

It's the Hour

of the Laity



Fr. Tomás Morales, S.J.

■ Meditation by the Servant of God T. Morales on the Rosary

■ The Servant of God Fr. Tomás Morales, S.I., was one of those people that found in the Blessed Virgin Mary and in the devotion to the Rosary an effective instrument to counteract what was wrong with society. His deep love of Our Lady and of the Rosary is clear through the meditation he gave in Avila in 1992 to the university students and young professionals of the Secular Institute *Crusaders of Mary* and of the lay association *Militia of Mary*.

This mediation aims to propose again the praying of the Rosary to the family and by the family, to the youth and by the youth. It was to the youth and their formation that the Servant of God gave himself completely in spiritual direction, administering the sacraments and his preaching in the Spiritual Exercises, as he was convinced that "sanctity is for the youth and youth for sanctity" (*Pensamientos*, Burgos, 1996, n. 478).

«The Rosary helps us to have a compass, a stable point through our different moods.

What is the rosary and what isn't it? It isn't a routine, it isn't a habit, it isn't something that is rushed. The Rosary is the whole Church gathered together with Mary contemplating her. The Rosary isn't a Marian devotion, but a Christocentric devotion that centres the life of the baptised person perfectly. The whole Church, and you as a live part of it, contemplates the mysteries of Jesus with the eyes, and above all with the heart of Our Lady. The Rosary isn't a mechanical, distracted repetition of fifty Hail Mary's said in a hurry or out of habit.

Without contemplating the mysteries of the life of Jesus, the Rosary is like a body without a soul. It ends up dead, it ends up being said in a rush or out of routine. The most beautiful thing that can be offered to God the Father after the Holy Mass (Christ the Sacrifice, Christ in Communion, Christ in the Tabernacle) is the Rosary contemplating the mysteries of the life of Jesus. The prayer that the Church has given us is beautiful: Oh God, whose only begotten Son,



through His life, death and resurrection has purchased for us the rewards of eternal salvation. Grant that by meditating on these mysteries of the Holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary we may imitate what they contain, and obtain what they promise [...]. The psalter has 150 psalms. I whisper 150 Hail Mary's every time I pray the Rosary, the psalter of Our Lady, through which I humbly associate myself to the canticle of praise and universal intercession of the Church [...].

It is a contemplative and christological prayer at the same time. It begins as a contemplative prayer: see the people, listen to what they say, contemplate what they do. Like all the mysteries of the life of Jesus, the mysteries of the Rosary are a reproduction of the *Christus Humildes* of St Agustin. They teach me to disappear; they show me my insignificance, my nothingness and my sin. They wonderfully prepare me to contemplate the God of majesty, of wisdom, of eternity, beauty, goodness and mercy.

It is a contemplative prayer, but most of all it is a christological prayer. It allows us to understand that Christ did not just live twenty centuries ago in Jerusalem, but that Christ is living His mysteries in us out of love of each one of us. You become completely alone, quiet, as if you were in the clouds, in the clouds of eternity. Time has passed, life has passed and all that remains is eternal life, forever. The Rosary not only shows me how to live, but it teaches me to live with Mary, the best contemplator of Jesus Christ, the greatest lover of God.

The Rosary is made up of one fundamental mystery: the Incarnation, the Life, Passion, Death, Resurrection and Ascension of Jesus. And on contemplating the Eternal Word made flesh I become quiet, serene, with such a great peace that I have no other choice than to transmit it to others. It is the evangelical prayer *par excellence*.

There is no better way to pray than to open the Gospel with the eyes, the ears, the gaze and most of all the heart of Our Lady.

She transmits to me a love of God. Without even realising it I become enchanted, I fall in love with Christ, as if he were my older brother, my friend, my spouse, my father and my mother at the same time. I become used to his teaching and transforming example. When I pray the Rosary I become more and more a disciple of Christ [...].

Enemies of the Rosary, the summary of the entire Gospel. The first enemy: hurry. You may get annoyed at gregarious visits to museums or works of art that are constantly spoiled by a guide who is in a confused hurry, not letting you enjoy the art. The same thing happens with the Rosary if you leave it until the last minute or if you pray it distracted, without thinking, waiting for it to be finished [...]. The Rosary demands, by its very nature, a tranquil and reflective rhythm that favours the contemplation of the life of Jesus seen through the heart of she who was always closest to Him.

The second obstacle, the second enemy, is routine. It's normal that repetition tends to be monotonous, distracted, but you shouldn't stop saying the Rosary just because of that. Psychologists know that repetition in itself, although it may be distracted, leads to a certain recollection that helps thinking. What is dangerous is that at times it can lead us to drowsiness in the name of a selfish or lazy imagination. We have to overcome all this with love. Repetition is transformed when you react against this danger. The goodnight kiss that a mother receives from her son every night becomes a routine if her son doesn't do it with love. Routine is like a woodworm, it is a virus that corrupts, but love is the vaccination against this microbe. When something has gained value for someone they invent a thousand ways to keep the joy of the first day, of keeping fresh what is not fresh. And the Rosary can gain victory for me in many victories, through the Virgin whose name was Mary [...].»

■ THROUGH HIS INTERCESSION

■ "I give infinite thanks to the Lord for the favour He has granted me through the Servant of God Fr. Tomás Morales. He gave me the courage to go through with a delicate operation, which went very successfully and without any complications. Today I am well on the road to recovery" (**José María Penalva, Alicante, Spain; April 2003**).

■ "My addiction to tobacco had seriously put my health at risk. I had tried a couple of times to stop smoking, but without any success. Thanks to prayers to the Lord through Fr. Morales, I have now achieved it" (**Juan Luis Hernández, Madrid; April 2003**).

■ "I would like to communicate what, for me, has been a great grace received through the intercession of Fr. Tomás Morales. I had been trying for many years to get a post through public competition. I had decided in the end that it was impossible. I then thought of asking the Lord for it with confidence, through the intercession of Fr. Morales. You cannot imagine my joy when I at last saw my desire fulfilled. I continue to pray through his intercession for a number of other needs I have" (**Clara Isabel Muñoz Lozano, Valladolid, Spain; January 2003**).

■ "I would like to give thanks to Fr. Morales for having interceded for me before the Lord. A friend of mine has an illness and I asked the Lord to help her and for it not to become chronic. She suffers from depression, but since I have been praying through Fr. Morales for her she has been much better. She even wants to go outside. I also asked Fr. Morales one Sunday evening that this girl would be strengthened in her faith.

Said and done. On the days following the canonisation of the five Spanish saints I couldn't believe what I was hearing from the lips of this girl. She had found a Truth that she wanted to follow. I know that the five saints and His Holiness Pope John Paul II had a lot to do with this, but I am also sure that Fr. Morales interceded at their side because I had asked him for this favour. I firstly thank God a hundred thousand times for Fr. Morales, for allowing me to know him. And of course I also give thanks for his works, the Crusade and Militia of Mary..." (Victoria. S.M.J.T.; May 2003).

■ "One fine day when I went to Sunday Mass I picked up a leaflet with a short sketch of the life of Fr. Tomás Morales. I was going through a tough time morally and psychologically at work, as I had been working for many years on shifts and I couldn't cope any more. I soon asked Fr. Tomás Morales to help me and to solve my situation at work and the truth is that the problem has completely disappeared. The company offered me an early retirement package, something that was almost impossible as early retirement wasn't a possibility within the post I held. I am and will always be eternally grateful to Fr. Morales" (Eladio García de L., Madrid; November 2002).

■ "My daughter went for a job through public competition and she got a post. However, we didn't know where she would be destined, as these posts can be anywhere within a region. I asked Father to help us and I was really happy when we found out that she was to stay in Madrid, where we are from. After a year they were to give her her final destination, and I again prayed the novena, as there were few possibilities of her saying in Madrid. Nevertheless, for the second time she was given a post in Madrid, thanks to Father. I continue to pray for him to keep helping us" (Victoria de la Cruz, Madrid; December 2002).

■ The following people have written giving thanks for favours received through the intercession of the Servant of God Tomás Morales and have sent donations for the Cause of Canonisation:

Jesús Benito de Valle y Galindo (Cáceres, Spain) - Alfonso Alonso (Vitoria, Spain) - J.M. Sanz Pastor (Madrid) - Julio Domingo Castaño Iglesias (Burgos, Spain) - Maura McGrath (Dublin, Ireland) - Juan Hernández (Madrid) - María Legarra Garaicoechea (Bilbao, Spain) - the Rodríguez family (León, Spain) - M. Gallego (Madrid) - Felicísimo Fernández Calle (Cáceres) - Blas Sabaleta Alcántara (Madrid) - José María Penalva (Alicante) - C.J. (Tenerife) - M. Dolores Sanjuán Rodríguez (La Bañeza, Spain) - M. Martínez (Madrid) - V. de la Cruz (Madrid) - Monastery of the Visitation (Burgos) - Clemente Horcajo (Burgos) - Juan Manuel Sánchez (Barcelona) - Fernanda Mora García (Badajoz, Spain), Armenia Sabio García (Madrid) - M.J. (Jaén, Spain) - Rosario (Seville, Spain) - R.G. (Madrid).

The tomb of the Servant of God Fr. Tomás Morales S.I. can be found at Rovacías, c/ Juan de Mena, 23 (28014, Madrid). [Metro line number 2, the nearest stop is Banco de España or Retiro].

To send donations:

- by postal order to
Secretariado P. Tomás Morales
C/ Benito Gutiérrez, 45
28008-Madrid-España
or

- by bank transfer to
Banco Santander-Central
Hispano, Madrid (Spain)

<u>Entity</u>	<u>Branch</u>	<u>DC</u>	<u>Account number</u>
0049	1496	16	2610151165

Biography

Fr. Tomás Morales was born in Macuto, Venezuela, on the 30th of October, 1908. He studied in the school of the Jesuit fathers in Chamartin, Madrid, and later law in the Central University of Madrid, coming first in his class. He actively lived the reality of life in university at that time as president of the Catholic Students. He did his doctorate in Bologna, Italy, receiving the Victor Manuel II Award. At 23, he entered the Society of Jesus in Chevetogne, Belgium, and was ordained on the 13th of May, 1942. In 1946 he returned to Madrid where he began an intensive apostolate among workers. With them he founded the Home of the Worker, an apostolic movement of great vitality, which set in motion a number of social projects. His fundamental vocation, where he put all his energies and his radical capacity for dedication, was working to reach the fully responsible incorporation of the laity into the evangelical mission of the Church. A fruit of his labour in this field was his most important work: the foundation of the Secular Institutes of the Crusaders of Mary, male and female; the family movement, Homes of Mary; and the apostolic youth movement Militia of Mary. His experience and educational approaches appear clearly in his books: *Forja de Hombres* (Madrid: 1987, 4th Spanish Ed): Concrete points to direct the formation of apostles and lay movements. *Laicos en Marcha* (Madrid: 1984, 2nd Spanish ed.): a series of encouraging principles to promote the apostolic action of the laity. *Hour of the Laity* (Madrid: 1985, Spanish ed; 1999, English ed.): Reflections on the potential strength of the laity and on the greatness of the lay Christian vocation. Finally, as well as



other spiritual writings aimed at the members of the institutes which he founded, he wrote *Semblanzas de testigos de Cristo para los tiempos modernos*, the lives of relevant saints, collected in twelve volumes, one for each month of the year. God granted him a rich variety of human, moral and spiritual qualities; a very firm will; bravery and freedom; a capacity for hard work; intellectual capabilities and a great sensitivity; love for the individual man and for nature. Intrepid, in the beginning he took on the works founded on the supernatural virtues of faith, love of the Pope, of the Church, of Our Lady, of prayer. From here sprung his appreciation and links with contemplative orders, especially with the Carmelites, and the notable number of vocations to this form of life which the Holy Spirit raised up through him... He died in Alcalá de Henares, Madrid, on the 1st of October, 1994, on the feast of St Thérèse of the Child Jesus.

■ Works Published on Fr. Tomás Morales, S.J.

■ J. DEL HOYO, *Profeta de nuestro tiempo*, Ed. Encuentro, Madrid 1995. Biography translated into English and Italian.

■ *Pensamientos*, Anthology of texts of Fr. Tomás Morales, Burgos 1996. Edition translated into Italian.

■ J. DEL HOYO, *Profeta de una nueva civilización*, Ed. Encuentro, (= Formador de Laicos, 1), Madrid 1997.

■ F. MARTÍN, *Ejercicios Espirituales. Una pedagogía siempre actual*, Ed. Encuentro, (= Formador de Laicos, 2), Madrid 1997.

■ B. GAZAPO, *Tomás Morales, forjador de hombres*, Ed. Encuentro, (= Formador de Laicos, 3), Madrid 1997.

■ B. DE ANCOS, *Tomás Morales, forjador de minorías*, Ed. Encuentro, (= Formador de Laicos, 4), Madrid 1997.

■ L. REDONDO, *El corazón de María, refugio e impulso para el hombre de hoy*, Ed. Encuentro, (= Formador de Laicos, 5), Madrid 1997.

■ J. A. BENITO, *Listos para la misión. El corazón misionero del P. Morales*, Ed. Encuentro, (= Formador de Laicos, 6), Madrid 1997.

■ F. ÁLVAREZ, *Consagración y contemplación. El P. Morales, contemplativo e impulsor de vocaciones contemplativas*, Ed. Encuentro, (= Formador de Laicos, 7), Madrid 1997.

■ F. RODRÍGUEZ, *Tomás Morales, sacerdote. Carisma y profecía*, Ed. Encuentro, (= Formador de Laicos, 9), Madrid 1997.

■ E. MARTÍNEZ, *La obra social del P. Morales*, Ed. Encuentro, (= Formador de Laicos, 10), Madrid 1998.

■ T. MORALES, S.J., *El ovido de Ariadna. Ética y valores humanos*, Edición preparada por B. Gazapo y J. Del Hoyo, Ed. Encuentro, Madrid 1998.

■ M. E. GÓMEZ, *Una pedagogía para el hombre de hoy*, Publicaciones Fundación Universitaria Española (= Colección Tesis cum laude, 1), Madrid 1998.

■ M. SÁNCHEZ DE TOCA, *Tomás Morales, apóstol de la juventud*, Ed. Encuentro, (= Formador de Laicos, 11), Madrid 1999.

■ L. JIMÉNEZ GONZÁLEZ, *Un movimiento, unas obras, una misión. El P. Morales fundador*, Ed. Encuentro, (= Formador de Laicos, 12), Madrid 2000.

For copies, enquire in the Secretariat of Fr. Morales.

■ Prayer

(For private devotion)

God our Father, rich in mercy, You granted Your servant and priest Tomás Morales S.J. a deep love for the Virgin Mary, and an ardent zeal to promote the sanctification of the laity, especially the youth, in the Church. I ask of you an increasing consciousness of the demands of my baptismal vocation, so that I may be a leaven and a witness of your love and truth in the world. I ask of you also, if it is your will, that you see fit to glorify your servant Tomás, by whose intercession I ask of you this favour.. (make petition here).

(Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be)

Kindly report all favours received through the intercession of the servant of God Tomás Morales to:

Secretariado Tomás Morales

C/ Benito Gutiérrez, 45
28008 – Madrid (España)

e-mail: padremorales@planalfa.es

**With the ecclesial permission
of the Archbishop of Madrid.**