



## CIRCULAR LETTER OF H. L. MGR. MARIO GRECH

### BISHOP OF GOZO

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#### THE ROSARY A KEY FROM HEAVEN

I believe that the presence among us of the picture of Our Lady of Pompei in the last few days was a moment of grace to remind us of what, up to a few years ago, was the prayer that kept all our families united. I am referring to the prayer of the Rosary. During these days we heard an echo in our hearts of the voice in the heart of Bortolo Longo, who built the Sanctuary of Pompei in Italy: "Whoever prays the Rosary will be saved". In the same way that the prayer of the Rosary was the cause that changed the life of this man, so today those who finger the Rosary have a good tool in their hand to help them change their life and, as a consequence, change the life of their society. Because, whoever discovers the Rosary would find a golden key coming from heaven for opening the great book about God and about man.

When we reflect on the life of Jesus in the Rosary, we would be reminiscing how immense God's love is for us. Whoever says the Rosary opens wide a window to the mystery of God, who so loved the world that he gave his only son so that those who believe in him will be saved. In the Rosary we have a summary of the life of Jesus, who is the "door" leading to life. I feel that nowadays, when blasts of wind seem to have slammed the door shut, thus separating our homes and our society from God, we need this key to re-open the door so that, through Jesus, man would be able to enter where God lives.

The reflection we make during the recitation of the Rosary about God's great generosity ought to lead us to be more generous with our brethren. Therefore, the Rosary is a key that opens our hard hearts. It does not make sense for us to recite the Rosary and then remain in conflict with, or sow the seed of separation from, each other; it would be unrealistic for us to say the Rosary and remain with our hearts closed to the needs of the poor around us.

Therefore, now that we are entering the month of the Rosary, I encourage you to take in your hands this key that we received from Our Lady. I make a special request to parents to gather their family and recite the Rosary together. Apart from this, I want to express my appreciation to those who get together in the open or in churches to say the Rosary.

Since on the 13<sup>th</sup> of October Pope Francis intends to consecrate the World to the Pure Heart of Mary, I invite all of us to take the opportunity on that day to be made, in union with the Pope, this act of faith and trust in Our Lady.

I pray on you the blessings of heaven, through the intercession of Mary, our mother.

Given from the Bishop's Curia, Rabat, Gozo, Friday 26<sup>th</sup> September, 2013, day of remembrance of St. Vincent de Paule, apostle of charity.

✠ Mario Grech  
Bishop of Gozo

Mgr. Salv Debrincat  
Chancellor