

24 September 2007

Dear Brothers,

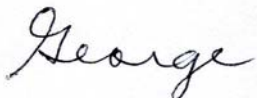
In our faith tradition, the month of October is dedicated to the Holy Rosary, with a special emphasis on the Memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary celebrated on October 7. This year October 7 falls on a Sunday, so you may wish to commemorate the memorial on Monday, October 8. Attached is a document you may wish to print that includes the dates of the feast days. *Please share this with any brother in your community who does not have e-mail.*

In October 2002, Pope John Paul II wrote the apostolic letter, *The Rosary of the Virgin Mary*. In it, he introduced five new mysteries, called the Luminous or Mysteries of Light. During this month, communities and individuals might make a concerted effort to come in touch with this time-honored devotion, for example, by reciting all or part of the rosary on a regular basis, by reading the Apostolic Letter and having a community discussion on it, by highlighting our daily dedication to the Blessed Virgin.

October also includes important Marianist celebrations on October 2 [Guardian Angels] and 12 [Our Lady of the Pillar] as well as the Marianist World Day of Prayer on October 14 and the Beatification of the Marianist Martyrs of Madrid on October 28. Please try to mark these events with special care and preparation.

After the terrible tragedy of September 11, 2001, Pope John Paul II reminded the world that we all have a vocation of unity and peace. He prayed: "May God allow the Church's faithful to be agents of peace, in the front line of the search for justice and the prohibition of violence. May the Virgin Mary, Queen of Peace, intercede for all humanity, so that hate and death never have the last word!" As we pray this month, let us beg Mary for peace in Iraq and let us re-commit ourselves to be peacemakers in our world.

With my fraternal affection,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "George".

George J. Cerniglia, S.M.
Assistant for Religious Life