



Aid to the
Church in Need

ACN INTERNATIONAL

One million children praying the Rosary 2023

Rome, July 25, 2023

Dear Friends!

One million children praying the Rosary! Every year on October 18, ACN organizes this initiative with great conviction. Why? Where does the belief come from that it is so important for children to pray the Rosary? Why do we ask for your personal commitment to ensure that as many children as possible accept this invitation?

Because we are convinced that the Rosary is an indispensable gift from God that makes a decisive difference! And where does this conviction come from? On the one hand, because the Mother of God asks for it in the Church-approved apparitions! Secondly, because it is the experience of the Church and many of its saints, confirmed by the Church's Doctrine, and in line with our Christian sense of faith.

For example, St. Louis-Marie Grignion de Montfort wrote: "I beseech you, pray the Rosary daily! You will one day praise in heaven the day and the hour when you believed me." He is but one of many saints and popes who have emphasized the importance of praying the Rosary.

In the Church-approved apparitions at Fatima, it is Our Lady herself who urges the still very young shepherd children to pray the Rosary daily and to offer up this prayer for the conversion of sinners and for peace in the world. One of the shepherd children, Lucia, wrote: "In these last times in which we live, the Most Blessed Virgin has given the Rosary a new power. There is therefore not a single problem, however serious, [...] that we cannot solve by praying the Rosary. With the Rosary we will save ourselves, sanctify ourselves, console our Lord, and obtain the salvation of many souls."

For this year's Day of Prayer, we would like to consider another aspect of praying the Rosary that is easily overlooked. In the Rosary, the contemplation of the mysteries of the life of Jesus Christ is embedded in the visit of archangel Gabriel to Mary. Repeating the words of the angel, we contemplate important mysteries in the life of Jesus. At this crucial moment of salvation history, it is an angel, archangel Gabriel, who brings the message of God to Mary. And it is the angel who receives Mary's response and delivers it to God.

The Church knows about these spiritual beings, about the visible and the invisible creation. From her we may learn that an angel, a purely spiritual and non-corporeal being, is placed at the side of each of us as God's help. He can and wants to help us to learn to understand and realize the new and eternal life received in baptism. "From his beginning [cf. Mt 18:10] until death [cf. Lk 16:22],



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angels surround man's life with their guard [Cf. Ps 34:8; 91:10-13] and intercession [cf. Job 33:23-24; Zech 1:12; Tob 12:12]. 'To each one of the faithful there is an angel as protector and shepherd to guide him to life' (Basil, Eun. 3:1). Already here on earth the Christian life shares by faith in the blessed company of angels and men united in God..'' (Catechism of the Catholic Church, no. 336).

Is it not an imperative for our world that we once again become aware of the holy guardian angels and ask for their help, so that we may clearly recognize and learn to distinguish the many challenges of our time? Would it not make sense to once again teach children the prayer of the guardian angels, which for many centuries was a matter of course in the life of the Church?

In the context of this year campaign, we would like to present to the children the story in which Saint Joseph is warned by an angel in a dream and immediately sets off for Egypt. With the help of the holy angel, he was able to protect the life of Baby Jesus.

That is why we are asking you **to pray the Rosary with us on 18 October**. We would like you to organise meetings in as many places as possible, involving children's groups, schools, prayer groups, radio and television, digital platforms, social media ... and especially your own children and grandchildren.

Let us lend our voice to the Lord who also continues to call out to his disciples: "Let the children come to me, and do not hinder them; for such belongs the Kingdom of heaven." (Mt. 19:14).

Trusting in your generous cooperation, we are united with you in prayer. May God bless you and your loved ones, and may the Blessed Virgin protect you!

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More information and material on the prayer campaign can be found on the website: acn-canada.org/one-million-children.