



The Rosary Shrine

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To Umberto Angeloni,
and to all members of the Confraternities of Europe,

As the Promoter General of the Holy Rosary for the Dominican Order, I greet you with joy on the happy occasion of the 3rd Pan-European Forum of Confraternities, taking place in Nice this year.

I was delighted to learn from you of the many active Confraternities in Europe, and in union with the Confraternities found throughout the world, I am confident that these communities of pious Catholics, both ancient and new, are a vital part of the New Evangelization that is so necessary in our times. Ours are uncertain and deeply troubled times, as the wounds of sin that has divided and marred our human family, become ever more evident. Responding to the signs of our times, our Confraternities, which are spiritual associations of charity and prayer, are needed to become ever more present in the Church and in the world, leading many in ways of prayer and fraternal love.

In particular, according to the teaching of Our Lady of the Rosary at Fatima, the Rosary and penance are at the heart of the Christ-centred renewal of our world. Hence the Holy Father Pope Francis has called for a period of prayer in 2024 to prepare for the coming Holy Year of 2025; a jubilee year. In particular, the Holy Father has asked for a Day of Prayer devoted to Our Lady, the model of the contemplative Church, in 2024. This Marian day of prayer should be celebrated especially by those Confraternities which have a Marian character, which are connected to the Holy Rosary, or linked to a Marian Sanctuary.

Since the time of Saint Dominic, our Dominican Order has had the honour and responsibility of promoting and preaching the Holy Rosary, which has been called the "sacred heritage" of our Order. It was our brother Blessed Alan de la Roche who re-established the Archconfraternity in the 15th-century, and since 1898 the Apostolic Constitution of Pope Leo XIII, *Ubi Primum*, has entrusted the Dominican Order and its Master with the responsibility of directing and establishing local Sodalities of the Archconfraternity of the Holy Rosary in churches throughout the world.

Having consulted with the Master of the Order and his Council, it is my hope that the Rosary Confraternity worldwide, under the guidance of the Dominican Order, will have an active role in promoting and supporting the Marian day of prayer. I suggest that this take place on the feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, 7 October 2024, with the involvement of the nineteen Dominican Provinces of Europe, and indeed, of all the Dominican Provinces around the world.

I hope that this plan is in accord with your deliberations, and that the Confraternities of Europe will collaborate with the Confraternity of the Holy Rosary in preparing this Marian day of prayer requested by our Holy Father, as we seek to concretely plan the format and programme and location(s) for this day. May Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary pray for you, and may she be our protection and our strength in these times.

I remain, yours in the service of Our Blessed Mother,

Father Lawrence Lew, O.P.
Promotor Generalis pro Rosario.

Dated: 29 September 2022, the feast of the Holy Archangels.