

Our Lady of Victories Church

(serving Harrington Park, River Vale and the Pascack/Northern Valley)

150 Harriot Avenue, Harrington Park, New Jersey

www.olvhp.org



Sunday, October 5, 2025 A.D.
Jubilee Year of Hope



Join us!

Sunday Oct. 5 - Welcome Picnic
for New Families/ CCD and Parish
10:30AM in the school yard

Monday Oct. 6 - Special Mass for Jubilee Year
on the Vigil of Our Lady of Victories feast
at St. Pius X Church (jubilee church) /Old Tappan 7PM

*Honorificentia Populi Nostri
Ab Hoste Protege
Mortis Hora Suscipe*

*Hail Queen
Honor of our people
Shield us from the enemy
And receive us at the hour of death.*

THE SACRAMENT OF CONFESSION:

Mon.-Sat.: 7:30-7:50am. Saturday: 11:00-11:50am; 3:00-3:45pm

THE SACRAMENT OF BAPTISM:

To register for Baptismal preparation and Baptism call the rectory.

THE SACRAMENT OF CONFIRMATION:

Call the Religious Ed Office for requirements/class schedule.

THE SACRAMENT OF MATRIMONY:

Please call the rectory for an appointment.

THE SACRAMENT OF THE SICK/LAST RITES:

Sick calls at any time in emergency.

THE SACRAMENT OF HOLY ORDERS AND VOCATIONS:

Anyone contemplating a vocation to the Priesthood or Religious Life should contact the Vocations Office at 973.497.4365.

WEEKEND MASS SCHEDULE

Saturday: 4pm & 5pm
Sunday: 7am, 8am Latin, 9:30am,
9:30am Family Mass (gym), 10:45am,
12pm, 1pm Spanish, 6pm

OLV Rectory
Phone: 201-768-1706
Address: 81 Lynn St.
Email: olvrectory.hp@gmail.com

Religious Education
201-768-1400
155 Parkway
olvhpccd@gmail.com

OLV Convent
201-768-1705
145 Parkway



Fr. Wojciech's Corner...

Happy Feast Day of Our Lady of Victories to ALL of You!

It was because of the Rosary that one of the greatest battles in history was won (battle of Lepanto 1571). May we never forget that in our daily battles, Our Lady can help us win. Kudos to all families who will take Rosary and pray this month.

Our actual feast is October 7th, but we will celebrate at all Masses this weekend. Solemn celebration at 9:30AM with feast of music.

Fridays in October we will pray the Rosary outside (weather permitting) after 8am Mass. We will offer it for our country, as well as for mothers and babies in their wombs in this month dedicated to sacredness of life. Please join us.

October is dedicated to

Sacredness of Life in the womb

It is a poverty to decide that a child must die so that you may live as you wish.

-St. Mother Teresa

Equality begins in the womb. Little lives matter. The most fundamental truth. We all started small.

Holy Name Society - Sunday, October 12

Men of all ages are invited: 9:30am Mass, Divine Mercy Chaplet and refreshments/discussion in the lower church. Our reflection topic will be "**Carlo Acutis, nicknamed 'God's influencer,' becomes first 'millennial' saint.**"

Special Mass for Jubilee Year in the Jubilee Church for our parish

**Monday Oct. 6 - Old Tappan 7PM
on the Vigil of Our Lady of Victories feast
at St. Pius X Church.
Please join us**

Attention families of 8th grade students planning to attend Catholic High School in Fall 2026! The High School Placement Test (HSPT) administered as part of the Cooperative Admissions Program for Catholic High Schools will be given on Friday, November 7, 2025.

Registration information for the HSPT exam is online at www.njcoopexam.org.

For information about the Cooperative Admissions Program, visit www.catholicsschoolsnj.org/hs-admissions.

What if you are CALLED! ???

Call the Vocations office 973-497-4365 and ask for Fr. Gino, Director, who is always ready to listen - or call Fr. Wojciech at our parish 201-768-1706, x11.

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Our Lady of Fatima

"1000 Strong Rosary for Life"

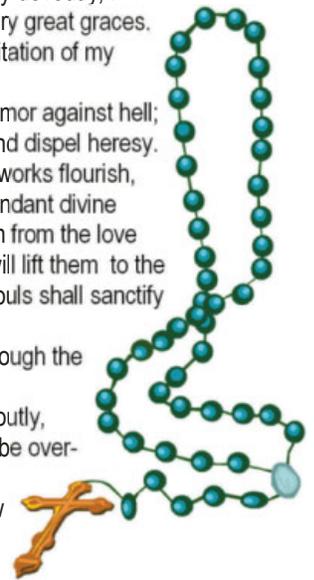
Monday, Oct. 13th at 7PM: Please join the virtual "1000 Strong Rosary for Life Conference Call" organized by LIFENET. Join priests from throughout NJ to pray for the Protection of Babies in the Womb and in reparation for the sin of abortion. October 13th is the 108th anniversary of the 'Miracle of the Sun' at Fatima. Our Lady wants us to pray the rosary!

Register at: lifeneteducation.org/1000strong
Conference Call Number 1-401-252-0031
Code: 759297# For more info 973-497-4520

It was because of the Rosary that one of the greatest battles in history was won (battle of Lepanto 1571). May we never forget that in our daily battles, Our Lady can help us win.

15 Promises of the Virgin Mary to those who faithfully pray the Rosary

1. To all those who shall recite my rosary devoutly, I promise my special protection and very great graces.
2. Those who shall persevere in the recitation of my rosary shall receive signal graces.
3. The rosary shall be a very powerful armor against hell; it will destroy vice, deliver from sin, and dispel heresy.
4. The rosary will make virtue and good works flourish, and will obtain for souls the most abundant divine mercies; it will draw the hearts of men from the love of the world to the love of God, and will lift them to the desire of eternal things. How many souls shall sanctify themselves by this means!
5. Those who trust themselves to me through the rosary shall not perish.
6. Those who shall recite my rosary devoutly, meditating on its mysteries, shall not be overwhelmed by misfortune. The sinner shall be converted; the just shall grow in grace and become worthy of eternal life.
7. Those truly devoted to my rosary shall not die without the Sacraments of the Church.
8. Those who faithfully recite my rosary shall find during their life and at the hour of their death the light of God, the fullness of his graces, and shall share in the merits of the blessed.
9. I shall deliver very promptly from purgatory the souls devoted to my rosary.
10. The true children of my rosary shall enjoy great glory in heaven.
11. What you ask through my rosary, you shall obtain.
12. Those who propagate my rosary will be aided by me in all their necessities.
13. I have obtained from my Son that all the members of the Rosary Confraternity shall have as their intercessors, in life and in death, the entire celestial court.
14. Those who recite my rosary faithfully are all my beloved children, the brothers and sisters of Jesus Christ.
15. Devotion to my rosary is a great sign of predestination.



Pray for Those in the Military

US Army

Captain Ben Clemente
RRT Specialist James Crumb
Staff Sergeant Peter Dippolito
Major Michael Franson
Sergeant First Class Charles Greene
Captain Shawn Linn
Colonel John McLaughlin
Sergeant Major Marc Medina
Captain John G. Miele
Captain Joseph W. Niece
1st Lieutenant Megan Niece
Captain Jack Ottomanelli
Staff Sergeant David Petersen
Specialist John Petersen

US Marine Corps.

Corporal Shanna Bennett
Staff Sergeant Matthew Brady
1st Lieutenant Ryan Colomeo
Private Nicholas Giron
Major Stephen Ikalowych
Captain J.P. Maher
Corporal Cody McGrath

US Navy

Commander Julia Cheringal
Lieutenant Jonathan Clemente
Lieutenant Joseph Jaeger
Lieutenant Andrew Jaeger
Airman Cody Massa

US Air Force

1st Lieutenant Brian Kearney
Chief Master Sergeant Shawn Llewellyn

Prayer for the Safety of Soldiers

Almighty and eternal God, those who take refuge in You will be glad and forever will shout for joy. Protect these soldiers as they discharge their duties. Protect them with the shield of Your strength and keep them safe from all evil and harm. May the power of Your love enable them to return home in safety, that with all who love them, they may ever praise You for Your loving care. We ask this through Christ our Lord.

Pray for Our Sick Please *Pray* in the name of *JESUS*, the Healer, that the *sick of the Parish* may be restored to health and all those who *assist and care* for the sick will be given the *strength* to continue *God's Will*: infants Jack Merritt, Abigail Jude, Aidan, Olive, Adeline Quarello, Jonathan & Joseph; children Gabriel Aungst, Antonio and Shane, Cordelia and Eileen, Remy and Silvie; Cheryl Alonso, Annie Baklycki, Kevin Douglas Barry, Michael Baruch, Julie Berbert, Paul Brennan, James Buckley, Kathe Burruano, Tony Burruano, Joe Cafaro, Anna Carfagno, Bill Clark, Kevin Columbo, Thomas Connolly, Eddie Cooper, Paula Criqui, Michael Curran, Marie D'Ascenzo, Maryann Dean, Noelle DeJoseph, Vincent DePaola, Marge Devitt, Guy DeSantis, Siobhan Donaghi, Whitney Dugan, Carl Falasca, Michael Fallon, Dan Filippone, Jeremy Fillis, Peter Fimbel, Walter Flaherty, Mary Foley, Phil Gangusa & Vicky Ferrara, Robin Fletcher, Leo Gendron, Ken Grier, Glenn Hall, Pat Halligan, Cara Hansen, Amy Hartwell, Richard Hogan, Kristine Leigh Hook, Rolando Joaquim, Austin Kellar, Pat Kissane, Christina Kenny, Tim Keohane, Joseph Koch, Chester Kovaleski, Artie Latz, Kenneth Luther, Peter Mahler, Robert Mayer, James McGarry, Matt McGowan, Michael McMahon, Adolfo Mendoza, David Mercur, Alice Miller, Len Moriarity, Gianna Moscatello, Kevin Mullane, Rose Marie Myers, Natalie Niebergall, Michael Oates, John Pal, Mary Parker, Tom Paskewich, Ronald Peterson, Louis Peduto, Bob Phillips, Canice Prince, Christina Pulver, William Ragu, Dan & Phyllis Ragusa, Robert Rasmussen, Patrick Ricci, Herman Rodriguez, Veronica Romanchuk, Wendy Ruggiero, Beth Sacco, Blase K Sacus, Samantha Sconzo, Patricia Ann Shalhoub, Peggy and Chris Shedden, Roseanne Stella, Brian Sumereau, Michael Suresh, Maria Tamayo, Ollie Tetlow, Angeline Thomas, Felicia Veneruso, Jim Viantes, Dennis Ubriaco, Carl Walker, Megan Weingarten, Hope White, Maria Williams, Daniel Wu, Mary Young, Brian, Carla, Christina, Donna M., Edward, Elba, Jack, Jennifer, Joann, John, Karen, Kathleen V., Kaitlin V. Lauren, Lisa, Lou, Lucas, Lynn, Mary, Margaret, Melinda, Michelle, Patrick, Peter, Robert, Samantha, Sarah, Scott, Sean, Sharon, Steven, Tom.

KIDZ KORNER ANSWERS

- 1. October 7th.
- 2. Our Lady of the Rosary / Our Lady of Victories.
- 3. The Luminous mysteries or Mysteries of Light.
- 4. Saint Carlo Acutis.

Mass Intentions

Sunday, October 5 - St. Faustina Kowalska; Bl. Bartolo Longo

7:00 Isabell Kucera R/b Tony and Laura Scott
8:00 Calogero Cascio R/b Frank and Arianna Lavinio
9:30 Lori Moran R/b Diana Lynch
9:30 (gym) Intentions of Pierce Marotta R/b Susan Semler
10:45 Silvio and Mary Burderi R/b the Burderi Family
12:00 Jim Muggeo R/b Mary Muggeo
1:00 Gladys Landeta/People of the Parish
6:00 Ronald Weiss R/b the Weber Family

Monday, October 6 – St. Bruno - Priest

8:00 Valentine McHale R/b Bill and Dianne Smith
12:00 Frank Bradley R/b Cathy Ryan

Tuesday, October 7 - Our Lady of the Rosary

8:00 Jeanne Avitabile R/b John and Mary Ann Harty
12:00 Dena Sommers R/b Rae Rinaldi

Wednesday, October 8 - St. Pelagia of Antioch-Virgin Martyr

8:00 Francisco Angelo Marino R/b Tony and Laura Scott
12:00 Robert Pavese Sr. R/b Guy and Patti Schweizer

Thursday, October 9 - St. Denis, Bishop & Companions

8:00 Jeanne Avitabile R/b Sonny and Anita Garzino
12:00 Intentions of Jim Clune R/b Joan Crowley

Friday, October 10 - St. Cassius, Martyr

8:00 Nicole Andryszczak R/b Lourdes Andryszczak
12:00 Jim Beardsley R/b Bob and Kathy Beardsley

Saturday, October 11 - St. John XXIII, Pope

8:00 Intentions of Richard Michaelowski R/b Joan Crowley
12:00 Karen Diane Giardino R/b Sonny and Anita Garzino
4:00 George Minish R/b Barbara Sita
5:00 Silvestro Magliocco R/b Joe and Linda Ziccarelli

Sunday, October 12 - St. Carlo Acutis

7:00 Harry Barrett R/b John and Marion Barrett
8:00 Eileen and Martin Kelly R/b Patricia Meehan
9:30 Jacki DeCoster R/b Karen Accavallo

No Mass in Gym today

10:45 Mary Muggeo R/b Bob and Sue Muggeo
12:00 People of the Parish
1:00 Hugo Orlando Gatti R/b the Giron Family
6:00 John L. Falcone

Sanctuary Memorials (this week)

The Sanctuary Lamp will burn for the intentions of Sr. Elizabeth - 75th anniversary of entering religious life.

The Bl. Virgin Mary Votive Lamp will burn for the repose of the soul of Lydia Mohsenin, r/b the Dunn Family.

The St. Joseph Votive Lamp will burn for the repose of the soul of Bernard Joseph Burruano, r/b Peter and Linda Wayne.

The Flowers for Bl. Virgin Mary and St. Joseph are in thanksgiving for all blessings - and for living and deceased family and friends, r/b Theresa Wallace

Flower & Sanctuary Offerings Flowers, Bread and Wine, the Bl. Virgin Mary and St. Joseph Votive Lamps and Sanctuary Lamp in the Church can be dedicated on a weekly basis. Contact the rectory for more information

My Parish-My Responsibility Thank you to those who so generously continue to support our parish by mailing in your donations. At the same time, we understand that some are unable to continue their donations at this time. *Donations may be mailed to OLV, 81 Lynn St., Harrington Park, NJ 07640. New to the area?* Register to become a member of the OLV Family. Visit OLV's website olvhp.org and click on "Parish Registration". **New address or phone number?** Please inform the rectory.

Saint Cassius - October 10

Saint Cassius, also known as Cassius of Bonn, was one of the nine martyrs who met their tragic fate at the command of Emperor Maximian Hercules. It is believed that Cassius may have been a member of the renowned Theban Legion. Cassius, along with his companions, courageously stood firm in their Christian faith during a time of intense persecution in the early 4th century. It was under the rule of Emperor Maximian that they were ordered to renounce their beliefs and offer sacrifices to the pagan gods. When they steadfastly refused, they were condemned to death.

In the year 303, Cassius and his fellow martyrs were beheaded in Bonn, Germany. Recognizing the significance of their sacrifice, a church was erected over their tombs shortly after their martyrdom. This sacred place served as a center of devotion and veneration for those inspired by their faithfulness. Throughout the centuries, the church and the relics of the martyrs remained in Bonn until they were translated to the present church in 1166. It was during this translation that their relics were carefully moved to a more prominent location, a testament to the reverence and respect they commanded.

Unfortunately, the passage of time obscured the exact location of the relics within the church. However, in 1929, during restoration work, the long-lost relics of Cassius and his companions were rediscovered. This rediscovery rejuvenated the devotion to these holy martyrs, reminding the faithful of their unwavering commitment to their faith, even in the face of death.

While the precise details of Saint Cassius' life may remain somewhat elusive, his legacy as a martyr and a member of the Theban Legion endures. His feast day is celebrated on October 10th, a day dedicated to honoring the ultimate sacrifice he made for his faith and the Church. Saint Cassius is revered as the patron saint of Bonn, Germany. His intercession is sought by those seeking strength and courage in their own Christian journey, as well as by the faithful of Bonn, who honor and remember the sacrifices made by these holy martyrs. Though his name may not be widely known, his commitment to Christ and the Church remains an inspiration for generations to come.

www.saintforaminute.com

NEW HOPE ANNUAL GALA * Celebrating 40 years of supporting first time moms and their babies * Wed., Oct. 8, 6:30-10:30PM at the Edge-wood Country Club, in River Vale * \$175/person * Contact 201-722-4705 for more info and tickets.

ARRAY OF HOPE GALA: Wed., Oct 29, 6PM, at Valley Regency in Clifton. Honoring Thomas Stephen Monaghan, founder of Dominoes Pizza and owner of the Detroit Tigers of Major League Baseball from 1983 to 1992. Visit arrayofhope.org for info and tickets.

Free Rosary Repair Service Send broken rosaries in a padded envelope to: Betty and Dick Holden, 7930 Estero Blvd., #502, Ft. Myers Beach, FL 33931. Rosaries will be repaired and returned to you within a week of receipt. Donations of old and broken rosaries are also accepted which will be repaired and sent to the missions. Include a note indicating repair and return to me OR this is a donation. Cell: Dick 239-463-3993 / Betty 860-595-6370 or email holdenbnd@gmail.com.

ALL SOULS INTENTIONS: Please return your ALL SOULS INTENTION ENVELOPES as soon as possible in order that we may place the intentions and names on the altar on ALL SOULS DAY. November 2, and for the following nine days for the ALL SOULS NOVENA.

Are you an **ADULT** without

Confirmation, Communion or Baptism?

If you want to become a Roman Catholic or complete your Initiation into the Church, the RCIA is for you! For information, phone the rectory. *Adult Catholics* who have not yet celebrated *Confirmation* or Holy Communion should contact the rectory for preparation class/information.

REQUIREMENTS FOR BAPTISM OR CONFIRMATION SPONSOR

Godparent/Sponsor must be at least 16 years old * **Godparent/Sponsor must be in good standing with the Catholic Church.** Must be a practicing Catholic (*Attend Sunday Mass weekly*). * Must have received the Sacraments of Baptism, Communion, and Confirmation. If married, must be married in the Catholic Church. * If single, not living with significant other, nor married civilly only. * **Godparent/Sponsor cannot be the candidate's parent.** Each child only requires one Godparent. If you wish to have two Godparents, there must be one female and one male. (Canon Law 872874)

Sacred Matrimony on Sacred ground

"ceremony" at the venue is not a valid Sacrament

For the Catholic Church the Sacrament of Matrimony is such a sacred matter that the Church requires for two Catholics to be married Sacramentally in the Catholic Church, not elsewhere. All the Sacraments except Confession are always celebrated in Church. Baptism, First Holy Communion, Confirmation and the Sacred Orders (Priesthood is even celebrated at the Cathedral of a given Diocese). A Catholic priest can only officiate Sacrament of Matrimony of two Catholics on sacred grounds (Church). This wedding at the same time is a civil wedding. For more info contact Fr. Wojciech.

Respect Life Any woman who is pregnant and in need of assistance should never feel that abortion is her only option. For confidential assistance call: Archdiocese Respect Life Office 973-497-4350*Gateway Pregnancy Ctr. 908-353-0604*Catholic Community Svcs. 201-246-7379 *Lifecall 800-662-2678*Birthright: 201-845-4646*NewHope 201-722-4705.

OLV Needlers If you'd like to learn to knit or crochet, join us in the lower church Wednesdays at 6PM and/or Thursdays after 12Noon Mass. Yarn, crochet hooks and knitting needles supplied.

OLV Knights of Columbus All men over 18 are invited to join the Knights of Columbus, the world's largest men's fraternal organization. As Catholic men we are called to lead, serve, protect and defend our Faith, families, and our parish. The Knights of Columbus will help you grow as a husband, father and Catholic. Join us!

Catholic Daughters of the Americas For info' call Marie 201-741-0499.

Bergen Catholic Open Houses: Wednesdays, October 8 & November 5, 6:30-8:30PM. Discover the Bergen Catholic Experience! See firsthand how Bergen Catholic inspires young men to excel in the classroom and beyond. Learn about our world-class student experience and how we prepare students for success in high school and life. We look forward to welcoming you and your son.

Don Bosco Prep Events: Attention 8th graders! Experience Ironman for a Day - walk our halls, meet our students and teachers - see what makes Don Bosco Prep truly exceptional. 6th, 7th, 8th graders & families are invited to our Open House on Sunday, October 19th 1-3PM. Sign up at donboscoprep.org & create your Admissions Portal & register for your visit.

Immaculate Heart Academy Open Houses: Sunday, October 19, 11AM-2PM and Thursday, October 23, 6:30-8:30PM. Tour the building and campus with knowledgeable and friendly student Eagle Ambassadors. Meet teachers, administrators, students, and coaches. Learn about the admissions process, curriculum, financial aid and more! If you are a young woman searching for a school known for its academic excellence, athletic competition, and creative expression grounded in traditional Catholic values, IHA is for you! Register online at ihanj.com; walk-ins welcome.

Pope Leo XIV urges Catholics to pray daily Rosary in October for Peace

Pope Leo XIV invites the faithful to join in praying the Rosary every day during October to invoke God's gift of peace, and announces a Rosary in St. Peter's Square on October 11 at 6PM as part of the Jubilee of Marian Spirituality.

Catholics across the globe will unite to pray the Rosary for peace in war-torn lands, especially during the month of October, which the Church dedicates to the Holy Rosary. "I invite everyone, each day of the coming month, to pray the Rosary for peace - personally, in the family, and in community," he said.

The Pope also invited Vatican employees to pray the Rosary daily in St. Peter's Basilica at 7PM throughout October.

He invited Christians to share with others "the love of Jesus that illumines and lifts up humanity." The Rosary for Peace will be held during the Jubilee of Marian Spirituality, which takes place on October 11-12.

St. Maria Faustina Kowalska - October 5

St. Maria Faustina Kowalska's name is forever linked to the annual feast of the Divine Mercy, the Divine Mercy chaplet, and the Divine Mercy prayer recited each day at 3 p.m. by many people.

Born in what is now west-central Poland, Helena Kowalska was the third of 10 children. She worked as a housekeeper in three cities before joining the Congregation of the Sisters of Our Lady of Mercy in 1925. She worked as a cook, gardener and porter in three of their houses.

In addition to carrying out her work faithfully, generously serving the needs of the sisters and the local people, Sister Faustina also had a deep interior life. This included receiving revelations from the Lord Jesus, messages that she recorded in her diary at the request of Christ and of her confessors.

At a time when some Catholics had an image of God as such a strict judge that they might be tempted to despair about the possibility of being forgiven, Jesus chose to emphasize his mercy and forgiveness for sins acknowledged and confessed. "I do not want to punish aching mankind," he once told Saint Faustina, "but I desire to heal it, pressing it to my merciful heart." The two rays emanating from Christ's heart, she said, represent the blood and water poured out after Jesus' death. Because Sister Maria Faustina Kowalska knew that the revelations she had already received did not constitute holiness itself, she wrote in her diary: "Neither graces, nor revelations, nor raptures, nor gifts granted to a soul make it perfect, but rather the intimate union of the soul with God. These gifts are merely ornaments of the soul, but constitute neither its essence nor its perfection. My sanctity and perfection consist in the close union of my will with the will of God."

Sister Maria Faustina Kowalska died of tuberculosis in Krakow, Poland, on October 5, 1938. Pope John Paul II beatified her in 1993, and canonized her seven years later.

-franciscanmedia.com

A little humor ...

A journalist asked Blessed John XXIII (Pope from 1958 – 1963) how many people work in the Vatican. The Pope paused, thought for a bit and replied, "About half of them."

Kidz Korner

1. What date is OLV's parish feast day?
2. What feast of Our Blessed Mother do we celebrate that day?
3. What mysteries of the holy Rosary did Pope John Paul II add?
4. What saint was the teen gamer and programmer who built a website promoting Eucharistic miracles? (answers on page 3)



Our Lady of the Rosary

On October 7, the Roman Catholic Church celebrates the yearly feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. Known for several centuries by the alternate title of "Our Lady of Victory," the feast day takes place in honor of a 16th century naval victory which secured Europe against Turkish invasion. Pope St. Pius V attributed the victory to the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, who was invoked on the day of the battle through a campaign to pray the Rosary throughout Europe.

Pope Leo XIII was particularly devoted to Our Lady of the Rosary, producing 11 encyclicals on the subject of this feast and its importance in the course of his long pontificate.

In the first of them, 1883's "Supremi Apostolatus Officio," he echoed the words of the oldest known Marian prayer (known in the Latin tradition as the "Sub Tuum Praesidium"), when he wrote, "It has always been the habit of Catholics in danger and in troublous times to fly for refuge to Mary."

"This devotion, so great and so confident, to the august Queen of Heaven," Pope Leo continued, "has never shone forth with such brilliancy as when the militant Church of God has seemed to be endangered by the violence of heresy ... or by an intolerable moral corruption, or by the attacks of powerful enemies." Foremost among such "attacks" was the battle of Lepanto, a perilous and decisive moment in European and world history.

Troops of the Turkish Ottoman Empire had invaded and occupied the Byzantine empire by 1453, bringing a large portion of the increasingly divided Christian world under a version of Islamic law. For the next hundred years, the Turks expanded their empire westward on land, and asserted their naval power in the Mediterranean. In 1565 they attacked Malta, envisioning an eventual invasion of Rome. Though repelled at Malta, the Turks captured Cyprus in the fall of 1570.

The next year, three Catholic powers on the continent – Genoa, Spain, and the Papal States - formed an alliance called the Holy League, to defend their Christian civilization against Turkish invasion. Its fleets sailed to confront the Turks near the west coast of Greece on October 7, 1571.

Crew members on more than 200 ships prayed the Rosary in preparation for the battle - as did Christians throughout Europe, encouraged by the Pope to gather in their churches to invoke the Virgin Mary against the daunting Turkish forces.

Some accounts say that Pope Pius V was granted a miraculous vision of the Holy League's stunning victory. Without a doubt, the Pope understood the significance of the day's events, when he was eventually informed that all but 13 of the nearly 300 Turkish ships had been captured or sunk. He was moved to institute the feast now celebrated universally as Our Lady of the Rosary.

"Turkish victory at Lepanto would have been a catastrophe of the first magnitude for Christendom," wrote military historian John F. Guilmartin, Jr., "and Europe would have followed a historical trajectory strikingly different from that which obtained."

-catholicnewsagency.com

The Rosary is a powerful weapon to put the demons to flight and to keep oneself from sin...If you desire peace in your hearts, in your homes, and in your country, assemble each evening to recite the Rosary. Let not even one day pass without saying it, no matter how burdened you may be with many cares and labors. – Pope Pius X

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