



Letter to the People of Gozo of H.L. Mgr. Mario Grech Bishop of Gozo

BLESSING OF THE ROSARY MOSAICS

In the distant past, not all people could read and write. In order to help these persons to get to know the Word of God, the so-called “the Bible of the poor” was created. This was a Bible with pictures that represented scenes from the life of Jesus.

Also, the paintings in churches were not made to decorate them but to help the people of God to know more about the life of the saints. It served as a visual catechesis much before modern means of communication were invented.

Lately, mosaics produced by *Centro Aletti* of Rome representing the twenty mysteries of the Rosary were installed on the parvis of the Sanctuary of Our Lady of Ta' Pinu. These are more than an artistic work of great beauty because their creator is not just an artist but also a theologian. In fact, these mosaics exhibit a profound concept regarding the mystery of Jesus and Mary of Nazareth.

The purpose of these mosaics is to help us meditate the life events of Jesus while we appreciate more the rosary prayer as a means of following in the steps of Jesus. I think that the project of these mosaics would be successful if, when we pause to appreciate them, we are struck by a desire to pray the rosary. For this reason, I invite you to meet us this evening (tomorrow) in front of the beloved Sanctuary of Ta' Pinu for the inauguration and blessing of these mosaics.

It is anticipated that Pope Francis will be sending us a video with a message for that occasion.

I take this opportunity to thank those benefactors who offered donations to make it possible for us to set up this monument.

May the Virgin Mary of Ta' Pinu support us and help us contemplate Jesus with her own gaze of faith, hope and love. (cfr *Rosarium Virginis Mariae*, 11)

Given from the Bishop's Curia, today 13th June, remembrance day of St. Anthony of Padua.

✠ **Mario Grech**
Bishop of Gozo

To be read during mass this Saturday evening and Sunday, 17-18 June 2017.