



ROMAN CATHOLIC
DIOCESE
OF CHARLESTON
OFFICE OF THE BISHOP

Oct. 1, 2024

My dear brothers and sisters in Christ,

In October, the Church celebrates the Month of the Holy Rosary. We remember in a special way the Battle of Lepanto when, losing all hope of victory, Pope St. Pius V urged the faithful to pray the rosary. A miraculous victory was won Oct. 7, 1571, thanks to the power of this prayer and the intercession of Mary.

In his encyclical on the rosary, *Ingruentium Malorum*, marking 400 years after the Battle of Lepanto, St. Pius XII expressed the challenges of his own time. I echo his words, which we find as relevant today as they were in 1951:

“You know well, Venerable Brethren, the calamitous conditions of our times. Fraternal harmony among nations, shattered for so long a time ... we see souls upset by hatred and rivalry ... threats of new bloody conflicts ... the violent storm of persecution, which in many parts of the world, has been unleashed against the Church, depriving it of its liberty ... and making the blood of martyrs flow again and again” (*IM*).

He makes clear the turbulence of the era characterized by polarization, hatred, fear and persecution. Throughout the encyclical, Pius XII reminds us of the power of the rosary and specifically the power of a family praying the rosary together.

Now, we stand in a unique position in history with an opportunity and responsibility to intercede on behalf of our future political leaders, the coming election, this great country and our world. By taking up the beads of the rosary daily, we call out to our heavenly mother, pleading for her loving intercession. Mary desires to aid us and asks her son for the graces we need. All we must do is faithfully meditate on the life of Jesus through her eyes. This devotion gives a glimpse into the very nature of the Blessed Virgin, who “kept all these things, reflecting on them in her heart” (Lk 2:19).

As your bishop, I ask that each family make an effort to pray the rosary at least once a week throughout the month of October and in the days leading up to the general election and beyond. Parents, if possible, pray at least a decade of this beautiful prayer each day with your children. Be assured that the sacrifice of your time for this devotion will be multiplied. You will not regret leading your family in prayer.

Our Lady of the Rosary, pray for us! Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception, patroness of the United States, pray for us!

In Christ’s love,

Most Rev. Jacques Fabre-Jeune, CS
Bishop of Charleston