



Mary, Mother of the Church: A Living Guide for Hearts and Vocations

As we focus on the Month of the Rosary, Vicar General and Moderator of the Curia Very Rev. John Rice, hopes the faithful of the Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston will make time to focus on the guidance of Mary, Mother of the Church on Ecclesial (divine call to ordained priests and deacons; consecrated life; Catholic marriage; or single life holy and serving God) Vocations and how our mental health benefits from praying the Rosary.

These topics were highlighted in the Fall 2025 CARA (Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate) Report - a series of documents from CARA/ studies and surveys that address aspects of the Church.



As Catholics we wholeheartedly honor Mary as the Mother of the Church, acknowledging she draws souls closer to her Son – guiding, comforting, and inspiring the faithful of every generation.

Two recent studies reveal what practicing Catholics have long experienced in their hearts - devotion to Mary and the Rosary profoundly shapes both our spiritual lives and our well-being.

The recent CARA report found that devotion to Mary has deeply influenced the faith journeys of bishops, priests, deacons, and religious in the United States (1,019 completed the survey for the study). More than half (59%) said Mary's presence and intercession played an important role in their "discernment of a vocation" to serve Christ and His Church.

Their individual devotions varied – from praying the Rosary privately or in community, to making pilgrimages to beloved Marian shrines like Lourdes, Fatima, and Guadalupe. Many shared that these prayers and pilgrimages awakened a personal sense of calling and reminded them that, through Mary, they never walk alone.

Of those surveyed 66% were cradle



Catholics. The other 34 % reported that a Marian devotion was inspirational to their conversion.

Even after entering ministry or consecrated life, devotion to Mary remains a daily source of strength. Eighty percent of those surveyed stated they actively turn to her in prayer; and 80% said their Marian devotion has deepened their love for the Eucharist – the Source and Summit of the Catholic Church.

Through the Rosary and her example of humble faith, Mary continues to form hearts to say “yes” to God’s will.

Beyond the spiritual realm, researchers are also discovering what countless Catholics already know: praying the Rosary brings peace to the mind and soul.

A 2025 international study published in the Journal of Religion and Health found that regular devotion to the

Rosary is linked to lower stress and depression, greater empathy, and stronger community bonds.

The study noted that this meditative prayer appeals across generations and backgrounds — uniting young and old, educated and humble, clergy and laity — in one shared rhythm of faith, hope, and love.

The Rosary not only connects us to Mary but also helps us breathe more deeply, think more compassionately, and live more peacefully, according to researchers.

Together, these studies remind us that Mary is not just a figure of the past — she is a living mother, tenderly guiding her children today. Her example calls us to trust, to listen, and to say “yes” even when the path ahead seems uncertain.

In every decade of the Rosary, we walk with her through the mysteries of Christ — His life through her eyes, and to feel His love through her heart.

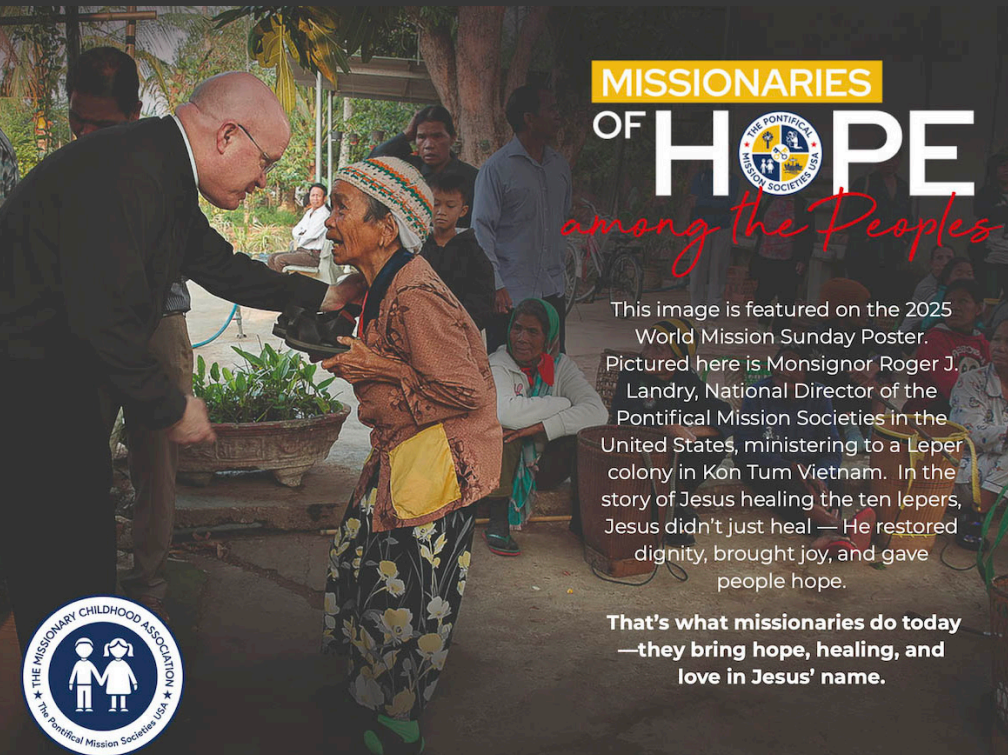


Whether whispered alone in quiet moments or prayed in a circle of friends and family, the Rosary continues to unite heaven and earth in a song of faith that never fades.

Holy Mary, Mother of the Church, pray for us.



World Mission Sunday Collection | October 18-19 All Masses



MISSIONARIES OF HOPE *among the Peoples*

This image is featured on the 2025 World Mission Sunday Poster. Pictured here is Monsignor Roger J. Landry, National Director of the Pontifical Mission Societies in the United States, ministering to a leper colony in Kôn Tum Vietnam. In the story of Jesus healing the ten lepers, Jesus didn't just heal — He restored dignity, brought joy, and gave people hope.

**That's what missionaries do today
—they bring hope, healing, and
love in Jesus' name.**

The Diocese of Wheeling-Charleston joins our fellow parishes around the world as we honor World Mission Sunday with a special collection to support the Pontifical Mission Societies, which aid missions where the Church is new, poor, or persecuted.

As Catholics let us recommit to baptismal and confirmation promises to spread the Gospel, represent Christ's love, and unite in solidarity with other Catholics worldwide to provide vital resources for evangelization, education, healthcare, and rebuilding efforts in mission dioceses.

The Pontifical Mission Societies are a worldwide network of prayer and charity at the service of the Holy Father, Pope Leo XIV.

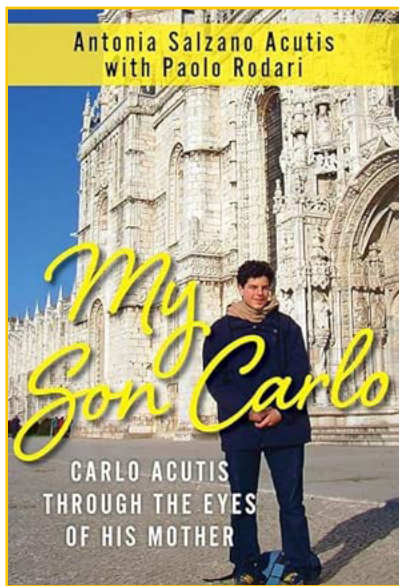


Saint Carlo Acutis – The Teen Who Clicked for Christ

Celebrating His First Feast Day as a Canonized Saint

On October 12, 2025, the Church celebrates the first feast day of Saint Carlo Acutis—the 15-year-old “influencer for God” who transformed his love for technology into a tool for evangelization.

Before his death from leukemia in 2006, this ordinary, game-loving teen created an extraordinary online exhibit of Eucharistic miracles that continues to inspire millions. His legacy of faith, simplicity, and joy lives on through those he touched, from his own mother to his caregiver, both profoundly changed by his radiant belief that our life finds meaning when we look to heaven.



Saint Carlo’s mother, Antonia Salzano Acutis, wrote a book about him, *My Son Carlo*, sharing ordinary and extraordinary stories of her son’s short life – a life that she learned so much from and a life that will now and forever influence others.

“Carlo showed me how to spend my days in the light of eternity,” she

wrote. “He taught me always to look toward heaven, toward the absolute, and not bent down toward the temporary, the relative.”

It was St. Carlo who taught his male nanny Rajesh Mohur not only how to say the Rosary, but also about the Catholic Church. He happily shared his faith with his caregiver that Mohur converted from Hinduism to Catholicism within four years of knowing Saint Carlo.

Carlo’s lessons on the Eucharist and Eucharistic miracles from around the world captivated Rajesh, whose father was a Hindu priest back home on a small island in the Indian Ocean off the coast of Africa.

Mohur would accompany Saint Carlo to daily Mass.

Mohur is quoted saying, “His behavior changed when he was inside the church, with all respect. He knew that there was something different where Jesus lives.

... That touched my heart . . . when I saw Carlo’s behavior.”

Saint Carlo never hesitated to share what he knew and learned about God, the Church, and the Eucharist, and he did so, so enthusiastically with great awe, explaining with great “sweetness” the impressed Mohur said.

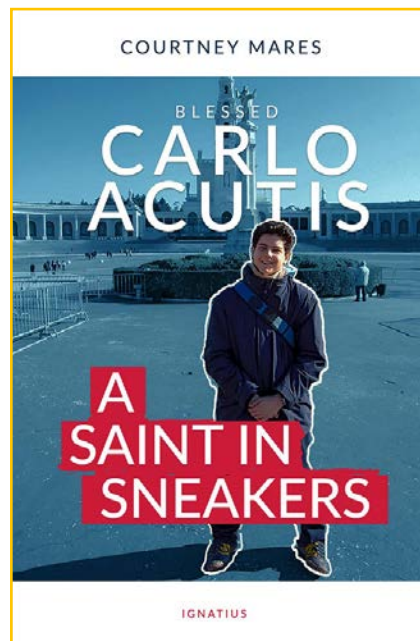


Because of Carlo, Mohur’s mother also became Catholic, after he taught her about Christ. He captivated her with the story of Our Lady of Lourdes, so much so, that Mohur’s mother visited Lourdes, France. When she returned, she was baptized.

“He said that I would be happier if I drew close to Jesus,” Mohur said. “He electrified me with his faith, his charity, and his purity (And he was yet a child).”

His caretaker spent a lot of time with Carlo, who loved his faith so much a conversation would somehow circle back to God.

“He talked always about the Eucharist, Jesus, how he suffered for us... sacrificed his life for us,” Mohur said.



Another book about the life of Carlo was written by Vatican journalist Courtney Mares. Her book, *Blessed Carlo Acutis: A Saint in Sneakers*, shares more from Mohur and others who witnessed the teen, after his death, become a global “influencer or God”.

FIVE SAINTS, ONE MISSION

Share Christ's Love Through Prayer, Service, and Truth

OCT. 15 - ST. TERESA OF AVILA:

A reformer and mystic, St. Teresa revitalized the Carmelite Order in the 1500s, founding more than 30 monasteries (17 for nuns and 15 for friars) and writing timeless works such as *The Interior Castle* and *The Way of Perfection*. Her deep prayer life and devotion remind us to keep our eyes fixed on Jesus; seek friendship with the Lord; and no matter how blessed or broken we are, be certain that God loves us.



OCT. 16 - ST. HEDWIG & ST. MARGARET MARY ALACOQUE:

St. Hedwig, a duchess who used her royal status to serve the poor, showed that holiness can flourish amid wealth and power when the heart belongs to God.

St. Margaret Mary revealed the burning love of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, teaching us that even if we feel we are unworthy of God's love, He loves us deeply. So do not lose sight of His Passion and mercy.

OCT. 17 - ST. IGNATIUS OF ANTIOCH:

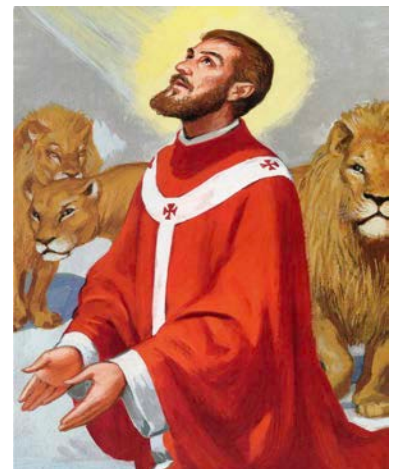
A bishop and martyr, Ignatius first used the term "Catholic Church."

"Wherever Jesus Christ is", he said, "there is the Catholic Church" (his letter to the Smyrnaeans, 8: 2).

His letters emphasized the True Presence of Christ in the Eucharist and the importance of living faith authentically—not just speaking it.

"We recognize a tree by its fruit, and we ought to be able to recognize a Christian by his action," he wrote. "The fruit of faith should be evident in our lives, for being a Christian is more than making sound professions of faith. It should reveal itself in practical and visible ways. Indeed, it is better to keep quiet about our beliefs, and live them out, than to talk eloquently about what we believe, but fail to live by it."

Have zero doubt, "Jesus Christ", St Ignatius wrote to the Smyrnaeans, "was truly of the seed of David", "he was truly born of a virgin", "and was truly nailed [to the Cross] for us."



OCT. 18 - ST. LUKE:

Physician, evangelist, and author of the Gospel of Luke and Acts of the Apostles, St. Luke sought truth and captured Christ's compassion for the poor and forgotten. His writings help us encounter Jesus personally through Scripture.

He was not one of the original 12 Apostles, but is considered one of the most dedicated followers after Christ's Ascension.

It is believed that the story of our Savior's birth that St. Luke presents, was based on his personal conversations with Our Blessed Mother Mary.

His first lines in Chapter 1 of his gospel notes that he wrote it "after investigating everything carefully from the very first, to write and orderly account for you. . . so that you may know the truth. . ." (Luke 1:3-4).



As we celebrate these saints, may we follow their example—rooted in prayer, strengthened in service, and always faithful to Christ's love.



Don't Be Fooled, & Don't Be a Fool!

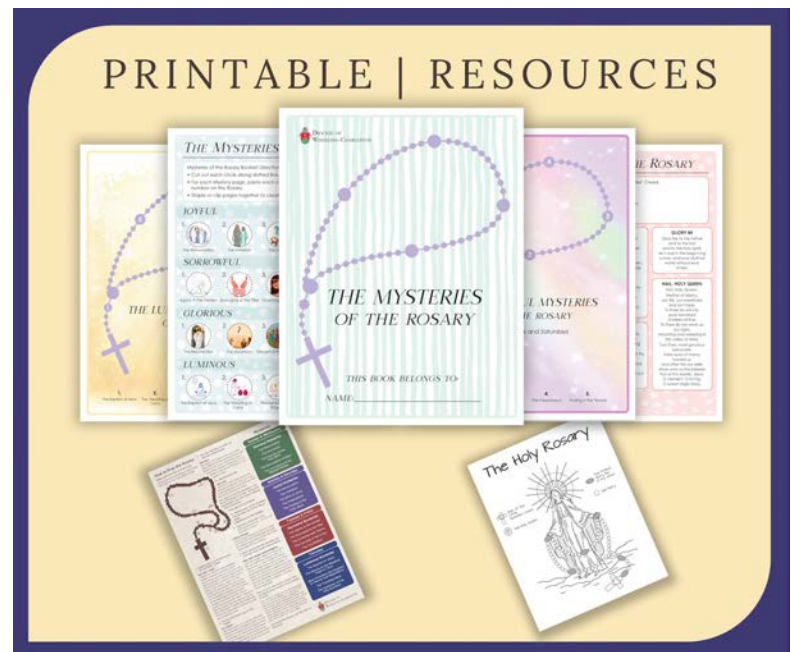
"Some people are so foolish that they think they can go through life without the help of the Blessed Mother. Love the Madonna and pray the rosary, for her rosary is the weapon against the evils of the world today. All graces given by God pass through the Blessed Mother."

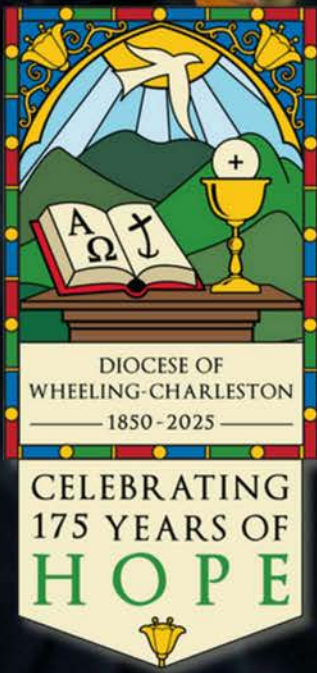
~Saint Padre Pio

PRAY THE ROSARY and add to your intentions an increase in vocations for WV!

For more info and to make yours count go to:
DWC.ORG/ROSARY-CRUSADE/

PLUS printable resources for children and adults have recently been added!





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TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY
IN ORDINARY TIME

First Reading: 2 Kings 5:14-17

Naaman does what the prophet Elisha said, and he was cured of his leprosy. For this he was grateful to God and thanked the prophet by offering gifts and declaring he there is only one Almighty God.

Responsorial: Psalm 98

“The Lord has revealed to the nations his saving power.”

Second Reading: 2 Timothy 2:8-13

Saint Paul writes to Timothy - remain faithful to Christ and the Word and we shall live with Him eternally.

Gospel: Luke 17:11-19

Jesus cured 10 lepers as they made a journey, he advised them to take. Only one returned to him in gratitude. Christ told him it was his faith that saved him.

[CLICK HERE FOR FULL SCRIPTURE TEXT](#)

PRAYER INTENTIONS

For the Church, that our words and actions reflect our praise and thanksgiving to God, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For our world leaders, that they see the light of the Lord and open their hearts and minds to lead their people with compassion, helping bring peace; and may this same strength end war and terror in the Holy Land, Gaza, the Middle East, and throughout Africa, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For all health care workers who dedicate their to care for the sick, suffering, and aging, may they be surrounded by legions of angels as they respect the lives God created, let us pray to the Lord. . .

For our habitual and special intentions, let us pray to the Lord. . .

Lord hear our prayer

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Liturgy of the Hours
LITURGY OF THE HOURS

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Scan the QR code or visit the link below to view a PDF version of the Liturgy of the Hours.



MASS ONLINE

Saturday 6pm Masses will continue to be livestreamed from the Cathedral of St. Joseph, and will be available on our website each Sunday at DWC.ORG.