October: The Month of the Holy Rosary



OCTOBRI MENSE

ON THE ROSARY

In 1891, Pope Leo XIII (b. 1810 – d. 1903) wrote an encyclical titled Octobri Mense.

This encyclical is a richly developed Roman Catholic view of the month of October, the month dedicated to the Holy Rosary. As the leaves change, and we proceed into fall, let us refresh our souls with this timeless document. You might sit down, at your leisure, and spend some time with Pope Leo XIII, our Catholic ancestor, who is often referred to as the Rosary Pope; a true man of the beads (Dom Eugene Vandeaur).

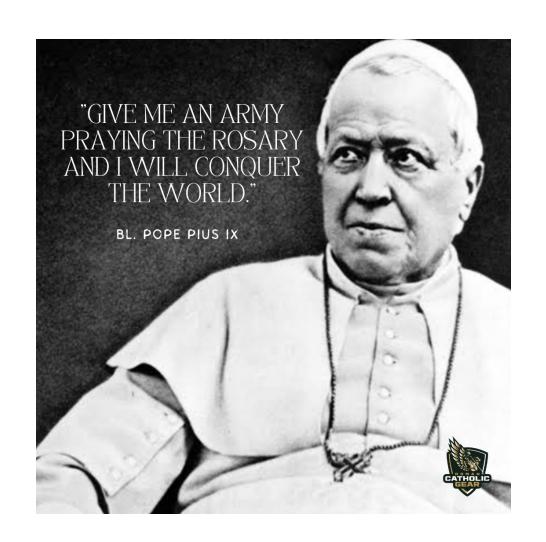


Pope Leo XIII's words begin:

At the coming of the month of October, dedicated and consecrated as it is to the Blessed Virgin of the Rosary, we recall with satisfaction the instant exhortations which in preceding years We addressed to you, venerable brethren, desiring, as We did, that the faithful, urged by your authority and by your zeal, should redouble their piety towards the august Mother of God, the mighty helper of Christians, and should pray to her throughout the month, invoking her by that most holy rite of the Rosary which the Church, especially in the passage of difficult times, has ever used for the accomplishment of all desires. This year once again do We publish Our wishes, once again do We encourage you by the same exhortations. We are persuaded to this in love for the Church, whose sufferings, far from mitigating, increase daily in number and in gravity. Universal and wellknown are the evils we deplore: war made upon the sacred dogmas which the Church holds and transmits; derision cast upon the integrity of that Christian morality which she has in keeping; enmity declared, with the impudence of audacity and with criminal malice, against the very Christ, as though the Divine work of Redemption itself were to be destroyed from its foundation-that work which, indeed, no adverse power shall ever utterly abolish or destroy...



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"The Rosary is the most beautiful and the most rich in graces of all prayers; it is the prayer that touches most the Heart of the Mother of God...and if you wish peace to reign in your homes, recite the family Rosary."

Pope Pius X



"If there were one million families praying the Rosary every day, the entire world would be saved."