

University of Notre Dame  
Religious Bulletin  
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On Reciting The Rosary

"The Rosary is a prayer ... 'a lifting of the mind to God,' as St. John Damascene phrases it. If you speak to God only with your lips and tongue, you might as well be a parrot! Your prayer is without fruit or merit.

"While you say your beads, you should meditate devoutly on the joyful, sorrowful, or glorious mysteries, allotting a mystery to each decade. Otherwise you will not gain the indulgences granted by the Sovereign Pontiffs.

"Hence it is a mistake to imagine you are reaping merit in saying your Rosary, if you allow yourself to listen to the conversation of passers-by, or look about at the least noise, or break off in the midst of a decade to ask someone a question. To so distract ourselves were to merit the reproach, 'This people honoreth me with their lips, but their heart is far from me.'

"So if we hope to save our souls through the devotion of the Rosary, it should produce in us true amendment, a real reform of our lives, according to what Our Lady, the Mother of God, expects of us. But we shall never obtain this fruit, if in reciting the beads there is not joined to our voice a pious meditation on these mysteries which set before our eyes the loving inventions, the labors, the humiliations, and the sufferings of Jesus.

"There are some who deceive themselves still more: imagining that so long as they carry a Rosary in their purse or pocket, they are automatically protected against all the inroads of the devil, and thus assure themselves a good death. They cite the antiquated example of sinners who because they carried a Rosary, despite a life of crimes, were granted the grace of repentance through Mary. Such examples, if true, are miraculous. I do not think that any real Catholic loves his soul so little as to hope to save it only by a miracle!

"The fact of the matter is that one often sees sinners die without the Sacraments, and without any sign of contrition, though they carried the Rosary in their pocket and recited it as you do!

"If I must say what I think, let me put it this way: As for those Christians who live without fear of God, and rest their hope of salvation on the Rosary, which they say without devotion, I very much fear that at death the devil may frighten them with this very Rosary -- pointing out their lack of devotion in reciting it, and the life they have led -- so at variance with the mysteries they should have honored and put into practice.

"If you wish to be saved through Our Lady's protection, it is but fitting that you make a better use of the devotions instituted in her honor... We should try to say the Rosary with a pure heart and a pure tongue in the company of the family and of others. If we thus recite it with true devotion, it will be of great profit for the salvation of our souls."

-- St. Alphonsus

Prayers Requested

Deceased: mother of Frank Ferguson of Fisher; father of Philip Cavanaugh (Off-Campus).  
Ill: mother of Ruth Haggerty (Library Staff); wife of Jerry Wiggins, '31; Robert Greene (Off-Campus); Joe Leptak (Off-Campus); friend of Dick Thomas of Cavanaugh (polio)  
Rev. Bernard Ransing, CSC (auto accident). One Thanksgiving. One Special Intention.