



# 1<sup>ST</sup> SATURDAY DEVOTION NEWSLETTER

OCTOBER 2025

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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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## THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ROSARY IN OUR TIMES



### FROM COVENANT NETWORK, CATHOLIC RADIO

WE'D BEEN MARRIED FOR ONLY THREE DAYS. I WAS RECLINING ON THE BEACH, SOAKING IN THE SUN AND WATCHING MY HUSBAND BOBBING IN THE WAVES OFFSHORE. AFTER A WHILE, HE CAME UP TO THE BEACH TO GRAB A TOWEL. AS HE WAS PATTING THE TOWEL TO HIS FACE, I GLANCED UP AND NOTICED THAT HIS WEDDING RING WAS MISSING.

IMMEDIATELY, HE GRABBED THE SNORKEL GEAR AND SHOUTED, "I'LL LOOK IN THE WATER, YOU LOOK ALONG THE BEACH!" WITHOUT HESITATION, HE RACED BACK INTO THE WAVES. BUT I JUST SAT. MY EYES WENT UP AND DOWN THAT BEACH, AND ALL I COULD THINK WAS, "WE HAVE BEEN WALKING UP AND DOWN THIS BEACH ALL AFTERNOON, AND WE'VE BEEN IN AND OUT OF THE WATER. THERE IS NO WAY THIS RING WILL BE FOUND — WITHOUT MARY'S HELP."

AT THAT POINT, I DID GET UP — BUT I DIDN'T LOOK FOR THE RING. I BEGAN WALKING CALMLY UP AND DOWN THE BEACH, PRAYING THE ROSARY. I MUST'VE GOTTEN THROUGH ALMOST A DECADE, WHEN SUDDENLY I SAW MY HUSBAND WAVING FRANTICALLY AT ME FROM THE WATER. HE'D FOUND THE RING. IN THE OCEAN. THE OCEAN!

AS WE EXCHANGED STORIES, IT CAME OUT THAT HE HAD NO IDEA WHERE TO BEGIN LOOKING, BUT SOMETHING IN HIS MIND HAD PROMPTED HIM TO BEGIN SNORKELING AROUND AT THE ROCKY LEDGE AND THEN SLOWLY MOVE OUTWARD. HE'D ALMOST GIVEN UP, WHEN SUDDENLY HE LOOKED DOWN AND SAW SOMETHING GLITTERING ON A ROCK NEXT TO A DEEP CREVICE UNDER THE WATER. AS A WAVE ABRUPTLY SWEEP OVER THE AREA, THE SILVER GLINT WAS WASHED OVER THE EDGE. MY HUSBAND HAD JUST ENOUGH TIME TO SWEEP HIS HAND DOWN AND GRAB AT THE SMALL PIECE OF METAL, RIGHT BEFORE IT SANK DEEP INTO THE CREVICE TO BE LOST FOREVER.

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# FEASTS FOR OCTOBER

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

1. THÉRÈSE OF THE CHILD JESUS, MEMORIAL
2. HOLY GUARDIAN ANGELS, MEMORIAL
4. FRANCIS OF ASSISI, MEMORIAL
5. TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, SUNDAY
6. BRUNO; BL. MARIE ROSE DUROCHER (USA AND CAN), OPT. ME
7. OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY, MEMORIAL
11. ST. JOHN XXIII, OPT. MEM.
12. TWENTY-EIGHTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, SUNDAY
14. CALLISTUS I, OPT. MEM.
15. TERESA OF JESUS, MEM.
16. HEDWIG; MARGARET MARY ALACOQUE, OPT. MEM.
17. IGNATIUS OF ANTIOCH, MEMORIAL
18. LUKE, EVANGELIST, FEAST
19. TWENTY-NINTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, SUNDAY
20. PAUL OF THE CROSS, OPT. MEM.
22. JOHN PAUL II, OPT. MEM.
23. JOHN OF CAPISTRANO, OPT. MEM.
24. ANTHONY MARY CLARET, OPT. MEM.
26. THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME, SUNDAY
28. SIMON & JUDE, APOSTLES, FEAST

THE COMMEMORATIONS OF ST. FAUSTINA AND BL. FRANCIS XAVIER SEELOS (USA) (OCTOBER 5), ST. CARLO ACUTIS (OCTOBER 12), AND STS. JOHN DE BRÉBEUF, ISAAC JOGUES, AND COMPANIONS (OCTOBER 19), FALL ON A SUNDAY SO THEY ARE SUPERSEDED BY THE SUNDAY LITURGY. □

## OUR CENACLE CORNER

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

**BARTOLO LONGO**

# GOD TOUCHED ME

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

## GOD HAS BROUGHT HIS PEOPLE INTO MY LIFE

*By Gladys Makabenta, a devotee*

*Faith is the realization of what is hoped for and evidence\* of things not seen. Hebrews 11:1*

I AM WRITING THIS TESTIMONY FOR MY NANAY, ERLINDA COLOBONG. BUT THIS STORY IS THROUGH MY PERSPECTIVE AND EXPERIENCES THAT LED ME AND MY MOM, ALONG WITH MY HUSBAND OLIVER AND CHILDREN CLOSER TO GOD AND THE REALIZATION THAT GOD IS ALIVE.

MY MOM WAS BORN IN 1946 IN TACLOBAN, PHILIPPINES. SHE IS THE OLDEST OF 9 SIBLINGS AND WAS RAISED MOSTLY BY MY LOLA, SINCE MY LOLO HAD PASSED AWAY WHEN SHE WAS YOUNG. I DO NOT KNOW TOO MUCH ABOUT MY MOM'S CHILDHOOD, BUT WHAT I DO KNOW IS THAT SHE TOOK CARE OF HER YOUNGER SIBLINGS AND HELPED MAKE SURE THEY DID WELL IN SCHOOL (THEY LATER BECAME ENGINEERS, NURSES AND DOCTORS). SHE SET ASIDE HER OWN NEEDS TO HELP HER FAMILY, WAS FREQUENTLY ABSENT FROM SCHOOL AND GOT THE WORST GRADES AMONG HER SIBLINGS. AS A YOUNG ADULT, SHE WANTED TO JOIN THE CONVENT; BUT THE MOTHER SUPERIOR TOLD HER SHE DIDN'T BELONG THERE – GOD HAD GREATER THINGS PLANNED FOR HER LIFE. SHE MET MY DAD, WHO WAS SERVING IN THE NAVY, MARRIED AND HAD 6 CHILDREN. GROWING UP, MY MOM WOULD MAKE US ATTEND MASS, RECEIVE OUR SACRAMENTS, AND OCCASIONALLY PRAY THE ROSARY WHEN SOMEONE PASSED AWAY. WE WERE RAISED CATHOLIC, BUT MORE FROM A CULTURAL EXPERIENCE THAN A SPIRITUAL ONE; AT LEAST FOR ME, MY FAITH WAS OUT OF OBLIGATION WITHOUT ANY UNDERSTANDING.

IN SEPTEMBER 2017 MY MOM WAS DIAGNOSED WITH STAGE 4 LUNG CANCER. SHE WAS ORIGINALLY DIAGNOSED WITH STAGE 1 LUNG CANCER IN 2008. IT WAS BECAUSE HER SISTER (MY GODMOTHER), WAS DIAGNOSED WITH STAGE 4 LUNG CANCER JUST BEFORE BUT IT WAS TOO LATE FOR MY AUNT, AND SHE LIVED ABOUT A YEAR AND HALF AFTER HER DIAGNOSIS. LITTLE DID MY AUNT KNOW, SHE SAVED MY MOM'S LIFE. BY CATCHING IT EARLY, MY MOM HAD A LOBECTOMY WITHIN WEEKS OF HER DIAGNOSIS, RECOVERED FROM THE SURGERY AND WAS CANCER FREE AT EVERY CHECK UP WITH HER DOCTORS... UNTIL 2017 WHEN THE CANCER APPEARED OUT OF NOWHERE. I HAVE A NON-MEDICAL BACKGROUND BUT FROM WHAT I UNDERSTOOD, DURING HER BIOPSY THE SURGEON HIT HER MAIN ARTERY THAT ALLOWED A BUBBLE OF AIR IN HER BLOODSTREAM THAT TRAVELLED TOWARDS HER FEET. FORTUNATELY, DURING HER BIOPSY THEY WERE ABLE TO CATCH IT BEFORE IT TRAVELLED TO HER BRAIN, BECAUSE IF THEY HAD NOT, IT WOULD HAVE CAUSED AN ANEURISM

WHICH WOULD HAVE KILLED HER INSTANTLY. HER BIOPSY CONFIRMED THE DARK SPOTS ON HER XRAYS WERE CANCER AND THERE WERE MANY AND GROWING AGGRESSIVELY.

THE NEWS OF THE CANCER AND BIOPSY ROCKED MY IMMEDIATE FAMILY – IT CAUGHT US ALL BY SURPRISE AND LEFT ME WITH MANY QUESTIONS. I DID NOT UNDERSTAND HOW THE DOCTORS DID NOT CATCH THIS SOONER AND HOW THE "BEST DOCTORS" CAN MAKE THESE KINDS OF MISTAKES. THE NEXT FEW WEEKS FOR MY MOM WAS A SERIES OF DOCTOR VISITS AND HAVING TO MAKE DECISIONS ON SCHEDULING TREATMENTS, SURGERIES, ETC. MY YOUNGER BROTHER MOVED BACK TO CALIFORNIA TO HELP MY PARENTS AND STAY WITH THEM. HIS FIRST NIGHT BACK, HE TOLD ME AND OLIVER, "WANT TO HEAR SOMETHING CRAZY? I WAS PRAYING WITH NANAY A FEW WEEKS AGO ON THE PHONE AND AT THE END OF THE PRAYER, SHE ASKED GOD TO USE HER TO REACH HER HUSBAND. AND NOW SHE HAS CANCER." HONESTLY, I DO NOT THINK I THOUGHT MUCH ABOUT IT AT THE TIME. KNOWING ME, I PROBABLY SHRUGGED AND SAID "CRAZY."

FOR MOST OF MY ADOLESCENT AND ADULT LIFE, I DID NOT HAVE A RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD. I BELIEVED THERE IS A GOD, BUT I DID NOT KNOW HIM AND DID NOT PRAY TO HIM ON MY OWN. I WAS PRETTY FAR FROM BEING "RELIGIOUS" EVEN THOUGH ON PAPER I MET ALL THE REQUIREMENTS FOR BEING CATHOLIC: I COMPLETED THE SACRAMENTS AS A CHILD (THANKS, NANAY!), MET AND BECAME FRIENDS WITH OLIVER DURING CONFIRMATION, EVENTUALLY MARRIED OLIVER 16 YEARS LATER IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH (THANKS OLIVER!) AND WENT TO CHURCH ON SUNDAYS AND HOLY DAYS OF OBLIGATION AND EVEN PRAYED BEFORE MEALS WITH OUR KIDS. BUT MY CATHOLIC IDENTITY WAS TIED TO OLIVER. HE WAS THE REASON I HAD "GOD IN MY LIFE." BEFORE MARRYING OLIVER, GOD WAS FAR AND DISTANT. WHEN I LOOK BACK AT THOSE MOMENTS, I CAN SEE HOW GOD WAS PLANTING SEEDS AND WAS WAITING SO PATIENTLY FOR THEM TO SPROUT....

IN OCTOBER 2017, OLIVER'S COUSIN MENTIONED TO INVITE MY MOM TO ATTEND A PRAYER MEETING AT SOMEONE'S HOUSE IN CHINO (THANKS RAINA!). I DID NOT KNOW ANYTHING ABOUT SPIRITUAL ARMY OF GOD THE FATHER, AND THAT FIRST MEETING WE DID NOT

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KNOW ANYONE THERE. WE READ THRU THE FIRST FRIDAY BOOKLET OF PRAYERS, WHICH WAS PROBABLY MY FIRST-TIME RECITING PRAYERS BEYOND A DECADE OF THE ROSARY. AFTERWARDS, THEY STARTED THE "PRAY-OVERS" IN THE PRAYER ROOM – ME AND MY DAD SAT OUTSIDE WHILE MY MOM WENT IN. MY MOM EXPLAINED WHAT HAPPENED THIS WAY: "VICTOR PRAYED AND TOLD ME TO FORGIVE. IN MY HEAD I THOUGHT, 'YES, I DO FORGIVE THEM ALREADY', BUT THEN HE WOULD COME BACK TO ME (AFTER PRAYING FOR SOMEONE ELSE) AND SAY TO FORGIVE. IT FELT LIKE HE WAS READING MY MIND, EVERY TIME I THOUGHT, 'I ALREADY FORGAVE THEM', HE WOULD COME BACK TO ME AND TELL ME, 'NO YOU NEED TO FORGIVE.'" I LEFT THAT EVENING THINKING "WEIRD." THIS WAS OUR FIRST ENCOUNTER AND INTRODUCTION TO THE SAGTF (THANKS, UNCLE VIC!).

IN NOVEMBER, MY MOM'S SURGERY FOR ANOTHER LOBECTOMY WAS SCHEDULED THE MORNING OF THE FIRST FRIDAY. WE WAITED AT THE HOSPITAL THAT MORNING; THE SURGEON CAME OUT A FEW HOURS LATER AND MET WITH ALL OF US IN A PRIVATE ROOM TO TELL US THAT HE WAS NOT ABLE TO DO THE LOBECTOMY. THE CANCER METASTASIZED AND SPREAD THROUGHOUT, IT WAS TOO CLOSE TO HER HEART AND HE SAW THAT THE RISK WAS TOO HIGH THAT HE HAD TO CANCEL THE SURGERY AND SAID CHEMO WOULD BE THE BETTER TREATMENT. WE WERE DEVASTATED. AS WE WAITED FOR MY MOM TO HAVE VISITORS, WE CRIED AND STARTED TO GRIEVE...I REMEMBER TALKING TO MY DAD AND HE WAS SHAKING HIS HEAD, SAYING "IT IS NOT HER TIME. IF GOD WANTED TO TAKE HER, HE COULD HAVE TAKEN HER AT THE BIOPSY OR DURING THE SURGERY AND HE DIDN'T. IT IS NOT HER TIME." I COULD SEE AT THAT MOMENT HOW MUCH MY DAD LOVED MY MOM. HE TOLD ME THAT HE WOULD BE LOST WITHOUT HER AND WOULD PREFER TO COMMIT SUICIDE THAN LIVE WITHOUT HER. AND THAT'S WHEN IT HIT ME THAT MY MOM PRAYED FOR GOD TO USE HER – SHE DID NOT EXPECT

IT TO BE THIS WAY, BUT SHE WAS WILLING TO SACRIFICE HER LIFE FOR MY DAD.

IN DECEMBER, ON OUR WAY TO CHINO FOR FIRST FRIDAY, MY MOM SHARED THAT WHEN SHE WAS AROUND 5-6 YEARS OLD, ONE DAY SHE WAIVED AT A FRIEND AND AS HER FRIEND STARTED TO CROSS THE STREET, SHE WAS HIT BY A CAR AND DIED. MY MOM CONFESSED THAT SHE HAD NEVER TOLD ANYONE WHAT HAPPENED AND BLAMED HERSELF FOR OVER 65 YEARS. OLIVER AND I LOOKED AT EACH OTHER IN TOTAL AMAZEMENT. WE IMMEDIATELY KNEW THIS IS WHAT UNCLE VIC WAS TALKING ABOUT! MY MOM WAS SUPPOSED TO FORGIVE HERSELF. AND IF THAT WAS NOT MIND BLOWING ENOUGH, THAT SAME MORNING, I TOLD ONE OF MY CLIENTS, A HOLISTIC DOCTOR, ABOUT MY MOM'S LUNG CANCER; AND HIS IMMEDIATE QUESTION WAS "WHO IS YOUR MOM GRIEVING?" HE WENT ON TO EXPLAIN THAT SOME OF THE BODY'S ORGANS ARE TIED TO EMOTIONS; AND THE LUNGS ARE TIED TO GRIEF. I MENTIONED MY AUNT AND MY LOLA'S DEATH 10 YEARS AGO; AND HIS RESPONSE WAS "NO THAT'S TOO SOON, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN SOMETHING THAT HAPPENED TO HER AS A KID – NEXT TIME YOU SEE HER ASK HER." GOD IS SO GOOD ALL THE TIME! HIS PERFECT TIMING IS TOO GOOD TO BE TRUE, HE WAS TOO GOOD TO NOT BELIEVE. LOOKING BACK AT THOSE MOMENTS, THE HOLY SPIRIT WANTED OUR ATTENTION AND LED US ON A JOURNEY OF SURRENDER, FORGIVENESS, SACRIFICE AND OBEDIENCE THAT CHANGED OUR LIVES. MY MOM'S CANCER KICK STARTED OUR SPIRITUAL JOURNEY TO LEARNING MORE AND HAVING A DEEPER RELATIONSHIP WITH GOD. SPIRITUAL ARMY OF GOD THE FATHER PLAYED A MAJOR PART IN LAYING THE FOUNDATION OF WORSHIP, INTERCESSIONAL PRAYER AND UNVEILING THE SPIRITUAL WORLD. MAY GOD BLESS THIS MINISTRY AND EVERYONE WHO IS A PART OF IT FOREVER, AMEN. "☐"

# SPIRITUAL ENRICHMENT RECOMMENDED

## BARTOLO LONGO

[HTTPS://EN.WIKIPEDIA.ORG/WIKI/BARTOLOLO\\_LONGO](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bartololo_Longo)  
[HTTPS://LAUDATE-MARIAM.COM/BLOGS/LAUDATE-MARIAM-BLOG/BLESSED-BARTOLO-LONGO](https://laudate-mariam.com/blogs/laudate-mariam-blog/blessed-bartolo-longo)

Bartolo Longo, TOSD (February 10, 1841 – October 5, 1926) was an Italian lawyer and former Satanic priest who returned to the Catholic faith and became a Dominican tertiary, dedicating his life to the Rosary and the Virgin Mary. He was eventually awarded a papal knighthood of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem.[1] He was beatified in 1980. He will be canonized on October 19, 2025.

### EARLY YEARS

Bartolo Longo was born into a wealthy family on February 10, 1841, in the small town of Latiano, near Brindisi, in the Kingdom of the Two Sicilies.[2] His parents were devout Catholics. In 1851, Longo's father died and his mother remarried a lawyer.

In the 1860s, the Catholic Church in Italy found itself at odds with the strong nationalistic movement that inspired the cause for Risorgimento. The Church in Europe was also competing with the growing popularity of Spiritualism and Occultism. Because of this, many students at the University of Naples took part in public demonstrations against the pope, believed in witchcraft, and consulted Neapolitan mediums. Around this time, Longo was a student at the University of Naples. According to Longo, after some study and several spiritual experiences, he was ordained as a Satanic priest.

### CONVERSION TO CATHOLICISM

OVER THE NEXT YEAR, AT AGE 22, LONGO APPARENTLY SUFFERED FROM DEMONIC POSSESSION, "WITH A BODY REDUCED TO SKIN AND BONES, TWO POSSESSED EYES, FRAZZLED NERVES, A DEVILISH BEARD, AND A STOMACH AILMENT DOOMED TO ACCOMPANY HIM FOR THE REST OF HIS LIFE. ... HE FELT AN OMINOUS PRESENCE AT HIS SIDE, A BEING, THAT HE REFERRED TO AS HIS 'ANGEL' ... [A] DARK COMPANION." [8] HIS LIFE BECAME ONE OF "DEPRESSION, NERVOUSNESS, AND CONFUSION". [7] ONE OF HIS PROFESSORS, VINCENZO PEPE, RECOGNIZED THE DRAMATIC CHANGE IN LONGO'S BEHAVIOR. THE DOMINICAN FRIAR AND CATHOLIC PRIEST ALBERTO RADENTE AND THE RELIGIOUS SISTER (SAINT) CATERINA VOLPICELLI ALSO BEFRIENDED LONGO AND INTRODUCED HIM TO DEVOTION TO THE VIRGIN MARY AND THE ROSARY. WITH THEIR AID, LONGO CHOSE TO ABANDON SATANISM AND RETURN TO THE CATHOLIC CHURCH. HE REPORTEDLY VISITED

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## Upcoming Events

### 1<sup>ST</sup> FRIDAY DEVOTION

OCTOBER 3, 2025  
IN LOS ANGELES: VIA ZOOM  
DEVOTIONAL PRAYERS BEGIN AT 8:30 PM

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

### 1<sup>ST</sup> SATURDAY DEVOTION

#### 1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY DEVOTION

OCTOBER 4, 2025  
IN LOS ANGELES:  
ST. ANNE'S CHAPEL  
155 N. OCCIDENTAL BL.  
LOS ANGELES, CA 90026  
DEVOTIONAL PRAYERS AT 8:30 AM  
MASS AT 9:30 AM

### 1<sup>ST</sup> SATURDAY DEVOTION

OCTOBER 4, 2025  
IN LAS VEGAS:  
DEVOTIONAL PRAYERS AT 1:00 PM  
AT THE CENACLE HOUSE

### 1<sup>ST</sup> SUNDAY DEVOTION

OCTOBER 5, 2025  
IN LAS VEGAS:  
ST. SHARBEL CATHOLIC CHURCH  
MASS AT 9:30 AM FOLLOWED BY  
DEVOTIONAL PRAYERS AT THE CHAPEL

### 2000 HAIL MARY DEVOTION

OCTOBER 18, 2025  
IN LOS ANGELES: VIA ZOOM  
MASS AT 8:30 AM  
IN LAS VEGAS:  
OCTOBER 25, 2025, 6:00 AM  
AT THE CENACLE HOUSE

A SÉANCE AND HELD UP A ROSARY, DECLARING: "I RENOUNCE SPIRITUALISM BECAUSE IT IS NOTHING BUT A MAZE OF ERROR AND FALSEHOOD."

ON OCTOBER 7, 1871, LONGO BECAME A DOMINICAN TERTIARY AND TOOK THE NAME "ROSARIO". HE ALSO CAME TO KNOW SOME FRANCISCAN FRIARS WITH WHOM HE HELPED THE POOR AND INCURABLY ILL. BARTOLO ALSO KEPT UP HIS LAW PRACTICE. HE WENT TO THE VILLAGE OF POMPEI TO TAKE CARE OF THE AFFAIRS OF A FRIEND, COUNTESS MARIANNA FARNARARO DE FUSCO.

IN POMPEI, LONGO LATER RECOUNTED, HE WAS SHOCKED AT THE EROSION OF THE PEOPLE'S FAITH. HE WROTE, "THEIR RELIGION WAS A MIXTURE OF SUPERSTITION AND POPULAR TRADITION. [...] FOR THEIR EVERY NEED, [...] THEY WOULD GO TO A WITCH, A SORCERESS, IN ORDER TO OBTAIN CHARMS AND WITCHCRAFT." THROUGH TALKING TO THE CITIZENS, BARTOLO CAME TO RECOGNIZE THEIR SEVERE LACK OF CATECHESIS. WHEN HE ASKED ONE MAN IF THERE WAS ONLY ONE GOD, THE FELLOW ANSWERED: "WHEN I WAS A CHILD, I REMEMBER PEOPLE TELLING ME THERE WERE THREE. NOW, AFTER SO MANY YEARS, I DON'T KNOW IF ONE OF THEM IS DEAD OR ONE HAS MARRIED."

LONGO WAS DEEPLY TROUBLED BY THE CONFUSED BELIEFS OF THE PEOPLE HE ENCOUNTERED AT POMPEII. HE WAS SO DEPRESSED THAT HE EVEN STRUGGLED WITH SUICIDAL THOUGHTS, REMINISCENT OF HIS TIME AS A SATANIC PRIEST. HOWEVER, HE REMEMBERED THE BLESSED VIRGIN'S PROMISE TO ST. DOMINIC: "HE WHO PROPAGATES MY ROSARY WILL BE SAVED". THIS PROMISE CONVINCED HIM TO ENCOURAGE PUBLIC DEVOTION TO THE ROSARY AS A MEANS OF LEADING THE PEOPLE BACK TO GOD.

### SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF POMPEI

OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY WITH ST. DOMINIC AND ST. CATHERINE OF SIENA

WITH THE HELP OF COUNTESS MARIANA DI FUSCO, HE INAUGURATED A CONFRATERNITY OF THE ROSARY AND, IN OCTOBER 1873, STARTED RESTORING A DILAPIDATED CHURCH. HE SPONSORED A FESTIVAL IN HONOR OF OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY.

IN 1875, LONGO OBTAINED AS A GIFT A PAINTING PORTRAYING OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY, WITH SAINT DOMINIC AND SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA. M. CONCETTA DE LITALA, A RELIGIOUS SISTER OF THE MONASTERY OF THE ROSARY AT PORTA MEDINA, HAD BEEN HOLDING IT FOR THE DOMINICAN PRIEST ALBERTO RADENTE. RADENTE HAD ACQUIRED IT FROM A JUNK-SHOP DEALER IN NAPLES FOR A VERY SMALL SUM. THE PAINTING WAS IN BAD CONDITION, AND LONGO WROTE OF HIS IMMEDIATE DISTASTE FOR THE POOR ARTISTIC QUALITY WHEN HE FIRST SAW IT. HOWEVER, HE ACCEPTED THE GIFT TO CONSERVE FUNDS AND TO NOT INSULT CONCETTA. LONGO RAISED FUNDS TO RESTORE THE IMAGE AND PLACED IT IN THE CHURCH IN AN EFFORT TO ENCOURAGE PILGRIMAGES.

ALLEGED MIRACLES BEGAN TO BE REPORTED AND PEOPLE BEGAN FLOCKING IN DROVES TO THE CHURCH. LONGO WAS ENCOURAGED BY THE BISHOP OF NOLA TO BEGIN THE CONSTRUCTION OF A LARGER CHURCH—THE CORNERSTONE BEING LAID ON MAY 8, 1876. THE CHURCH WAS CONSECRATED IN MAY 1891 BY CARDINAL LA VALLETTA (REPRESENTING POPE LEO XIII). IN 1939, THE CHURCH WAS ENLARGED TO A BASILICA, KNOWN TODAY AS THE PONTIFICAL SHRINE OF THE VIRGIN OF THE ROSARY OF POMPEI. LONGO ALSO WROTE SPIRITUAL WORKS, INCLUDING THE HISTORY OF THE SANCTUARY OF POMPEI.

### LATER LIFE AND DEATH

THE REMAINS OF BLESSED BARTOLO LONGO (1841–1926), INSIDE THE SHRINE OF THE VIRGIN OF THE ROSARY OF POMPEI IN ITALY. DUE TO THEIR YEARS OF COLLABORATION ON THESE SPIRITUAL AND CHARITABLE WORKS AND AT THE SUGGESTION OF POPE LEO XIII, BARTOLO LONGO AND THE COUNTESS MARIANA DI FUSCO WERE MARRIED ON APRIL 7, 1885. THE COUPLE, HOWEVER, REMAINED CONTINENT (ABSTAINED FROM INTERCOURSE), WHILE CONTINUING TO ORGANIZE WORKS SUCH AS SCHOOLS AND HOMES FOR ORPHANS AND THE CHILDREN OF PRISONERS, WHICH WAS CONSIDERED RADICAL AT THE TIME. IN 1906, THEY DONATED THE ENTIRE PROPERTY OF THE SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF POMPEI TO THE HOLY SEE, AND LONGO RELINQUISHED HIS AUTHORITY OVER ALL HIS WORKS.

LONGO CONTINUED PROMOTING THE ROSARY UNTIL HIS DEATH ON OCTOBER 5, 1926, AT THE AGE OF 85. THE PIAZZA ON WHICH HIS BASILICA STANDS HAS SINCE BEEN NAMED IN MEMORY OF LONGO. HIS BODY IS ENCASED IN A GLASS TOMB AND HE IS WEARING THE MANTLE AND REGALIA OF A KNIGHT GRAND CROSS OF THE EQUESTRIAN ORDER OF THE HOLY SEPULCHRE OF JERUSALEM, A PAPAL ORDER OF KNIGHTHOOD.

### LEGACY - NOBEL PEACE PRIZE

IN 1902, LONGO WAS NOMINATED FOR THE NOBEL PEACE PRIZE FOR ORGANIZING A PETITION DRIVE FOR WORLD PEACE FROM 1896 TO 1900, COLLECTING MORE THAN FOUR MILLION SIGNATURES IN DOZENS OF COUNTRIES. HIS NOMINATION WAS SUBMITTED TO THE NORWEGIAN NOBEL COMMITTEE BY PIETRO CHIMIENTI, ANTONIO CARDARELLI AND 8 MEMBERS OF THE ITALIAN SENATE AND CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES.

IN 1903, HE WAS NOMINATED AGAIN BY VINCENZO GIUSEPPE DE PRISCO AND LUIGI SIMEONI HIGHLIGHTING HIS INVOLVEMENT IN SOCIAL AND HUMANITARIAN ISSUES. IT WAS EVEN SUPPORTED BY POPE LEO XIII. ACCORDING TO INSTITUTO "ANTONIO AVETA", HIS NOMINATIONS WERE NOT CONSIDERED GREATLY BECAUSE HIS WORK WAS OF RELIGIOUS MOTIVES.

### BEATIFICATION AND CANONIZATION

LONGO'S SPIRITUAL WRITINGS WERE APPROVED BY THEOLOGAINS ON FEBRUARY 1, 1939, AND APRIL 4, 1943. HIS CAUSE WAS FORMALLY OPENED ON FEBRUARY 28, 1947, AND WAS GIVEN THE TITLE SERVANT OF GOD.

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### THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ROSARY IN OUR TIMES

IT ALSO CAME OUT THAT, UPON REALIZING THE RING HAD BEEN LOST IN SUCH A VAST AREA, MY VERY FIRST THOUGHT WAS "MOTHER MARY, FULL OF GRACE." IT WAS INSTANTANEOUS.

IN TIMES OF DIFFICULTY AND DESOLATION, IT'S SUCH A CONSOLATION TO BE ABLE TO TURN ALL OF OUR HOPE TOWARD OUR BLESSED MOTHER AND OUR SAVIOR, HER SON. I KNEW WITHOUT A DOUBT THAT IF I COULD IMPLORE MARY TO INTERCEDE ON OUR BEHALF, THEN WE WOULD FIND THE RING. I KNEW THE OUTCOME WAS COMPLETELY OUT OF MY HANDS, AND I WAS AT PEACE WITH GOD'S WILL — WHATEVER THAT MIGHT BE. SO, WHEN THE RING WAS RETURNED TO US AFTER ONLY A FEW HAIL MARYS, I WAS HONESTLY NOT SURPRISED — IT WAS AS IF I SOMEHOW ALREADY KNEW IT WOULD BE FOUND.

SISTER LUCIA, ONE OF THE VISIONARIES OF FATIMA, SAID, "THERE IS NO PROBLEM, I TELL YOU, NO MATTER HOW DIFFICULT IT IS, THAT WE CANNOT SOLVE BY THE PRAYER OF THE HOLY ROSARY."

### WHAT ARE SOME OF THE BIGGEST PROBLEMS WE SEE IN THE WORLD?

I'M NOT SURE WE COULD LIST THEM ALL IF WE TRIED, BUT IF WE FOCUS ON THE PRAYERS OF THE FAITHFUL DURING MASS, WE WILL PROBABLY HEAR SOME OF THE MOST COMMON WORLD PROBLEMS: VIOLENCE, HUNGER, POVERTY, NATURAL DISASTER, DISEASE... IN THE MASS, WE PRAY TOGETHER FOR AN END TO THESE "PROBLEMS" WEEK AFTER WEEK.

NOW, I UNDERSTAND THAT THE "PROBLEM" OF A LOST WEDDING RING IS MINISCULE WHEN COMPARED TO THE MAJORITY OF THE PROBLEMS WE FACE IN THE WORLD TODAY. BUT THE BEAUTY OF THE ROSARY IS THAT, BY CONTINUALLY MEDITATING UPON THE MYSTERIES OF JESUS' LIFE, WE CAN BEGIN TO TAKE ON HIS WAY OF THINKING AND ACTING.

TO PUT IT MORE BIBLICALLY, WE PUT ON THE MIND OF CHRIST. HE INCREASES; WE DECREASE. SO, WHETHER OUR PROBLEMS ARE BIG OR SMALL, WITH A CHRISTLIKE OUTLOOK WE CAN BEGIN TO TAKE THEM ON.

### HOW DOES THIS HELP US TO SOLVE THE PROBLEMS OF THE WORLD?

GHANDI SAID, "BE THE CHANGE YOU WANT TO SEE IN THE WORLD."

IN OPENING OUR HEARTS TO JESUS THROUGH THIS MARIAN DEVOTION, WE ARE TAKING STEPS TOWARD BECOMING THE CHANGE WE'D LIKE TO SEE — AND THUS, SOLVING THE WORLD'S PROBLEMS, ONE PERSON AT A TIME.

REMEMBER THE STORY OF THE MUSTARD SEED. IF YOU'VE EVER HELD THIS IMPOSSIBLY TINY SEED IN YOUR HAND, THEN YOU

KNOW IT'S SMALLER THAN THE HEAD OF A PIN. YET IT GROWS TO BECOME ONE OF THE LARGEST SHRUBS. SIMILARLY, WHEN THE TINY SEEDS OF CHANGE BECOME PLANTED WITHIN OUR HEARTS AND MINDS, WE'RE SUDDENLY CAPABLE OF TAKING SMALL ACTIONS TOWARD GREAT CHANGES.

THE ROSARY IS FORMATIVE. WE BECOME HABITUATED TO TURNING AUTOMATICALLY TOWARD MARY IN TIMES OF DESOLATION, LOOKING TO HER AS OUR PERFECT, HOLY MOTHER AND GUIDE, AS JESUS ESSENTIALLY ASKS US TO DO FROM HIS PLACE ON THE CROSS: WHEN JESUS SAW HIS MOTHER AND THE DISCIPLE THERE WHOM HE LOVED, HE SAID TO HIS MOTHER, "WOMAN, BEHOLD, YOUR SON." THEN HE SAID TO THE DISCIPLE, "BEHOLD, YOUR MOTHER." (JOHN 19:25-27)

### HOW IS THE ROSARY FORMATIVE?

ACCORDING TO ST. LOUIS DE MONTFORT — ONE OF THE MOST INFLUENTIAL PROMOTERS OF AND PROFOUND WRITERS ON THE ROSARY — HERE'S HOW:

IT GRADUALLY GIVES US A PERFECT KNOWLEDGE OF JESUS CHRIST. THE MORE WE COME TO KNOW JESUS, THE MORE WE'LL BE LIKE HIM; WE TEND TO BECOME LIKE THE PEOPLE WITH WHOM WE ASSOCIATE OURSELVES MOST CLOSELY. IT PURIFIES OUR SOULS, WASHING AWAY SIN. THE MORE WE DESIRE TO BE LIKE JESUS, THE LESS TIGHTLY WE'LL HOLD ONTO THOSE VICIES AND PASSIONS WHICH KEEP US AWAY FROM HIM. IT FACILITATES OUR ABILITY TO PRACTICE VIRTUE. THE MORE WE DESIRE TO KNOW AND TO BE LIKE JESUS, THE MORE WE'LL DESIRE TO IMITATE HIM, AND TO PRACTICE THE VIRTUES THAT HE DEMONSTRATED IN HIS LIFE.

IT SETS US ON FIRE WITH LOVE FOR OUR BLESSED LORD. THE MORE WE KNOW JESUS, THE MORE WE'LL LOVE HIM. IT ENRICHES US WITH GRACES AND MERITS. THE MORE WE LOVE JESUS, THE MORE HE'LL POUR HIS DIVINE LIFE INTO US. IT GIVES US VICTORY OVER OUR ENEMIES. WE ARE SPEAKING OF THOSE SPIRITUAL ENEMIES THAT LURK IN THE DEPTHS OF OUR HEARTS.

THINK OF A POSITIVE RELATIONSHIP YOU'VE HAD IN THE PAST — PERHAPS WITH YOUR SPOUSE, A BEST FRIEND, OR A MENTOR. INITIALLY, YOU WERE ATTRACTED TO THIS PERSON FOR CERTAIN QUALITIES HE OR SHE POSSESSED. BUT THE MORE YOU HUNG OUT AND GOT TO KNOW THIS PERSON, THE MORE THE ATTRACTION GREW. AT ONE POINT, PERHAPS YOU COULDN'T WAIT TO SEE THIS PERSON AGAIN. THE MORE YOU WERE TOGETHER, THE MORE YOU WANTED TO BE TOGETHER.

THE ROSARY CAN HELP YOU CULTIVATE SUCH A RELATIONSHIP WITH OUR LORD — AND THE MOST AWESOME PART OF THE DEAL IS THAT JESUS IS ALREADY IN LOVE WITH YOU. HE KNOWS YOU. HE KNOWS YOUR HEART, YOUR MIND, YOUR STORIES, YOUR FEARS, YOUR DESIRES, AND YOUR WORRIES. HE'LL NEVER ABANDON YOU OR LEAVE YOU ALONE OR LONELY. WHEN WE

KNOW WE AREN'T ALONE, WE GROW IN STRENGTH AND COURAGE — AND ARE THOSE NOT QUALITIES THAT MIGHT BE USED TOWARD THE GOOD OF THE WORLD?

BUT SOMETIMES PRAYING THE ROSARY DOES LEAD TO MIRACLES.

THESE STORIES OFTEN GIVE ME GOOSEBUMPS. FOR EXAMPLE, AT THE BATTLE OF LEPANTO IN 1571, CHRISTIAN SAILORS APPEALED TO POPE PIUS V FOR HIS PRAYERS — THEIR FORCES NUMBERED 80,000 TROOPS TO A TURKISH FORCE OF 120,000. POPE PIUS V ENCOURAGED ALL CHRISTIANS TO PRAY THE MOST HOLY ROSARY FOR THE OUTCOME OF THE BATTLE. AT DAWN, THE WEATHER SUDDENLY CHANGED.

FORMERLY IN FAVOR OF THE TURKS, THE SUDDEN SHIFT IN WEATHER ALLOWED THE CHRISTIAN FORCES TO OVERWHELM THEIR ENEMY AND RELEASE 12,000 CHRISTIANS FROM TURKISH SLAVERY. THOSE WHO WITNESSED THE BATTLE FIRST HAND HELD NO DOUBT THAT GOD HAD INTERVENED, AND THEY ATTRIBUTED THE VICTORY TO THE INTERCESSION OF OUR LADY.

FAST FORWARD TO 1983, A YEAR AFTER POPE JOHN PAUL II MADE THE ACT OF ENTRUSTMENT, CONSECRATING THE WORLD TO THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY IN A CEREMONY TO CLOSE OUT THE HOLY YEAR OF REDEMPTION. THE COLD WAR HAD REACHED ITS TIPPING POINT. PRESIDENT RONALD REAGAN HAD PLACED SHORT-RANGE MISSILES IN EUROPE. SHOULD A U.S. MISSILE STRIKE OCCUR, THE SOVIET PROTOCOL WAS TO RETALIATE. STANISLAV PETROV, AN OFFICER IN THE SOVIET AIR DEFENSE FORCES, WAS AT HIS POST IN A COMMAND CENTER OUTSIDE OF MOSCOW. HIS JOB WAS TO MONITOR THE SOVIET COMPUTER SYSTEM THAT TRACKED POSSIBLE U.S. MISSILE LAUNCHES. SHORTLY AFTER MIDNIGHT ON SEPTEMBER 26TH, THE ALARM SOUNDED. ALL PETROV HAD TO DO WAS REACH FOR THE PHONE, RAISE THE ALERT TO HIS COMMANDERS, AND A NUCLEAR RETALIATION WOULD BE UNDERWAY. BUT HE WAS PHYSICALLY FROZEN IN PLACE. HE FELT AS IF HE COULDN'T MOVE. SOMETHING (OR SOMEONE?) WAS HOLDING HIM BACK FROM REACHING TOWARD THE PHONE. THEN, A THOUGHT CAME TO HIM: THIS WAS A FAIRLY NEW SYSTEM. REACHING FOR THE PHONE, HE MADE THE DECLARATION TO HEADQUARTERS: THE SYSTEM HAD MALFUNCTIONED; THIS WAS A FALSE ALARM. IT TURNS OUT THAT THE RADAR WAS PICKING UP A FLOCK OF BIRDS AND MISINTERPRETED THEM TO BE A NUCLEAR MISSILE STRIKE. HAD IT NOT BEEN FOR POPE ST. JOHN PAUL II'S CONSECRATION TO OUR LADY, WOULD THERE HAVE INDEED BEEN A NUCLEAR WAR? SR. LUCIA OF FATIMA HAS REVEALED THAT OUR LADY AFFIRMED THIS SUPPOSITION!

IN THESE EXAMPLES, OUR LADY'S INTERCESSION HAD MASSIVE IMPACT ON THE LIVES OF COUNTLESS PEOPLE AND, FRANKLY, THE HISTORY OF THE WORLD. AS YOU CAN SEE, THERE IS TRULY NO LIMIT TO THE POWER OF OUR MARIAN PRAYERS FOR INTERVENTION. BIG OR SMALL, OUR LADY'S HEART IS OPEN TO ANY AND ALL OF OUR PRAYERS FOR THE GOOD IN THIS WORLD. HOW THOSE PRAYERS WILL BE ANSWERED IS UP TO HER WISDOM AND OUR FATHER'S WILL.

THE POINT OF THE ROSARY, AS WITH ANY FORM OF PRAYER, IS NOT THAT WE'RE CHANGING OTHERS, OR EVEN CHANGING SITUATIONS OR CIRCUMSTANCES. THE POINT OF THE ROSARY IS THAT WE'RE ALLOWING THE LORD TO TRANSFORM OUR HEARTS, AND BY TRANSFORMING OUR HEARTS, HE MAKES US A LIGHT TO SHINE FOR OTHERS.

AND WHEN HIS LIGHT SHINES THROUGH YOU INTO THE DARKNESS, THE DARKNESS OF THE WORLD CAN'T OVERCOME IT (CF. JOHN 1:5). □

SOURCE OF CONTENT: COVENANT NETWORK, CATHOLIC RADIO



*"I am your Mother Mary.*

*My children pray, pray, pray my beads for continuing peace in your land and throughout the world.*

*There is an impending turmoil and disaster that you must prepare. This will affect your lives.*

*Peace will come but the evil ones want disagreement and contention.*

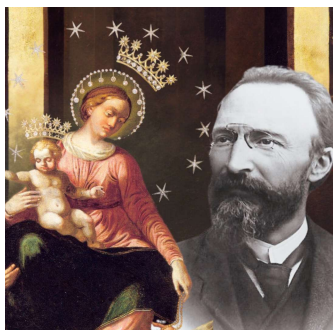
*My son, Jesus, is always there welcoming your love before the Holy Eucharist.*

*My love will always be with you, my children, and my Immaculate Heart will guide you in your prayer.*

*Always remember, be always prepared for anything. If you are close to God's mercy and my son Jesus, just remember: this turmoil and disaster is a result of humanity's greed and worldly desires to conquer wealth.*

*Mary, Your Lady of Peace  
09062025*

ON OCTOBER 26, 1980, LONGO WAS BEATIFIED BY POPE JOHN PAUL II, CALLING HIM THE "APOSTLE OF THE ROSARY" AND MENTIONING HIM SPECIFICALLY IN HIS APOSTOLIC LETTER ROSARIUM VIRGINIS MARIAE (THE ROSARY OF THE VIRGIN MARY). LONGO'S WRITINGS AND SERMONS OFTEN REFLECTED HIS DEEP THEOLOGICAL INSIGHTS INTO THE ROSARY. HE VIEWED THE ROSARY AS A SPIRITUAL WEAPON AGAINST EVIL AND A SOURCE OF PEACE AND RECONCILIATION. HIS DEVOTION AND REFORMATIVE WORKS LED TO HIS BEATIFICATION IN 1980 BY POPE JOHN PAUL II, WHO RECOGNIZED HIS PROFOUND IMPACT ON THE CHURCH AND SOCIETY.



BLESSED BARTOLO LONGO'S STORY IS A TESTAMENT TO THE POWER OF CONVERSION AND THE PROFOUND IMPACT OF THE ROSARY IN TRANSFORMING LIVES. HIS LIFE ENCOURAGES THE FAITHFUL TO BELIEVE IN THE POSSIBILITY OF REDEMPTION AND THE TRANSFORMATIVE POWER OF

PRAYER. HIS PROFOUND EXPERIENCE AND MIRACULOUS CONVERSION ARE CAPTURED IN HIS WRITINGS, WHERE HE DOCUMENTED HIS MYSTICAL EXPERIENCES AND THE MESSAGES HE BELIEVED WERE FROM THE VIRGIN MARY, URGING HIM TO PROMOTE THE ROSARY.

ON FEBRUARY 25, 2025, POPE FRANCIS APPROVED THE FAVORABLE VOTES OF THE ORDINARY SESSION OF THE CARDINALS AND BISHOPS OF THE DICASTERY FOR THE CAUSES OF SAINTS FOR LONGO AND JOSÉ GREGORIO HERNÁNDEZ TO BE CANONIZED, WITH THE CANONIZATION DATE TO BE CONFIRMED. POPE FRANCIS' DECISION TO CANONIZE BARTOLO LONGO IS A TRIBUTE TO A MODERN SAINT AND A VISIONARY AHEAD OF HIS TIME. WITH A PROPHETIC OUTLOOK THAT UNITED FAITH AND CHARITY, BARTOLO LONGO ANTICIPATED THE THEMES OF POPE LEO XIII'S RERUM NOVARUM AND EMBODIED THE CHURCH'S CONCERN FOR THE MOST VULNERABLE. HE STANDS AS A SHINING EXAMPLE OF LAY HOLINESS IN ACTION. HE IS SCHEDULED TO BE CANONIZED BY POPE LEO XIV ON OCTOBER 19, 2025 ALONG WITH OTHER VENERABLE FIGURES. □