

MYSTERIES
OF THE
ROSARY

Joyful, Luminous, Sorrowful and Glorious Mysteries

Anne Catherine Emmerich

Arranged and Edited By
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INTRODUCTION

THE MOST HOLY ROSARY is one of the greatest prayers in the history of the Church. Garnished as it is with the testimony of saints and popes for the last thousand years, the only prayers that could be said to be greater are those of the Mass and the Divine Office. Yet, many still seek ways to enter into the deeper mansions of spiritual richness to be found in this devotion.

Pope Leo XIII, whose papal magisterium did so much to popularize and spread the devotion of the Rosary, teaches us:

As the various mysteries present themselves one after the other in the formula of the Rosary for the meditation and contemplation of men's minds, they also elucidate what we owe to Mary for our reconciliation and salvation. ... Now Christ stands forth clearly in the Rosary. We behold in meditation His life, whether His hidden life in joy, or His public life in excessive toil and sufferings unto death, or His glorious life from His triumphant resurrection to His eternal enthronement at the right hand of the Father. (*Fidentem Piumque Animum*, 1896)

The challenge then, has been focusing on the mysteries to better follow the life of our Lord through the eyes of Our Blessed Lady. To this end, many books have been produced over the years, employing various methods of meditation. What we have produced here stands out from them as a unique work, which has arranged the mysteries of the Rosary through the eyes of the great mystic, Blessed Anne Catherine Emmerich.

Blessed Anne Catherine was a mystic who experienced many marvelous private revelations concerning events of the Old and New Testaments, and provides many details that we do not find in the Scripture. Here, however, it is necessary to affirm that these private revelations are just that—they do not have an equal status to Divine Revelation which constitutes Sacred Scripture and the Deposit of Faith handed down by the Apostles. The Church merely affirms that they are free from error in faith and morals. One may wonder, if these are not absolutely certain, or an addendum to Scripture, why do we have them? The answer is to direct our actions more precisely to the love and knowledge of Jesus Christ, which is the very purpose of the Most Holy Rosary. As St. Thomas Aquinas teaches, “At all times there have not been lacking persons having the spirit of prophecy, not indeed for the declaration of any new doctrine of faith, but for the direction of human acts” (*II IIæ*, q. 174, a. 6, ad 3). When a private revelation is given, the light and inspiration comes from God, but uses the material present in the mind of

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the visionary to build and establish the revelation to focus once more upon devotion.

Therefore, even if one need not give the assent of faith to the precise historicity of the visions of Blessed Anne Catherine (which no authority has ever suggested), it is more than enough to focus on the love of Jesus Christ fostered through prayerful study of these pages.

Thus, our purpose here is to provide the reader with excerpts from Blessed Anne Catherine's visions to direct their acts of meditation more completely on the mysteries of Jesus contained in the rosary. One may read *Mysteries of the Rosary* as a book so as to provide more fruitful details for meditation later, or for meditation while praying the rosary.

—*The Editor*



THE
JOYFUL
MYSTERIES

* 1 *

THE ANNUNCIATION

*And the angel having come in, said unto her:
Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with you:
blessed are you among women.*

LUKE 1:27-28

I saw the Blessed Virgin a short time after her marriage in the house of Nazareth. Joseph was not there. He was at that moment journeying with two beasts of burden on the road to Tiberias, to which he was going to get his tools. But Anne was in the house with her maid and two of the virgins who had been with Mary in the Temple. Everything in the house had been newly arranged by Anne. Toward evening, they all prayed standing... around a circular stool from which they afterward ate vegetables that had been served. Anne seemed to be very busy about the household affairs, and for a time she

moved around here and there, while the Blessed Virgin ascended the steps to her room.

Mary laid a small, round cushion on the floor and she gently sank on her knees, her back turned to her couch, the door of the chamber to her right. Mary lowered her veil over her face, and folded her hands upon her chest. I saw her praying for a long time with intense fervor. She prayed for Redemption, for the promised King, and that her own supplications might have some influence upon His coming. She knelt long, as if in ecstasy, her face raised to Heaven; then she drooped her head upon her chest and thus continued her prayer. And now she glanced to the right and beheld a radiant youth with flowing, yellow hair. It was the archangel Gabriel. His feet did not touch the ground. In an oblique line and surrounded by an effulgence of light and glory, he came floating down to Mary. The lamp grew dim, for the whole room was lit up by the glory. The angel, with hands gently raised before his breast, spoke to Mary. I saw the words like letters of glittering light issuing from his lips. Mary replied, but without looking up. Then the angel again spoke and Mary, as if in obedience to his command, raised her veil a little, glanced at him, and said, "Behold the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done unto me according to your word!" I saw her now in deeper ecstasy. The ceiling of the room vanished, and over the house appeared a luminous cloud with a pathway of light leading up from it to the opened heavens. Far up in the source of this light, I beheld a vision of the Most Holy Trinity.

As Mary uttered the words: “May it be done unto me according to your word!” I saw an apparition of the Holy Spirit. The countenance was human and the whole apparition environed by dazzling splendor, as if surrounded by wings. From the chest and hands, I saw issuing three streams of light. They penetrated the right side of the Blessed Virgin and united into one under her heart. At that instant Mary became perfectly transparent and luminous. It was as if opacity disappeared like darkness before that flood of light.

While the angel and the streams of glory vanished, I saw down the path of light that led up to Heaven, showers of half-blown roses and tiny green leaves falling upon Mary. She, entirely absorbed in self, saw in herself the Incarnate Son of God, a tiny, human form of light with all the members, even to the little fingers, perfect. Mary knew that she had conceived the Redeemer, yes, her interior lay open before her, and so she already understood that her Son’s kingdom should be a supernatural one, and that the House of Jacob, the Church, would be the reunion of regenerate mankind.

She knew that the Redeemer would be the King of His people, that He would purify them and render them victorious; but that in order to redeem them He must suffer and die. It was explained to me likewise why the Redeemer remained nine months in His mother’s womb, why He was born a little child and not a perfect man like Adam, and why also He did not take the beauty of Adam in Paradise. The Incarnate Son of God willed to

be conceived and born that conception and birth, rendered so very unholy by the Fall, might again become holy. Mary was His Mother, and He did not come sooner because Mary was the first and the only woman conceived without sin.

+ + +

We offer You, O Lord Jesus, this first decade in honor of Your Incarnation in Mary's womb, and we ask of You, through this mystery and through her intercession, a profound humility.

Amen.

*Our Father, 10 Hail Marys,
Glory Be, Oh my Jesus.*

May the grace of the Mystery of the Annunciation come down into our souls. Amen.

* 2 *

THE VISITATION

*And Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Ghost:
And she cried out with a loud voice, and said:
“Blessed are you among women,
and blessed is the fruit of your womb.”*

LUKE 1:42-43

After the Conception of Jesus, the Blessed Virgin experienced a great desire to visit her cousin Elizabeth. I saw her travelling with Joseph toward the south to Zachary's house; it was a journey of about twelve hours. Near Jerusalem they turned off to the north in order to take a more solitary route. They made the circuit of a little city two leagues from Emmaus, and took a road traversed by Jesus in after years. Although it was a long journey, they made it very quickly.

Zachary's house stood upon a solitary hill, and other dwellings were scattered around. Not far from it, a

tolerably large brook flowed down from the mountain. Elizabeth had learned in vision that one of her race was to give birth to the Messiah; she had dwelt in thought upon Mary, had very greatly desired to see her, and had indeed beheld her journeying to Hebron. In a little room, to the right of the entrance to the house, she placed seats, and here she tarried, often looking long and anxiously down the road, in the hope of catching the first glimpse of Mary. When Zachary was returning from the Passover, I saw Elizabeth, urged by an impetuous desire, hurrying from the house and going a considerable distance on the road to Jerusalem. When Zachary met her, he was alarmed to find her so far from home and that, too, in her present condition. But she told him of her anxiety and that she could not help thinking that her cousin Mary was coming from Nazareth to see her.

Zachary, however, thought it improbable that the newly married couple would at that time undertake so great a journey. On the following day, I saw Elizabeth taking the road again under the influence of the same impression, and now I saw the Holy Family coming to meet her. As soon as the Blessed Virgin saw Elizabeth, she recognized her and hurried on to meet her, while Joseph purposely held back.

When the cousins met, they saluted each other joyfully with outstretched hands. I saw a light in Mary and, issuing from her, a ray which entered into Elizabeth, who thereby became wonderfully excited. They did not pause long in sight of the beholders, but arm in arm passed up

the courtyard to the door of the house, where Elizabeth once more bade Mary welcome.

Joseph went around to the side of the house and into an open hall where sat Zachary. He respectfully saluted the aged priest, who responded in writing on his tablet. Mary and Elizabeth entered the room in which was the fireplace. Here they embraced, clasping each other in their arms and pressing cheek to cheek. I saw light streaming down between them. Then it was that Elizabeth, becoming interiorly inflamed, stepped back with uplifted hands, and exclaimed,

“Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the Fruit of your womb.

“And how is it, that the Mother of my Lord should come to me?

“For behold, as soon as the voice of your greeting sounded in my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy.

“And blessed are you who believed, because those things shall be accomplished that were spoken to you by the Lord.”

At these last words, Elizabeth took Mary into the little room prepared for her that she might sit down and rest. It was only a few steps from where they then were. Mary released her hold upon Elizabeth’s arm, crossed her hands on her chest, and divinely inspired, uttered her canticle of thanksgiving:

“My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit has rejoiced in God, my Savior.

“Because He has regarded the humility of His handmaid; for behold from henceforth all generations shall call me blessed.

“Because He who is mighty has done great things to me: and holy is His name.

“And His mercy is from generation unto generations, to those who fear Him.

“He has showed might in His arm: He has scattered the proud in the conceit of their heart.

“He has put down the mighty from their seat, and has exalted the humble.

“He has filled the hungry with good things: and the rich He has sent empty away.

“He has received Israel his servant, being mindful of His mercy.

“As He spoke to our fathers, to Abraham, and to His seed forever.”

I saw Elizabeth, moved by similar emotion, reciting the whole canticle with Mary. The Blessed Virgin remained with Elizabeth three months, until after the birth of John, but she returned to Nazareth before his circumcision.

+ + +

We offer You, O Lord Jesus, this
second decade in honor of the
Visitation of Your holy Mother to her
cousin

St. Elizabeth and the sanctification of
St. John the Baptist, and we ask of You,
through this mystery and through the
intercession of Your holy Mother,
charity toward our neighbor. Amen.

*Our Father, 10 Hail Marys,
Glory Be, O my Jesus.*

May the grace of the Mystery of the
Visitation come down into
our souls. Amen.