

Dear Apostles of the Immaculate Heart of Mary,

We are grateful to all who have helped to make the past year a total success for the Living Rosary Family. Enormous numbers of parcels reached the missions, and hundreds of thousands of new members began their **Daily Decade!** The Year 2015 has come and gone. Have we set our goals for 2016? Have we a plan for this year? What are our ambitions? What lessons have we gleaned from the year just gone by? What will be our labors this year that our sanctity may be achieved? Let us not allow the year to slip by without laying out a map so that we do not get lost on our pilgrimage Home to Heaven.

The thirst of all mankind must be quenched in the cooling waters of the Love of God. Every soul must be filled with the Light of God and carry it to others. The perfect harmony of the Holy Family is for us an example of Love at its pinnacle. Of all the virtues that flourished in the little House at Nazareth, the Gospel names but one: Christ's submission to His parents; submission made all the more wonderful by the superiority of the subject to those who had authority over Him. Jesus is God, yet He obeys creatures. Mary is privileged beyond all other women, yet She recognizes Joseph as head of the House and obeys him. In that holy House, the Lord of Hosts obeyed a Woman, accomplishing the tasks She set for Him according to Her wishes. In all simplicity, Mary fulfilled the humble duties of any housewife.



God, Who made the world, learned His trade from a village carpenter whose instructions He followed exactly! The exercise of authority at the holy House of Nazareth is an example to all those in authority. Mary and Joseph gave orders; it was their duty to do so. But, with what respect they treated one another! All parents and superiors should treat those entrusted to their care with great respect. With the example of Jesus, Mary and Joseph before our eyes, who would dare to ask if his superior or parent was more learned, more experienced, or holy enough to have a right to command him? He has only to submit in all simplicity. In His Life, our God associated with men, but none longer and more intimately than Mary and Joseph. With them, He made the House in Nazareth a Home of Love, Peace and Joy.

Yet, Christ brought with Him the Cross for only by this means can He draw us to Himself, assimilate us and transform us. If we are one with Christ, the Life of His whole Body pulses through our being; Its needs and pain are our needs and pain. If we love with Christ's Love, it is the neighbor who lies wounded on the roadside who will be the special object of our compassion and care. He who accepts suffering is an apostle; he who avoids it whenever he can, is a servant of self, a barren fruit-tree! Like our saintly foundress, Ven. Pauline Jaricot, let us love with the Heart of God all those who are in travail and pain even more than we love ourselves.

Our prayers are with you both day and night.

PATTI MELVIN, Director – ULRA

Let us pray for one another.

BEHOLD, THE CRIB OF BETHLEHEM!

“I have come to be your ransom and also your Model in conforming your life to the Will of God. Hasten to the crib and learn the true secret of happiness, and let this be your guiding Light in life and in death. *Thy Will be done!*”