



EOHSJ WESTERN LIEUTENANCY SPIRITUALITY NEWSLETTER

FIRST QUARTER 2024

SACRAMENTALS: THE ROSARY AND PERSONAL SANCTIFICATION

APRIL 1, 2024

The spirituality of our Order, which began in the Middle Ages and has developed over the centuries, consists of two fundamental elements. The first is derived from the past, when the Order put itself freely at the service of the Catholic Faith and the defense of the Church. The second, in modern times, is through courageous daily witness to our Faith. It is impossible to think of someone being a committed Catholic that is not devoted to prayer. So, as members of the Order, we should choose to be all the more dedicated to prayer and personal sanctification. Prayer is the 'oxygen of a person's spiritual life', that which gives us strength and guides our actions – and the guarantee of God's healing grace. Among our individual and collective obligations to the Order the first is certainly prayer; Let's all accept God's invitation to pray as prayer 'marks the rhythm of human life'. Together let us pray especially for the people of the Holy Land, who are today so tortured and await a true and just peace, as the longed-for gift of God. From "Spiritual Reflections" authored by Cardinal Andrea Cordero Lanza De Montezemolo, 1996.

We Knights and Dames are called to live the vocation of our membership on a daily basis. Along with the commitment to support Christians in the Holy Land, members are called to increased personal sanctification. We are called to foster an active life of prayer carefully and diligently, especially for the intentions of Christians in the Holy Land, and in order to grow in personal holiness and in friendship with God. Daily prayer, especially prayers of the Order, guides members toward achieving our vocation. As the Constitution of the Order states, "It is not possible to stress sufficiently that the charitable work of the Order must have its roots in the spirituality of its members." As the Grand Master, Cardinal Filoni cited during the recent Consulta, we members must not only focus on prayer, but also deepen the biblical sources of our commitment. Further, during the Consulta, Msgr. Dominique-Marie David (Grand Prior of the Monaco Lieutenancy), noted that "the spirituality of the Order is a true treasure for the Church." It is thus that the Quarterly Western Lieutenancy Spirituality Newsletter is being introduced.



SACRAMENTALS

THE HOLY ROSARY: THE 15 PROMISES FOR PRAYING THE ROSARY EXPLAINED



“Though it is not a Sacrament for the giving of sanctifying Grace, the Rosary is a sacramental or a form of Catholic prayer that is so powerful it leads many people to sanctifying grace, to sainthood and holiness. Without question, the Rosary is the greatest of all sacramentals. It is rare to find a saint after the 13th century that did not have a devotion to the Most Holy Rosary! Praying the Rosary has been a marker of Catholic identity for centuries. Devotion to Mary is intimately tied with being Catholic.”

Fr. Carl Arcosa, Diocese of Oakland, CA



The Fifteen Promises of the Rosary are believed to have been given by the Virgin Mary to Saint Dominic and Blessed Alan de la Roche. The Promises emphasize the spiritual benefits and graces associated with the devout recitation of the Rosary. A summary of The Promises and brief explanations follows:

- 1. Whoever serves me by reciting the Rosary shall receive signal graces. (*Signs God gives to help you make good decisions.)**
 - This promise refers to receiving extraordinary graces or insights from God that help us make good decisions throughout our life.*
- 2. I promise my special protection and the greatest graces to all who shall recite the Rosary.**
 - This indicates a commitment to spiritual protection and abundant graces for those devoted to the Rosary.*
- 3. The Rosary shall be a powerful armor against hell; it will destroy vice, decrease sin, and defeat heresies.**
 - The Rosary is seen as a spiritual weapon against evil and a means to personal holiness.*
- 4. It will cause virtue and good works to flourish; it will obtain for souls the abundant mercy of God.**
 - Reciting the Rosary is believed to nurture virtue and attract divine mercy.*
- 5. The soul which recommends itself to me by the recitation of the Rosary shall not perish.**
 - This promise suggests that those devoted to the Rosary will receive spiritual graces, especially at the time of death.*
- 6. Whoever shall recite the Rosary devoutly, applying himself to the consideration of its sacred mysteries, shall never be conquered by misfortune.**
 - This promise points to spiritual resilience and protection from life's trials through the Rosary.*

THE HOLY ROSARY: THE 15 PROMISES FOR PRAYING THE ROSARY EXPLAINED

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7. **Whoever shall have a true devotion for the Rosary shall not die without the sacraments of the Church.**
 - *This emphasizes the grace of receiving the final sacraments and being spiritually prepared at death.*
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.**
 - *This speaks to a life enriched with divine grace and a death supported by the prayers of the saints.*
9. **I shall deliver from purgatory those who have been devoted to the Rosary.**
 - *This indicates a shortened or alleviated experience of purgatory for those devoted to the Rosary.*
10. **The faithful children of the Rosary shall merit a high degree of glory in heaven.**
 - *This promise notes a special place in heaven for those devoted to the Rosary.*
11. **You shall obtain all you ask of me by the recitation of the Rosary.**
 - *This promise highlights the power of the Rosary in intercessory prayer.*
12. **All those who propagate the holy Rosary shall be aided by me in their necessities.**
 - *Mary is believed to assist those who encourage others to pray the Rosary.*
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.**
 - *Advocates of the Rosary are promised the prayers of all saints in heaven.*
14. **All who recite the Rosary are my sons and daughters, and brothers and sisters of my only Son Jesus Christ.**
 - *This implies a spiritual relationship with Mary and Jesus for those devoted to the Rosary.*
15. **Devotion to my Rosary is a great sign of predestination.**
 - *This suggests that a devotion to the Rosary is a sign of God's favor and a likely indicator of one's salvation.*

These promises highlight the spiritual significance of the Rosary in Catholic devotion, emphasizing the benefits of prayer, protection, and grace.



Personal Sanctification Through Praying the Rosary

PURSUING PERSONAL SANCTIFICATION THROUGH PRAYING THE ROSARY INVOLVES SEVERAL KEY ELEMENTS THAT ALIGN WITH THE BROADER SPIRITUAL PRACTICES AND BELIEFS OF OUR FAITH. HERE'S HOW WE CAN USE THE ROSARY AS A PRACTICE TO IMPROVE PERSONAL SANCTIFICATION:

- **Meditation on the Mysteries:** The Rosary is centered around the contemplation of key events in the lives of Jesus Christ and the Virgin Mary, known as the "Mysteries." These include the Joyful, Sorrowful, Glorious, and Luminous Mysteries. Meditating on these mysteries while praying the Rosary helps individuals reflect on the virtues and life of Christ, aiming to emulate them in their own lives.
- **Regular Prayer Routine:** Establishing a habit of prayer is crucial in Catholic spirituality. Praying the Rosary regularly (daily, if possible) fosters a disciplined prayer life. This regular communication with God helps in forming a deeper relationship with Him, which is central to personal sanctification.
- **Fostering Virtues:** Each mystery of the Rosary is an opportunity to reflect on a particular virtue — for example, humility in the Annunciation or perseverance in the Carrying of the Cross. This reflection encourages the practical application of these virtues in daily life.
- **Receiving Graces:** Catholics believe that praying the Rosary is a channel of divine grace. These graces are seen as aids provided by God to grow in holiness and resist sin.
- **Penitential Aspect:** The Rosary has a penitential dimension to it. Reciting prayers like the "Hail Mary" and reflecting on the sufferings of Christ and Mary can lead to a deeper awareness of one's sins and a heartfelt desire for repentance.
- **Growing in Marian Devotion:** Mary is seen in Catholicism as a model of holiness and a powerful intercessor. A devotion to Mary through the Rosary can help individuals grow closer to Christ, as Mary always points towards her Son.
- **Intentional Prayer:** While reciting the Rosary, individuals are encouraged to pray for specific intentions — their own needs, the needs of others, or broader intentions for the Church or the world. This act of intercession fosters a spirit of charity and communion with others.



Personal Sanctification Through Praying The Rosary

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- Integration with the Liturgical Year: Aligning the mysteries of the Rosary with the liturgical seasons (like praying the Sorrowful Mysteries during Lent) can deepen one's participation in the life of the Church and understanding of the Christian mystery.
- Praying the Rosary in a group, such as a family, a parish, the Order's Thursday Zoom Rosary, and First Monday Rosary, strengthens the sense of community and mutual support in the journey towards holiness.
- Peace and Contemplation: The repetitive nature of the Rosary can lead to a peaceful, contemplative state, conducive to hearing God's voice and aligning one's will with His.

In essence, the Rosary is not just a set of prayers but a comprehensive spiritual practice that encompasses meditation, reflection, the cultivation of virtue, and a deepening relationship with God and the community. Through these practices, we can grow closer to God as we seek greater personal sanctification.

HOLY WEEK REFLECTIONS BY VENERABLE FULTON J. SHEEN

“UNLESS THERE IS A GOOD FRIDAY IN YOUR LIFE, THERE CAN BE NO EASTER SUNDAY.”

“NO STAGE WAS EVER BETTER SET FOR THE DRAMA OF HOPE THAN CAVALRY.”

“WHAT OUR LORD DID SAY ON THE CROSS WAS TO FORGIVE. FORGIVE YOUR PILATES, WHO ARE TOO WEAK TO DEFEND YOUR JUSTICE. FORGIVE YOUR HERODS, WHO ARE TOO SENSUAL TO PERCEIVE YOUR SPIRITUALITY. FORGIVE YOUR JUDASES, WHO THINK WORK IS TO BE MEASURED IN TERMS OF SILVER.”

“THE CROWN OF GOLD WE WANT MAY HAVE UNDERNEATH IT THE CROWN OF THORNS, BUT THE HEROES WHO CHOOSE THE CROWN OF THORNS OFTEN FIND THAT UNDERNEATH IT IS THE CROWN OF GOLD.”

“THE IDEAL IS TO REACH A POINT IN PRACTICE, WHERE, LIKE OUR LORD ON THE CROSS, WE WITNESS TO GOD EVEN AMIDST ABANDONMENT AND THE AGONY OF A CRUCIFIXION.”



John Villiers Farrow

KGCHS

Born in Australia in 1904, Sir John Farrow was a member of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, an influential Catholic layman, and a prominent Hollywood filmmaker for more than thirty years. After studying at Saint Ignatius College (now the University of San Francisco), he had success in the 1920s and early 1930s as a screenwriter at Paramount and RKO Studios, before making his directorial debut in 1937.

Eager to be involved in World War II, he traveled to Vancouver in 1939 and enlisted in the Canadian Navy. After becoming an officer, he served in the British Royal Navy and left active duty in 1942, while remaining in the reserves.

Resuming his directing career, he had a string of hits, including *Wake Island*---the story of the Japanese onslaught on the island's military garrison following Pearl Harbor---which earned him an Oscar nomination for Best Director. After briefly being recalled to active duty in Britain, he continued work on a book about Saint Junipero Serra, and, in 1946, released *Two Years Before the Mast*---starring Alan Ladd and based on Richard Henry Dana Jr.'s classic book---which became one of the most popular films of the year.

By the late 1950s, he had built an impressive body of work, having made over forty films, ranging from comedies and westerns to film noir, with several considered classics today. In 1956, he received an Oscar for Best Screenplay for *Around the World in Eighty Days*, and for several years planned a film about the life of Jesus Christ.

Known for his strong support of Catholic causes, he authored books of poetry and fiction, as well as biographies of Saint Thomas More and Saint Damien of Molokai, and a history of the papacy, *Pageant of the Popes*. A member of the Order of Saint John of Jerusalem, he was also an honorary Commander of the Order of the British Empire (CBE), and was honored with a star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame.

With his wife, actress Maureen O'Sullivan, he had seven children, including Mia Farrow. Sir John Farrow (KGCHS) died at his Beverly Hills home on January 27, 1963, at the age of 58, and is buried at Holy Cross Cemetery of Los Angeles.



SAVE THE DATE: TUESDAY, MAY 21ST AT 7PM
A CONVERSATION ABOUT MARY



Sr. Regina Marie Gorman, OCD
Carmelite Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart of Los Angeles
Vicar General
Los Angeles, CA

Sr. Regina Marie Gorman, O.C.D., holds a master's degree in theology and Christian ministry from the Franciscan University of Steubenville, Ohio. She has lived out her calling as a Carmelite sister for over four decades. For nine years, she's taught at junior high schools in and around Los Angeles. She's served another nine years as her community's Directress of Novices and Postulants. She then became its Directress of Vocations and named Superior General, a position she held for 12 years. She is now the Vicar General for the Carmelite Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart of Los Angeles.

SAINT OF THE ORDER FEAST DAY
ST. GEORGE - APRIL 23RD



**St. George Patron Saint of Crusaders
Feast Day: April 23**

St. George was a great miracle worker and martyr who lived in the latter part of the third century A.D. He was a soldier in the army of the Emperor Diocletian and he was one of the Emperor's favorite soldiers. Diocletian was a pagan and a vicious enemy of Christians. During this time a great persecution began against the Christians. George, a brave Christian and soldier of Christ, went to the Emperor and sternly scolded him for the cruelty of the persecutions. He then gave up his position in the Roman army. For this he was brutally tortured and finally beheaded. Because St. George was so courageous, daring, and joyful in both declaring and dying for his faith, Christians everywhere were encouraged whenever they heard the incredible stories surrounding his martyrdom. So much so, that many songs and poems were written about St. George. Soldiers, especially, have always been devoted to him. William of Malmesbury states that Saints George and Demetrius, the "Martyr Knights," were seen assisting the Crusaders at the Battle of Antioch in 1098.