

THE UNIVERSAL LIVING ROSARY ASSOCIATION

International Center for Eastern Europe/Ukraine-Russia

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“HAVE CONFIDENCE, I HAVE OVERCOME THE WORLD!”



Dear Members, Benefactors and Apostles of the Living Rosary,

Through the Power of God and during one and a half years of hard work, prayers, pennies and help from many sources, the beautiful St. John the Baptist Church is completed. Divine Providence was with us. I was able to find a good construction company who bid the job at half the price of other companies. During the construction of the Church, we had our Sacred Masses in an outside tent. We roasted in the summer and froze in the winter. The tent was taken down on January 14, 2016 and we moved inside the Church, warm and wonderful! Without the support of the Living Rosary, it would not have been possible to accomplish this in the midst of war. We continue always to pray for all the donors whose names will be embossed in the memorial plaque which will be placed at the entrance of the church. The parishioners will see your names and pray for all of you. On January 24, Bishop Ihor Vozniak, Archbishop of Lviv, consecrated the church. It may look a bit plain right now but, in time, there will be additional icons and a special place of honor will be given to St. Philomena. How great must be our confidence in God's Power, Wisdom and Mercy!

The Catholic Church is proud of Her Rites. They are harmonized into one beautiful, polyphonic symphony for the Glory of God. The real fullness of Catholic worship cannot be understood without taking in the Rites of the East and West as **ONE** great whole. The Church is fundamentally one. This is explained in the Catechism: All members profess the same Faith, partake of the same Sacraments and are united under one and the same visible head, the Pope. The most widespread Rite of the Eastern Church is the Byzantine, and the most widespread Rite of the Western Church is the Roman. The prayers of the Divine Liturgy contain all Marian theology: Mary's divine motherhood, her perpetual virginity, her Queenship and her mediation. The most frequent invocation in the Sacred Byzantine Liturgy is the oft repeated: **Lord, have mercy!**

We Christians, even the most devout, do not possess that confidence which excludes all anxiety and doubt. Fear not, our repeated imperfections, weaknesses, serious faults and relapses will not discourage God. The more miserable we are, the greater claim we have to His Mercy. **"I do believe Lord, help my unbelief."** Lack of confidence, whatever its cause might be, does us much harm and deprives us of great blessings. All too often, we give way to discouragement which is more pernicious than sin itself. We must entrust our lives to the Divine Master Who has given us everything: the Treasures of His Heart, His Love, His Life and the very last drop of His Most Precious Blood! Ordinary hope is lost by despair. The hope we must have is heroic hope: Confidence fortified by Faith! Our confidence in God must be unshakable: firm, stable and constant! Such was the confidence of Job. Stricken by every possible misfortune, he did not allow himself to be discouraged: no murmuring was mixed with groaning. **"ALTHOUGH THE LORD SHOULD KILL ME, I WILL TRUST IN HIM!"** St. Martin fell into the hands of robbers who would have killed him, but his hope and confidence was in the Lord. Some pray only in the time of suffering, others pray fervently, but do not persevere. Unshakable firmness in prayer is the first characteristic of confidence: **Let us be confident in God, not in ourselves!**

Without Grace, we can produce nothing in the supernatural order. The Apostles labored all night to catch fish, and caught nothing. But, when they received the Master into their boat, they cast their nets and attained an undeniably miraculous catch, so much so that their nets nearly broke. We must not count on our efforts, but go forward with the sure conviction that all depends upon God. We must believe blindly upon His merciful and fatherly Love and His omnipotent goodness. Confident souls obtain God's graces! God will provide for our temporal necessities. Amidst material difficulties, even anguishing ones, we must not become disturbed. With complete certainty, we must hope to receive from the Divine Hands of God that which is necessary to maintain our lives. Behold the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor do they reap; consider the lilies of the field, they labor not, neither do they spin. If we seek first the Kingdom of God and His Justice, all else will be given to us. Without any doubt, Divine Providence will distribute exactly the aid necessary for each one of us. For great evils, God sends great remedies! We must not trouble ourselves about the future. Do today what you can to satisfy your obligations, counting without hesitation on the aid of Divine Providence for tomorrow's needs. To be afflicted about the future, constitutes a lack of confidence in God and wounds His loving Heart. We must conform our will in everything to His Adorable Will. It is not enough to await God's assistance; we must ask Him for it! The Master has unhesitatingly shed His Precious Blood for us. How could He refuse us the graces that are absolutely necessary and that He Himself merited for us on Calvary?

Jesus knows our miseries, He sees them. His Heart takes pity on them. How poorly we understand the Heart of Jesus! We must confide our mortal miseries to His Merciful Heart! The soul without confidence, outrages the Lord. The confident soul, who knows its weaknesses and its own nothingness, unfailingly wins His favor. Christian souls, employ all the means at your disposal to acquire confidence! Frequently make acts of confidence in God's Mercy. In suffering and in danger, raise your hearts and souls to the Heart of God!

We pray for your families, your courage in the difficult days which lie ahead, the gifts of wisdom, hope and confidence in God that all of you may remain faithful unto death to Our Crucified Savior Who has sacrificed His Life in reparation for our transgressions. We beg from God that His most profound benedictions may rest upon you and your family throughout the New Year.



I impart to all of you, my priestly blessing:

✠ **In the Name of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost. Amen.**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fr. Ivan Kolodiy".

Fr. IVAN KOLODIY

Byzantine Rite, Greek-Catholic Church, UKRAINE

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