

The Rosary is well known for the many miracles that have resulted from those who pray it. Among these miracles is the one that took place in response to Pope Pius V's urgent message to all Christians across Europe to invoke Our Lady's intercession through the Rosary.

Pope Pius V called upon all the Christian princes of Europe to unite and form a Christian army against the Ottoman Empire.

The Ottoman Empire were carrying out a Muslim invasion. But on 7 October 1571, the morning of the Battle of Lepanto, the odds were stacked against the Christian army. In addition to being severely outnumbered by the Ottoman army, the wind was against the Christian army.

Clinging to their last glimmer of hope, the Christian army turned to prayer. Suddenly, by the end of the day,

the wind shifted in favour of the Christian army, who defeated the Ottomans and liberated the 12,000 Christian slaves.

The powerful weapon of the Rosary saved Christendom from the clutches of the Ottoman invaders. And in the same way, Our Lady is a powerful intercessor for us today, especially when we invoke her protection through the Rosary.

How did this ancient weapon come to be?

Our Lady appeared in Prouilhe, Southern France, to Saint Dominic de Guzman (1170-1221), the founder of the Order of Preachers, later known as the Dominicans.

In the year 1214, St Dominic was in anguish because the darkness of the Albigensian Cathar heretics seemed to be too

widespread to remedy. St Dominic went alone to a forest and prayed, fasted and sobbed unceasingly for three days and three nights until he passed into a coma. Our Blessed Mother then appeared to him with three angels by her side and said, "If you want to reach these hardened souls and win them over to God, preach my Psalter."¹

For many centuries, the Rosary was known as 'Our Lady's Psalter.' The Psalter consists of the Psalms. Just as there are 150 Psalms in the Bible, there are 150 *Hail Marys* in the original three Mysteries of the Rosary: the Joyful, Sorrowful, and Glorious Mysteries. And so, filled with burning zeal, St Dominic preached the Rosary.

The people of Toulouse embraced Christianity and sought to imitate the

¹ Bl. Alan de le Roche, *De Dignitate Psalterii*

virtuous life of Christ and His Blessed Mother. There are many other amazing true stories which are the result of the Rosary. I won't attempt to relate too many stories; otherwise, we'll be here until the sun sets. Still, let me share with you the following true story which is amazing. During World War II, Nazi soldiers brought about much death, arrests and destruction in numerous countries throughout Europe. Among these countries was Poland. Yet, believe it or not, no Nazi soldiers appeared in one of the parishes in Poland, despite occupying Poland for six years! Additionally, none of the parishioners of that parish died during the war. All of this protection was due to the great faith of the parishioners who prayed the Rosary. This Parish is in Garnek which is located about 70 kilometres from

Warsaw.

On 1 September 1939, the Parish of Garnek was inhabited by nearly 7,000 people.

On the day of German aggression against Poland, the Parish Priest told the faithful that the only salvation for Poland and the inhabitants of the surrounding villages is *prayer*.

1 September was the first Friday of the month and many believers were in the church.

The Parish Priest said to his parishioners:

**“Today, Germany,
under the leadership of Hitler,
attacked Poland.
Hitler is a man possessed by Satan.
Hitler will do terrible evil to Poland
and all of Europe.
Millions of people will die,
Europe will be destroyed.
Is there any rescue?
Can we avoid death, save our homes,
farms and workplaces?
Yes, there is a way to be saved!**

**This salvation is praying the Rosary
before the Blessed Sacrament
exhibited in the monstrance!
From today until the end of the war
(we do not know how long this war
will last),
every day the Rosary will be said in
our church before the
Blessed Sacrament.
I invite everyone to this service every
day.”**

These were prophetic words, indeed, from the Parish Priest.

The war lasted for 6 years and the Rosary was prayed daily by the faithful in the church of Garnek Parish for so many years.

More and more people began to come to the church.

They prayed a part of the Rosary (usually five Mysteries).

After the Rosary, the priest ministered Benediction. Parishioners noticed that the Nazis had not yet visited their Parish, and those who went to fight in the

war, did not die. Consequently, parishioners came more frequently to pray the Rosary such that the church was bursting at the seams every day. Many young men were mobilised from the Garnek Parish before September 1939.

Some fought with Germans and others with Russians.

None of these men died in the war. Some of these soldiers returned to their homes after the fighting ceased, others were taken prisoner.

Some were in German camps, others in Russian camps, including those in distant Siberia.

Yet, every soldier from Garnek Parish returned to their family homes.

This story may seem unbelievable, but the late Bishop of Warsaw Zbigniew Kraszewski asserted that this miracle of faith did indeed flow from the Rosary.

The example of Garnek Parish shows how much can be achieved this way. I'm sure that there are many other miracles that we are not aware of

that are happening in our own Parish because of the devotion to the Rosary that takes place in our own church. Specifically, every day throughout the year in this church, Rosary groups pray the Rosary before and after each Mass.

The Church invites us to remember the Rosary in a special way in October.

So, I invite you to consider joining one of the Rosary groups before or after each Mass.

You might like to pray the Family Rosary in your own home. You can pray the Rosary while you are travelling to work or taking the dog for a walk.

Remember that the Blessed Virgin Mary loves you and you can have confidence in her intercession, especially when you contemplate the Life, Death, and Resurrection of her Son through her eyes in the Rosary.