

DARCWEB.NET NEWSLETTER

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Greetings

By Robert Colón

The purpose of this newsletter is to provide specialized information to us as Catholics and Christians. This will be a monthly newsletter, however, if we miss deadlines and do not post a newsletter promptly for each month, please bear with us.

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14th Annual International Week of Prayer and Fasting

By Robert John Colón

This year, the first 10 days of October are a time you can join others in prayer and fasting. But if you have missed the Week, you can still pray and fast. In fact, making it a habit to pray daily and to fast once or twice a week is not a bad idea. Pope John Paul II's Encyclical The Gospel of Life (Evangelium Vitae) says: "Jesus himself has shown us by his own example that prayer and fasting are the first and most effective weapons against the forces of evil (cf. Mt 4:1-11)" (John Paul II, The Gospel of Life, March 25, 1995 [Dayton, Ohio: One More Soul, 2004], number 100).

One might fast from food, but also from unnecessary shopping or from watching TV or from using the internet or one might eat a certain

food that one does not like a lot instead of a food that one really enjoys a lot. Keep in mind that "physical health" is a precious gift "entrusted to us by God. We must take reasonable care of" it, "taking into account the needs of others and the common good" (Catechism of the Catholic Church [Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 1994; English translation for the United States of America - United States Catholic Conference, Inc.-Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 1994], number 2288). It can help to pray about what fasting would be good for you and to talk beforehand to a doctor (in some cases) and a priest.

Visit <http://www.internationalweekofprayerandfasting.org/> for more information.

Month of the Rosary

By Robert John Colón

October is the month of that prayer which Pope John Paul II said “in its structure is in effect above all meditation on the mysteries of the life and work of Christ” (John Paul II, General Audience, 16 October 2002,

[http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/john_paul_ii/audiences/2002/documents/hf_jp-ii_aud_20021016_en.html]).

The prayer, of course, is the Rosary. Praying the Rosary every day of the year, and not only during October, can help a lot. Paul VI said, “This prayer is well-suited to the devotion of the People of God, most pleasing to the Mother of God and most effective in gaining heaven’s

Catholics and Halloween

By Robert John Colón

You may have asked yourself before: “Is it okay for Catholics to celebrate Halloween?” Halloween is the vigil of the Solemnity of All Saints, which is a Holy Day of Obligation. Halloween can be called “All Hallows’ [or Hallows’] Eve” which can mean “the eve of All Saints”. To my knowledge, if I’m not mistaken, the Church has issued no prohibition on celebrating “the eve of All Saints”. Let us remember, though, these words from the Catechism of the Catholic Church and see from these words what must be avoided, even on Halloween:

“All forms of divination are to be rejected: recourse to Satan or demons, conjuring up the dead or other practices falsely supposed to ‘unveil’ the future.” (*Catechism of the Catholic Church [Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 1994; English translation for the United States of America – United States Catholic Conference, Inc.–Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 1994], number 2116; see note 48: “Cf. Deut 18:10; Jer 29:8.”*).

“blessings” (Paul VI, Encyclical *Christi Matri*, September 15, 1966, number 9, (http://www.vatican.va/holy_father/paul_vi/encyclicals/documents/hf_p-vi_enc_15091966_christi-matri_en.html)).

Saying this prayer even once a week might seem very difficult; if you do not pray the Rosary often, it might help to start out with only a part of the Rosary, such as one decade, each day. If you “slack off” some days, do not beat yourself up but do begin again and make prayer a part of each day.

If you would like to read more about the Rosary, and would like to pray the Rosary online, visit the part on the Rosary on the website of “EWTN”.

“Scandal is an attitude or behavior which leads another to do evil. The person who gives scandal... damages virtue and integrity... Scandal is a grave offense if by deed or omission another is deliberately led into a grave offense.” (Catechism of the Catholic Church [Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 1994; English translation for the United States of America – United States Catholic Conference, Inc.–Libreria Editrice Vaticana, 1994], number 2284).

Perhaps it is difficult for you to resist certain Halloween practices. Maybe it is difficult for you to follow the Church’s teachings on issues concerning life or sexuality. Maybe you have a difficult time honoring your parents or doing your duties at work. Whatever your struggles are, turn to God and the Angels, but also to the Saints whose prayers and merits can gain us the constant protection and help of God (see Eucharistic Prayer No. 1). Drawing attention to the Saints on Halloween might be helpful in promoting holiness on this holiday.

Elections

By Robert John Colón

This year's election season is well under way. It would be good to get Senators who will uphold the dignity of every person no matter how tiny, defenseless, poor, rich, healthy, or infirm, and who will support the appointment of judges who will judge justly and treat duty to The Lord as the highest duty they have. Even on the local level, this year's elections may shape offices. *If you meet the*

requirements, please register to vote if you are not registered, and please encourage others to register.

It might be a good idea to hold a voter registration day at your Church. Please visit

<http://www.priestsforlife.org/elections/index.htm#do> for some information that may help you.

Remember that voting is not only your right but it is your duty!