their homes and churches. Pope John Paul II expressed the hope that “persons whom life has treated harshly, the poor, the people who are distant from the Church” may be welcomed at shrines. By extending hospitality to refugees and pilgrims, shrines reflect Mary’s generous welcoming of God’s Word and her gathering all people into the Body of Christ. Mary precedes God’s people in their own pilgrimage of faith.

According to Canon Law Code #1234, shrines are to be places where the means of salvation are to be more abundantly made available to the faithful by diligent proclamation of the Word of God, by encouragement of liturgical life, especially through celebrating the Eucharist and Penance and by fostering approved forms of devotion.

The instability and uncertainty of our earthly journey cry out for a place of comfort and security, a sanctuary as it were, where the problems, fears and hardships of daily life can be entrusted to God through the intercession of Our Lady.

Marian shrines are to be places of pilgrimage. Pilgrimage means a symbol of the great journey of human life towards God. The life of the individual and

the Church are on pilgrimage. People also find in making pilgrimages a strengthening of their faith.

Shrines have attracted people of other faiths to honor Mary in keeping with their own understanding of her role in the history of salvation. For Moslems, Mary has an honored place in their traditions and writings.

In the years ahead, many people will be facing increasing hardships because of unemployment, loss of housing and other difficulties. A Shrine to Our Lady of the Rosary offers a place of comfort and trust that prayers to Mary never go unanswered.

Why the Rosary

Even though the Rosary devotion was promoted for centuries in the Church, it is in 1917 that Our Lady reminds us that it is through the Rosary that the world will obtain peace. In each of the 6 Fatima apparitions, Mary identifies herself as the Lady of the Rosary. Every Pope from Pius XII to the present has steadfastly pleaded for the Rosary's promotion.

In his apostolic letter, *Rosarium Virginis Mariae*, Pope John Paul II referred to the Rosary statements of Pope Leo XIII. He wrote 12 encyclicals and 5 apostolic letters dedicated to the Rosary. The Roman Pontiffs have promoted the Rosary during times of grave crisis in the world as a means to bring about peace and the conversion of sinners.

The Fifteen Promises of Mary to Christians Who Recite the Rosary

- Whoever shall faithfully serve me by the recitation of the rosary, shall receive signal graces.
- I promise my special protection and the greatest graces to all those who shall recite the rosary.
- The rosary shall be a powerful armor against hell, it will destroy vice, decrease sin, and defeat heresies.
- 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.
- The soul which recommends itself to me by the recitation of the rosary, shall not perish.
- 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 suffer an unprovided death; if he be just he shall remain in the grace of God, and become worthy of eternal life.
- Whoever shall have a true devotion for the rosary shall not die without the sacraments of the Church.
- 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.
- I shall deliver from purgatory those who have been devoted to the rosary.
- The faithful children of the rosary shall merit a high degree of glory in heaven.
- You shall obtain all you ask of me by the recitation of the rosary.
- All those who propagate the holy rosary shall be aided by me in their necessities.
- 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.
- All who recite the rosary are my son, and brothers of my only son Jesus Christ.
- Devotion of my rosary is a great sign of predestination.

(Given to St. Dominic and Blessed Alan) Imprimatur: Patrick J. Hayes DD

Archbishop of New York)

Father Gabriele Amorth, chief exorcist for the diocese of Rome, said in 2002, that once when he was performing an exorcism the demon said to him, “every Hail Mary is another blow on my head. If Christians knew the power of the Rosary my power would be finished.”

History records that on August 6, 1945, there were eight German Jesuits living in a rectory in Hiroshima, Japan located only 8 blocks from the epicenter of the first atomic bomb blast. None of the priests were harmed in any way and most lived for more than 30 years after the bombing. After being examined by numerous doctors and scientists and questioned as to why they lived when so many Japanese died, they replied that the reason they believed they survived was because they lived the Fatima Message and prayed the Rosary every day.

Why the Daily Rosary?

- Our Lady has 117 titles. She selected this title at Fatima: "I am the Lady of the Rosary."
- St. Francis de Sales said the greatest method of praying is- Pray the Rosary.
- St. Thomas Aquinas preached 40 straight days in Rome, Italy on just the Hail Mary.
- St. John Vianney, patron of priests, was seldom seen without a rosary in his hand.
- "The rosary is the scourge of the devil" -- Pope Adrian VI
- "The rosary is a treasure of graces" -- Pope Paul V
- Padre Pio the stigmatic priest said: "The Rosary is THE WEAPON"
- Pope Leo XIII wrote 12 encyclicals on the rosary.
- Pope John XXIII spoke 38 times about our Lady and the Rosary. He prayed 15 decades daily.
- St. Louis Marie Grignion de Montfort wrote: "The rosary is the most powerful weapon to touch the Heart of Jesus, Our Redeemer, who so loves His Mother."

Marketing

According to a 2009 Forbes Traveler report, religious travel is one of the leading forms of tourism in the world. There are over 140 assorted Marian shrines in the United States that attract millions of visitors each year. Between 1945 and 1965, 75,000,000 babies were born in the United States. These baby boomers will begin retiring in 2010 with better health than their parents, a more disposable income and a desire for local, regional and national travel. The Shrine will be a magnet for such vacationers.

Because the Rosary is such an integral part of the devotional life of the Catholic Church, there are an unlimited number of potential pilgrims to the Rosary Shrine. Shrines, religious goods and travel are the industries that will be targeted for sales and pilgrims.

A site planner will assist in the development of the grounds for gardens, parking lots, trails, Stations of the Cross, outdoor devotional areas, etc.

Utilization

The Shrine will be a center of unification for all devotees of the Rosary and will be a place that will draw visitors closer to God as they meditate on the beauty of the surrounding countryside.

Days of Recollection, conferences, retreats, novenas, processions, prayer vigils, special celebrations for Marian and Saints' feasts will fill the days of each month at the Shrine. One of the main activities at the Shrine will be Perpetual Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament.

Financing

When Blessed Bartolo Longo sought money to repair a dilapidated church in Pompeii, Italy in October, 1873, he organized a festival in honor of Our Lady of the Rosary. In 1875 he obtained a painting of Our Lady of the Rosary and raised money to restore the picture so it could be put in the church. Pilgrims began flocking to the church because of the numerous miracles associated with the painting. Three hundred people pledged a penny a month for the

restoration work. This is now the site of the world-famous Shrine to Our Lady of the Rosary in Pompeii, Italy.

In the Third Millennium it will take a lot more than pennies to build a suitable church to honor Our Lady of the Rosary in America. Some even say that these economic times are too turbulent and unpredictable to be able to raise a substantial amount of money to build a Shrine, but it is known that God rewards the kind of faith that works toward a goal that the world assumes is impossible to achieve.

Devotion to the Holy Name

“The Rosary, when it is prayed in an authentic way, not mechanical and superficial, but profoundly, it brings, in fact, peace and reconciliation. It contains within itself the healing power of the Most Holy Name of Jesus, invoked with faith and love at the center of each ‘Hail Mary’.

(Pope Benedict XVI, May 3, 2008)

Because the Holy Name of Jesus is invoked in every Hail Mary, the Rosary Shrine will promote a crusade to make reparation for the numerous daily blasphemies uttered against God’s Holy Name.

Pilgrims to the Shrine will have the opportunity to sign a pledge to not use God’s Name in vain and to promise to say a short ejaculation whenever blasphemy is heard.

When the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared at Fatima, she said people must stop offending God who was already (in 1917) too much offended. This is one small effort to appease the just anger of God.

Contact Information

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