



## The Sisters of St. Thomas Aquinas

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Dear Reader,

Although the month of August saw much activity, it began with a full week of retreat during which the Sisters laid aside all of their duties in order to devote themselves to silence and prayer, and prepare themselves for another scholastic year.

Immediately following the retreat, we were happy to receive a postulant into the novitiate. The beautiful Vestition ceremony took place at the Motherhouse in Arizona. It is here also that the novice will continue her studies and live the community life for the next year, after which she may take her vows of three years.

Towards the end of August, a few of the Sisters assisted with the annual Bosco family camp in Tennessee; and the rest of the community worked on the final preparations for the academic year.



The school year opened on September 3<sup>rd</sup>, with the morning Mass at which all of the children received Holy Communion with the intention of placing the academic year under the protection of Our Lady, Queen of All Saints. Through her intercession, we are hopeful that the year's work will bring us closer to our ultimate goal, the sanctification of our families.

In Jesus through Mary,

The Sisters of St. Thomas Aquinas

*Angelica - Fall 2013*

*The Sisters of St. Thomas Aquinas*



## Bosco Camp 2013





## The Holy Rosary

In the month of October, Holy Mother Church invites us to further the devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary through the Rosary. The Feast of the Holy Rosary, October 7<sup>th</sup>, was instituted in order to commemorate Our Lady's intercession at the Victory of Lepanto. On the day of the battle, the people of Rome fervently processed through the streets reciting the rosary, pleading that the Christians be not overtaken by the superior Turkish Fleet. The enemy was vanquished, and the victory could only be attributed to Our Lady's intercession by the power of the Rosary. The Church has further dedicated October as "the Month of the Holy Rosary." In this way, she encourages her children to increase their devotion to the Rosary by its daily recitation. The Battle of Lepanto is only one of the many victories which Our Lady has gained on behalf of the members of the Church Militant. Daily, even hourly, the Blessed Mother continues to intercede on behalf of those who make use of the Rosary, her very own weapon, in fighting their daily battles.

In order to promote this devotion, the Church has granted very rich indulgences for saying the Rosary in this month. On the feast of the Most Holy Rosary itself, a plenary indulgence can be gained for each devout visit to an image of the Blessed Virgin, from noon of the vigil until midnight. During this visit, six Our Fathers, six Hail Marys, and six Glory Bes should be said for the intention of the Holy Mother Church. A plenary indulgence may be gained if the Rosary is recited on the feast; and another may be gained once during the octave. Additionally, one plenary indulgence may be gained for the recitation of the Rosary until ten days after the octave of the feast. A seven years indulgence may be gained for each attendance at the regular October devotions or for the private recitation of the Rosary. And not only for the month of October, but every day of the year, a five years indulgence may be gained each time it is said privately; and a ten years indulgence, if it is said with others. A plenary indulgence may be gained if the Rosary is said in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament.

As we have seen, the Church doubled the indulgence if the Rosary is said together, promoting its recitation as a family. We give God much greater glory by reciting the Rosary in a group, than by reciting it privately. "Where two or three are gathered together in My Name, there I am in the midst of them." Furthermore, the family Rosary is much more powerful in granting petitions than a private Rosary, as well as in conquering the assaults of the enemy. Whenever we gather to say the family Rosary, Our Lord unites Himself to our prayer and lovingly looks on as we honor His beloved Mother with our Hail Marys.

But in order to profit well from this devotion, we must say it properly, combining both vocal and mental prayer. While reciting the prayers with our lips, we, should meditate with our hearts upon the appropriate mysteries. The family Rosary said in this way will become a sure sign of predilection. The entire family will be in the hands of the Blessed Virgin. None of the members will face the Just Judge without the powerful Mother of God at their sides. But, we must never put aside this devo-

tion owing to the busy family schedule. Saint Bonaventure did not hesitate to say that whoever neglected Our Lady would perish in his sins and would be damned.

Let us listen to Our Lady's words said to Blessed Alan de La Roche: "I want you to know that, although there are numerous indulgences already attached to the recitation of my Rosary, I shall add many more to every fifty Hail Marys for those who say them devoutly, on their knees—being of course, free from mortal sin. And whosoever shall persevere in the devotion of the Holy Rosary, saying these prayers and meditations, shall be rewarded for it; I shall obtain for him full remission of the penalty and of the guilt of all his sins at the end of his life. Do not be unbelieving, as though this is impossible. It is easy for me to do because I am the Mother of the King of heaven, and He calls me full of grace. And, being full of grace, I am able to dispense grace freely to my dear children."



*Some of the students made Rosary plaques in honor of Our Lady of the Rosary.*



*The Sisters have a special devotion to the Rosary and recite the fifteen decades daily. The Postulants and Novices recite five decades every morning in the cemetery on the Church property.*



*The Sisters often enjoy playing music together during their recreation.*