

Rev. Paul A. Hottinger

Mary's Intercession Twenty-sixth Week in Ordinary Time Saturday, October 7, 2017
8:15 AM Bar 4:5-12, 27-29; Lk 10:17-24 **Our Lady of the Rosary** (Mary really cares for us and will respond to our needs in a very motherly way.)

Today we are celebrating the **feast of the Holy Rosary, which was established by the pope in commemoration of the victory of the Christian fleet over the Turkish fleet at Lepanto,** which is actually in Greece. Sixteen years ago I was there with a group from St. Joe's a week before this very day, and it was interesting to note one month after 9/11 how **this pattern of aggression has not gotten any better for five hundred years.** And by the way, this coming Friday is the one-hundredth anniversary of the apparition of the Blessed Mother at Fatima. **There is a connection of course between Lepanto and Fatima.** Fatima oddly is actually an Arab name, but the point is it's all part of this aggression between the Christian world and the world of Islam. It took over the Iberian peninsula for a long time. The Moors actually attacked France, but were repelled in 732.

But God has answered our needs to some degree by offering us a remedy, and the remedy happens to come in the form of **the Blessed Mother.** She, the Queen of Peace, is also the one who **intercedes for us.** It is our tradition, although we cannot prove it in Scripture, that **she is the greatest of all creatures.** That means more powerful than all the angels, which means more powerful than Satan, because Satan is simply one of the creatures God created. And **the obedience and the holiness of the Blessed Mother far outweighs the disobedience and unholiness of Satan and all the fallen angels.** In fact in the prayers of exorcism in the Church, Mary is the chief party next to Christ himself.

Now why does she have this role? I don't know. It's because Christ gave it to her. **It is Christ himself who through his cross and resurrection has redeemed the world, but it is also through Mary that Christ extends this redemption to many.** It is in answer to her prayers that

he grants many graces. Why this is, I cannot say, except that it is the nature of love, that on the cross **Jesus gave to Mary the care of the disciples**, and gave to the disciples the care of Mary, at least to the one disciple who was there. The Church has always practiced the belief that this gift, this reciprocal gift is really meant for all the disciples. **So Mary is the mother of all the disciples of Christ**, not just the one who was there, and **she really cares for us and will respond to our needs in a very motherly way.**

So keeping in mind the feast of the Holy Rosary and the feast of our Lady of Fatima we need to **pray to the Blessed Mother**, rosary if that helps or some other form of prayer, but whatever, to pray to the Blessed Mother **for the peace that we need in our world.** Why is it Mary who brings this peace or why has God chosen Mary to be instrumental? Maybe because most of the combatants in world wars are not women. **She being a mother of all can actually care for her sons who are killing each other**, and in her own very human way may influence world history for the better when we let her. But it is up to us to ask. **It is up to us to petition.** It is up to us to pray.