

October 2009

**Dear Sisters and Brothers,**

In our Catholic tradition, the month of October has been observed as the month of the rosary. Perhaps you no longer find the recitation of the rosary helpful to your spiritual life. This month I encourage you to reconsider this time-honored practice.

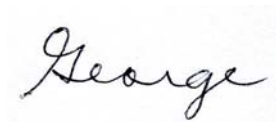
Since the 16<sup>th</sup> century the popes have frequently encouraged the faithful of East and West to pray the rosary. The first was a Dominican, St. Pius V, who wrote a papal letter about the rosary in 1569. Several years later he instituted the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary in gratitude for the victory of the Christians over the Turks at Lepanto.

In 2002 Pope John Paul II issued a pastoral letter entitled *The Rosary of the Virgin Mary*. He added the Luminous Mysteries based on the public life of Jesus. Pope Benedict XVI values the rosary as a means of contemplating Jesus with Mary's eyes.

Praying the rosary may seem monotonous and boring to some, yet it can be a rich method of prayer to help fathom the mystery of God in our lives. As Marianists, the rosary can be an excellent method of praying with Mary in faith and of begging her intercession to heal the wounds of our world.

Please remember two special Sunday observances during this month: the Marianist World Day of Prayer on October 11 and World Mission Sunday on October 18. Attached to this e-mail are additional October feast days.

Affectionately,

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

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