



OUR LADY, FATIMA, THE ROSARY, AND JOHN PAUL II

On 13 October 2017, the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the last apparition of the Blessed Virgin Mary at Fatima brought over 250 people home to Our Holy Redeemer for a candlelight Rosary procession! Never before in my nearly twenty years as a Priest and nearly ten years as Pastor of Our Holy Redeemer have I witnessed so many people in church for the recitation of the Most Holy Rosary. And even though the Fatima-Centenary Year celebrations have come to an end, opportunities remain at Our Holy Redeemer to help you “pray the Rosary daily” (in response to Our Lady’s request at Fatima):



- ✠ **Every Wednesday of the Month:** The *Legion of Mary* (call Sheila Walsh at (516) 379-9028) leads the recitation of the **Rosary at 7:30 P.M. in the Convent Chapel** at 95 Pine Street;
- ✠ **Every Saturday of the Month:** The *Legion of Mary* (call Sheila Walsh at (516) 379- 9028) leads the recitation of the **Rosary before the 9:00 A.M. Mass at 8:30 A.M. in the church;**
- ✠ **Third Friday of the Month:** Our Holy Redeemer Religious Education (call Deneen Vukelic at (516) 546-1057) leads the recitation of the **Rosary at 7:30 P.M. in the church;**
- ✠ **Second Wednesday of the Month:** The *Knights of Columbus* (call Ron Flood, Jr. at (516) 378-0665) lead the recitation of the **Rosary at 7:30 P.M. in the lower church;**
- ✠ **Second Thursday of the Month:** The *Catholic Daughters of the Americas* (call Diana Gibson at (516) 849-5714) lead the recitation of the **Rosary after the 12:10 P.M. Mass in church.**

In my time as a Priest, and in fact in my fifty-three years of life outside my mother’s womb, the most public advocate of devotion to Mary (especially with help from the Most Holy Rosary) was Pope Saint John Paul II (Feast Day: 22 October). Just three years before his death on 2 April 2005 this was his appeal:

“Dear brothers and sisters! A prayer so easy and yet so rich truly deserves to be rediscovered by the Christian community. Let us do so, especially this year, as a means of confirming the direction outlined in my Apostolic Letter *Novo Millennio Ineunte*, from which the pastoral plans of so many particular Churches have drawn inspiration as they look to the immediate future ... I look to all of you, brothers and sisters of every state of life, to you, Christian families, to you, the sick and elderly, and to you, young people: *confidently take up the Rosary once again*. Rediscover the Rosary in the light of Scripture, in harmony with the Liturgy, and in the context of your daily lives.

May this appeal of mine not go unheard! ... I willingly make my own the touching words with which (Blessed Bartolo Longo) concluded his well-known *Supplication to the Queen of the Holy Rosary*: “O Blessed Rosary of



Mary, sweet chain which unites us to God, bond of love which unites us to the angels, tower of salvation against the assaults of Hell, safe port in our universal shipwreck, we will never abandon you. You will be our comfort in the hour of death: yours our final kiss as life ebbs away. And the last word from our lips will be your sweet name, O Queen of the Rosary of Pompei, O dearest Mother, O Refuge of Sinners, O Sovereign Consoler of the Afflicted. May you be everywhere blessed, today and always, on earth, and in Heaven.”

From the Vatican, on the 16th day of October in the year 2002, the beginning of the twenty- fifth year of my Pontificate.