



1ST SATURDAY DEVOTION NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2024

OF INTERRUPTED ROSARIES AND GUARDIAN ANGELS

By Richard Becker

one.thousand.wordsaweek.wordpress.com

Beside each believer stands an angel as protector and shepherd leading him to life. - St. BASIL (CCC 336).

In this Issue

OF INTERRUPTED ROSARIES AND GUARDIAN ANGELS	1
FEASTS FOR OCTOBER OUR CENACLE CORNER	2
GOD TOUCHED ME	3
SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT RECOMMENDED UPCOMING EVENTS	6

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THE EDITORS OF THE SPIRITUAL ARMY OF GOD THE FATHER'S 1ST SATURDAY NEWSLETTER ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR MAINTAINING THE CONSISTENT QUALITY AND ACCURACY OF THE SPIRITUAL ARMY OF GOD THE FATHER'S 1ST SATURDAY NEWSLETTER AND AS SUCH RESERVE THE RIGHT TO REJECT OR EDIT THE CONTENT OF ALL SUBMISSIONS FOR PUBLICATION. EDITING MAY INCLUDE, BUT IS NOT LIMITED TO, CHANGES TO GRAMMAR, SYNTAX AND STYLES, REMOVAL OF OFFENSIVE CONTENT AND REMOVAL OF PERSONAL NON-PUBLIC INFORMATION. SUBMISSION OF YOUR ARTICLE SIGNIFIES YOUR AGREEMENT TO THE TERMS AFOREMENTIONED.

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WHEN I'M DRIVING TO WORK, I HAVE A CHOICE. I CAN EITHER TURN ON THE RADIO AND LISTEN TO MY FRIENDS ON NPR GO BLAH, BLAH, BLAH ABOUT WHATEVER – OR I CAN PRAY A ROSARY. I CONFESS I DON'T ALWAYS CHOOSE TO PRAY, AND SOMETIMES I FEEL JUSTIFIED IN THAT IF THERE'S SOMETHING HOT IN THE NEWS I WANT TO GET THE LATEST ON – ESPECIALLY IF IT PERTAINS TO MY LOCAL COMMUNITY OR THE CHURCH.

USUALLY, HOWEVER, I HAVE NO EXCUSE, AND SO IDEALLY I'LL LEAVE THE RADIO OFF AND GRAB MY BEADS. OR SOMETIMES, IF I PUT IT ON AUTOMATICALLY, I MIGHT CATCH SIGHT OF THAT LITTLE STATUE OF THE BLESSED MOTHER ON MY DASHBOARD AND THINK TWICE. SHE'S NOT JUDGING ME OR SCOLDING; SHE'S JUST INVITING ME AND WAITING: HOW ABOUT SPENDING A LITTLE TIME WITH MOM? HEADLINES AND MOVIE REVIEWS CAN WAIT.

HERE'S THE PROBLEM, THOUGH: THE TRIP FROM HOME TO THE COLLEGE WHERE I TEACH NURSING IS PRECISELY FOUR DECADES LONG. IF YOU PRAY THE ROSARY IN YOUR CAR, YOU'LL GET WHAT I MEAN IMMEDIATELY. YOU HAVE YOUR REGULAR ROUTES DOWN TO A PRAYERFUL SCIENCE AND YOU KNOW HOW MANY DECADES (OR FULL ROSARIES IN THE CASE OF LONGER TRIPS) EACH ONE "TAKES." FOR ME, IT DOESN'T SEEM TO MATTER WHEN I COMMENCE – IN THE DRIVEWAY, AFTER THE FIRST TURN – OR HOW I ADJUST MY LIST OF INTENTIONS AT THE BEGINNING, I'M ALWAYS PULLING INTO THE PARKING LOT BEHIND MY OFFICE JUST AS I'M ABOUT TO BEGIN THE FIFTH DECADE.

IF I ARRIVE WITH TIME TO SPARE, THERE'S NO PROBLEM. I JUST PARK, TURN OFF THE IGNITION, AND FINISH UP. OF COURSE, IT MIGHT SEEM STRANGE TO MY COWORKERS WHO ARE ALSO PULLING IN, OR STUDENTS WALKING BY ON THEIR WAY TO CLASS. BUT IF IT'S STILL DARK OUTSIDE (LIKE WHEN I GET THERE FOR 7 A.M. LABS), THEN I CAN FIND A SPOT OUT OF THE WAY AND STAY OUT OF SIGHT.

USUALLY, HOWEVER, I'M ON THE FLY AND I ONLY HAVE MINUTES TO SPARE BEFORE I'M SUPPOSED TO BE SOMEPLACE. IN SUCH CASES I COULD PROBABLY RELY ON MY GUARDIAN ANGEL TO COMPLETE THE PRAYERS – LIKE WHEN WE DEPEND ON OUR ANGELS TO FINISH OUR BEDTIME ROSARIES WHEN WE FALL ASLEEP. I'LL NEVER FORGET HEARING ABOUT THAT PIOUS PRACTICE IN MY HEADY POST-CONVERSION CATHOLIC WORKER DAYS. A FRIEND OF MINE MENTIONED IT AS AN INSPIRING TRADITION HER MOTHER PASSED ON TO HER, AND I HAUGHTILY DISMISSED IT. "IF YOU START A ROSARY, YOU SHOULD FINISH IT – PERIOD," I THINK I TOLD HER,

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4

FEASTS FOR OCTOBER

THE FEASTS ON THE GENERAL ROMAN CALENDAR CELEBRATED DURING THE MONTH OF OCTOBER ARE:

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|---------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1 THÉRÈSE OF THE CHILD JESUS, MEMORIAL | 19 JOHN DE BREBEUF, ISAAC JOGUES AND COMPANIONS (USA), MEMORIAL |
| 2 HOLY GUARDIAN ANGELS, MEMORIAL | 20 TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, SUNDAY |
| 4 FRANCIS OF ASSISI, MEMORIAL | 22 JOHN PAUL II, OPT. MEM. |
| 5 BL. FRANCIS XAVIER SEELOS (USA); ST. FAUSTINA KOWALSKA, OPT. MEM. | 23 JOHN OF CAPISTRANO, OPT. MEM. |
| 6 TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, SUNDAY | 24 ANTHONY MARY CLARET, OPT. MEM. |
| 7 OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY, MEMORIAL | 27 THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, SUNDAY |
| 11 ST. JOHN XXIII, OPT. MEM. | 28 SIMON & JUDE, APOSTLES, FEAST |
| 13 TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, SUNDAY | |
| 14 CALLISTUS I, OPT. MEM. | THE COMMEMORATIONS OF ST. BRUNO (OCTOBER 6), AND ST. PAUL OF THE CROSS (OCTOBER 20), FALL ON A SUNDAY SO THEY ARE SUPERSEDED BY THE SUNDAY LITURGY. ☐ |
| 15 TERESA OF JESUS, MEMORIAL | |
| 16 HEDWIG; MARGARET MARY ALACOQUE, OPT. MEM. | |
| 17 IGNATIUS OF ANTIOCH, MEMORIAL | |
| 18 LUKE, EVANGELIST, FEAST | |

OUR CENACLE CORNER

SEEKING A DEEPER RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD
THROUGH MEDITATION OF PASSAGES FROM HOLY SCRIPTURES

*The Rosary and
Saint Dominic*

GOD TOUCHED ME

*Publish his glorious deeds among the nations.
Tell everyone about the amazing things he does. — 1 Chronicles 16:24*

**"FOR HE COMMANDS HIS ANGELS WITH REGARD TO YOU,
TO GUARD YOU WHEREVER YOU GO."**

- Psalm 91:11

ANGELS

By Connie de la Rosa Wolff, a devotee

WHO SAYS ANGELS CAN ONLY BE FOUND IN HEAVEN?
WE, TOO, HAVE ANGELS HERE ON EARTH!
THEY MAY NOT HAVE WINGS WITH WHICH TO FLY
BUT THEY HAVE EYES, EARS, HANDS, FEET AND HEART
WITH WHICH TO SERVE!

LIKE GOD'S ANGELS IN HEAVEN,
ANGELS ON EARTH ARE FOUND ALMOST EVERYWHERE –
IN LAND, SEA AND AIR, IN CHURCHES, HOMES, OFFICES,
PARKS, CLUBS, THEATERS, SCHOOLS, LIBRARIES,
MUSEUMS, VEHICLES, GYMS, PLAYING FIELDS,
HOSPITALS, ETC.
THEY WALK, RIDE AND FLY THE EARTH
THEY'RE JUST LIKE YOU AND ME
YOU ONLY NEED TO FIND THEM!

NOT EVERYONE CAN BE HUMAN "ANGELS" THOUGH
IT TAKES SPECIAL PEOPLE TO BE ONE
KIND, CARING, LOVING, CONSIDERATE, GENEROUS,
COMPASSIONATE, UNDERSTANDING, HONEST,
RESPECTFUL, HUMBLE, FORGIVING,
SELFLESS, GOD-FEARING ALL ROLLED INTO ONE
DO SUCH PEOPLE ABOUND IN OUR WORLD TODAY?

YES, THEY DO, THEY'RE EVERYWHERE!
IN CLINICS AND HOSPITALS, CARE HOMES AND HOSPICES,
IN MISSIONS, SCHOOLS, OFFICES, CHURCHES, HOMES,
ETC.
IN FACT, WE COULD BE ONE, TOO.
IF ONLY WE ALLOW OURSELVES TO BE!

WE ALSO HAVE SPECIAL "ANGELS" RIGHT HERE IN LAS
VEGAS
EVEN IF IT'S COMMONLY CALLED "SIN CITY."
YOU ONLY HAVE TO OPEN YOUR EYES AND HEART TO
SEE –

IT'S EITHER YOUR SPOUSE, SIBLING, CHILDREN,
NEIGHBOR,
THE CASHIER AT THE GROCERY STORE, THE CHURCH
VOLUNTEER,
YOUR PARISH PRIEST, YOUR FRIEND, A STRANGER...

THE LIST GOES ON AND ON FOR YOU TO SEE, IN SPITE OF
LAS VEGAS BEING A "SIN CITY."
A LOT OF GOOD PEOPLE HERE KNOW HOW TO CARE AND
SHARE
PEOPLE BEHIND THE SCENES, LIKE CHURCH VOLUNTEERS,
RELIGIOUS GROUPS, PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS FEEDING THE
HOMELESS IN PARKS,
CATHOLIC CHARITIES SERVING HOT MEALS TO THE
HOMELESS, ETC.

IT'S MATTHEW 25 IN ACTION WHICH CITED JESUS AS
SAYING:

"I WAS HUNGRY AND YOU GAVE ME FOOD,
I WAS THIRSTY AND YOU GAVE ME DRINK,
I WAS A STRANGER AND YOU WELCOMED ME,
I WAS NAKED AND YOU CLOTHED ME,
I WAS SICK AND YOU VISITED ME,
I WAS IN PRISON AND YOU CAME TO ME."

IT'S FAITH BEYOND THE WALLS OF THE CHURCH
"ANGELS" ON EARTH TRANSFORMING THE LIVES OF
OTHERS
THANK YOU, GOD, FOR THESE LIVING "ANGELS"
MAY THEY FOREVER BE BLESSED. AMEN. ☐

OF INTERRUPTED ROSARIES...

PROBABLY IMAGINING THAT DOROTHY DAY, A RIGOROUS SPIRITUAL WARRIOR AND MY HERO, WOULD'VE INSISTED ON THE SAME. AH, HOW TIMES HAVE CHANGED – AND HOW I HAVE MELLOWED. I REGRET NOT ONLY MY RUDE RESPONSE, BUT ALSO THE BELLIGERENT PRIDE THAT LAY BEHIND IT.

NOW, OF COURSE, I DEPEND ON MY GUARDIAN ANGEL FOR ALL KINDS OF THINGS, INCLUDING HIS ASSISTANCE WITH MY SLOPPY AND INCOMPLETE PRAYER. THE WHOLE SLEEP-ROSARY-ANGEL CONNECTION MIGHT BE PURE LEGEND, BUT IT'S A LEGEND I HOPE HAS ROOTS IN REALITY.

EVEN SO, I FEEL FUNNY ABOUT NOT FINISHING THE ROSARY MYSELF – LIKE ONE DAY LAST WEEK WHEN I GOT TO CAMPUS WELL BEFORE THE HAIL HOLY QUEEN. I MADE A QUICK SIGN OF THE CROSS, DRAPED THE BEADS AROUND MY DASHBOARD MOTHER, AND HIGHTAILED IT TO CLASS, SHEEPISHLY MAKING A MENTAL NOTE TO PRAY THE LAST DECADE ON THE WAY HOME – ALTHOUGH, TRUTHFULLY, I USUALLY FORGET. (SORRY, MOM!)

WHEN I GOT TO THE LAB, MY COLLEAGUE, LISA, WAS JUST ABOUT TO START HER PRESENTATION ON HEAD-TO-TOE ASSESSMENT – A STAPLE OF THE NURSING PROFESSION AND A TRULY VITAL SKILL. BEGINNING WITH OBSERVATION, AND THEN BY MEANS OF TOUCHING ("PALPATION") AND LISTENING ("AUSCULTATION"), NURSES REVIEW THEIR PATIENTS' BODY SYSTEMS, LITERALLY TOP TO BOTTOM (OR, "FEET" IN THIS CONTEXT). THE HEAD-TO-TOE PROVIDES THE NURSE A SNAPSHOT OF HER PATIENT'S OVERALL CONDITION, AND IT ALLOWS HER TO PICK UP ON ANYTHING NEW, ABNORMAL, OR UNEXPECTED. NURSES PERFORM THIS STANDARD ASSESSMENT IN SOME FORM OR ANOTHER WHENEVER WE TAKE CHARGE OF NEW PATIENTS, NO MATTER HOW BRIEFLY, AND IT'S ALWAYS PERFORMED SYSTEMATICALLY – ALTHOUGH "NOT ALWAYS AT THE SAME TIME," AS LISA EXPLAINED TO OUR BEGINNING STUDENTS.



"NOT ALWAYS AT THE SAME TIME' – JUST LIKE MY ROSARY," I THOUGHT TO MYSELF. "YOU MIGHT START WITH LISTENING TO LUNG SOUNDS AND THE HEART," LISA CONTINUED, "AND THEN THE PATIENT HAS TO LEAVE FOR AN X-RAY OR SOME OTHER TEST. AS LONG AS HE'S STABLE, THAT'S OK, BECAUSE YOU CAN JUST FINISH WITH THE OTHER BODY SYSTEMS WHEN HE GETS BACK."

THUS, THE HEAD-TO-TOE ASSESSMENT DONE IN STAGES HAS A MORAL UNITY, EVEN WHEN THERE ARE SIGNIFICANT TIME

GAPS BETWEEN THE DIFFERENT PARTS. THAT'S CERTAINLY ALSO TRUE FOR OUR SEQUENTIAL ROSARIES, ISN'T IT? COME TO THINK OF IT, I REMEMBER FR. GILES DIMOCK, O.P., TELLING ME AS MUCH WAY BACK IN MY FRANCISCAN UNIVERSITY DAYS. "IT'S WHAT I DO ON VERY BUSY

DAYS," HE TOLD ME, "EVEN IF IT'S JUST ONE DECADE AT A TIME." AND THAT'S COMING FROM A DOMINICAN – AN EMINENTLY TRUSTWORTHY SOURCE WHEN IT COMES TO THE ROSARY, WHICH IS PARTICULARLY ASSOCIATED WITH THE ORDER OF PREACHERS.

BESIDES, AS MUCH AS I LIKE THE IDEA OF SPIRITUAL BEINGS TYING UP MY PRAYERFUL LOOSE ENDS, IT'S NOT LIKE MARY IS KEEPING SCORE – LIKE, "TUT, TUT, THAT RICK JUST DROPPED ANOTHER DECADE, SO NO SPIRITUAL BENEFITS FOR HIM UNLESS HIS ANGEL PICKS UP THE SLACK!" MOREOVER, SHE DOESN'T DEPEND ON OUR ROSARIES, COMPLETE OR NOT. WHILE IT'S TRUE THAT THE ROSARY PRAYERS UNDOUBTEDLY PLEASE HER, PRAYER IN GENERAL IS CHIEFLY FOR OUR BENEFIT – IT'S PRIMARILY A GIFT THAT LEADS TO OUR BEING SHAPED AND TRANSFORMED. "WHETHER WE REALIZE IT OR NOT, PRAYER IS THE ENCOUNTER OF GOD'S THIRST WITH OURS," WRITES ST. AUGUSTINE. "GOD THIRSTS THAT WE MAY THIRST FOR HIM" (CCC 2560).

THAT'S WHY I LIKE ST. BERNADETTE'S TAKE ON THE SLEEPER ROSARY TRADITION. ACCORDING TO ANN BALL, THE LOURDES VISIONARY DIDN'T THINK TWICE ABOUT UNFINISHED BEDTIME ROSARIES, AND EVEN URGED A FELLOW SISTER TO "DO THE SAME AS LITTLE CHILDREN WHO

FALL ASLEEP SAYING 'MAMA, MAMA.'" NO WORRIES ABOUT INCOMPLETE DECADES OR PRAYERS; ONLY CHILDLIKE ABANDONMENT AND TRUST, AND THE ACCOMPANYING COMFY SECURITY OF BEING NESTLED IN A MOTHER'S EMBRACE.

"INVOKE YOUR GUARDIAN ANGEL THAT HE ILLUMINATE YOU AND WILL GUIDE YOU," WROTE ST. PADRE PIO TO A CORRESPONDENT. "GOD HAS GIVEN HIM TO YOU FOR THIS REASON. THEREFORE USE HIM!" SOUND ADVICE – AND IT GIVES ME AN IDEA. OCTOBER IS RIGHT AROUND THE CORNER, A MONTH CONNECTED WITH BOTH THE ROSARY AND OUR GUARDIAN ANGELS, SO I'M CUTTING A DEAL WITH MINE: "INSTEAD OF FINISHING ALL MY INCOMPLETE PRAYERS THIS MONTH," I'LL SUGGEST TO HIM, "HOW ABOUT NUDGING AND REMINDING ME TO FINISH THEM MYSELF?

"DONE!" I ENVISION HIM REPLYING AS HE SHAKES MY HAND. "ONLY DON'T TRY MY PATIENCE BY FLIPPING ON THAT CAR RADIO SO OFTEN.

OUCH – POINT TAKEN, BUT I KNOW IT'S FOR MY OWN GOOD, AS IS THE WHOLE MYSTICAL SET-UP: A PERSONAL ANGEL, THE MOTHER OF GOD, AND THEY'RE BOTH CONSTANTLY BECKONING ME, PULLING ME, DRAGGING ME TO JESUS. HOW CAN I LOSE WITH A TEAM LIKE THAT IN MY CORNER? ☐

Rick Becker is a husband, father of seven, nursing instructor, and religious educator. He serves on the nursing faculty at Bethel College in Mishawaka, Indiana. You can find more of Rick's writing on his blog, God-Haunted Lunatic, and his Facebook page.



I am your Mother Mary.

Double your efforts in praying the Rosary. This is needed to protect yourselves and your country from the second attack of the evil one. The attack will be in the form of words from the second Jezebel assigned to destroy this Blessed country and the world.

Pray, pray, pray ,my children, on these crucial moments.

Mary, Your Lady of Peace

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SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT RECOMMENDED

THE ROSARY

BY VICTOR H. ARANETA

THESE BEADS OF MOTHER MARY HAD BEEN HANDED TO ST DOMINIC MORE THAN 600 YEARS AGO AND HAVE BEEN EFFECTIVE TO STRENGTHEN OUR FAITH IN GOD. IT'S THE NEW TESTAMENT IN CAPSULE/BEAD FORM.

MUCH HAS BEEN SAID ABOUT CONVERSION AND SALVATION COVERING PHYSICAL AND SPIRITUAL ENDEAVORS.



THE BATTLE OF LEPANTO IS A CLEAR CASE OF MOTHER MARY'S INTERCESSION OF TURNING AROUND DEFEAT INTO VICTORY FOR THE FAITHFUL AND MOST ESPECIALLY FOR THE CATHOLIC CHURCHES WHO JOINED THIS BATTLE.

HOW MANY MORE ARE SAID AND REMAIN TO BE CLEAR VICTORY AND TRANSFORMATION

BECAUSE OF THE HOLY ROSARY. TODAY, MORE THAN EVER, WE NEED THESE BEADS TO BATTLE EVIL IN OUR COUNTRY AND THROUGHOUT THE WORLD. FOR WE ARE IN THE BRINK OF INFILTRATION FROM WITHIN TO A WORLD OF DICTATED RELIGIOUS BELIEF OR NONE AT ALL!

PRAYER: HAIL MARY, FULL OF GRACE, THE LORD IS WITH YOU. BLESSED ART THOU AMONGST WOMEN AND BLESSED IS THE FRUIT OF THY WOMB, JESUS. ☐

Upcoming Events

1ST FRIDAY DEVOTION DEDICATED TO THE HOLY SOULS

OCTOBER 4, 2024

IN LAS VEGAS:
THE CENACLE HOUSE
AT 2:30 PM

IN LOS ANGELES: VIA ZOOM
AT 8:30 PM

1ST SATURDAY DEVOTION

OCTOBER 5, 2024

IN LAS VEGAS:
THE CENACLE HOUSE
AT 1:00 PM

1ST SATURDAY DEVOTION

1ST SUNDAY DEVOTION

OCTOBER 6, 2024

IN LOS ANGELES:
ST. ANNE'S CHAPEL
ST. ANNE FAMILY SERVICES
155 N. OCCIDENTAL BL.
LOS ANGELES, CA 90026
DEVOTIONAL PRAYERS AT 8:30 AM
MASS AT 9:30 AM

1ST SUNDAY DEVOTION

OCTOBER 6, 2024

IN LAS VEGAS:
ST. SHARBEL CATHOLIC CHURCH
MASS AT 9:30 AM FOLLOWED BY
DEVOTIONAL PRAYERS AT THE CHAPEL

2000 HAIL MARY DEVOTION

OCTOBER 19, 2024

IN LAS VEGAS: THE CENACLE HOUSE
AT 6:00 AM

IN LOS ANGELES: VIA ZOOM
MASS AT 9:00 AM

A SEASON OF PRAYER: FOR AN ELECTION NINE-DAY NOVENA VIA ZOOM

OCTOBER 27 THROUGH NOVEMBER 4, 2024
8:00 TO 9:00 PM