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Why Should I Pray The Rosary?

The Blessed Mother's 15 Promises To Those Who Pray The Holy Rosary

Tradition tells us that the Blessed Virgin Mary made 15 promises to St. Dominic which she extends to anyone who prays the rosary. Here are her promises along with a brief explanation of each.

1. Whoever shall faithfully serve me by the recitation of the Rosary shall receive signal graces.

Explanation: What are “signal graces”? They are little signs that God will give you that you are headed in the right direction so you can make good decisions.

2. I promise my special protection and the greatest graces to all those who shall recite the Rosary.

Explanation: Mary is an Advocate and a channel of God's graces to us. She has a special place in her heart for those who pray the Rosary. They receive her special attention and protection.

3. The Rosary shall be a powerful armor against hell; it will destroy vice, decrease sin, and defeat heresies.

Explanation: Praying the Rosary will not take away your will. You still have the power to make your own choices, but praying the Rosary will naturally make it easier to make virtuous choices because the hold of sinful habits decreases as habits of faith increase.

4. The Rosary will cause virtue and good works to flourish; it will obtain for souls the abundant mercy of God; it will withdraw the hearts of men from the love of the world and its vanities, and will lift them to the desire for eternal things. Oh, that souls would sanctify themselves by this means.

Explanation: The last promise was about helping us to resist sin. This promise is about helping us to grow in virtue. We won't just “not be bad”; we will become more holy as we increase in virtue.

5. The soul which recommends itself to me by the recitation of the Rosary shall not perish.

Explanation: Since Our Lady is our Mother and Advocate, She always assists those who call on Her implicitly by praying the Rosary. The Church reminds us of this in the Memorare prayer, “...never was it known that anyone who fled to your protection, implored your help or sought your intercession, was left unaided...”

6. Whoever shall recite the Rosary devoutly, applying himself to the consideration of its sacred mysteries, shall never be conquered by misfortune. God will not chastise him in His justice; he shall not perish by an unprovided death. If he be just, he shall remain in the grace of God and become worthy of eternal life.

Explanation: When we meditate on the Mysteries while praying the Rosary, Mary ensures that we will never fall into despair about any misfortunes we experience, because she will send us the graces we need to handle them. We will all suffer on earth, but through a devotion to the Rosary, our suffering will be more bearable.

7. Whoever shall have a true devotion for the Rosary shall not die without the sacraments of the Church.

Explanation: This one is pretty self-explanatory. If you have a true devotion so the rosary, then Mary will ensure you receive last rites before you die. The graces of this sacrament help you endure suffering without losing hope and faith; this sacrament also absolves you of any unconfessed sins.

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8. Those who are faithful to recite the Rosary shall have during their life and at their death the light of God and the plenitude of His graces. At the moment of death, they shall participate in the merits of the saints in paradise.

Explanation: This is one of the most amazing promises. Mary is promising that if we pray the rosary faithfully, we will participate in the treasures of heaven like the saints do. This makes sense. When we make a habit of praying the rosary, our actions and our hearts become purified so that we are able to experience the light of God. Of course, that we are able to attain these merits comes only through grace and the superabundance of merits earned by Christ on the cross.

9. I shall deliver from Purgatory those who have been devoted to the Rosary.

Explanation: Should one require purgatorial cleansing after death, Our Lady will make a special effort to obtain our release from purgatory through Her intercession as Advocate.

10. The faithful children of the Rosary shall merit a high degree of glory in Heaven.

Explanation: This promise makes sense in light of the Church's teaching that "spiritual progress tends toward ever more union with Christ" (Catechism, paragraph 2014). The more holy you are, the higher will be your place in Heaven. Praying the Rosary merits us a higher place in Heaven because we will become more holy.

11. You shall obtain all you ask of me by the recitation of the Rosary.

Explanation: This isn't like making a wish while rubbing a genie bottle, then POOF, you get your wish. Mary is our advocate and she mediates between her Son and us. She will ask Jesus for all that we ask, provided it's good for our salvation and doesn't violate God's perfect will for us.

12. All those who propagate the Holy Rosary shall be aided by me in their necessities.

Explanation: This means that when you tell others about the Rosary, including teaching your children to pray it, Our Lady emphasizes Her Maternal care for us by obtaining many graces (i.e., spiritual necessities) and also material necessities (neither excess nor luxury), all subject to the will of God, of course.

13. I have obtained from my Divine Son that all the advocates of the Rosary shall have for intercessors the entire celestial court during their life and at the hour of death.

Explanation: The entire celestial court! Mary promises that if we encourage others to pray the Rosary, the angels in heaven will be interceding for us not only during our lives, but when we die.

14. All who recite the Rosary are my sons and daughters, the brothers and sisters of Jesus Christ.

Explanation: When we recite the Rosary, we are the children of Mary, and Jesus is our brother. We are part of the Holy Family.

15. Devotion to my Rosary is a great sign of predestination.

Explanation: Praying the Rosary is a SIGN that you are on your way to heaven, but of course it's not a guarantee. You have to respond to God's invitation and grace. Praying the rosary is a sign that you love Mary, and you are precious to her. She will ensure you have the graces you need to obtain salvation, but it's still up to you to respond and to act in love and live a life of holiness.



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