

# THE BULLETIN

“So the faith was planted: so it must be restored.”

*Eight Pond Place, Oyster Bay, NY 11771*

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## A Weapon For Our Times

Adapted from a sermon by The Most Rev. Clarence Kelly  
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We are at war and our enemy is not human. We are fighting against Lucifer and his legions of fallen angels. St. Paul says, “Our wrestling is not against flesh and blood but against principalities and powers, against the rulers of the world of this darkness, against the spirits of wickedness in the high places.” (Ephesians 6) But how can we fight the Prince of Darkness and expect to be victorious? How can we match strength with such an enemy? It is impossible unless we have some way to even the sides. We need a defense and a weapon. We need something that will make up for the difference between our weakness and his strength. We have this very weapon in the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary. There is no limit to the power of her influence with her divine Son. This is clear from the teaching of Sacred Scripture. At the wedding of Cana, she told her Son, “...they have no wine.” (John 2:3) The power of her intercession and Our Lord’s desire for us to have recourse to her are seen in the way He answered her prayer. He did not begrudgingly do what she asked, as some who do not understand the loving Heart of Jesus might say. He did not do the minimum. He went to excess. He went to extremes both as regards the quality and the quantity of wine that He made at her request.

To any unbiased mind it is clear what Our Lord means to teach us. It is clear what St. John and the Sacred Scripture mean to teach us as well. As a result of the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, not only were the needs of the young couple satisfied, but the glory of Her Son was secured. Now, as the Son is

moved to act by the Mother, so the Mother is moved to act by us. And of all the ways to move this heavenly Mother to act on our behalf few there are that are more effective than the Holy Rosary. It is the remedy for our needs and the needs of the world.

To illustrate the power of the Rosary, consider the following story told by St. Alphonsus Ligouri in his wonderful book *The Glories of Mary*. There was a certain woman called “Catherine the Fair.” She was a very great sinner and had fallen completely away from the Church. One day she heard St. Dominic preaching about the Rosary. She was very moved by what he said. In fact, she was so touched that she began to say the Rosary every day. Yet strange as it may seem, she did not immediately change the way she lived. She continued to live a very sinful life. One day a noble-looking young man came to see her. She could tell there was something special about him. She received him with courtesy and offered him something to eat. As he sat at table, she noticed that when he took the knife to cut the bread, drops of blood were dripping from his hands. She looked again and saw that all the food on the table was covered with blood. She asked the young man what the meaning of this was. He said to her: “The food of a Christian should be tinged with the blood of Jesus Christ, and seasoned with the remembrance of His Passion.”

Catherine was astounded by the answer of the young man and she asked him who he was. “I will tell you,” he said. He then got up from the table, turned from her and began to walk away as if he were going