

Dear readers,

Our Rosary Crusade is over! The goal envisaged was twelve million rosaries to be said between May 1st, 2009 and March 25, 2010. The faithful from many different countries of the world have gotten down on their knees to honor our Holy Mother of heaven. And behold, the devotion of thousands of faithful has produced a marvelous fruit. More than nineteen million rosaries said! What a beautiful gift our Superior General will present to the Pope to show him the support of the souls who pray: of priests, of religious, of families, of men, of women, and of children, who do not wish anything better than the victory of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

EDITORIAL



The application that you had to penetrate the greatness of the privileges of Mary, the love with which you have consecrated yourselves to her, are so many links which unite you to our Immaculate Mother in a special way. Therefore maintain towards her a most zealous admiration! Do not ever be afraid to exalt her too much, she who will be resplendent for all eternity as the masterpiece of God, the most marvelous of creatures, the most radiant mirror of the divine perfections. It was in order to become the Mother of God that she had received from her Son all the gifts of nature and of grace. That is why the cult of the Virgin, at least if we understand it well, far from taking anything from the glory of God, re-ascends immediately to Him, the Author of all grace, who has willed her to be so great and so pure.

Have great confidence in the intercession of the Most Holy Virgin and entreat her earnestly to help you to keep your promises. Moreover, whatever may be the way of life that God reserves for you, act from now on with the aid of the Most Holy Virgin Mary, according to the nobleness contracted at Baptism; for the divine filiation gives to man not only the name, but also the quality of child of God. Mary, our Mother, will make us understand and love our obligations. Jesus Himself, from the height of His cross, has willed to ratify through a symbolic and efficacious gift the spiritual maternity of Mary towards men, when He pronounced these memorable words: "Woman, behold thy son." In the person of the beloved disciple, He thus confided all of Christendom to the Most Holy Virgin. The Fiat of the Incarnation, her collaboration in the work of her Son, the intensity of the sufferings endured during the Passion, and this death of the soul that she suffered on Calvary, had opened the heart of Mary to the universal love of humanity, and the decision of her divine Son has imprinted the seal of the all-powerful to her maternity of grace. Henceforth the immense power of intercession that was conferred to her from Jesus in her title of Mother, she consecrates entirely to save those whom He has designated from the height of the heavens, in saying to her again: "Woman, behold thy son."

Entreat, dear faithful, the Immaculate Virgin, to obtain for you a filial spirit in relation to God. May your Marian devotion be for you a rampart against temptations, an incentive for confidence in prayer, a stimulant in the struggle of every day to the service of God. Whoever consecrates himself to Mary belongs to her in a special way. He has become like a sanctuary of the Most Holy Virgin; the image of Mary helps you to banish with energy every bad thought; the love of Mary gives you the courage to undertake great things, to vanquish all human respect, to shake away egoism, to serve and obey patiently. The gaze being fixed interiorly on her, one obtains affection for purity, for humility, for charity, of which the soul of the Virgin was radiant; he conceives a strong aversion for sin, he battles against it in himself and he fights it with all his strength. When he sees the Immaculate Mary crush with her feet the infernal serpent, when he contemplates the Mother of God who raises in her arms her divine Son, his will can no longer have any complaisance with evil; on the contrary, he is proud to belong to Jesus and to Mary, he knows also that Mary hastens to do all that which Jesus commands or desires.

Place yourself therefore with confidence under the mantle which she opens by her two maternal arms, to welcome all of her children. May she teach you to pray as she did in her Magnificat, her gaze turned towards the All-Powerful with joy and acknowledgement, may she teach you docility, as she had in Cana, when she suggested to the servants to do everything that her divine Son would tell them; finally, may she obtain for you an immense fraternal and apostolic charity, as she had through her prayer amidst the first Christians united in the Upper Room.

Father Jürgen Wegner