

OCTOBER: THE MONTH OF THE HOLY ROSARY.

The October Devotion was introduced by Pope St. Pius V (1504- 1572) in the year 1571 to commemorate the miraculous victory of the Christian forces in the Battle of Lepanto on October 7, 1571. Pope Pius V, did much to further the spread of the Rosary and it thereafter became one of the most popular devotions in Christendom.

WHY OCTOBER?

October is dedicated as the Month of the Rosary because we celebrate the memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary each year on October 7.

In the 16th century, the Islamic Ottoman Empire presented a serious military threat to western Europe and sent a fleet of ships to attack Christian defenses in southern Europe. Pope Pius V recognized the grave danger and organized a fleet called the Holy League to confront the navy of the Ottoman Turks.

On October 7, 1571, the two navies engaged in a pivotal battle that would determine who controlled maritime traffic in the Mediterranean, Adriatic and Aegean seas. The fate of western Europe depended upon the success of Christians in this navy battle, which involved more than 400 warships (it was the largest naval battle in Western history for centuries).

Pius V knew he needed more than just military strength to defend Christian Europe, so he asked that all the faithful pray the rosary, requesting the intercession of the Blessed Mother. At the end of the Battle of Lepanto, the Holy League was victorious and the maritime expansion of the Ottoman Empire was permanently prevented.

The next year, Pius V established a feast on October 7 in honor of the Blessed Mother, originally called Our Lady of Victory. After a few centuries, the name was changed to Our Lady of the Rosary to more clearly recognize that prayer was the greatest power at work that day on the seas.

SIGNIFICANCE

The rosary is an invitation to experience the grace of Mary's spiritual motherhood as she leads us to her Son, Jesus. For this reason, it has been an invaluable source of countless spiritual graces.

October as the month of the rosary began as a response to the sufferings of the church. Today, this October devotion is equally important as the church faces a new set of crises. As we struggle through this hard times in the life of the church, whatever healing we seek must be accompanied by prayer.

The rosary has proved to be a powerful weapon for fighting the evils that have engulfed the church and world in the past, and it has been the cradle for healing. It is one of the most powerful spiritual tools we possess. Therefore we must use it, especially in this Month of the Rosary, as a reparation for the sins of the church. Above all, we must use it to invoke the intercession of our Blessed Mother for the healing of the church and of the whole world in so much difficulty, and the strengthening of faith in the faithful.

Setting aside October as the Month of the Rosary helps draw our attention to the importance of the rosary in our everyday lives. It also helps us to come to a deeper understanding of the mystery of our faith. We come together as a family to pray the rosary in the month of October as a reminder of the value of a united family. If we pray together, we will win the battle over the troubles that besiege our world. We can still pray the Rosary together, united in mind and heart, even as we face the challenges of physical distance.

May our Good and Merciful Father continue to bless us as we observe this month's Holy Rosary Devotion. May the Holy Mother, Queen of the Holy Rosary intercede for us. Amen. The End.