

Mary, Help of Christians, Pray for us! Memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary, October 7th, 2020

The month of October is traditionally dedicated to praying of the Rosary. It is partly because of the celebration of the feast of the Holy Rosary on October 7th. This feast was instituted by Pope Pius V in honor of Mary for the Christian victory over the Turks at Lepanto on October 7th, 1571. Pope Pius V and all Christians had prayed for victory and it was on this day that the title, “Mary, Help of Christians”, was added to the Litany of Mary. This was in recognition of Mary’s intercessory help through the Rosary that brought victory to Christians.

This month also marks 103rd anniversary of the Miracle of Our Lady of Fatima. Mary told the three Shepherd children (Lucia, Jacinta and Francesco) that “I am the Lady of the Holy Rosary.” The first time I had the opportunity of watching a movie of these three Shepherd children, what touched me was that these children really had strong trust in Mary that whenever people disbelieved their story and threatened them, they would fall on their knees in prayer for Mary’s help. Today’s gospel from Luke, the Gospel of Prayer, talks to us about prayer.

The disciples observe Jesus praying alone somewhere and they ask him to teach them how to pray. Jesus taught them the Lord’s prayer as a model of all prayer which consists of Worship, Thanksgiving, Petition for Daily Needs, Forgiveness of Sins and Protection from Evil. The Lord’s Prayer is also our prayer because we pray it every day at Mass and it precedes each of the five decades of the Rosary. As a kid the first Prayer Jesus taught me through my parents was the Rosary. I did not only learn the Lord’s prayer but I also learnt how to pray the Apostles Creed, the

Hail Mary prayer, Oh My Jesus Prayer, the Mysteries of Our Lord and so many other prayers, all in the Rosary. Mary is indeed Help of Christians and we need her help more for all humanity suffering especially at this time of hurricanes, earthquakes, Covid-19, wildfires and wars. Mary, Help of Christians, Pray for us sinners. **Amen.**

By Fr. Emmanuel Subaar