

Spreading the Good News through the Rosary

Happy Feast Day! Today, October 7th, the Universal Church celebrates the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. For centuries, the Rosary has played a vital part in the prayer life of the Church. Many Popes, Catholic Theologians, Catholic authors and writers have written books on the beauty of praying and meditating on the Rosary. As a seminarian studying here in Fiji, praying the Rosary reminds me that our Blessed Mother is always with us, listening to us, and praying for us each and every single day. The Rosary is indeed a powerful tool that helps stay strong and steadfast in faith during the good and bad moments we face. I can confidently say that a person's life can change for the better, if they just took a few minutes of their day to meditate on the Mysteries of the Rosary. Therefore, as a faithful disciple of the Rosary, I have made it my own personal mission for the next 7 years, to make Rosaries and place them in the hands of those who need it the most here in the South Pacific.

"We have a filial devotion to Mary as our inheritance, a devotion which can be expressed in rich and different ways, both in personal and in communal prayer, especially in the recital of the

Rosary."

Article 59

Constitution and Statutes of the Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary (Brothers)

In the Spring of 1792, while hiding from persecution, our Founder and Good Father, Pierre Coudrin, received a "vision" to start a religious community of men dressed in white robes who would spread the Gospel in every corner of the world. It was this vision that encouraged the Good Father to establish our Congregation that we know today. As a brother of our religious institute, I continue to take the Good Father's vision to heart. For me, what better way to spread the Gospel than by spreading devotion to the Holy Rosary! Since I was a kid, I have always been taught that by meditating on the Mysteries of the Rosary, we are also meditating on many major points of the Gospel.

"With the Rosary, the Christian people sits at the school of Mary and is led to contemplate the beauty of the face of Christ and to experience the depths of his love. Through the Rosary the faithful receive abundant grace, as though from the very hands of the Mother of the Redeemer."

- **Pope St. John Paul II**

Apostolic Letter, *Rosarium Virginis Mariae*, October 16th, 2002

When we pray the Rosary, we meditate on the life of Christ through the eyes of Mary. It is through her eyes, where we spiritually feel the joy and the pain of our Savior and our Blessed Mother. All of us want to get closer to Jesus Christ, but what better way to get close to Him than

to ask our Blessed Mother to lead us to Him. Our Blessed Mother is our Advocate and she will never leave our side.

So, what got me into making Rosaries? Well, the Rosary has a special place at the core of my family. As my mom and dad immigrated to the United States from the Philippines in the early 1990's, both of them did not have much to bring to the U.S. But what they did have was a lot of faith. My mom and dad knew in their hearts that as they began to move into this new country and into a new culture, our Blessed Mother was always with them. To this day, my parents owe it to their devotion to our Blessed Mother and to the Rosary for giving them the perseverance that everything will work out. And so, my parents passed on their love of the Rosary unto me.

As I grew up, my love for the Rosary also grew. I loved the Rosary so much that I took an interest in making them. And so in November 2019, I joined a local church ministry in the City of Edinburg, Texas where I learned how to make Rosaries. As of today, I have made a little over 4,000+ Rosaries that have made their way in numerous parishes and countries. To be honest, I never could have imagined that I would ever make 4,000 Rosaries. I initially started this ministry to make a couple of Rosaries for my family and friends. But after just making a few, I just couldn't stop, for some reason I just had the urge to continue to make more. I owe it to our Blessed Mother for giving me the strength, enthusiasm, and patience to continue making Rosaries.

Now that I am here studying in Fiji, I can say with no reservation that the need for Rosaries is dire here in the South Pacific. The Catholic faith is indeed growing here in the South Pacific and people are craving to be closer to God. I am blessed that my Rosaries are getting people closer to Jesus Christ, through our Blessed Mother. Above all, it feels great to know that the Rosaries that I have made have been well received by the people of Fiji, Tonga, Kiribati, and Papua New Guinea.

If all goes as planned, with the help of my seminarian brothers, my Rosaries will eventually reach the shores of Samoa, American Samoa, the Solomon Islands, and the Federated States of Micronesia by the end of this year. It is important to note that as my Rosary ministry starts to expand and reach every corner of the South Pacific, I would like to give thanks to the different Parish ministries in our SS.CC. parishes for sending me much needed Rosary supplies. THANK YOU to the parishioners and ministries at Holy Name of Mary (San Dimas, California), Sacred Heart (Edinburg, Texas), and Queen of Peace (Harlingen, Texas) for your support and assistance! Please know that you are playing a huge and important role in our evangelization efforts here in the South Pacific!

“Action gives flesh to God’s love...Action also purifies prayer...Action educates us in selflessness; to be filled with concern for others and to have at the bottom of our hearts only the welfare and the peace of others - this is profoundly purifying.”

Rule #29

Rule of Life, Sacred Hearts Community

As a missionary, my love for God and for selfless service is what gives me the energy to continue to work for the common good. The world needs people like us to act on the living words of the Gospel and spread the love that Jesus Christ teaches us. Therefore, as the Church reflects and celebrates this beautiful Feast Day and the Month of the Rosary, may we continue to ask our Blessed Mother for her guidance, protection, and unconditional love as we continue to minister to the people of God.

“Above all else, we preach love.”

Rule #25

Rule of Life, Sacred Hearts Community

Our Lady of the Rosary, Pray for Us!

Our Lady Queen of Peace, Pray for Us!

To the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, Honor and Glory!

Loloma kei na masu from Fiji (Love and Prayers),

Br. Marc Sherwin Roque, ss.cc.