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The Remedy: The Rosary

Here are excerpts from Sister Lucia's letters concerning the Rosary and prayer, from A Little Treatise on the Nature and Recitation of the Rosary.

"The prayer of the Rosary, after the Liturgy of the Most Holy Eucharist, is what most introduces us to the intimate mystery of the Most Holy Trinity and the Eucharist; what most brings us to the spirit of the mysteries of Faith, Hope, and Charity.

"The prayer of the Rosary is the spiritual bread of souls: Whoever does not pray, wastes away and dies. It is by prayer that we find ourselves with God, and in this meeting with Him, He communicates to us Faith, Hope, and Charity; virtues without which we cannot be saved.

"The Rosary is the prayer of the rich and the poor, of the educated and the simple. Take this devotion away from souls, and you take away their spiritual daily bread.

"The Rosary is what sustains the little flame of Faith that still has not been extinguished in many consciences. Even for those souls who pray without meditating, the very act of taking up the Rosary to pray is already a remembrance of God, of the Supernatural. A simple recollection of the mysteries of each decade is one more ray of light to sustain in souls the still smoldering wick.

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"It would be well if the prayer of the Rosary were given a more real meaning than that which it has been given, until now, of a simple 'Marian' prayer. All the prayers that we say in the Rosary are prayers that form part of the Sacred Liturgy; and more than a prayer directed to Mary it is a prayer directed to God: — The Our Father was taught to us by Jesus Christ, Who said: 'Pray thus, Our Father Who art in Heaven...' — 'Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost...' is the hymn that the Angels sang, who

were sent by God to announce the birth of His Word, God made man. — The Hail Mary, well understood, is nothing less than a prayer directed to God: — ‘Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with Thee.’ I hail Thee, Mary, because the Lord is with Thee! These words were most certainly dictated by the Father to the Angel, when He sent him to earth, in order that with these words he should greet Mary.

“‘Blessed art Thou amongst women, and Blessed is the fruit of Thy womb, Jesus.’ These words, with which Elizabeth greeted Mary, were dictated to her by the Holy Ghost as the Evangelist tells us: ‘When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, ... she was filled with the Holy Ghost. Crying out in a loud voice she exclaimed, Blessed art Thou amongst women, and Blessed is the fruit of Thy womb.’ Yes! Because that fruit is Jesus, true God and true Man!

“So this salutation is an act of praise addressed to God: Blessed art Thou amongst women because Blessed is the fruit of Thy womb; and because Thou art the Mother of God made Man, — in Thee we adore God as in the first Tabernacle in which the Father enclosed His Word; as on the first Altar, Thy lap; as in the first Monstrance, Thy arms, before which the Angels, shepherds and kings knelt to adore the Son of God made Man! And because Thou, O Mary, art the first living Temple of the Most Holy Trinity, wherein live the Father, Son and Holy Ghost, ‘The Spirit will come over Thee and the power of the Most High will overshadow Thee. Therefore the Holy One, which is to be born, will be called Son of God’ (Luke 1:35). Since Thou art a Tabernacle, a Monstrance, a living Temple, permanent home of the Most Holy Trinity, Mother of God and our Mother — ‘pray for us poor sinners now and at the hour of our death...’

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“May it be that Portugal, so devoted to the Eucharist and to Mary, becomes the first nation to recognize that the prayer of the Rosary is not only a Marian prayer, but also a Eucharistic prayer. And therefore, nothing should prevent one from praying before the Blessed Sacrament. As proof of this the Holy Father Pope Pius XI had granted a plenary indulgence to those who pray the Rosary before the Blessed Sacrament; and recently, His Holiness Pope Paul VI again

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granted the same indulgence.

"Therefore, it is necessary to pray the Rosary in cities, in towns and in villages, in the streets, on the road, while traveling or at home, in churches and in chapels! It is a prayer that is accessible to all, and everyone can and should pray. There are many who do not attend the liturgical prayer of the Holy Mass on a daily basis. If they do not pray the Rosary, what praying do they do? And without prayer who can be saved? — 'Watch and pray that ye enter not into temptation.'

"Concerning the repetition of the Hail Mary's, it is not as they would have you believe, that it is an outdated practice. All the things that exist and were created by God are maintained and preserved by means of repetition, continued always from the same acts. And nobody thinks to call the sun, moon, stars, birds, plants, etc. outdated because they revolve, live and sprout always in the same way! And they are much older than the prayer of the Rosary! For God nothing is old. Saint John says that the Blessed in Heaven sing a new song, repeating always: Holy Holy Holy is the Lord, God of Hosts! And it is new, because in the light of God everything appears with new brilliance.

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"What more Eucharistic prayer can we pray, once we give you the true meaning? It is not an aimless prayer, nor do we repeat the same words in vain. The Evangelist tells us that Jesus Christ, in the Garden of Olives, prayed to the Father for three hours, always repeating the same words: 'Father! If Thou wilt, remove this chalice from Me, but yet not My will, but Thine be done.'

"During the recitation of the Rosary, we are not three hours repeating the same words. And after all, God, Creator of all that exists, commanded that all creatures be preserved by means of a continual repetition of the same acts, movements and tones: the planets always turn in the same way; the earth around the same axis; the sun gives forth its light and its rays in the same way; the plants sprout, bloom, and bear fruit each according to its kind, every year in the same way, etc.; and in the same way all the other beings that exist. We ourselves live, inhale and exhale, always repeating the same organic function. And everything else in the same

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way. And nobody ever thinks to say that this is an outdated way to live! Why then does it have to be this way with the prayer that God taught us and so often recommended to us?!

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“All souls of good will can and should pray the Rosary every day. As much as possible they should pray in church, before the Blessed Sacrament solemnly exposed, as well as enclosed in the Tabernacle, with the family or individually; while on the road or traveling. The prayer of the Rosary is the form of prayer most accessible to everyone, rich and poor, educated and simple. It should be each one’s daily spiritual bread in order that, by means of the mysteries we recall in each decade, it may sustain and increase faith, hope, and charity in souls.

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“Mary is the first living Tabernacle where the Father enclosed His Word. Her Immaculate Heart is the first Monstrance that sheltered Him. Her lap and Her arms were the first altar and the first throne upon which the Son of God made man was adored. There the Angels, the Shepherds, and the wise men of the earth adored Him. Mary is the first Who took the Son of God in Her pure and Immaculate hands and brought Him to the Temple to offer Him to the Father as a victim for the salvation of the world.”