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## MIRACLE WORKER

(This is a true story of the power of Our Lady's intercession) A pious Catholic Mother was about to give birth to her eighth child. Her age and general poor health contributed to the ordinary risks of pregnancy, and she developed toxemia. Her physician had grave concerns about condition and feared the worst. Family and friends gathered to care for the seven children waiting at home, while the father kept solitary vigil in the hospital waiting room. In a unity of prayer, together they fervently offered Rosary after Rosary, pleading that both the mother and child would survive the difficult birth. The father agonised, waiting through the seemingly endless hours of his wife's labor. He was startled from his prayer by a sudden commotion. The doctor, a devout Jew, hurried past him down the hall to the delivery room and called out, "Joe keep that Rosary going!" Almost an hour later, the doctor appeared at the double doors. With tears in his eyes, he told the father that his wife and child were doing fine, but that he had no explanation as to how this could be. The placenta had come before the baby and had the appearance of dried autumn leaves. He exclaimed that only a miracle could have delivered this living baby girl to her loving family. This happened over forty years ago. The new parents were mine; that baby is my little sister. Our family has remained devoted to Our Lord and to His Most Blessed Mother, through the instrument of the Rosary, a source of miracles that even our Jewish doctor has been moved many times since to proclaim. O Virgin Mother of God, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, Pray for us!

**By Mary T. Meier**

## 15 PROMISES OF MARY

1. Whoever shall faithfully serve me by the recitation of the Rosary, shall receive powerful graces.
2. I promise my special protection and the greatest graces to all those who shall recite the Rosary.
3. The Rosary shall be a powerful armor against hell, it will destroy vice, decrease sin, and defeat heresies
4. It will cause virtue and good works to flourish; it will obtain for souls the abundant mercy of God; it will withdraw the hearts of people from the love of the world and its vanities, and will lift them to the desire of eternal things. Oh, that souls would sanctify themselves by this means.
5. The soul which recommends itself to me by the recitation of the Rosary, shall not perish.
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.
7. Whoever shall have a true devotion for the Rosary shall not die without the Sacraments of the Church.
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.
9. I shall deliver from purgatory those who have been devoted to the Rosary.
10. The faithful children of the Rosary shall merit a high degree of glory in Heaven.
11. You shall obtain all you ask of me by the recitation of the Rosary.
12. All those who propagate the Holy Rosary shall be aided by me in their necessities.
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
14. All who recite the Rosary are my children, and brothers and sisters of my only Son, Jesus Christ.
15. Devotion of my Rosary is a great sign of predestination.

## HISTORY OF THE ROSARY

Since the Rosary is composed, principally and in substance, of the prayer of Christ and the Angelic Salutation, that is, the Our Father and the Hail Mary, it was without doubt the first prayer and the principal devotion of the faithful and has been in use all through the centuries, from the time of the apostles and disciples down to the present. It was only in the year 1214, however, that the Church received the Rosary in its present form and according to the method we use today. It was given to the Church by St. Dominic, who had received it from the Blessed Virgin as a means of converting the Albigensians and other sinners. I will tell you the story of how he received it, which is found in the very well-known book *De Dignitate Psalterii*, by Blessed Alan de la Roche.

Saint Dominic, seeing that the gravity of people's sins was hindering the conversion of the Albigensians, withdrew into a forest near Toulouse, where he prayed continuously for three days and three nights. During this time he did nothing but weep and do harsh penances in order to appease the anger of God. He used his discipline so much that his body was lacerated, and finally he fell into a coma. At this point our Lady appeared to him, accompanied by three angels, and she said, "Dear Dominic, do you know which weapon the Blessed Trinity wants to use to reform the world?" "Oh, my Lady," answered Saint Dominic, "you know far better than I do, because next to your Son Jesus Christ you have always been the chief instrument of our salvation." Then our Lady replied, "I want you to know that, in this kind of warfare, the principal weapon has always been the Angelic Psalter, which is the foundation-stone of the New Testament. Therefore, if you want to reach these hardened souls and win them over to God, preach my Psalter." So he arose, comforted, and burning with zeal for the conversion of the people in that district, he made straight for the cathedral. At once unseen angels rang the bells to gather the people together, and Saint Dominic began to preach. At the very beginning of his sermon, an appalling storm broke out, the earth shook, the sun was darkened, and there was so much thunder and lightning that all were very much afraid. Even greater was their fear when, looking at a picture of our Lady exposed in a prominent place, they saw her raise her arms to heaven three times to call down God's vengeance upon them if they failed to be converted, to amend their lives, and seek the protection of the holy Mother of God. God wished, by means of these supernatural phenomena, to spread the new devotion of the holy Rosary and to make it more widely known. At last, at the prayer of Saint Dominic, the storm came to an end, and he went on preaching. So fervently and compellingly did he explain the importance and value of the Rosary that almost all the people of Toulouse embraced it and renounced their false beliefs. In a very short time a great improvement was seen in the town; people began leading Christian lives and gave up their former bad habits.



## THE ROSARY

Roses on a string of beads  
Fingers weeding out the weeds  
Adoring lips pour out their praise  
As in love our hearts we raise  
Heart made pure by holy thought  
Mind renewed in rapture caught  
Mary joins with grateful heart  
To honour Jesus from the start  
Let our fingers offer praise  
While to you our hearts we raise  
Lift us up before we fall  
As we answer your call  
Mysteries from the ages past  
Will lead to life in heaven at last  
When our fingers cold in clay  
Rise again to eternal day.

**By Fr. Eugene Hennessy SDB**

## OCTOBER 8 ST. SIMEON

Holy Simeon lived in the first century. In Luke's Gospel, chapter two, Joseph and Mary bring Jesus to the temple of Jerusalem. That is where they meet Simeon. The holy man had waited patiently for the Lord to grant him a request: he wanted to live to see the Messiah, the Saviour of the world. But he did not know who that person would be, or when and if his prayer would be fulfilled. The young couple of Nazareth approached him with their baby. He looked into the eyes of the child and felt a burst of joy in his heart. His eyes glowed. He lifted Jesus into his arms, then held him up and prayed; "Now, my God, I can die in peace. I have seen with my own eyes the world's salvation. You have prepared this for all your people." Mary and Joseph looked at one another. They were silently amazed. Then the old man turned to Mary. His eyes became sad as he said softly, "Your own heart will be pierced by the sword." Mary did not understand what this meant, and she prayed to God for courage. Holy Simeon had received his request from God. He remained in joyful thanksgiving as the couple and their baby left. When Simeon held Jesus in his arms, he knew him to be Messiah. What would happen if I were to recognize the presence of Jesus in my own life more often?

## BENEFITS OF THE ROSARY

1. It gradually gives us a perfect knowledge of Jesus Christ.
2. It purifies our souls, washing away sin.
3. It gives us victory over all our enemies.
4. It makes it easy for us to practice virtue.
5. It sets us on fire with love of Our Lord.
6. It enriches us with graces and merits.
7. It supplies us with what is needed to pay all our debts to God and to our fellow men; and finally, it obtains all kinds of graces for us from Almighty God.

Gratitude is the mother of all virtues. G. K. Chesterton

The world will never starve for want of wonders, but only for want of wonder.