



## **REDISCOVER THE BEAUTY OF MAY DEVOTION TO MARY THIS YEAR, POPE TELLS FAITHFUL**

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### **VATICAN -**

The Holy Father Pope Francis have called on Catholics throughout the world to use this year's May devotion to seek the intervention of the Blessed Virgin Mary in putting an end to the Corona Virus pandemic ravaging the world. The Pope's message was contained in a letter addressed to all the faithful of the Universal Church, written on April 20, 2020, on the feast of St Mark the Evangelist.

According to the Holy Father, this year's May devotion is peculiar as the faithful could not congregate to say the Rosary together in their various parish churches, as a result of restrictions occasioned by the pandemic; making the devotion more of a family affair in the homes.

Noting that the May Devotion is "a time when People of God express with particular intensity their love and devotion for the Blessed Virgin Mary, Pope Francis declared: "It is traditional in this month to pray the Rosary at home within the family. The restrictions of the pandemic have made us come to appreciate all the more this "family" aspect, also from a spiritual point of view.

The Pope said: "For this reason, I want to encourage everyone to rediscover the beauty of praying the Rosary at home in the month of May. This can be done either as a group or individually; you can decide according to your own

situations, making the most of both opportunities. The key to doing this is always simplicity, and it is easy also on the internet to find good models of prayers to follow.”

He added “I am also providing two prayers to Our Lady that you can recite at the end of the Rosary, and that I myself will pray in the month of May, in spiritual union with all of you. I include them with this letter so that they are available to everyone.”

Pope Francis added that: “contemplating the face of Christ with the heart of Mary our Mother will make us even more united as a spiritual family and will help us overcome this time of trial.”

While assuring the faithful of his prayers, especially those suffering most greatly, Pope Francis disclosed that he has provided two prayers to be said at the end of the recitation of the Rosary by the faithful, and urged them to also pray for him.