

COURIER-JOURNAL
EDITORIAL PAGE

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The Daily Rosary

An October Editorial by Bishop Fulton J. Sheen

Bishop Sheen's two previous articles on the Blessed Mother entitled "MARY IN OUR TIMES" have stated that this century needs Our Lady because "our age is characterized by the absence of God and a lost innocence."

Because Mary plays the double role in our life of finding God on the one hand, and recovering our Lost Innocence on the other, may I plead that you say daily the Rosary, at least five decades.

The Rosary is a very personal prayer and true love is always personal. A college boy will talk about girls he dated and even how "they make love." Some girls he may describe as "kiss and tell." Through the immature talk about such love, rarely does one find a happy husband and wife telling others about their love. The deeper love becomes, the less it is bruited about; in fact, love can become so internalized that it exposes itself only by a sigh.

That is why the love of Father for Son and Son for Father is called the "Holy Breath," the Holy Spirit — something that lies too deep for words.

Devotion to Our Lady is like that: it is so intimate that it is hidden. Books are ABOUT her; affection is TO her.

Though the Rosary in group fulfills the words of Our Lord: "When two or more are gathered in My name, I am in their midst," the vocal prayers of the Rosary, the Our Father and Hail Mary are an almost silent musical accompaniment to the personal acts of love in the meditation. The interiority of prayer is intense in the Rosary, because we can mingle "distraction" and "attention." As in conversation with others our minds are often on something else, especially our worries, so in the Rosary, we "distract" ourselves from the words, to "attend," to the sorrowful mysteries not only in the lives of Jesus and Mary but also in our own hearts.

It was when meditating on the Rosary that Teilhard de Chardin caught the great desire of the whole cosmos to receive its Lord: "One can only be terrified at the crying need for purity the Universe suffers from, and almost beside oneself with longing to do something to supply it."

One evening after personalizing the mystery of the Purification, he wrote: "May the Lord create in each of us a heaven of purity, in that universal and age-old operation by which mankind is so mysteriously, through the action of the Child-God, divided into the chosen and the rejected."

Missionaries who spent months in torture at Communist hands, said that their Protestant brethren in prison envied their Rosary which enabled them to create a rhythm for meditation when minds were too exhausted for Bible reading. Certainly, there is a monotony about it, but only because we are doing no thinking about joys and sorrows and glories in our life.

A chance visitor to a convert class told me afterward: "I will never become a Catholic. I do not have respect for anyone who goes on repeating the same thing over and over again." I asked her who was the young man with her, and she answered, "my fiancé." "Does he love you?" "Yes." "How do you know?" "When did he tell you?" "An hour ago." "What did he say?" "I love you." "Was that the first time?" "No! It was about the ten thousandth time."

Then came the fatal question: "But how can you trust him, if he keeps on telling you the same thing over and over again?"

The answer is: There are new circumstances of time and place in our life. Each new moment and each new situation summons forth our love. Thus we go on saying to Mary, and Our Lord and the Heavenly Father and the Holy Spirit in buses, sidewalks, and whenever the chance comes: "I love you!" "I love you." "I love you!"

The Rosary keeps our lips busy, our hands busy, and our minds busy. The physical and mental work together in perfect coordination, if we give them a chance. It is the one prayer which is like a pool wherein intellectual elephants may bathe and simple herds may sip. The educated can explain love better than the simple, but they have no richer experience of it.

I know of a Jew who, in World War I, was in a shell hole on the Western Front with four Austrian soldiers. Shells had been bursting on all sides. Suddenly, one shell killed his four companions. He took a Rosary from the hands of one of them and began to say it. He knew it by heart, for he had heard others say it so often. At the end of the first decade, he felt an inner warning to leave that shell hole. He crawled through much mud and muck, and threw himself into another. At that moment a shell hit the first hole where he had been lying. Four more times, exactly the same experience; four more warnings, and four times his life was saved!

He promised then to give his life to Our Lord and to His Blessed Mother if he should be saved. After the war more sufferings came to him; his family was burned by Hitler, but his promise lingered on.

Recently, I baptized him — and the grateful soldier is now preparing to study for the priesthood.

All the idle moments of one's life can be sanctified, thanks to the Rosary. As we walk the streets, we pray with the Rosary hidden in our hand or in our pocket, driving an automobile, the little knobs under most steering wheels can serve as counters for the decades. While waiting to be served at a luncheon, or waiting for a train, or in a store; or while playing dummy at bridge; or when conversation or a lecture lags — all these moments can be sanctified and made to serve inner peace, thanks to a prayer that enable one to pray at all times and under all circumstances.

Grace Is Costly

Cheap grace is the preaching of forgiveness without requiring repentance, baptism without church discipline, Communion without confession, absolution without personal confession. Cheap grace is grace without discipleship, grace without the cross, grace without Jesus Christ, living and incarnate.

Costly grace is the treasure hidden in the field; for the sake of it a man will gladly go and sell all that he has. It is the pearl of great price to buy for which the merchant will sell all his goods. It is the kingly rule of Christ, for whose sake a man will pluck out the eye which causes him to stumble, it is the call of Jesus Christ at which the disciple leaves his nets and follows him.

Such grace is costly because it calls us to follow, and it is grace because it calls us to follow Jesus Christ. It is costly because it costs a man his life, and it is grace because it gives a man the only true life. Above all, it is costly because it cost God the life of his Son: "ye were bought at a price," and what has cost God much cannot be cheap for us. Above all, it is grace because God did not reckon his Son too dear a price to pay for our life, but delivered him up for us.

From "The Cost of Discipleship" by Dietrich Bonhoeffer (Macmillan Co.)

U.N. Resolution Urges Nations to Be Careful On Capital Punishment

United Nations, N.Y. — (RNS) — The Social, Humanitarian and Cultural Committee of the U.N. General Assembly has adopted a resolution which invites governments to provide the most careful legal procedures and greatest possible safeguards for the accused in capital punishment cases. It avoids recommending to governments that they abolish capital punishment outright.

The draft is certain to win final approval. The United States supported the measure which was adopted by a show of hands.

According to the resolution, governments would insure the most careful legal procedure by providing: • That a person condemned to death shall not be deprived of the right to appeal to a higher judicial authority, or to petition for pardon or reprieve.

• That a death sentence shall not be carried out until such appeals procedures have been terminated.

• That special attention be given in the case of indigent persons by providing them with adequate legal assistance.

During a three-day debate the 125-nation committee agreed that the trend has been towards eventual abolishment of capital punishment where it still exists. But there were also voices in favor of retaining this punishment in special cases.

Mrs. Halima Warazi of Morocco appreciated the theme of "love for fellow man." But she wondered whether the life of the man who murdered seven nurses in Chicago a few years ago, should be spared "at the cost of the lives of others."

Sister Chislaine Roquet of Canada, a Roman Catholic nun, said her country executed only persons convicted of killing a policeman or prison officer. She saw the U.N. draft as "a first step towards a more humane type of justice."

The Holy Father

Hasty Change Criticized

Vatican City — (RNS) — Pope Paul VI, in a speech sharply criticizing speed and lack of discipline in liturgical change, urged the bishops in charge of changing the liturgy to "proceed gradually" and not to go too far.

He addressed the members of the 11th Plenary Assembly of the post-conciliar Council for Implementing the Constitution on the Sacred Liturgy.

The Pope complained of "arbitrary experiments and rites in open contradiction to the rules of the Church." He said he considered these experiments ill-intentioned and that they caused him "not a little anxiety and pain."

"The renewal of the liturgy must not ignore the sacred traditions of the past or accept any novelties," he declared, citing the Second Vatican Council's principle that "changes must conform to healthy tradition."

"For a proper reform," the Pope said, "the ecclesiastical and hierarchical nature of the sacred liturgy must be clear to all. This means that

rites and liturgical formulas of prayer are not to be considered as private affairs, nor as matters merely for a parish or a diocese or a particular nation; rather they pertain to the universal Church. Therefore, it is not permissible for anyone to alter such formulas, introducing new ones and substituting others."

He urged the bishops to exercise "prudence, vigilance and above all discipline."

What even causes greater anxiety, said the Pope, is the opinion of those who maintain that "liturgical worship must be divested of its sacred character and hence they think erroneously that sacred objects and furnishings should not be used but are to be substituted with those which are in common or vulgar use."

"Some are so bold as to reach the point of not even respecting the sacred place itself of the (liturgical) celebrations. It must be said that ideas of this nature overthrow not only the genuine nature of the sacred liturgy but also the true notion of the Catholic religion."

Authority, Duty Linked

Vatican City — (NC) — The greater a man's authority, the greater is his duty to serve society, Pope Paul told a general audience.

But men often neglect this duty because of their own "human passions," the Pope said.

"The duty of service is inherent in authority. This is a concept which springs from an exploration of the nature and functions of human society. It is derived from the idea of the common good and public utility," he added.

Pope Paul said that the concept is also derived from the natural law, "but history shows how this concept has been altered and contradicted by human passions." He said that even civil authority has made the concept of authority as service into law "but has not always put it into practice."

The concept of man's duty to serve society was recalled at the Second Vatican Council, he said, not as a novelty but as a tradition.

Such concepts as arbitrary power, personal utility, splendid prestige, and hereditary superiority in past history were accredited as legitimate, but then they were "transmitted as if they were inherent in the nature

and exercise of authority," he said.

But the authority of the Church, Pope Paul pointed out, is always necessary because it is willed by Christ and derived from Him. He said that Church authority "preserves its indispensable, constitutional and mystical value as a vehicle of divine mysteries and as the interpreter of truth and of Christ's will in the Church."

This Church authority, Pope Paul continued, "nevertheless clothes itself more manifestly with the attributes which are its own, the pastoral, the evangelical" all for the good of others and for the entire Church.

"This purified vision of the hierarchical and community structure lends itself to long meditation in which its present vitality displays in vast historical considerations, in new pledges of ecclesial sincerity and in wise elaborations of new canonical norms," the Pope said.

"It leads us to reflect how we all have in the Church . . . service of our own to accomplish," he said.

Neither the exaltation of the individual personality nor the claim of civil religious liberty dispenses anyone from this service, he said.

Pope Paul More Than Just Adviser, Cardinal Declares

Washington, D.C. — (RNS) — Patrick Cardinal O'Boyle, Archbishop of Washington, said here: "I do not accept an opinion concerning conscience that reduces the Church of Christ to the role of just one more adviser among many."

The prelate made his remarks in a 2,500-word statement sent to all pastors and printed in the archdiocesan newsweekly. It was the latest in a series of moves by the cardinal who has disciplined 39 priests for dissenting from his rigid interpretation of Pope Paul's encyclical on birth control.

"I also reject," Cardinal O'Boyle continued, "that supposed 'freedom of conscience' which means that one can remain a faithful Catholic while choosing which of the Church's moral teachings he will accept."

He charged that those who tell Catholics they are free to follow their consciences on birth control, following the Pope's encyclical, are reducing the pontiff to the level of someone "to be listened to only because of his human qualifications" and not because of the "authority assigned by Christ to Peter and his successors."

The cardinal cited his "responsibility as a Catholic bishop to explain and defend the teaching" of the Church as received from the Vicar of Christ. "I must tell you," he said, "what I know to be true Catholic teaching, not merely what you might like to hear."

Word for Sunday Nourish Your Faith

By Father Albert Shannon

So often we think the havenots have all the trouble and the haves have none. A mischievous error! In Sunday's Gospel, it is a rich man, perhaps Chuza, a royal official of Herod's household, who is afflicted.

"Sweet are the uses of adversity," for trouble brought the man to Christ. All human experience is meant to lead to Christ. Our needs, our joys, our sorrows are but His words.

The rich man read his son's illness aright: he let it bring him to Christ.

But the man's faith was feeble. "Sir," he pleaded, "Come down before my little boy dies." "Come down!" It never entered his mind that Christ could do anything unless He stood like a doctor by the boy's bed. Before my little boy dies. If his son died, Christ could raise him from the dead. Our Lord roared, "Unless you people can see signs and wonders, you will not believe."

So to strengthen the man's faith, Christ refused his request, but granted his prayer. A centurion strong in faith once asked Christ to speak. He offered to come to his house; here one weak in faith asked Christ to come to his house, instead He speaks but a word. "Return home; your son is going to live." The man took God at his word and went.

Faith grows by exercising faith.

CHURCH HUMOR



"Now I've forgotten what I was going to write."

Letters to the Editor

Editor:

It is my considered judgment and firm conviction that much of the confusion in the Church today must be attributed to the Catholic press.

For Catholics and non-Catholics, therefore, who would understand issues, trends, and controversies from a truly Catholic viewpoint, I would truly recommend, THE WANDERER.

THE WANDERER is a newspaper, not a journal of editorial opinion, but through a judicious and responsible selection of the news it helps its readers to really understand the news of the day from a Catholic viewpoint. Somehow, perhaps through its independent gathering of the news and through the publication of articles by Catholic columnists whose faith and philosophy are sound, Catholics and non-Catholics alike, will find THE WANDERER very satisfying.

For example, the present issue (Oct. 3) contains a long article on Mahatma Gandhi, showing how, years ago, he abhorred and condemned artificial birth control. Although a non-Christian, Gandhi held the same ideal position which the Catholic Church holds today. Among the many quotes given from the writings of Gandhi, I shall give these:

"I do contend that artificial methods are harmful. They are harmful not perhaps in themselves but because they increase the appetite which grows with every feed. The mind that is so tuned as to regard indulgence not only lawful but even desirable, will simply feed itself on indulgence, and will at last become so weak as to lose all strength of will. I do maintain that every act of indulgence means loss of precious vitality so needed to keep a man or woman strong in body, mind, and soul." (Young India, April 2, 1925)

"This little globe of ours is not a toy of yesterday. It has not suffered from the weight of overpopulation through its age of countless millions. How can it be that the truth has suddenly dawned on some people that it is in danger of perishing unless birth rate is checked through the use of contraceptives?" (Harijan, Sept. 14, 1935)

Rev. G. Stuart Hogan, 789 East Ave., Rochester

Editor:

Father Henry Atwell, who is known for his magnificently peaceful bombshells, announced Sunday that his parish will try for one week "to get by on the left-overs." Father took special notice of the upcoming Mis-

sion Sunday and recalled the seriousness of Christ's last injunction to his disciples: "Go out and teach all nations." He told his parishioners to put their regular Sunday offering in the mission envelope. St. Agnes would then operate on whatever money was given extra.

However, this occurrence alone is not what prompts this letter. I happened on St. Agnes by accident, to find myself in the midst of a music rehearsal prior to the celebration of Eucharist. The melodies were refreshing, upbeat, thoroughly in accord with contemporary musical principles; their sacredness reflected in the joy and enthusiasm with which they were sung.

Almost the entire congregation celebrated the Paschal Mystery with the priest and impressed one with an extraordinary sensitivity to the presence of the Risen Christ.

This, I reflected, is a Church to be loved, pursuing Christ's mandate for perfection in a way I have seldom seen elsewhere. Then, via Father Atwell, via brothers and sisters in Avon!

—John Dash, Sky, N.Y.

Editor:

May we appeal to the zeal of the people of the Rochester Diocese and ask that you please send us your cancelled stamps. All kinds are acceptable — Domestic and Foreign. Foreign and Pre-Cancelled are especially valuable and scarce, but all are gratefully received. When cutting stamps from envelopes, may we ask that you please leave about 1/4 inch margin of paper around them in order to prevent them from being damaged. They should be left on only one thickness of paper (not whole corner of envelope), if possible.

All the stamps we receive are sorted and sold, and the proceeds are used to help support our foreign missions in Bolivia, Brazil and Jamaica, West Indies.

Don't miss this opportunity of being a missionary! Rather than throw your stamps into the wastebasket, put them into an envelope or box and send it along to us when you have enough, or when it is convenient to do so.

In return for your help, we promise you a remembrance in the daily prayers of our Community.

Please send all stamps to:

Sister Marie Rose, O.S.F., St. Elizabeth's Motherhouse, St. Michael's Stamp Bureau, Allegany, New York 14706



time did my little one get well?" he asked. Reassured, the father sped home and saw for himself. His faith flared forth and set his whole house on fire, for not only did he believe, but his whole family as well.

That is all God asks of all of us: act on what little faith we have! Nourish it daily by prayer — yes, by the rosary, for has a better substitute yet been found? Nourish it by fervent presence at Mass, by devout reading of the Scriptures. Faith grows by exercising faith. Let fathers of families lead the way; let no father rest until his whole household believes with a faith that saves.

Fund

The Biafra relief people promoting a new idea — bring a Rochester "first."

Send a Doctor to Biafra.

This Sunday, outside ma

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