

Did you know . . .

October: Month of the Rosary

The month of October is dedicated to the Holy Rosary. According to an account by 15th century Dominican, Blessed Alan de la Roch, Mary appeared to St. Dominic in 1206 after he had been praying and doing severe penances.



He was upset because of his lack of success in combating the Albigensian heresy (part of the Catharism, which taught that the spirit was created by God, and was good, while the body was created by an evil god, and the spirit must be freed from the body. Having children was one of the greatest evils, since it entailed imprisoning another "spirit" in flesh. Logically, marriage was forbidden.) Mary, however, praised him for his efforts and gave him the Rosary, explaining its uses and efficacy and telling him to preach it to others.

Throughout history, the power of the Rosary has been seen. On the first Sunday of October 1571, St. Pius V attributed the defeat of the Turkish fleet to the Rosary and ordered a commemoration of the Rosary on that day. Two years later, Gregory XIII allowed churches who had an altar dedicated to the Rosary to hold a celebration to the Rosary and in 1671, Clement X extended the feast to all of Spain and Clement XI, after another Turkish victory, extended the feast to the whole Church.

The Rosary is "Christocentric", setting forth the entire life of Jesus...the passion, death, resurrection and glory. And it honors Mary, because her life is most closely linked with the mysteries of Jesus Christ. Until about the 15th century, hundreds of mysteries were part of the Rosary devotion and then became the 15 mysteries that we know today. Pope John Paul II added the Luminous Mysteries in 2002.

Praying the Rosary has the potential to transform lives and October is a good time to re-evaluate the place the Rosary has in our lives.

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