



## Holy Rosary

### Drawing Close to the Heart of Jesus

“Come to Me, all you who labor and are heavy burdened, and I will give you rest. Learn from Me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for your souls.” (Matthew 11: 28-30)

All reflections are taken from *Fire of Mercy, Heart of the Word*  
by Erasmo Leiva-Merikakis

**Introduction:** “God yearns to give Himself to us, to take us forever into His embrace. ‘Love then consists in this: not that we have loved God, but that He has loved us and has sent His Son as a sacrifice for our sins.’ (1 John 4:10) God wants nothing from us, except ourselves.”

*Creed, Our Father, Three Hail Mary’s, Glory Be...*

#### First Decade: The Annunciation

“Venite ad me! ... Come to Me!” Without ceasing to pray to His Father, Jesus turns to us with the sweet command that every lover wants to hear from the Beloved: “Come to Me!” When we hear these words we know the time of waiting is over and the time of union has begun. The Christian God, who is a Lover-God, reveals Himself only in order to invite to union and mutual joy.

**Petition:** May Mary’s perfect ‘yes’ to God’s invitation to be the mother of Jesus give us strength and courage to render our own ‘yes’ in our daily loves.

#### Second Decade: The Visitation

“All you who labor and are heavy burdened...”

God is the absolute liberator of man from every burden that keeps him back from becoming a free child of the infinitely free Father. Jesus is the One who, by a divine “instinct”, Himself bends down to share the lot of all who are burdened beyond their ability to bear it. Rather than denounce the source of oppression, whether within or outside the person, Jesus simply extends an invitation: “Come to Me!” It is crucial that these words be seen as an invitation, because the person must respond to it with perfect freedom. One must, in some sense, leave behind the oppressive situation and go to Jesus.

**Petition:** May Mary’s response to trust in the presence of our Lord in moments of uncertainty be a source of grace that we, too, may turn to Him with complete trust that He is desiring to be our strength and strong hold.

#### Third Decade: The Nativity

“Learn from Me...”

Yoked to Jesus and carrying with Him the sweet burden of the redeeming Cross, the disciple comes to learn the truth of God by constant association with the Heart of God. In such close proximity...the disciple gradually comes to share the common task with the Redeemer, the Son of Man who has come to serve and not to be served. Those taken by the Son into the secrets of the Father must share the burdens of the Son’s task, the toil and the chafing of the ‘yoke’ of the Incarnation. ‘Learn from Me’: the kind of education intended by the Savior is not directed at an abstract doctrine or interpretation of Scripture; it is an education of the *heart*, and it’s first condition is the assuming of the yoke of obedience...only then can the disciple begin to learn.

**Petition:** May the intercession of Our Blessed Mother and Saint Joseph, who embraced perfect obedience to the Will of God for their lives, under the shadow of the Cross, obtain the graces necessary for each of us to become more faithful disciples to the Heart of the Son.

#### Fourth Decade: The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple

“For I am meek and humble of heart...”

Jesus and His disciple are nourished and strengthened by their obedience. In the Heart of Jesus, we discover with amazement that at the center of the Divine Being, and therefore at the center of reality, there dwell Gentleness and Humility. Such is the innermost secret of the Creator God and King of the Universe: at the very Heart of the divine

omnipotence there is active and infinite tenderness and compassion. In Jesus we witness divine omnipotence with humility and submissiveness of heart. He is submissive *only* to the Will of the Father. Such radical exclusive submission, such unity of purpose in humility and obedience, result in an outpouring in Him and through Him of the power of the goodness of the Father. *Jesus' lowliness of heart is the unsurpassable empowerment of man.*

**Petition:** Through the intercession of Mary and Joseph, may we obtain the grace to surrender our hearts and lives to the Father's Will.

### Fifth Decade: The Finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple

"...and I will give you rest."

Jesus promises that He Himself will confer this rest by relieving us from all undesirable burdens. Jesus brings us to repose by bringing us to Himself, the Eternal Word in whom and for whom we are created. He is both the Fulfiller and the Fulfillment, the Quieter and the Quiet, the Way and the Life. His most divine power is His ability to satisfy every longing of the human heart and thus give it true repose.

**Petition:** As Mary pondered the mysteries of God in her heart, may we allow the Holy Spirit to guide our hearts to rest in the Sacred Heart of Jesus in order to be refreshed and open to His life-giving Spirit in our lives.

### Hail, Holy Queen

Lord, have mercy on us  
*Christ, have mercy on us*  
Lord, have mercy on us, Christ hear us  
*Christ, graciously hear us*  
God, the Father of heaven  
God, the Son, Redeemer of the world  
God, the Holy Spirit  
Holy Trinity, One God  
Holy Mary  
Holy Mother of God  
Holy Virgin of Virgins  
Mother of Christ  
Mother of the Church  
Mother of Mercy  
Mother of Divine Grace  
Mother of Hope  
Mother Most Pure  
Mother Most Chaste  
Mother Inviolable  
Mother undefiled  
Mother Most Amiable  
Mother Most Admirable  
Mother of Good Counsel  
Mother of our Creator  
Mother of our Savior  
Virgin Most Prudent  
Virgin Most Venerable  
Virgin Most Renowned  
Virgin Most Powerful  
Virgin Most Merciful  
Virgin Most Faithful  
Mirror of Justice  
Seat of Wisdom  
Cause of our Joy  
Spiritual Vessel  
Vessel of Honor  
Singular Vessel of Devotion  
Mystical Rose

*Have mercy on us*  
*Have mercy on us*  
*Have mercy on us*  
*Have mercy on us*  
*Pray for us [etc.]*

Tower of David  
Tower of Ivory  
House of Gold  
Ark of the Covenant  
Gate of Heaven  
Morning Star  
Health of the Sick  
Refuge of Sinners  
Solace of migrants  
Comforter of the Afflicted  
Help of Christians  
Queen of Angels  
Queen of Patriarchs  
Queen of Prophets  
Queen of Apostles  
Queen of Martyrs  
Queen of Confessors  
Queen of Virgins  
Queen of all Saints  
Queen Conceived without Original Sin  
Queen Assumed into Heaven  
Queen of the Most Holy Rosary  
Queen of Families  
Queen of Peace  
Queen and Beauty of Carmel  
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world  
*Spare us, O Lord*  
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world  
*Graciously hear us, O Lord*  
Lamb of God, you take away the sins of the world  
*Have mercy on us*  
Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God  
*That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ*

**Let us pray:** Lord God, grant that your children may always enjoy health of soul and body. May the intercession of the glorious Virgin Mary deliver us from the sorrows of this world and make us share your happiness throughout eternity. This we ask of you, through our Lord Jesus Christ, Your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God forever. Amen.

### Hymn to Our Lady of Mount Carmel

#### Versel:

O Blessed Virgin, Queen of Carmel,  
My sweetest Mother, ideal of mine,  
To thee forever we consecrate  
Our lives, our labors, our very hearts.

#### Refrain:

Guide me, O Mother, guide me to heaven;  
Teach me the secret of love divine.  
Guide me O Mother, guide me to heaven  
Through joy or sorrow until I die.

#### Verses 2:

Up there in heaven, Most loving Mother  
Forever happy I'll be with thee.  
My soul ambition, my great desire,  
Is give thee glory unceasingly. **Refrain**

