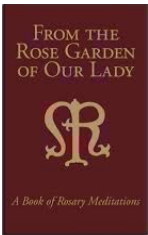


Meditation on the mysteries of the Most Holy Rosary

The Fifth Glorious Mystery

The Crowning of Mary in Heaven



Method of meditation

To do a good meditation we ought to use the main three faculties of our soul: memory, intelligence, and will. This is a brief explanation of how to meditate:

- 1) **Memory:** firstly, I try to remember some principles, great realities of our faith or events of Our Lord's life and bring them into my mind so that they may be meditated upon.
- 2) **Intelligence (knowledge of God):** secondly, I consider these thoughts and try to understand their meaning and the consequences which are attached to them.
- 3) **Will (love of God):** finally, after a while of consideration, I produce some acts of will in order to apply concretely what I have drawn from my meditation into my own life and I ask God to help me to do so.

With this support, this method can be done like this:

- 1) **Memory:** read slowly the **text from St. Bernard and the Imitation of Christ** (page 2).
- 2) **Intelligence:** read and think longer about the **first series of considerations** (page 3).
- 3) **Will:** read the **second series of considerations** which apply in a more practical way the message of the Gospel (page 4).

End by reading the last consideration which should lead us to make **a real resolution** to apply the examples of this mystery of the rosary in our own life (page 4).

As part of the 1st Saturdays devotions, let us do this **meditation in spirit of reparation** in order to console Our Lady against the outrages committed towards her Immaculate Heart.

1. St. Bernard on the Assumption of Mary

As the Blessed Virgin Mary on this day ascended glorious into Heaven, beyond doubt did she immeasurably increase the blessedness of the citizens of Heaven. Through a mere word of greeting from her, one who was still imprisoned in the maternal womb, was made to exult and rejoice. If then, the heart of John, an unborn child, almost melted for joy on hearing Mary, how indescribably great must have been the joy of the heavenly citizens, when they were permitted to hear her voice, to gaze into her face, to enjoy her blessed presence?

Who could form an adequate idea of the resplendent spectacle enacted on this day, as the Queen of the Universe enters Heaven? Who can describe the veneration and enthusiasm with which the heavenly Hosts come forth to receive her and the anthems of praise with which she was escorted to her glorious heavenly throne? What love glowed in the eyes of her Divine Son, what benevolence lighted up His face, what Divine tenderness was apparent in His embraces as He welcomes His mother and elevates her above all the other creatures of His hand? He receives her with such honour as alone was worthy of the dignity of such a mother. He adorns her with such glory as only a Divine Son could grant her (First Sermon, On the Assumption).

2. The Imitation of Christ

Oh! if thou hadst seen the everlasting crowns of the saints in Heaven and in how great glory they now triumph, who appeared contemptible heretofore to this world, and in a manner even unworthy of life, doubtless thou wouldst immediately cast thyself down to the very earth, and wouldst rather seek to be under the feet of all than to command even one.

Ah, if thou didst but relish these things, and let them sink deeply into thy heart, how wouldst thou dare even once to complain? Are not all painful labours to be endured for everlasting life? It is no small matter to lose or gain the kingdom of God.

Lift up, therefore, thy face to Heaven. Behold, I and all my saints with me, who in this world have had a great conflict, do now rejoice, are comforted now, are now secure, are now at rest, and they shall for all eternity abide with me in the kingdom of my father (from Book III, Chapter 47).

3. Considerations

1st series

1. The heavenly Father welcomes Mary as the most highly favoured of all His children, for she is more innocent than Abel, wiser than Solomon, more beautiful than the angels, more virtuous than all the saints, more steadfast than all the martyrs. He bids her welcome as the Mother of His Only-begotten Son.
2. The Eternal Son places upon His Mother's brow the crown of heavenly Queenship. The real glory and greatness of Mary, formerly hidden so long in her own interior, is now revealed to all: "A woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and a crown of twelve stars upon her head."
3. The Holy Ghost in turn heaps ever more grace and beatitude upon her. He crowns her as Mistress of all the angels and saints.
4. Mary is Queen of the Angels, because she is more glorious than they; Queen of Patriarchs and Prophets, because they were sent in remote expectation of her; Queen of Apostles, as having not merely announced the glad tidings of salvation but as having brought us the Saviour. Mary is Queen of Martyrs, having surpassed them in the vehemence of her sufferings; Queen of Confessors, having given proof of greater fortitude; Queen of Virgins while surpassing them in the splendour of her purity. Mary is a worthy Queen of all the Saints.
5. Nevertheless, Mary was and still is the humblest of all God's creatures. Hence God elevated her above all. Mary will remain forever more the handmaid of the Lord as well as Queen of Heaven and earth.
6. Mary had the heaviest crosses to bear, therefore she is the most blessed in Heaven. "For I reckon that the suffering of this time are not worthy to be compared to the glory to come, that shall be revealed in us."

2nd series

7. The Mother of God, greeted by the infinite jubilation of angels and saints, enters body and soul into Heaven. "Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, nor hath it entered into the heart of man to conceive, what God hath prepared for those who love Him." May my soul also have some day its glorious entrance into Heaven.
8. She was not like the earthly-minded Martha, but rather like Martha's sister Mary, whose mind was fixed upon the things of eternity. "Mary has chosen the better part, which shall not be taken from her." She has not been one of those foolish virgins, who gave no thought to preserve the grace of God in their hearts: Mary is therefore "The Seat of Wisdom." As for me, I want to preserve this grace, too. O Mary, help me to keep this grace at anytime but especially at the moment of death.
9. O most humble and loving Queen of Heaven! Pray for me in my struggles and temptations, in my labours and sufferings, until I am permitted to kneel in homage before thy throne!
10. Look down upon the tribulations and dangers of all poor pilgrims of earth! See how the gates of Hell rage against us! Be thou the protector of our Holy Mother, the Church! *Ave Maria!*

Resolution

My resolution: I will accept all the tribulations of this life with the firm conviction that they will be for me a token of much more glory in Heaven. O Blessed Virgin Mary be the Queen of my heart and protect your child and subject of love.