

“Hail, Mary”

(Meditation read at Spiri-Maria on Sunday, October 15, 2017)

Hail, Mary...

- Yes, we greet her! She knows us and we know her, She, the All-Beautiful, the All-Pure. And we call her “Mary”, her name of Queen, the French letters of which [Marie] are the same as those in the verb “to love” [aimer], for LOVE is what she is.

Full of Grace...

- And how “full” of grace she is! She is its source which is constantly overflowing. She is the infinitely fecund maternal womb from which life springs forth in all its forms, reflecting her eternal Beauty, here on earth and all the way to the highest heavens.

The Lord is with you...

- And she is with the Lord, forming with Him the Creator Couple, the fundamental Unity, the origin and finality of all the created universe. They from whence we come; They towards whom we go in the measure in which we resemble Them, by integrating their divine Spirit.

Blessed are you among women...

- Yes, in spite of her ineffable greatness and her inexpressible dignity, and even before we went to her, she came to us, “*Woman among all women*”, in order to conceive the Son, the Author of Salvation, the Shepherd of the Flock, the Prince of Peace.

And blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus...

- Behold Jesus, the fruit of divine Love, “knit” in the immaculate womb of the Virgin Mother, in secrecy and silence, under the most beautiful and the purest Heart that ever beat here below. Blessed is Jesus to have had this privilege, He among all men!

Holy Mary, Mother of God...

- Yes, Mother of God! If, at the end of His life, Jesus became God “in all of His being”, He was first of all a babbling baby in His Mother’s arms. Miracle of miracles! May we finally understand that the Divinity, just as much as humanity, depends, for its “broadening”, on the miracle of maternity!

Pray for us sinners...

- We know that it is not necessary to ask a mother – and even less THE Mother – that she look after her children. But it is in asking that a child expresses his gratitude. After all, as Saint Bernard said, “*de Maria numquam satis*” – of Mary never enough!

Now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

- The small “now” of each one of our respective days which we hope to crown, when the time comes, with a simple but holy death in her gentle Presence, a death which will soon be “obliterated” for the risen souls, for rather than dying as they do now, they will ascend, like Her, with their entire being to the divine Paradise!

This Resurrection will be possible thanks to you, Marie-Paule! You, in whom was mysteriously accomplished the return of Mary, here, on the land of Quebec, a land which you soaked with your tears, O Mother of Sorrows! But each one of those teardrops which fell from your eyes of light will have served to purify humanity, and together, like crystal stones, they will all be used in the solid foundation of the Kingdom of a thousand years.



Of course, you did not only weep, Mother, for even more than your sadness which you could hide so well – but which God wished to reveal –, there were your smiles which marked us and will remain forever engraved in our hearts.

We greet you, Marie-Paule, you who lived among us in all simplicity and who have now integrated the Divinity. Know, Mother, that from the day your Love awakened us, the world lost all its attractiveness and our lives have turned to you like flowers turn to the sun.

We do not want to miss one single ray of your Light and your Love; we want to always live under your gaze, nourish ourselves on your Word and your Presence in the Eucharist, but we are so weak, Mother, so little, and that is why we dare to ask you: “Send us your Spirit.”

Father Leander Van Renterghem, O.F.F.M.

Quotations from Marie-Paule on the Rosary

“Through the rosary, it is an opening onto Heaven.” (*White Book IV*, p. 24)

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“If we only knew the effectiveness of the rosary! In the past, the rosary said as a family, in the evening after supper, favored the reception of so many graces. What wonderful families were given to God!

“Praying the rosary is discovering ever more and more the Father’s Love and savoring the Light surrounding us. We are preparing the era of the Kingdom or the Millennium of Love. What is each one’s part in this: prayers, kindness, love?...” (*White Book V*, p. 143)

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Marie-Paule’s prayer: “When I die, Lord, let me stay before the gates of hell where I will constantly recite the rosary so that not a single soul will fall into hell. All of them have to ascend On-High so as to love and adore you. Being down below, my greatest happiness will be to see all the souls adoring, loving, singing to my wonderful King of Love and our beloved Jesus.” (*Id.*, p. 164)

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“Mary took the trouble of coming down from Heaven at La Salette and Fatima to ask the children to recite the rosary. What a beautiful light in this PRAYER from Heaven!” (*Id.*)

Reciting the Rosary to Drive Out the Evil One

Is it not remarkable how Mary herself insistently recommends the recitation of the rosary? During almost all her visits on earth, she gave that order.

At La Salette, she came and wept over the sins of men and warned them against the attacks of hell. She appeared carrying a heavy iron chain on her shoulders as well as a garland of roses. We can readily guess the symbolic significance of those objects: the iron chain in order to put Satan in chains with the garland of roses which is the Rosary.

At Lourdes, as the terrifying sight of sin was shown her, Bernadette wept with the beautiful Lady who requested: “Say the rosary for the conversion of sinners.” And the beautiful Lady said the rosary with Bernadette.

With every apparition at Fatima, She said to the little seers: “Say the rosary every day.” Besides that, she taught them a prayer to be inserted between each decade of the rosary: “O my Jesus, forgive us our sins; save us from the fires of hell...”

At Three Fountains in Italy, the Virgin appeared to Bruno Cornacchiola and

expressed herself quite authoritatively: “You are persecuting me; stop it now! Return to the holy Sheepfold. Let everyone pray and recite the Rosary every day for the conversion of sinners, of non-believers and for Christian unity.”

At Akita in Japan, the Blessed Virgin showed herself to a Sister through a statue of the Lady of All Peoples. She wept and delivered some very serious messages. She said in particular: “If men do not convert, the Father will bring a great punishment to bear upon all of humanity,” and also: “Recite many Rosaries. I alone can still save you from the misfortunes that are coming.”

How are we to understand the insistence with which Mary asks us to pray the rosary? It is because she knows that, among other things, it is “a powerful exorcism”. We should understand the following: on the day of the Annunciation, Mary’s Fiat marked the final defeat of Satan who had not been able to prevent the realization of the Redemption. That is why each time we repeat the salutation of the angel Gabriel to Mary (“Hail, Mary”), this reminds Satan of his failure.



The mere calling up of Mary’s name puts him to flight. With the Rosary, we always have the upper hand over him.

Finally, more recently, in the troubled times we are familiar with, the Virgin Mary revealed to Lucia of Fatima that she was conceding even more effectiveness to the Rosary. Therefore, it is urgent that persons, families, nations take hold of it in order, finally, to obtain peace on our poor earth and hasten the triumph of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Father Hervé Lemay, O.F.F.M.

Quotations from Other Authors (Popes and Saints)

“The Hail Mary is a heavenly dew for watering the earth, which is the soul, to make it bring forth its fruit in season.

“The Hail Mary well said – that is, with attention, devotion, and modesty – is, according to the saints,

- the enemy of the devil which puts him to flight and the hammer that crushes him,
- the sanctification of the soul,
- the joy of the angels,
- the melody of the predestinate,
- the canticle of the New Testament,
- the pleasure of Mary,
- and the glory of the most Holy Trinity.

“The Hail Mary is a heavenly dew which fertilizes the soul. It is the chaste and loving kiss which we give to Mary. It is a vermilion rose which we present to her; a precious pearl we offer her... (Saint Louis Marie Grignon de Montfort, *True Devotion to Mary*, § 249, 253)



“The Rosary is my favourite prayer. A marvellous prayer. Marvellous in its simplicity and in its depth.” (John Paul II, Angelus of October 29, 1978)

“This is my testament and my legacy: ‘Love the Madonna and make her loved. Always recite the Rosary!’” (Saint Pio de Pietrelcina)



“The Rosary is ‘the treasure of graces’” (Paul VI)



“The Rosary is the most powerful weapon to touch the Heart of Jesus, our Redeemer, who loves His Mother so very much. (Saint Louis Marie Grignon de Montfort)



“Of all the prayers, it is the most beautiful, the richest in graces, the one that is most pleasing to the Most Holy Virgin.” (Saint Pius X, Testament)



“The Rosary is, and always has been, a prayer of and for the family. At one time this prayer was particularly dear to Christian families, and it certainly brought them closer together. It is important not to lose this precious inheritance. We need to return to the practice of family prayer and prayer for families, continuing to use the Rosary.... The family that prays together stays together.” (John Paul II, *Apostolic Letter on the Rosary of the Virgin Mary*, § 41)