

## THE MYSTERIES OF THE ROSARY - III

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### THE MYSTERIES OF CHRIST IN THE ROSARY

Christ came to earth to be our model.

The Word became Incarnate, not only to bring us the gospel of salvation and to accomplish our redemption, but also to serve as a pattern for our spiritual lives.

Each of Christ's mysteries is a revelation of His virtues. The humility of the crib, the retirement of His hidden life, the zeal of His public life the self-annihilation of His Sacrifice, the glory of His triumph, all these disclose virtues which we must imitate; they are mysteries in which we should participate.

This is the reason why the contemplation of the mysteries of Christ—for instance,

while reciting the Rosary—is so fruitful for the soul. The life, the death, and the glory of Jesus serve as ideal models for our life and death and glory.

Never forget this truth: the Eternal Father is pleased with us only in so far as we imitate His Son and inasmuch as He sees in us the likeness of His Son, for it is in His image that He has predestined us from all eternity.

For us there is no other form of sanctity than that which Christ has shown us. The degree of our perfection is measured by the degree of our imitation of Jesus and of our union with Him.

### III. THE GLORIOUS MYSTERIES

#### The First Glorious Mystery

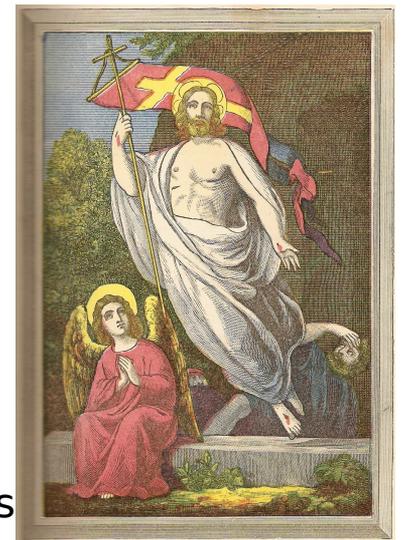
##### The Resurrection of Our Lord - Faith

And looking, they saw the stone rolled back. For it was very great. And entering into the sepulcher, they saw a young man sitting on the right side clothed with a white robe: and they were astonished. Who saith to them: Be not frightened; you seek Jesus of Nazareth, who was crucified; he is risen, he is not here, behold the place where they laid him. But go, tell his disciples and Peter that he goeth before you in Galilee; there you shall see him, as he told you. But he rising early the first day of the week, appeared to Mary Magdalen, out of whom he had cast seven devils. (St. Mark 16: 4,5,6,7,9)

#### 1. The Resurrection of Christ

On the day of His Resurrection Jesus Christ left in the tomb the shroud which is the symbol of our infirmities, our weaknesses, our imperfections. Christ comes from the tomb triumphant—completely free of earthly limitation; He is animated with a life that is intense and perfect, and which vibrates in every fiber of His being. In Him everything that is mortal has been absorbed by His glorified life.

Here is the first element of the sanctity represented in the risen Christ: the elimination of



everything that is corruptible, everything that is earthly and created; freedom from all defects, all infirmities, all capacity for suffering.

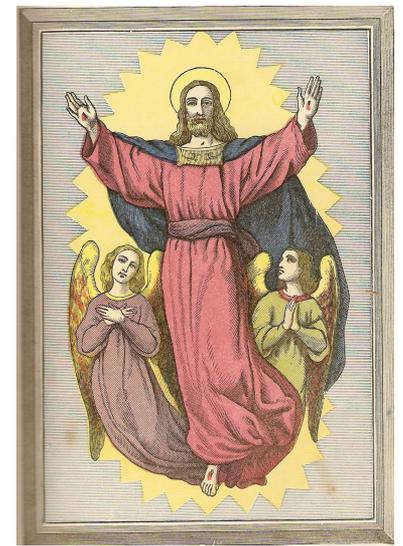
But there is also another element of sanctity: union with God, self-oblation and consecration to God. Only in heaven shall we be able to understand how completely Jesus lived for His Father during these blessed days. The life of the risen Christ became an infinite source of glory for His Father. Not a single effect of His sufferings was left in Him, for now everything in Him shone with brilliance and beauty and possessed strength and life; every atom of His being sang an unceasing canticle of praise. His holy humanity offered itself in a new manner to the glory of the Father.

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## The Second Glorious Mystery

### The Ascension of Our Lord - Hope

But you shall receive the power of the Holy Ghost coming upon you, and you shall witness unto me in Jerusalem, and in all Judea, and Samaria, and even the uttermost part of the earth. And when he had said these things, while they looked on, he was raised up: and a cloud received him out of their sight. And while they were beholding him going up to heaven, behold two men stood by them in white garments. Who also said: Ye men of Galilee, why stand you looking up to heaven? This Jesus who is taken up from you into heaven, shall so come, as you have seen him going to heaven. ( Acts 1: 8-11)

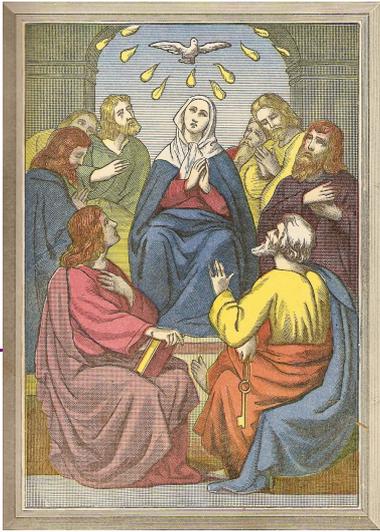


### 2. The Ascension of Our Lord

Our Lord said to His Apostles before He departed from them: "If you loved Me, you would indeed rejoice that I am going to the Father." To us also Christ repeats these words. If we love Him, we shall rejoice in His glorification; we shall rejoice with Him that, after completing His course on earth, He ascends to the right hand of His Father, there to be exalted above all the heavens in infinite glory.

But Jesus goes only to precede us; He does not separate Himself from us, nor does He separate us from Himself. If He enters into His glorious kingdom, it is to prepare a place for us there. He promises to return one day to take us with Him so that, as He says, where He is we also may be. True, we are already there in the glory and happiness of Christ, by our title as His heirs; but we shall one day be there in reality. Has not Christ asked this of His Father? "Father, I will that where I am, they also whom Thou hast given Me may be with Me."

Let us then say to Christ Jesus: "Draw us into Your triumphal march, O glorious and all-powerful Conqueror! Make us live in heaven by faith and hope and love. Help us to detach ourselves from the fleeting things of earth in order that we may seek the true and lasting goods of heaven!"



## The Third Glorious Mystery

The Descent of the Holy Ghost - Love

And when the days of Pentecost were

accomplished, They were all together in one place: And suddenly There came a sound from heaven, as of a mighty wind Coming, and it filled the whole house where they were Sitting. And there appeared to them parted tongues as It were of fire, and it sat upon every one of them. And They were filled with the Holy Ghost. and they began To speak with divers of tongues, according as the Holy Ghost gave them to speak. (Act 2:1-4)

### 3. The Descent of the Holy Ghost on the Apostles

The Holy Ghost appeared under the form of tongues of fire in order to fill the Apostles with truth and to prepare them to bear witness to Jesus. He also come to fill their hearts with love.

He is the Person of Love in the life of God. He is also like a breath, an aspiration of infinite Love, from which we draw the breath of life.

On the day of Pentecost the Divine Spirit communicated such an abundance of life to the whole Church that to symbolize it "there came a sound from heaven, as of a violent wind coming, and it filled the whole house where they (the Apostles) were sitting."

But it is also for us that the Holy Ghost has come, for the group in the Cenacle represented the whole Church. The Holy Ghost came to remain with the Church forever. This is the promise of Jesus Himself. He dwells in the Church permanently and unfailingly, performing in it without ceasing, His action of life-giving and sanctification. He establishes the Church infallibly in the truth. It is He Who makes the Church blossom forth with a marvelous supernatural fruitfulness, for He brings to life and full fruition in Virgins, Martyrs, Confessors, those heroic virtues which are one of the marks of true sanctity.

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## The Fourth Glorious Mystery

### The Assumption - Eternal Happiness

The Assumption of the Blessed Virgin into heaven is the mystery of purity. The Immaculate Conception prepared for the Annunciation by providing spiritual incorruptibility, the Annunciation led to the Nativity, and the Assumption followed as a gracious consequence because it was not fitting that the body that bore the body of Jesus Christ should ever be violated by any form of corruption. (Catholic Devotions )



#### 4. The Assumption of Mary into Heaven

If Christ Jesus wishes us to love all the members of His Mystical Body, should we not love above all others her who gave Him the very nature by which He became our Head, the same nature which He uses to communicate His grace to us? We cannot doubt but that the love which we show to his Mother is extremely pleasing to Christ.

We shall manifest our love by extolling the sublime privileges which Jesus has bestowed on His Mother, among which the Assumption is one of the most glorious. If we wish to please our Lord very much, we shall admire the wonderful gifts with which He has lovingly adorned the soul of His Mother. He wishes that we should sing the praises of the Virgin, who was chosen among all women to give the Savior to the world.

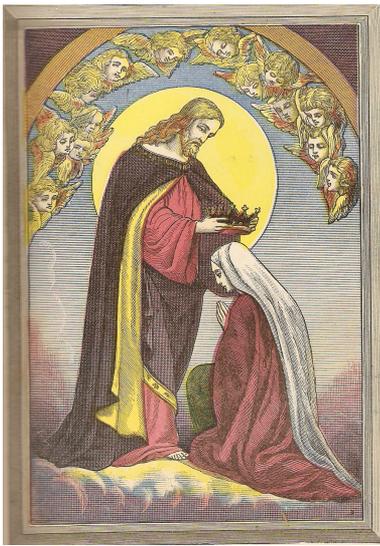
"Yes, we shall sing your praises, for you alone have delighted the heart of your God. May you be blessed, for you have believed the word of God, and in you the eternal promises have been fulfilled."

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## The Fifth Glorious Mystery

### The Coronation - Devotion to BVM

The Coronation of the Blessed Virgin as Queen of Heaven came as a logical climax to her career as the mother of the Redeemer. The purpose of the redemption of mankind a second opportunity to spend eternity in heaven. Adam has squandered the first opportunity, and he had lost it for the whole human race. After the redemption through Jesus Christ each human being would be personally and solely responsible whether or not he would dwell in heaven. It is fitting that the woman who brought the Redeemer into this world should be the hostess, as it were, to welcome all those good noble souls that her Son has enabled to find their way into heaven. (Catholic Devotions)



## 5. The Coronation of Mary in Heaven

What is the purpose of all the mysteries of Christ? To be the pattern of our supernatural life, the means of our sanctification, the source of all our holiness. To create an eternal and glorious society of brethren who will be like unto Him. For this reason Christ, the new Adam, has associated with Himself Mary, as the new Eve. But she is, much more than Eve, "the Mother of all the living," the Mother of those who live in the grace of her Son.

And since here below Mary was associated so intimately with all the mysteries of our salvation, at her Assumption into heaven Jesus crowned her not only with glory but also with power; He has placed His Mother on His right hand and has given her the power, in virtue of her unique title of Mother of God, to distribute the treasures of eternal life.

**Let us then, full of confidence, pray with the Church: "Show yourself a Mother: Mother of Jesus, by your complete faith in Him, our Mother, by your mercy towards us; ask Christ, Who was born of you, to give us life; and Who willed to be your Son, to receive our prayers through you."**

*Adapted with illustrations and scriptural text, November 2009*

*St. Dominic Savio Chapel, Freeland MI*

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