

Most Holy Rosary (Fatima & Holy Matrimony)

"Blessed are they that keep my ways. Hear instruction, and be wise, and refuse it not. ... He that shall find me, shall find life, and shall have salvation from the Lord."

1. As promised, today is the last installment of our sermons... seeking to deepen our appreciation and understanding of Holy Matrimony. Last time we reviewed its fundamental role in history such that we concluded: to tinker with the doctrine on marriage is to invite schism, wars, death not only for some but for whole nations! When we look at those who split away from the Church for whatever reason, they quickly lose their chastity and fail in their marriages. When we look at the martyrs, we find that many of them died over matters touching on marriage, virginity or chastity. Marriage is something that the Church values greatly, even to the point of martyrdom. Is all this going to change now that we are attempting to re-read the Gospel and the Natural Law in light of modern man's aberrations? God forbid! Were all these martyrs misled? Died for nothing? Perish the thought!
2. Fr. Vincent Miceli in his book on the Antichrist, wrote: "Satan, his demons and their human henchmen know that the fate of mankind depends on the spiritual durability of family relationships. If one splits the atom, [the basic building block of molecules], tremendous physical disaster results from the explosive forces released. [Likewise] if one splits the [nuclear] family, [the basic building block of society], tremendous disaster results from the explosive passions released. There is no law against splitting the atom. But God Himself forbids splitting the family. 'What God has joined together, let no man put asunder'" (*The Antichrist*, p. 231). One of the devil's human henchmen was Karl Marx, who said "For socialism to succeed three things must be destroyed: Property, Religion, and the Family." Clearly these henchmen have had some success...and explosive forces are being released.
3. Now for today's sermon... In 1917 Our Lady of the Rosary came to three little children at Fatima to give us help and guidance on how to save souls from going to hell during these very corrupting modern times... She showed us how to prevent even whole nations from being destroyed. That is what interests the Blessed Mother... saving souls from hell. Thus, in every apparition, She insisted that the Rosary be prayed everyday. For example, in the fourth apparition She said: "I want you to continue to say

the Rosary every day... many souls go to hell because there is no one to pray and make sacrifices for them.”

4. In addition to the daily recitation of the Most Holy Rosary, the Mother of God also asked that Russia be consecrated to her Immaculate Heart and that everyone make the First Saturday devotions of reparation. If this was done, there would be peace, if not, Russia would spread her errors throughout the world, causing wars and persecutions of the Church. What are these errors of Russia? Although she never mentioned Communism by name... it certainly captures many of Russia's errors in one social-political system. Still, it seems clear that the errors of Russia are broader than Communism, for her biggest error was to split from Rome... from the Papacy... schism. Thus, will we know Russia has converted when they recognize the primacy of Peter and end the schism.
5. Another error, of no little importance to our discussion and the upcoming Synod on Marriage and the Family, is the allowance for multiple divorces in the Orthodox religion. In opposition to this, the Holy Roman Catholic Church has maintained what has been given to us by Christ Himself, His Apostles and Magisterial teachings... namely the simple truth that Christ and His Church are Bridegroom and Bride. In speaking of holy matrimony, St. Paul exclaims: “This is a great sacrament; but I speak in Christ and in the Church” (Eph 5:32). To put on display for the whole world to see Christ's unbreakable love for His Bride the Holy Roman Catholic Church, She declares the Sacrament of Holy Matrimony is indissoluble. Just as God's love for His Church cannot be dissolved, so too Sacramental Marriages as long as the couple is living. “What God has joined together, let no man put asunder” (Matt. 19:6). This means that religious authorities sanctioning divorce, in any way, is yet another error of Russia. God allows divorce in these other religions to show that He is not wed to them! He is not there...that they are split away from His Bride!
6. From these two things, we can see how even if no country claims communism as its political system, it can still be impregnated with the errors of Russia... as Pope Pius XI said (in the 1930's), “communistic ideas [are] now seeping into every nation, great and small, advanced and backward, so that no corner of the earth is free from them” (*Atheistic Communism*, no. 17). As a result, many nations are no longer what they were. Communistic leaders and their governments killed well over a hundred million people in the last century in Russia and China alone. Communism transformed their governments, their cultures... their peoples. Furthermore, any healing of schism seems only to become more

and more impossible as our leaders adopt co-existence along with the new ways of dialogue and tolerance. Yes, schism and divorce... errors of Russia that will only bring more war, persecution and trials for the Church...more divorce and destruction of families... more explosive passions released!

7. To buttress this conclusion, let us turn to the Holy Father Pope Pius XI and see how Communism has promoted many errors touching on marriage and the family. Pope Pius XI exposes the sources of divorce: "Communism ... removes all the moral restraints that check the eruptions of blind impulse" (no. 10). In our times, very few today check their blind unchaste impulses ... and what is more, those perversions that were considered immoral and illegal in saner times are now becoming more and more legalized and accepted. Blindness has set in.
8. Why does Communism act this way? Pope Pius XI points out that it seeks an earthly/material paradise, denying altogether that there is an after-life or even a spiritual life, for that matter. This is why Pope Pius calls Communism, "atheistic" and "materialistic." He declares: "In such a doctrine, as is evident, there is no room for the idea of God; there is no difference between matter and spirit, between soul and body; there is neither survival of the soul after death nor any hope in a future life" (no. 9). There is no heaven! Live for this world. Indulge the flesh.
9. In regard to the family and marriage, Pope Pius explained: "Refusing to human life any sacred or spiritual character, [communism] logically makes of marriage and the family a purely artificial and civil institution, the outcome of a specific economic system. There exists no matrimonial bond of a juridico-moral nature that is not subject to the whim of the individual or of the collectivity. Naturally, therefore, the notion of an indissoluble marriage-tie is scouted. Communism is particularly characterized by the rejection of any link that binds woman to the family and the home, and her emancipation is proclaimed as a basic principle. She is withdrawn from the family and the care of her children, to be thrust instead into public life and collective production under the same conditions as man" (no. 11). Can we not see this error of Russia behind the widespread use of divorce and the new plague attacking our times... Sodomitical unions? Polygamy is now being allowed in Utah. Germany is permitting a brother and sister to marry. Will other perverse unions will be scouted. Only some 25% of couples today are bonded in a traditional form of marriage. Alas! Russia has spread her errors... now they seem to be entering the Church Herself!

10. Yet, we know Our Lord said something quite different... "What God has joined together, let not man put asunder" (Mark 10:9). Our Lady of the Rosary said to the children of Fatima: "Many marriages are not good; they do not please Our Lord and are not of God" and "More souls go to hell because of sins of the flesh than for any other reason!" In the *Acts of the Apostles* the Council of Jerusalem ruled that the faithful were to abstain from *porneia* a Greek word, meaning unchastity of any kind including "unlawful marriage." And, significant for our times is this same Council's final statement: "For it hath seemed good to the Holy Ghost and to us, to lay no further burden upon you than these necessary things... from which things keeping yourselves, you shall do well." This commandment is necessary for salvation! By following it, we will do well. I hope the upcoming Synod will imitate this proto-Council and repeat this clear and salutary teaching on every level.
11. Our Lady came to tell us that souls, marriages, families can be saved by consecration to her Immaculate Heart. How fitting... how perfectly sensible is this request... when we realize it was from the pure blood of this Most Spotless and Immaculate Heart of Mary that the marriage between God and man in Christ took place. And let us not forget how the Immaculate Heart of Mary has the sword of David lodged in it. She is the very house that God promised to make for David... a House that He Himself could dwell in. But the sword caused by David's adultery with Bathsheba (*porneia*) caused a sword to lodge there! In other words, Our Lady knows all about marriage problems. Furthermore, we know that this most tender and Immaculate Heart will triumph in the Age of Peace, Age of Mary, for the Prince of Peace has given this to Her... "only She can help you." Clearly, consecration to the Immaculate Heart (frequently renewed and supported by the devout daily recitation of the Rosary) will link married couples to the indissoluble marriage of God and man in Christ ...making them able to withstand all trials and tribulations... and at the same time able to put on display for all the world to see God's indissoluble love for His Church.
12. Finally, one of the fifteen promises to those who pray the Rosary is "The Rosary shall be a powerful armor against hell, it will destroy vice, decrease sin, and defeat heresies." Let us always be praying Our Lady's Psalter to fulfill this promise in our life, our families, and for the whole Church.