



VERMILION CATHOLIC
a legacy of Mount Carmel

VC families,

Oct 14, 2025

I hope you enjoyed the Homecoming festivities and the fall break! For my October letter, I'm encouraging everyone to renew their devotion to the Rosary. This month is especially dedicated to Our Lady of the Rosary (feast day Oct 7) because of [a major battle](#) that saved Christian Europe from the Islamic Ottoman Empire on October 7, 1571. Though the odds were against the Christian forces, the Pope asked all soldiers and everyone in Europe to pray the rosary in hopes of Mary's intercession to protect them. Not only did the Christian forces win, they wiped out most of the Ottoman fleet.

Now, most of us do not need the Rosary to win literal military battles. Nor should we think that the primary focus of praying the Rosary is to literally conquer people with armies and make them Christian. After all, Lepanto was a battle of defense, not conquest. Nonetheless, it is an interesting historical occurrence that reminds us of just how powerful Mary's intercession is in the various battles we fight throughout our lives. In my own life, it was turning to the rosary in a time of deep desolation and conflict that I found the strength to return to Christ and his Church... and found my vocation to the priesthood waiting for me.

So, pray the rosary! I urge you to pray at least some part of the rosary as a family in the evenings. It doesn't have to be perfect... in fact, if you have little ones, it [probably will be a little chaotic and that's okay](#). If done with love and patience, it will help you and your family face the battles of the spiritual life even if it isn't picture perfect. I'm offering my daily rosaries for you. I hope you'll join me.

In Christ,

Father Alexander M. Albert,
Pastor, Vermilion Catholic, a legacy of Mount Carmel
St. Mary Magdalen Catholic Church

P.S. I'm taking young men on climbing, rappelling, and backpacking in the mountains of Wyoming July 5-12, 2026. If you have sons who will be between the ages of 16 and 19 by this coming July, encourage them to join me! There are only 11 spots, so move quickly! See more information and register here: <https://forms.gle/kCvq1mqPEaFbv8xLA>

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