

The Secret of the Rosary

BY
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DE MONTFORT

WITH AN APPENDIX OF
THE NEW LUMINOUS MYSTERIES

Illustrated



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PREFACE

LOUIS Mary Grignion de Montfort was born to a poor family on January 21, 1673, at Montfort, France. He was educated at the Jesuit College in Rennes and was ordained there in 1700.

The young priest was assigned to a hospital at Poitiers and his much needed organization of the hospital staff caused great resentment, leading to his resignation. However, during his stay there he organized a group of women into the Congregation of the Daughters of Divine Wisdom.

For most of his life, Father Louis was a poor, wandering preacher with his few possessions (Bible, Breviary, and Notebooks) carried in a knapsack on his shoulder. Some considered that this was undignified, and he was forbidden to preach from time to time.

Eventually Father Louis went to Rome where Pope Clement XI appointed him a “missionary apostolic,” and he spent the rest of his life preaching popular missions in Poitiers and Brittany.

The Saint had an emotional style that reaped permanent results in the restoration of churches, almsgiving, and spiritual revival. He composed verses and hymns, some still in use today, and promoted the practice of the Rosary. His greatest success is regarded as the reconciliation of many Calvinists at La Rochelle.

In 1715, Louis organized several priests and formed the Missionaries of the Company of



FOURTH DECADE

Excellence of the Holy Rosary as Seen in the Wonders That God Has Worked through It

THIRTY-FIRST ROSE

Blanche of Castile and Alphonsus VIII

[98] **I**N A visit to Blanche of Castile, Queen of France, who was deeply grieved because twelve years after her marriage she was still childless, St. Dominic advised her to say the Rosary every day to ask God for the grace of motherhood. She faithfully carried out his advice, and in 1213, she gave birth to her eldest child, Philip.

However, the child died in infancy, and the pious queen sought the Blessed Virgin's help more than ever before. She had a large number of Rosaries given out to all members of the court and also to people in several cities of the Kingdom, asking them to join her in entreating God for the favor she desired. Thus, in 1215, St. Louis was born, the prince who was to become the glory of France and the model of all Christian kings.

[99] Alphonsus VIII, King of Aragon and Castile, had been living a sinful life and therefore had been punished by God in several ways, one of



FIFTH DECADE

The Manner of Saying the Rosary Worthily

FORTY-FIRST ROSE

Purity of Soul

[116] IT IS not the length but the fervor of a prayer that pleases God and wins His Heart. One Hail Mary said well is worth more than a hundred and fifty said badly.

Most Catholics say the Rosary, either the fifteen Mysteries or five of them or at least a few decades. Why is it, then, that so few Catholics give up their sins and advance in the spiritual life? Surely, it is because they are not saying their Rosary with fervor.

[117] Let us see how we should pray the Rosary if we want to please God and become more holy.

(1) First of all, we must be in the state of grace or at least be determined to give up mortal sin. We know this because all theology teaches us that good works and prayers are dead works if they are done in the state of mortal sin. Therefore, they can neither be pleasing to God nor help us gain eternal life. This is why Scripture says: "Praise is not seemly in the mouth of a sinner" (Sirach 15:9).

Praise of God and the Angelic Salutation and even the very Prayer of Jesus are not pleasing to God when they issue from the mouths of unrepentant sinners.