

Allocutio – October 8, 2011

*There follows five decades of the Rosary
(Handbook Chapter 18, #4, pg 107)*



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This is the month of the Rosary, and it is interesting how this came to be. When western Christendom was under threat from the vast, brutally anti-Christian Turkish empire and could not come together to counter this threat – mostly because most powerful Europeans and most European governments and entities were too concentrated on, and distracted by, their own personal ambitions, (this was so much so that even Spain – at the time, the “most Catholic” of countries – only half-heartedly supported the Holy League), **the Pope turned to the great help of Christians, Our Lady, invoking her by the prayer of the Rosary and calling on all to pray the Rosary.**

After a resounding victory that broke forever the domination of the Mediterranean by the Turks, the Pope proclaimed the day of the battle, October 7th, **“Our Lady of Victory,”** giving due credit where credit was due.

Subsequently, recognizing that it was through the recitation of so many rosaries by the faithful that Our Lady brought us this victory and wanting to highlight the importance of this, **Pope Gregory changed the name of the Feast to the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary.**

Our Lady has shown her approval of this and God’s approval, by appearing **as Our Lady of the Rosary in Fatima**, identifying herself by this name also in the month of October. Our Lady has proclaimed what Pope Gregory recognized – **the importance of praying the Rosary, especially in times of danger and distress by requesting in all her apparitions that we pray the Rosary.**

It is our secret weapon. The Legion highlights this by praying the Rosary at the beginning of every meeting and mandating in the handbook that we pray it well. We also try to get all to pray the Rosary. Recognizing that, while not all can be active members and come to the meeting, or do active apostolic work, all can pray the Rosary, we encourage all who cannot be active to be auxiliary members. How important auxiliary members are! We active members are the soldiers and sailors on the ships at Lepanto. Our auxiliaries are the faithful who were praying for victory. Just as the soldiers who fought would not have a victory without these prayers, we cannot advance without the prayers of our auxiliary members. Let us expand our auxiliary members and try to get everyone in our parishes into Legion of Mary membership, praying the Rosary.