

Dear readers,

Our Lady asked the children of Fatima to pray the Rosary and to pray it every day. She invites us to recite the rosary so that Communism will not be spread throughout the world, so that sinners will convert, and she promised the triumph of the Immaculate Heart at the end of our efforts. Since March 25th our Superior General invites us to a third Rosary Crusade. He would like the Catholic faithful to unite throughout the world and to say – all combined – twelve million rosaries.

But is it the multitude of rosaries that the Superior General seeks? Is the quantity of prayers the cause of the request of the Blessed Virgin at Fatima?

Certainly, the great number of rosaries manifests our fervour and our devotion. We love our dear Mother from Heaven and we have confidence in her. Naturally, we take our rosary in order to tell her we love her, to entrust her with all our problems, to request her intercession and to sing her praises. Thus the frequent recitation is nothing less than the proof of our Marian devotion.

Mary never allows herself to be overcome in her goodness. If we on our part are faithful and generous in our prayers, she, on her part, will also show herself generous. If we meditate on the Rosary every day, she will give us – as she has done since the time of St. Dominic – the grace to make ourselves resemble Our Lord Jesus Christ. The prayer of the Rosary has a force all its own. Through Mary, the words of the “Our Fathers” and the “Hail Marys” are like doors which permit us to enter into the life of Jesus. Whoever meditates attentively on one or several of the fifteen mysteries will place himself in the hands of the Blessed Virgin. She will take his hand and reveal to him her Divine Son. It is through her that the faithful will always understand better who Jesus Christ is, what are His intentions and His reasons, how He loves us and how much He has suffered for us. It is also through the intercession of the Virgin Mary that we then receive the grace of a strong will. The prayer of the rosary helps us to change our life. From the Annunciation to the Crowning in Heaven, each step of the life of Our Lord finds her there. And each mystery reveals to us another characteristic, another virtue. The rosary is the perfect and complete school of the Christian life. Having once entered into this school, the faithful person who recites his rosary regularly will progressively change his thoughts, his words and his actions.

He who loves his rosary will begin to say it constantly. In visiting a friend he will think of Mary on her way to Elizabeth, as she hastens to render service to her cousin. He will regard the intense prayer of Mary who, in spite of the pains of the voyage, always keeps her heart united to her Divine Son.

When falsely accused, he will admire the patience and the renouncement of Jesus, who takes His cross to place it upon His shoulders. Jesus embraces His cross with love, seeing therein the instrument of salvation, seeking nothing else but the accomplishment of the will of the Father. And so, with the rosary in our hands, we will ask through our sufferings to obtain the same patience, the same love. Maybe we will have to grit our teeth, but without a doubt we will come to find the graces which Mary has prepared for us. Maybe we seek the reason why we are overwhelmed by an injustice: the example of Jesus carrying out the will of the Father will give to our tormented soul the strength to accept the divine will without complaining and without rebelling. If we are envious of the new car of our neighbour: what must we do? Let us take up our rosary. Let us meditate the mystery of the Ascension. We see the apostles, their gaze fixed on heaven, where their Master has gone. We will very quickly come to understand the triviality of the things of this world and the importance, the beauty, the perpetuity of that which God has promised.

There it is – the reason for which the Blessed Virgin has given us the Rosary, which she wishes us to say every day. That is what our Superior General wants of us: That we become true Christians – Christians who resemble Our Lord Jesus Christ.

Father Jürgen Wegner

