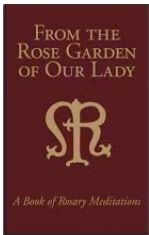


Meditation on the mysteries of the Most Holy Rosary



The Fourth Joyful Mystery

The Presentation of the Child Jesus in the Temple



Method of meditation

To do a good meditation we ought to use the main three faculties of our soul: memory, intelligence, and will. This is a brief explanation of how to meditate:

- 1) Memory: firstly, I try to remember some principles, great realities of our faith or events of Our Lord's life and bring them into my mind so that they may be meditated upon.
- 2) Intelligence (knowledge of God): secondly, I consider these thoughts and try to understand their meaning and the consequences which are attached to them.
- 3) Will (love of God): finally, after a while of consideration, I produce some acts of will in order to apply concretely what I have drawn from my meditation into my own life and I ask God to help me to do so.

With this support, this method can be done like this:

- 1) Memory: read slowly the **extract from the Gospel** (page 2).
- 2) Intelligence: read and think longer about the **first series of considerations upon the Gospel** (page 3).
- 3) Will: read the **second series of considerations** which apply in a more practical way the message of the Gospel (page 4).

End by reading the last consideration which should lead us to make **a real resolution** to apply the examples of this mystery of the rosary in our own life (page 4).

As part of the 1st Saturdays devotions, let us do this **meditation in spirit of reparation** in order to console Our Lady against the outrages committed towards her Immaculate Heart.

1. Gospel Text

After the days of her purification, according to the law of Moses, were accomplished, they carried Him to Jerusalem, to present Him to the Lord: as it is written in the law of the Lord: Every male opening the womb shall be called holy to the Lord: and to offer a sacrifice, according as it is written in the law of the Lord, a pair of turtledoves or two young doves.

And behold there was a man in Jerusalem named Simeon, and this man was just and devout, waiting for the consolation of Israel; and the Holy Ghost was in him. And he had received an answer from the Holy Ghost, that he should not see death, before he had seen the Christ of the Lord. And he came by the Spirit into the Temple. And when His parents brought in the Child Jesus, to do for Him according to the custom of the law, he also took Him into his arms and blessed God and said: Now thou dost dismiss thy servant, O Lord, according to thy word in peace, because my eyes have seen thy revelation which thou hast prepared before the face of all peoples: a light to the revelation of the Gentiles, and the glory of thy people Israel.

And His father and mother were wondering at those things which were spoken concerning Him. And Simeon blessed them and said to Mary His mother: Behold this child is set for the fall, and for the resurrection of many in Israel, and for a sign which shall be contradicted, and thy own soul a sword shall pierce, that, out of many hearts, thoughts may be revealed.

And there was one Anna, a prophetess, the daughter of Phanuel of the tribe of Aser; she was far advanced in years, and had lived with her husband seven years from her virginity. And she was a widow until fourscore and four years, who departed not from the temple, by fastings and prayers serving night and day. Now she, at the same hour, coming in confessed to the Lord and spoke of Him to all that looked for the redemption of Israel..

And after had performed all things according to the law of the Lord, they returned into Galilee, to their city Nazareth. And the child grew and waxed strong, full of wisdom, and the grace of God was in Him (Luke 2:22-40).

2. Considerations

1st series

1. The most beautiful rite of the Old Covenant is now being enacted. The Divine Child, who is the Messiah longed for and foretold for thousands of years, appears in the temple. On the arms of a priest, He is being offered up to God. Thus, even now, He is being daily offered up: in the hands of the priest at the Consecration, in the hearts of the faithful at Holy Communion.
2. The purification of Mary. The purest of mothers and virgins submits to the legal purification consisting in prayers by the priests. She is a model of humble obedience.
3. Mary likewise offers up her Divine Child in the temple to God. She alone knows that He has come solely to offer up for us His body and blood on the cross.
4. St. Joseph presents the offering of the poor—two young turtle-doves. The parents of the Child Jesus are willingly poor. “Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven.”
5. The aged Simeon prophesies: “This child shall be a light for the revelation of the Gentiles.” Through His person, His teaching, and His redemption, Jesus is the light of the world. O Jesus, enlighten me also! Enlighten the world of the heathen!
6. “And thine own soul a sword shall pierce.” What great fear wells up in the heart of Mary, as the future cross was so clearly revealed to the eyes of her soul!

2nd series

7. Mary and Joseph are patterns for Christian parents. May indeed all Christian parents offer up their children to God and rear them for Eternal Life. As the Child Jesus offers Himself up for me, so will I offer myself up for the Child Jesus.
8. This Child shall be the resurrection of some, the fall of others. How keenly Mary rejoices over the former, how deeply she grieves for the latter! O Mary, pray for me, that thy Divine Child may be my resurrection.
9. Simeon and Anna are models for Christian old age. They were daily in the temple and ever hoped to see the Messiah. Let me hope and my life's aim be, to see Jesus eternally in Heaven!

Resolution

10. My resolution: Often at the Consecration and at Communion, I will offer up to God the Child Jesus. In Jesus I will seek my rest.