

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK

Dear Parishioners,

During the month of October we are called to remember the Blessed Virgin Mary under her title of Our Lady of the Rosary, from the feast day of the same name which is observed on October 7th. Hopefully, you have all noticed the beautiful stained glass window in our church dedicated to Our Lady of the Rosary. It is on the north side of the church and depicts St. Dominic receiving the Rosary from Our Lady.

The Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary dates back to October 7, 1571 when, under the threat of invasion by the Turks, Pope Pius V called on the Catholics of Italy to seek deliverance through the intercession of Mary by praying the Rosary. Subsequently in the naval battle of Lepanto which occurred on this day, the badly outnumbered Italian fleet was able to turn back the Muslim invaders and Italy remained a Catholic country. To commemorate Mary's intercession, St. Pius V declared October 7 the feast of Our Lady of Victory. Later the name of the feast was changed to Our Lady of the Rosary.

In our day Christians are understandably more reluctant to invoke divine assistance in mankind's wars against itself. However, in the struggle with evil, with sin and injustice, and with Satan, the Lord expects us to invoke His aid. One of the most powerful ways we can do this is through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Our Lady of the Rosary. By praying the Mysteries of the Rosary we recall the wonderful events in the lives of Jesus and Mary which brought about our salvation and the Lord's victory over evil. Those who pray the Rosary regularly will never be lacking in the Lord's assistance nor, through the intercession of Our Lady, will they ever wander far from Him.

This Sunday, as we observe Respect Life Sunday is an especially good time to ask our Blessed Mother's intercession for our nation so that we will once again respect the right to life of all persons including children in the womb, the ill and the elderly.

Now, as a practical matter, **there are many Catholics today who do not know how to say the Rosary either because they were never taught or because they forgot.** Indeed, when I was in my early twenties I had to ask my mother to teach me how to pray the Rosary again because through years of negligence I had forgotten. I also know that there are many Catholics who would like to know how to pray the Rosary but are hesitant to ask for instruction because they are embarrassed to admit that they don't know how to do it. So for those who would like to know how to practice this wonderful devotion we are printing the instructions.

Please, during this month of October, as individuals and as families, renew your devotion to Our Lady of the Rosary.

With my prayers,

Fr. Conley