

Here in the Eucharist we are brought to the Wedding Feast of the Lamb, the Lamb who was slain, so that we might proclaim the dignity of marriage, the dignity of life, and the importance of the faith. In the Eucharist, we are brought into that very life of love which is the First Family: the Trinity. The Eucharist helps us to realize, especially during these elections, that we are not simply engaging etheral ideas, but that we are also conversing with real persons—with flesh and blood. If we are to speak the Truth in charity, if we are to be gracious in our conversations with our fellow man—especially on the dignity of marriage and of life—then we must be imbued with the sacrament of charity. **The Fifth Glorious Mystery: The Coronation of Mary** Mary is the humble handmaid of the Lord. She laid herself low and united her heart to her Son's. In the Mystery of her Coronation, we see Mary receive the crown of glory that union with her Son brings. She is crowned with roses precisely because she and her son together wore the crown of thorns. In the throne room of Heaven, we hear her prophetic words once more: *In the end my Immaculate Heart will Triumph.* These words are realized in the Coronation and are given to us as a sure hope: that no matter which political candidates win in the elections, Jesus Christ is the victor. Because of this, we are not afraid. We recall the words of St. Paul in his letter to the Romans: None of us lives for himself, and none of us dies for himself. If we live, we live for the Lord, and if we die, we die for the Lord; so then, whether we live or whether we die, we are the Lord's. (14:7-8) As we contemplate Mary crowned as Queen and arrayed in the Father's glory, we see also that which we ourselves are to become: we are made for his glory and to wear the crown of victory. We become so by His grace and by our response: He offers us the grace to suffer for love for Him; we then have the opportunity to respond in charity. Paul reminds us: We shall all stand before the judgment seat of God; for it is written, "As I live, says the Lord, every knee shall bow to me, and every tongue shall give praise to God." So each of us shall give account of himself to God. In this Glorious Mystery, we pray that Our Mother and Queen may obtain for us the graces that we might stand before God in clear and holy conscience, having served

Him whole-heartedly here on earth; having adored His Sacred Heart, having loved Him in the Eucharist, having spoken Truth in charity, having been guided by His blessed Mother.

The Fifth Decade: An Initial Act of Offering of Self in Atonement for Sin Mary told the children of Fatima: *Make sacrifices for sinners, and say often, especially while making a sacrifice: O Jesus, this is for love of Thee, for the conversion of sinners, and in reparation for offences committed against the Immaculate Heart of Mary.*

What a turn of events when Our Lord on the Cross transformed suffering into grace and redemption! To believe that our sufferings can likewise be transformed into grace and redemption! Truly, the sufferings surrounding these elections can be of great benefit to us, our country, and our world: when we no longer simply endure them but offer them to the Father, they bring us into union with the suffering Christ who bestows grace to our world for its salvation. We must cultivate in our hearts the habit of offering our every little wound, every little weight of suffering, to the loving care of our Father. This is why Mary asked us "that on the First Saturday of every month, Communions of Reparation be made in atonement for the sins of the world"—so that we might be more united with her Son in our daily sufferings, that we might grow in the virtue of daily self-offering, and, above all, that the graces of the greatest self-offering between God and Man—the Eucharist—might transform our world and make it new. We have become temples of the Holy Spirit—and temples are made for sacrifice. Therefore, becoming one with the Eucharist, we offer all that we are and all that we have in sacrifice to the Father for the salvation of the world. This is what Mary has done and continues to do. This was her exhortation to the children at Fatima. This is our mission once more for today.

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Rosary Meditations for the Elections



Our Lady of Fatima



Dear Friend,

Like you, I have found myself saddened and concerned about the moral state of our country and the upcoming election. My disappointment comes from the wholesale rejection of God and natural law, and also the casting aside of those aspects of life that bring us joy: Truth, Beauty, Goodness, Unity. In an attempt to open our hearts to the outpouring of grace offered us—most particularly at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass—I offer to you these Rosary Reflections for the Elections. May they bear fruit in your life and for our country.

Reverend Anthony Gerber

The Fifth Sorrowful Mystery: The Crucifixion

Jesus is once again being crucified today. On our televisions, in our newspapers, and in our daily interactions with family, friends and colleagues. We see that, once again, the mob has gathered, ruled by its emotions instead of reason. As we begin this rosary, we bring to Our Lady and Our Father our frustrations and worry: how the mob now looks upon Jesus crucified and mocks; how God has been pushed to the edges of the public square; how the shouts of “Crucify Him! Crucify Him!” still ring in our ears, shouts which seem to come from everywhere, but yet from no one in particular -

as though they were anonymous. What can we possibly do for a country that struggles to believe? We turn and look upon the love of Christ crucified. In this mystery, Jesus opens us to our calling as Christians and we receive His Mother whose heart was pierced by a lance. Our Lady of Fatima asks us just as she asked the children of Fatima: *Will you offer yourself to God, and bear all the sufferings He sends you? In atonement for all the sins that offend Him? and for the conversion of sinners?* Will you offer yourselves? Will you suffer in reparation for your sins, for the sins of our country, and for our conversion? “Oh, we will, we will!” say the children. “*Then you will have a great deal to suffer...*” replies Mary. We know that we must suffer for our country, but are we sure we want to suffer? It is easy to say that we are willing to suffer, but we quickly forget in the moment of suffering the promise that we were so willing to initially make. We therefore must beg God for the grace to suffer and to suffer well. To this petition, Mary encourages us: *... the grace of God will be with you and will strengthen you.* What a beautiful promise from Our Lady. She offers us a reason to hope: God is with us! And He will help us! He suffers with us and for us. **The Fifth Joyful Mystery: The Finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple** Mary and Joseph had thought that they had lost their Everything, their salvation, their God. What joy they had when they found him, discovered him teaching in the temple. In this mystery, we are reminded to place our hope in the sure and steadfast anchor of the soul, Jesus Christ. He is here with us! In one way, we can speak of the temple as his Church. Today, by the power of the Holy Spirit, we can hear Jesus’ voice teaching in the Church. His teaching is simple: salvation is not found in a political candidate. Salvation is found in God and within His Church. Surely, we may hope for one candidate over another; indeed, our political leaders must uphold the sanctity of the Temple, that of religious freedom, so that Jesus might still speak and bring salvation to the world. Furthermore, Jesus teaches us to uphold a second temple of the Holy Spirit: that is, the human person. In this mystery we see Jesus teaching in the Temple as a *child*. We who are educated, if we are to receive Jesus, must neces-

sarily allow ourselves to be humbled as were those first scholars when they were taught in the temple. Truly, pride does not allow itself to be taught by children. We pray, therefore, for humility. We pray, especially, to see Jesus in that which is most humble in our midst: in the unborn child *and* in the hidden mystery of the Eucharist. In both, we discover Jesus in the temple once more! We pray that our country, our politicians, our family and friends, and ourselves may rediscover this profound treasure.

The Fifth Luminous Mystery: The Institution of the Eucharist At the Cross, as Jesus offered His body, Mary too offered herself in sacrifice. Indeed, at every Eucharist, Mary is at our side. And she reminds us that this grace we receive—the greatest of graces—is this Eucharistic food which gives us strength to embrace the Cross Jesus has given us. The Eucharist is the Sacrament of Charity. The children of Fatima, when they embraced the invitation to suffer, the impulse of their hearts moved towards praise of the Eucharist: *Oh, Holy Trinity, we adore You. My God, my God, I love you in the Blessed Sacrament!* In the world which does not recognize the divinity of Christ and the sanctity of life and marriage, adoration is the most important act of sacrifice. With Jesus, the adoring Christian who suffers with Him on the Cross, commends to the Father his spirit. Some communities of monks literally bow their entire body before the Lord really present in the Eucharist, placing even their head upon the floor as though at His sacred feet. What we do bodily has an impact upon our spirit. The devil has no knees because he does not adore. Both body and spirit should reflect what we know intellectually: that in the Eucharist is the loving exchange of vows of the divine marriage, the covenant the Lord made with us and sealed with His blood.