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CNS documentary service

Pray Rosary in May for End of Coronavirus Pandemic

Pope Francis

Pope Francis asked Catholics to make a special effort in May to pray the rosary, knowing that by doing so they will be united with believers around the world asking for Mary's intercession in stopping the coronavirus pandemic. "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," the pope said in a letter addressed to all Catholics and released by the Vatican April 25. The month of May is traditionally devoted to Mary, and many Catholics already are in the

"Virgin Mary, turn your merciful eyes toward us amid this coronavirus pandemic."

habit of praying the rosary at home during the month, he noted. "The restrictions of the pandemic have made us come to appreciate all the more this 'family' aspect also from a spiritual point of view," he wrote. "You can decide according to your own situations" whether to pray individually or in groups, he said, noting that "it is easy also on the internet to find good models of prayers to follow." Pope Francis wrote two prayers to Mary that can be recited at the end of the rosary, prayers he said he would be reciting "in spiritual union with all of you." Both prayers acknowledge Mary's closeness to her son's followers and ask for her protection and for her intercession just as she interceded with Jesus on behalf of the newlyweds at Cana who had run out of wine for their wedding feast. The pope's letter and prayers follow, copyright © 2020 by Libreria Editrice Vaticana.

the month of May is approaching, a time when the people of God express with particular intensity their love and devotion for the Blessed Virgin Mary. 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.

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 oppor-

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