



## Benedictine Daughters of Divine Will



“Let the little children come to me, and do not stop them;  
for it is to such as these that the Kingdom of Heaven belongs.” *Luke 18:16-17*

We don't know about you but for us, this past summer seemed to be filled with nothing but disturbing news. Almost every time we logged into our emails, something made us shake our heads or immediately fold our hands in prayer. Whether learning of natural disasters, the persecution of our Christian brothers and sisters, or of our society's joyful acceptance of mortal sin on national levels, one thing always came to mind without fail – how much more we need to pray the Rosary.

As Padre Pio, Saint John Paul II, and many other holy men and women have affirmed, the Rosary is our greatest weapon in these sad times. There's always that temptation to despair of the state of our world, to feel helpless, to passively shrug and say, “But what can I do about it?” But we are NOT helpless. There is MUCH that we can do.

In honor of the month that the Church dedicates to the Most Holy Rosary, our October newsletter will focus on this not only beautiful, but powerful prayer. But don't take our word for it, keep reading to see what Our Lady herself has promised, what the saints have said, and the miracles God has wrought through this devotion to His Immaculate Mother. If we can't find the time to pray the Rosary, many souls may not find the time to be saved.

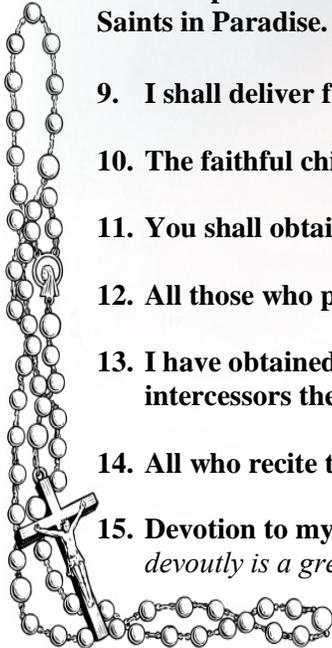
### The 15 Promises Our Lady revealed to St. Dominic and Blessed Alan de la Roche for those who devoutly pray the Rosary:

1. **Whosoever shall faithfully serve me by the recitation of the Rosary shall receive signal graces** (*or manifestations of God's love and mercy in response to our prayers*).
2. **I promise my special protection and the greatest graces to all those who shall recite the Rosary.**
3. **The Rosary shall be a powerful armor against hell, it will destroy vice, decrease sin and defeat heresies.**
4. **It will cause good works to flourish; it will obtain for souls the abundant mercy of God; it will withdraw the hearts of men from the love of the world and its vanities, and will lift them to the desire for Eternal Things. Oh, that souls would sanctify themselves by this means.**
5. **The soul which recommends itself to me by the recitation of the Rosary shall not perish.**
6. **Whosoever shall recite the Rosary devoutly, applying himself to the consideration of its Sacred Mysteries shall never be *conquered* by misfortune. God will not chastise him in His justice, he shall not perish by an unprovided death; if he be just he shall remain in the grace of God, and become worthy of Eternal Life.**



7. **Whoever shall have a true devotion for the Rosary shall not die without the Sacraments of the Church.** *(Souls can receive tremendous graces, virtually ensuring their salvation, by receiving the Sacraments of Confession, Holy Communion, and Anointing of the Sick with sincere and repentant hearts at the hour of death. As Our Lady promises to remember us at this crucial moment, we must help Her to obtain the same grace for others by contacting a priest to administer these Sacraments for the dying).*

8. **Those who are faithful to recite the Rosary shall have during their life and at their death the Light of God and the plenitude of His Graces; at the moment of death they shall participate in the Merits of the Saints in Paradise.**



9. **I shall deliver from purgatory those who have been devoted to the Rosary.**

10. **The faithful children of the Rosary shall merit a high degree of Glory in Heaven.**

11. **You shall obtain all you ask of me by recitation of the Rosary.**

12. **All those who propagate the Holy Rosary shall be aided by me in their necessities.**

13. **I have obtained from my Divine Son that all the advocates of the Rosary shall have for intercessors the entire Celestial Court during their life and at the hour of death.**

14. **All who recite the Rosary are my Sons, and brothers of my Only Son Jesus Christ.**

15. **Devotion to my Rosary is a great sign of predestination.** *(In other words, praying the Rosary devoutly is a great sign that our free wills are cooperating with God's plan of salvation.)*

## ***The Miraculous Rosary...both WEAPON and DEFENSE***

*“Give me an army saying the Rosary and I will conquer the world.”*

- Blessed Pope Pius IX

### **The Battle of Lepanto**

**Circumstance:** In 1571, St. Pope Pius V, in an attempt to ward off the impending Islamic invasion of Europe, established the Holy League – a fleet of Catholic naval forces from Spain, Venice, Genoa, and several other maritime states in the Mediterranean under the command of Don Juan of Austria.

**Supplication:** Knowing that his forces would suffer a major disadvantage in any encounter against the Turkish fleet (at the time the most powerful navy in the world), the Pope entreated all of Christian Europe in the weeks leading up to the decisive battle to pray the Most Holy Rosary every day for victory. Forty Hours devotion with public procession and recitation of the Rosary were demanded from every church so that the whole continent may appeal continuously to Our Lord before the Blessed Sacrament through the intercession of His Mother. From dawn until well into the afternoon on October 7<sup>th</sup>, 1571, St. Pope Pius V himself prayed with many of the faithful in the Basilica of St. Mary Major in Rome. And right before approaching the attack at Lepanto, 65,000 Christian sailors devoutly prayed the Rosary for three hours while the Papal Legate bestowed upon them Apostolic Benediction. The chaplain of every ship gave General Absolution and every member of the fleet received Holy Communion. The Holy League then sailed into battle with an image of Our Lady of Guadalupe (a gift from King Phillip II to Don Juan) in the chapel of the admiral vessel.

**Miraculous Intervention:** All factors seemed to favor the Muslims until the winds – which had been thus far against the Christians – suddenly and mysteriously dropped. The battle continued on until late afternoon when the Turkish navy finally accepted defeat...one from which their forces would never again recover and which definitively ended their threat in the Mediterranean. At least 200 of the 270 Muslim ships were destroyed and more than 30,000 men lost their lives compared to 4-5,000 Christian casualties. At the moment of triumph, St. Pope Pius V was said to have risen from his place of prayer exclaiming, “The Christian fleet is victorious!” Don Juan himself and the Venetian State attributed their success totally and completely to the powerful intercession of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary. The holy Pope established a feast to be celebrated in Her honor every year on October 7<sup>th</sup>, anniversary of the Blessed Queen’s glorious victory in Lepanto.

*“Among all the devotions approved by the Church none has been so favored by so many miracles as the devotion of the Most Holy Rosary” - Pope Blessed Pius IX*

### Her Protective Mantle

**Circumstance:** On August 6<sup>th</sup> and August 9<sup>th</sup> 1945, two atomic bombs were dropped on the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki respectively. More than 80,000 people died instantly from the blasts and another estimated 60,000 perished in the months to follow from radiation exposure. Those who survived were destined to suffer lifelong physical effects.

**Supplication:** Fr. Hubert Schiffer, a Jesuit missionary priest from Germany, was assigned to the church of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary in Hiroshima. He and seven other Jesuits lived together in the nearby parish house situated only eight blocks from the epicenter where the atomic explosion occurred. In Fr. Schiffer’s own words, as missionaries they “were trying to live the message of Our Lady of Fatima,” and, “therefore prayed the Rosary every day.”



**Miraculous Intervention:** 30-year old Fr. Schiffer along with all of his fellow Jesuits survived the bombing and their parish house remained standing while tens of thousands of people within a one mile radius of ground zero were killed simultaneously and all of the surrounding buildings completely demolished. Though warned by army doctors and scientists that the radiation exposure would eventually cause their bodies to deteriorate, none of the priests suffered any serious injuries or long-term health defects from the explosion. Medical and scientific experts who had interviewed and examined the priests repeatedly remained baffled at how this missionary group escaped not only death, but injury as well. When Fr. Schiffer gave his testimony at a Eucharistic Congress in Philadelphia in 1976, all eight members of the Jesuit community were still alive and well over thirty-one years after the atomic blast. In all those years, Fr. Sciffer, speaking also on behalf of his companions, never once wavered in his response to the question of why he believes they were spared. He attributed everything to the Blessed Mother’s protection and the community Rosary recited in their home every day, leaving all of us with renewed faith in the power, safety, and love that lies inside Our Heavenly Mother’s mantle.



## Smile!

Do you ever shop on Amazon.com? Now with every purchase, you can help support the sisters. By going to **smile.amazon.com**, signing into your account, and choosing the *Benedictine Daughters of Divine Will* as your preferred charity, 0.5% of every dollar you spend on Amazon will be sent directly to our community. All you'll have left to do is shop. Just remember to always start from **smile.amazon.com**. The prices of the items you buy won't change...the donations are on Amazon!

## Grace on wheels...

Thank you to all those who contributed to our new car fund (well...new to us, that is). We are now the proud owners of a 2013 five-passenger, four-door, white Opel Corsa sedan! The final papers were signed just in time, too. Only days later, three new aspirants arrived, putting us beyond max-capacity of our seven-passenger FIAT...who is now delighted to have a little sister on the road with her. Be assured that each prayer we pray in the car and every act of Divine Will done as we drive will be offered up specifically for each of you who helped obtain this great grace for us. May God reward your loving and generous hearts!



## How can we help the sisters?

As our home and cars continue to fill up, living expenses increase as well. Plus, with three vocation guests currently discerning our community and two more planning to visit by the end of the year, we may have to consider opening up a second house for the *Benedictine Daughters of Divine Will* if all the aspirants feel called to officially enter. While this would be a tremendous grace for our order and a way to expand Eucharistic Adoration in more locations, it would also require additional funding. Would you prayerfully consider being an instrument

of Divine Providence to help us provide for our growing community?

You can make a one-time donation by credit/debit card or sign up for automatic monthly payments on the "Donations" page of our website ([www.benedictinesofdivinewill.org](http://www.benedictinesofdivinewill.org)). Or simply send a check or money order to the address of our non-profit organization below:

**Benedictine Daughters of Divine Will**  
**P.O. Box 1002**  
**Hanceville, AL 35077**



Thank you to those who have supported us in the past and continue to support us with your financial assistance, your friendship, and especially with all of your prayers. With hearts full of gratitude for your goodness to us, we offer our daily community Rosary for the needs and intentions of all of our benefactors...not just in the month of October, but every day throughout the year. May Our Blessed Mother, who hears the prayers of all Her children, grant you the graces you need and yearn for the most!