

"WHY THE ROSARY WHY NOW?":

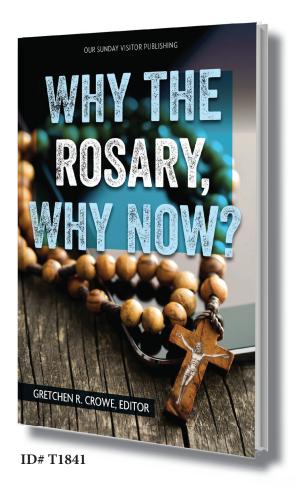
Eight reasons we need the Rosary today more than ever before

Guide for small group, family or individual study

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Nihil Obstat
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Censor Liborum

For the leader:

This guide is meant to be used in conjunction with Our Sunday Visitor's "Why the Rosary, Why Now?" Eight weeks of material are included; you may pick and choose content based on how many weeks your particular course will run. Each section is designed for group discussion and prayer, ending with a group Rosary. Chapters may be read beforehand or together out loud as a group. For information on how to pray the Rosary, including a list of prayers and mysteries, see pages 151-154 of "Why the Rosary, Why Now?"



WEEK 1: To break through the noise

Summary:		
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$T^{\mathrm{oday's}}$ technology has made it possible to hop from activity to activity, all while being absorbed simultaneously by other things. For some of us, it's the lure of the Facebook or Twitter feed;		
for others, it's binge-watching television shows; for still more it's the never-ending texting conversation or Snapchat messaging.		
The noise is all around us, and it seems to never, ever end. In a		
1973 homily, Cardinal Albino Luciani, before he was named Pope		
John Paul I, identified what he called a "crisis of prayer in general" facing the Church. "People are completely caught up in material		
interests; they think very little about their souls," he said. "And		
noise has invaded our existence." If "Papa Luciani" identified the		
invasion of noise as a threat in 1973 Italy, what would he think of early twenty-first-century America?		
carry twenty mot century innerica.		
Read: Chapter 1, "Why the Rosary, Why Now?"		
Reflect:		
What are the external noises that dominate our lives?		
What are the interior barriers to prayer that we may experience?		
How can we use the Rosary to break through our external and internal noises?		
What value does Cardinal Luciani apply to the Rosary? How do those translate to our lives today?		
those translate to our lives today:		
Respond: What is one thing we can do this week to block out a distracting noise in our lives? How can that lead us closer to God?		
distracting noise in our rives: 110w can that lead us closer to God:		
Pray:		
Heavenly Father, as we gather to pray the Rosary		
of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary, we ask that you		
quiet our minds and still the noises that fill our lives,		
distracting us from you. Help us to leave behind the worries of our hearts so that our sole focus may be		
on drawing more deeply into communion with your		
Son. More particularly, we offer this Rosary today for		
(state your intentions here). Through Christ our Lord. Amen.		

WEEK 2: For a deeper devotion to the Church

Su	ımmary:	
sa:	n a talk titled "The Woman I Love," Archbishop Fulton Sheen indicated how Mary and the Church are intertwined because id, "as we discontinue our devotion to the Blessed Mother, the always a decline in the love of the Church." Such an observation of the Church.	se, hetion
Sta	ertainly resonates for twenty-first-century Catholics in the Un ates who are witnessing a massive decline of love of the Chur according to Archbishop Sheen, praying with our Blessed Moth	rch. ther
wl	the Rosary is the solution, and it can be the doorway through hich we are led to love of Mary and, subsequently, to love of the hurch. And this doorway is one that is open to all.	
Re	ead: Chapter 2 of "Why the Rosary, Why Now?"	
W	eflect: That can we do to build up a greater devotion to Christ and H. hurch?	His
T A 7		
VV	hat does it mean to have a devotion to the Church?	
	That is one "idle moment" that we can identify in which to pra e Rosary every day this week?	·ay
fo	rchbishop Sheen says that the Rosary is an especially good property those who are worried, educated or unlearned, or sick. What her groups might benefit from praying the Rosary?	·
	espond: Try to find ways to include Mary more regularly roughout the day, asking her guidance and intercession. Perh	haps
_	ray a decade of the Rosary while driving somewhere or a Hail ary before meals?	il
171	ary before means:	
D۲	ray:	
		·
	O God, as we gather to recite this Rosary of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary, we thank you for the great gift of	
	the Church, established by Jesus Christ, built on the rock of St. Peter and handed down through the ages by	
	the Apostles and their successors. Humbly we ask you	
	to sanctify it by strengthening in all your people the virtues of faith, hope and love. More particularly, we	
	offer this Rosary today for (state your intentions here).	
	Through Christ our Lord. Amen.	

WEEK 3: To strengthen families

Summary: Pather Patrick Peyton so strongly believed in the power of praying the Rosary as a family of the strongly believed in the power of praying the Rosary as a family that he began the Family Rosary Crusade, making use of radio, film, outdoor signage, and more than 260 Rosary rallies on six continents to promote family prayer to millions of people. Other Church leaders have promoted the family Rosary, too. St. John Paul II wrote that the Rosary is "and always has been, a prayer of and for the family" and stressed that it was "important not to lose this precious inheritance." And Pope St. Pius X (r. 1903-14) is credited with saying, "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." Read: Chapter 3 of "Why the Rosary, Why Now?" **Reflect:** Why did praying a daily family Rosary make such an impression on young Patrick Peyton? How might our families become domestic churches — places where Christ's love is palpable in word and in deed? Father Peyton experienced a miraculous recovery and dedicated his priestly ministry to the Blessed Mother as a token of his gratitude. How can we honor Mary better in our lives? **Respond:** When is the last time you have prayed the Rosary with a family member? Consider ways to bring a member of your family closer to the Lord and His Mother through the Rosary. Pray: Lord Jesus Christ, when you came to dwell among us you came to know the joys and challenges that come with family life. Please help our families become

you came to know the joys and challenges that come with family life. Please help our families become centers of holiness, filled with virtue, where love and mercy reign supreme. Be with those who find themselves without a family, and remind them they are invaluable members of your Body, the Church. More particularly, we offer this Rosary today for (state your intentions here). Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

WEEK 4: For an increase in Christian Discipleship

Summary:	
There is a startling dearth of Christian discipleship in the world today, mostly because it is not easy to deny yourself, take up your cross, and follow him (see Mt 16:24). Discipleship calls us to set aside ego, selfishness, and pride, and to instead prioritize others. In today's society, where we are conditioned now more than ever that we may have whatever we want whenever we want it, the path of self-sacrifice seems radically countercultural. Yet this is the life to which Jesus calls each of us. If, then, we are to become evangelized disciples of Jesus Christ, to do our best to meet him face to face, there is no better model to whom we should look than the person who encountered him first: his mother. Mary, after all, lived with her eyes fixed on Christ, treasuring all the moments of his life and, as St. Luke explains, pondering them in her heart (see Lk 2:19; 2:51).	
Read: Chapter 4 of "Why the Rosary, Why Now?"	
Reflect: Think of a person who has inspired you through his or her faithfulness. What traits do/did you admire in that individual and why?	
How can we encounter Christ while praying the Rosary?	
Review Sherry Weddell's five stages of spiritual growth (pg. 56). Which one resonates with your current path of discipleship? Why?	
Respond: When praying the Rosary this week, enhance your prayer with St. John Paul II's reflections on each of the Joyful, Luminous, Sorrowful and Glorious sets of mysteries (Pgs. 71-78).	
Pray:	
Heavenly Father, we know that we will only grow as your disciples by cultivating our relationship with you. Help us, through meditating on the mysteries of Rosary, to contemplate your majesty so that we may come to imitate your Son more completely in our thoughts, words and deeds. More particularly, we offer this Rosary today for (state your intentions here). Through Christ our Lord. Amen.	

WEEK 5: For peace in the world

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Summary:	
Peace too often eludes us in our own communities, which are experiencing increasing violence and demonstrating an	
alarming disdain for others who may look, act, or speak differently	
from what we may consider the "norm." In family life, too, peace is not easy to find. In our communities, large and small, praying	
the Rosary can be a powerful tool to help maintain harmony, calm heightened emotions, and reorient loved ones back to Christ and	
one another. As Pope Pius XI said: "If you desire peace in your	
hearts, in your homes, and in your country, assemble each evening to recite the Rosary.	
to recite the Rosary.	
Read: Chapter 5 of "Why the Rosary, Why Now?"	
Reflect:	
How does the message of Our Lady of Fatima resonate especially today, 100 years later?	
What are the lessons found in the story of the four Jesuits who	
survived the atomic bombing of Hiroshima in 1945?	
What is one way we can be a peaceful influence in our families,	
workplaces or other communities this week?	
Respond: Offer a daily Rosary this week for world peace.	
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Pray:	
O God, much strife plagues our world today, but we	
believe in your invincible power, and we know that you alone can bring peace. Help us to follow the messages	
of your Mother, who, in appearing at Fatima, implored	
us to pray for peace daily. Give us the courage, humility and strength to work for peace in all situations. And,	
by your grace, help us always to emulate your Son, the	

Prince of Peace. More particularly, we offer this Rosary today for (state your intentions here). Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

WEEK 6: To fight evil

Summary:

In the early twenty-first century, we find ourselves facing
▲ calamitous times. War is raging in the Middle East, while
terrorism is increasingly present at home and abroad. The
persecution of Christians is happening—blatantly in some cases,
more subtly in others. It feels like there is much to fear. But Mary
did not want us to fear; she wanted us to pray. According to the
promises made to St. Dominic, Mary promised special graces and
protection to those who prayed the Rosary, and called the Rosary
a "very powerful armor against hell" that "will destroy vice, deliver
from sin, and dispel heresy."

Read: Chapter 6 of "Why the Rosary, Why Now?"

Reflect:

What are some of the evils about which Pope Pius XII warns?

What evils do we face in our world today, and how can the Rosary help combat them?

How can we spread the message and prayer of the Rosary?

Respond: Take a few minutes in prayer each day this week asking Blessed Bartolo Longo to help us avoid evil in the world.

Pray:

Almighty Father, we pray that our thoughts, words and deeds may be guided by the faithful and obedient example of the Blessed Virgin Mary. With her fiat, giving "yes" to you, she opened the path of salvation made necessary because of Adam and Eve's disobedience. By your grace, keep us, preserve us, and enable us to answer "yes" to you in every moment of our lives. And for the times in which we will choose to imitate Adam and Eve rather than Mary and her Son, we beg your pardon and mercy, through the holy name of Jesus. More particularly, we offer this Rosary today for (state your intentions here). Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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WEEK 7: To combat secularism

Summary:	
In a world in which the drum of secularism beats loudly and enticingly, the quiet prayer of the Rosary is a sure and steadfast way to keep our lives and hearts focused on what matters: Jesus Christ. Then, perhaps, will we be able to slowly shift from a culture with a growing lack of belief to one with an abundance of belief.	
Read: Chapter 7 of "Why the Rosary, Why Now?"	
Reflect: How does secularism pervade our society?	
In what ways do we see it creeping into our lives?	
What can we do to publicly, yet respectfully, proclaim our faith to others?	
Respond: Devote some time this week to researching one teaching of the Faith that has been confusing or challenging for you.	
Pray:	
O God, giver of all gifts, help us to be filled with the	
spirit of humility to recognize your divine authorship,	
which is so wondrously manifested throughout all of creation. As the Gospel way of life incorporates what	
we know of you from nature and exalts it, through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, may we	
respond "yes" to the truth and not only come to recog-	
nize you but to proclaim you to all the nations. More particularly, we offer this Rosary today for (state your	
intentions here). Through Christ our Lord. Amen.	

WEEK 8: To become saints

Summary:

Tt is not easy to become a saint. It requires sacrifice, dedication,
heroic virtue, and, above all, a close relationship with Christ
and a determination to follow his will, come what may. And yet
sainthood—the product of a holy life—is what each of us is called
to, despite the great challenge. On All Saints Day in 2003, Pope
John Paul II called the Rosary "a simple and accessible way for all
to holiness, which is the vocation of each baptized person."
"The saints and blesseds of paradise remind us, as pilgrims on
Earth, that prayer, above all, is our sustenance for each day so that
we never lose sight of our eternal destiny," he said. "For many of
them the Rosary was the privileged instrument for their daily
discourse with the Lord. The Rosary led them to an ever more
profound intimacy with Christ and with the Blessed Virgin."

Read: Chapter 8 of "Why the Rosary, Why Now?"

Reflect:

How did the power of the Rosary manifest itself in the lives of the saints?

How can the Rosary help us live our lives more virtuously?

In what ways can we answer the universal call to holiness in our own lives and become saints?

Respond: While praying the Rosary this week, meditate on the virtues outlined by St. Louis de Montfort for each decade.

Pray:

Heavenly Father, give us the grace to desire nothing more than to dwell eternally with you in heaven. Help us to follow your will in all things by dying to self, growing in virtue and desiring holiness. May all of our thoughts, words and deeds glorify you always. More particularly, we offer this Rosary today for (state your intentions here). Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

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