

Various Aspects of the Rosary Which Demonstrate How It is Rooted in Christ

Remembering Christ with Mary

“Mary's contemplation is above all a remembering. We need to understand this word in the biblical sense of remembrance (*zakar*) as a making present of the works brought about by God in the history of salvation. The Bible is an account of saving events culminating in Christ himself” (#13). *The events of salvation history belong as much to 'today' as they do to 'yesterday.'* What God accomplished in the Incarnation and Passion did not only affect the people of that time, but “continues to affect people in every age with its gift of grace” (#13). *As we remember the events of Christ's life with Mary in the Rosary, we participate in the continual 'making present' of the salvation bought for us by Christ.*

Learning Christ from Mary

“Christ is the supreme Teacher, the revealer and the one revealed. It is not just a question of learning what he taught but of “learning him.” In this regard could we have any better teacher than Mary? From the divine standpoint, the Spirit is the interior teacher who leads us to the full truth of Christ (cf. *Jn 14:26; 15:26; 16:13*). But among creatures no one knows Christ better than Mary; no one can introduce us to a profound knowledge of his mystery better than his Mother” (#14).

Being conformed to Christ with Mary

As quoted by Pope St. John Paul II, St. Louis Marie Grignion de Montfort explained in the following words Mary's role in the process of our configuration to Christ: “ ‘Our entire perfection consists in being conformed, united and consecrated to Jesus Christ. Hence the most perfect of all devotions is undoubtedly that which conforms, unites and consecrates us most perfectly to Jesus Christ. Now, since Mary is of all creatures the one most conformed to Jesus Christ, it follows that among all devotions that which most consecrates and conforms a soul to our Lord is devotion to Mary, his Holy Mother, and that the more a soul is consecrated to her the more will it be consecrated to Jesus Christ.’¹ Never as in the Rosary do the life of Jesus and that of Mary appear so deeply joined. Mary lives only in Christ and for Christ!” (#15).

Praying to Christ with Mary

“Mary intervenes with her maternal intercession in support of the prayer In support of the prayer which Christ and the Spirit cause to rise in our hearts... When in the Rosary we plead with Mary, the sanctuary of the Holy Spirit (cf. *Lk 1:35*), she intercedes for us before the Father who filled her with grace and before the Son born of her womb, praying with us and for us” (#16).

Proclaiming Christ with Mary

The Rosary is a valuable resource to every good evangelizer as it is “a path of proclamation and increasing knowledge, in which the mystery of Christ is presented again and again at different levels of the Christian experience. Its form is that of a prayerful and contemplative presentation, capable of forming Christians according to the heart of Christ” (#17).

¹ See footnote 22 in *Rosarium Virginis Mariae*.