



OCTOBER

MONTH OF THE

Holy Rosary

Dear Friends,

When was the last time you prayed the Rosary? Perhaps it has been a part of your life for years or you learned it as a child but have not prayed it in a long time. October is the Month of the Holy Rosary, giving us a wonderful opportunity to rediscover this simple, powerful and beautiful prayer.

The Rosary is sometimes misunderstood as simply repeating the same prayers over and over. However, when we pray the Rosary, we are not merely saying words. We are entering into the Gospel and walking with Jesus through the most important moments of His life. With Mary, we contemplate the mysteries of Christ—His birth, His ministry, His Passion and death, His Resurrection, and His glory.

The beauty of the Rosary is found in its simplicity. We do not need special books or tons of time. We simply need a rosary, a quiet moment, and an open heart. Whether we pray alone, with our family, in church, while traveling, or during a difficult moment, the Rosary gives us a way to place ourselves in God's presence.

There is also great power in the Rosary. Father Gabriel Amorth, Chief Exorcist of the Vatican writes that his colleague heard the devil say during an exorcism:

“Every Hail Mary is like a blow on my head. If Christians knew how powerful the Rosary was, it would be my end.” Its power does not come from the beads themselves or from simply repeating prayers. Its power comes from Jesus Christ – the Rosary always leads us to Him. As we contemplate the mysteries, we allow the Gospel to shape our thoughts, our hearts, and our lives. The Rosary can bring peace to an anxious heart, strength to someone facing difficulties, comfort to those who are grieving, and hope to those who feel discouraged.

Mary teaches us how to pray. She never keeps our attention focused on herself; she always leads us to her Son. At Cana, Mary said, ***“Do whatever he tells you.”*** That is also the purpose of the Rosary: to help us listen more carefully to Jesus and to follow Him more faithfully.

Perhaps this October we can make a renewed commitment to pray the Rosary. If praying the entire Rosary seems difficult, begin with one decade. If you already pray regularly, invite someone else to pray with you. Parents and grandparents can teach children the prayers.

The Rosary is an invitation to slow down in a world that is often noisy and busy. As the beads pass through our fingers and the prayers rise from our hearts, we make room for God.

This October, let us take up the Rosary. May Mary, Our Lady of the Rosary, lead us ever closer to Jesus and teach us to say with our whole lives, ***“Let it be done to me according to your word.”***

Mary, Queen of the Holy Rosary, pray for us,
Fr. Krzysztof Kardzis