

CIRCULAR

CL.10/2026

Observance of the Month of the Rosary

Beloved priests, consecrated persons, parents, young people, and my dear children in Jesus Christ,

As the Holy Church observes the month of October as the Month of the Rosary, it calls upon us to grow in profound devotion and prayer toward the Blessed Virgin Mary, and to meditate more deeply upon the saving mysteries of Christ's life. This observance invites us to accord greater significance to the recitation of the Rosary within our families and parish communities, and to pray the Rosary both individually and as families.

The words of the Blessed Virgin Mary, *"My soul magnifies the Lord, and my spirit rejoices in God my Savior"* (Luke 1:46–47), help us to comprehend the spirituality of the Rosary. Through the Rosary, alongside Mary, we meditate upon the saving mysteries of Christ's life and enter more deeply into His love.

Saint Paul the Apostle reminds us: *"Pray without ceasing"* (1 Thess. 5:17). The Rosary serves as a simple and powerful means to cultivate this attitude of prayer within both family and personal life. The Rosary assists us in placing the joys, sorrows, hopes, and anxieties of the family before the presence of God, and in loving one another more profoundly.

Saint John Paul II taught regarding the Rosary: *"The Rosary is a prayer dedicated to meditating upon the face of Christ with Mary"*. Saint Padre Pio likewise made the Rosary a primary component of his daily spiritual life. His famous declaration, *"The Rosary is the weapon for our times,"* points directly to the spiritual power of the Rosary.

In today's world, the wars, conflicts, family problems, and various challenges faced by the youth cause us deep concern. In this context, let us undertake the recitation of the Rosary as our specific spiritual mission for the unity of families, the holiness of youth, and world peace. Seeking the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, let us place our personal needs, as well as the intentions of the Church and the world, before the presence of God.

During this month of the Rosary, let us initiate a spiritual renewal within our families. Let us endeavor to gather together as family members at a set time each day to recite the Rosary. Parents should lovingly guide children toward the Rosary. Let children and young people take leadership in the various mysteries of the Rosary and present the needs of their lives before the presence of God. Amidst the preoccupations of the day, spending a brief time together in the presence of God as family members will prove to be a great blessing for the family's life of faith and mutual love. Wherever feasible, the recitation of the Rosary may be organized in parishes, institutions, and family units. Care should be taken to conduct the recitation of the Rosary from house to house, and to afford the sick, the elderly, and the isolated an opportunity to participate in the prayer of the Rosary.

Throughout this month, let us pray in a special manner for our personal needs, the needs of families, the sick, students, young people, priests, consecrated persons, the Church, our Diocese, our country, and world peace.

Through the intercession of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary, may faith, love, unity, and peace increase within our families. May Mary draw us closer to her Son, Jesus, and may the words of the Mother at Cana—*"Do whatever He tells you"* (John 2:5)—serve as the guiding principle of our lives.

In this month of October, let us recite the Rosary together; let us transform families into communities of prayer; let us intercede for world peace; let us walk toward Christ alongside Mary.

By the intercession of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary, may the grace of God be abundantly poured forth upon you all.

Affectionately in Jesus Christ,

Your Father,

John Nellikkunnel

Bishop of Idukki