**Suggested Mass Themes for RCAN Rosary Congress October 2023**

**Friday October 6 -** Optional Memorial of St. Bruno (priest, hermit, founder) OR Blessed Marie Rose Durocher (virgin, foundress)

* + *St. Bruno -* (c. 1030 – 6 October 1101) was the founder of the Carthusian Order, he personally founded the order's first two communities. He was a celebrated teacher at Reims, and a close advisor of his former pupil, Pope Urban II.
  + *Blessed Marie Rose Durocher -* Tenth of eleven children. Drawn to the religious life, but turned away due to frail health. She became housekeeper to her brother Theophile, a priest at Beloeil. Because newly independent Canada still had a bit of the wild about it, its bishop (the whole country was a single diocese) had trouble getting European religious to emigrate, so he founded new communities. Eulalie helped found the Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary who serve as teachers, taking the name Marie Rose.
* Readings of the Day
  + Gal 1:13-24
  + Lk 10:38-42

**Saturday October 7 -** Our Lady of the Rosary [Memorial]

* Recommend celebrate as a Feast - Would include Gloria and proper readings
  + FIRST READING: Acts 1:12-14
  + PSALM: Lk 1:46-47,48-49,50-51,52-53,54-55
    - R./ The Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is His Name. OR R./ O Blessed Virgin Mary, you carried the Son of the eternal Father.
  + ALLELUIA: Lk 1:28 - Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women.
  + GOSPEL: Lk 1:26-38

**Sunday October 8 –** TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

**Monday October 9 –** Optional Feast of Saint Denis and companions – (martyred Paris c. 258)

Bishop of Paris, and martyr. Born in Italy, nothing is definitely known of the time or place, or of his early life. His feast is kept on 9 October. He is usually represented with his head in his hands because, according to the legend, after his execution the corpse rose again and carried the head for some distance. That, however, while still very young he was distinguished for his virtuous life, knowledge of sacred things, and firm faith, is proved by the fact that Pope Fabian (236-250) sent him with some other missionary bishops to Gaul on a difficult mission. The Church of Gaul had suffered terribly under the persecution of the Emperor Decius and the new messengers of Faith were to endeavour to restore it to its former flourishing condition. Denis with his inseparable companions, the priest Rusticus and the deacon Eleutherius, arrived in the neighbourhood of the present city of Paris and settled on the island in the Seine. The earliest document giving an account of his labours and of his martyrdom (Passio SS. Dionsyii, Rustici et Eleutherii), dating from the end of the sixth or the beginning of the seventh century and wrongly attributed to the poet Venantius Fortunatus, is interwoven with much legend, from which, however, the following facts can be gleaned.

* + First Reading - 2 Corinthians 6:4-10
  + Responsorial Psalm - 126:1bc-2ab, 2cd-3, 4-5, 6
  + Alleluia: Mt 5:10 - Blessed are they who are persecuted for the sake of righteousness; for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
  + Gospel - Matthew 5:13-16

Also

**Monday, October 9** – St. John Leonardi (1541-1609)

St. John Leonardi was born in Tuscany, Italy in 1541, during the time of upheaval in the Church due to Martin Luther. He studied to be a pharmacist, then became a priest. As a young priest, he devoted himself to teaching catechism to youths. In 1574, he founded the Order of the Clerks Regular of the Mother of God of Lucca, a congregation of diocesan priests. He suffered many tribulations for this work, including exile. His contemporary, St. Philip Neri, was a great friend and spiritual guide, and helped him particularly in his time of exile. Gradually his influence as a champion of the Catholic faith against Protestantism became known throughout Italy. He later founded in Rome what became the Institute De Propaganda Fide (Society for the Propagation of the Faith) and the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine for the promotion of the Catholic Faith and the formation of missionaries. St. John Leonardi died at Rome, in 1609, the victim of his devoted care for the sick and plague-stricken. Symbols and Representation: book (to symbolize rules of Congregation he founded); the coat of arms of the order is azure (blue), Our Lady Assumed into Heaven; and its badge and seal the monogram of the Mother of God in Greek characters.

* + First Reading - 2 Corinthians 4:1-2, 5-7
  + Responsorial Psalm - Ps 96: 1-2a, 2b-3, 7-8, 10
  + Alleluia: Mk 1:17 Come after me, says the Lord, and I will make you fishers of men.
  + Gospel - Luke 5:1-11

**Tuesday October 10 –** Optional Feast ofSaint Daniel Comboni – (1831-1881)

* From the time of his priestly formation in the institute founded by the Servant of God Nicola Mazza, Daniel Comboni felt called to give his own life to proclaim the Gospel in the land of Africa. This awareness stayed with him throughout his life and supported him in his missionary labours and pastoral difficulties. He felt comforted in this dedication by the words he heard from Pope Pius IX: "Labora sicut bonus miles Christi pro African" ("Work like a good soldier of Christ for Africa" Scritti, n. 4085). The modernness and boldness of his work were expressed in the preparation and formation of future priests, in the tireless promotion of the missions by his writing and publishing, in the founding of two institutes one for men, the other for women exclusively dedicated to the mission "ad gentes", by struggling for the abolition of the terrible slave-trade and by actively working "for the rebirth of Africa through itself". These insights of the new blessed produced great fruit for the evangelization of the African continent by paving the way to the consoling growth of the Church in Africa today (cf. Apostolic Exhortation Ecclesia in Africa, nn. 3338). "Leading humanity to the light of eternal life": Daniel Comboni's ideal continues today in the apostolate of his spiritual sons and daughters. They still maintain strong ties in Africa, particularly in Sudan, where their founder spent a great part of his energy as a tireless evangelizer and where he died at a young age, worn out by his labours and illness. The unconditional trust he had in the power of prayer (cf. Scritti n. 2324) is effectively expressed in the "Cenacles of missionary prayer" which are being set up in many parishes and represent a significant way to promote and renew missionary spirituality. - Pope John Paul II at the beatification ceremony for Blessed Daniel on 17 March 1996
* Readings of the Day
* Gal 4:22-24, 26-27, 31—5:1
* Lk 11:29-32 (467)

**Wednesday October 11 –** Optional Feast of Saint John XXIII, Pope - (468)

* Born Angelo Giuseppe Roncalli at Sotto il Monte, Italy (1881- 1963) died in Rome and was beatified by Pope John Paul II on September 3, 2000. He entered the minor seminary in 1892 at the age of 11, became a Secular Francsican in 1896 and in 1901 he entered the Pontifical Roman Seminary. On being ordained in 1904, he was appointed secretary to the bishop of Bergamo and taught in the seminary. His great friends among the saints during this formative period were St. Charles Borromeo and St. Francis de Sales, two outstanding intellectuals and also formidable pastors. He served as a military chaplain during the First World War, served as spiritual director of a seminary, and in 1921 served as the Italian president of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith. In 1925 Pius XI made him a bishop and sent him to Bulgaria as the Apostolic Visitator. For his Episcopal motto he chose Oboedientia et Pax. In 1935 he was assigned to Turkey and Greece where he ministered to the Catholic population and engaged in dialogue with Orthodox Christianity and with Islam. During the Second World War he used his diplomatic means to save as many Jews as he could by obtaining safe passage for them. He was created cardinal and Patriarch of Venice in 1953 and was a much loved pastor, dedicating himself completely to the well being of his flock. Elected Pope on the death of Pope Pius XII, he was an example of a ‘pastoral’ Pope, a good shepherd who cared deeply for his sheep. He manifested this concern in his social enyclicals, especially Pacem in Terris, “On peace in the World.” His greatest act as Pope however was undoubtedly the inspiration to convoke the Second Vatican Council, which he opened on October 11, 1962. Pope John’s spirit of humble simplicity, profound goodness, and deep life of prayer radiated in all that he did, and inspired people to affectionately call him “Good Pope John.” He was canonized by Pope Francis in St. Peter's Square on April 27, 2014, alongside the man who beatified him, Pope St. John Paul
* Readings of the day
  + Gal 5:1-6
  + Lk 11:37-41

**Thursday October 12 –** Optional Feast of Our Lady Aparecida patroness of Brazil - (469)

* The year was 1717. According to tradition, three men went down to the Paraíba River to fish. Having a run of bad luck, they prayed to the Virgin Mary that God would grant a good catch. The fishermen cast their nets in the river and dragged up a small headless statue of a black woman instead. On another cast, they snagged the statue’s head. After cleaning and repairing the clay figurine, they determined that it was the Virgin Mary, and they went on to catch lots of fish. The fishermen named the statue “Our Lady of the Conception Who Appeared.” Neighbors began to venerate the statue, which came to be known as “Our Lady of Aparecida” – a Portuguese title for the Virgin Mary associated with the Immaculate Conception of Jesus.  Over the years, devotion grew, particularly among Brazilians of African heritage. Not only did the statue represent a black Mary, it was also associated with miracles, especially for young slaves. The first chapel to house the statue was constructed in 1745. Bigger churches were built over the years as the popularity of Our Lady of Aparecida grew. After slavery ended in Brazil, pilgrims started pouring into the city of Aparecida to see the little clay artifact. The idea for a much larger church started taking shape. The Basilica of the National Shrine of Our Lady of Aparecida was finally built about three and a half hours west of Rio de Janeiro. It was completed and consecrated by Pope John Paul II in 1980, and is now considered the second largest church in the world after St. Peter’s Basilica in Vatican City. Today, Our Lady of Aparecida receives 7 to 8 million visitors a year, thus making the Basilica bearing her name the most popular religious pilgrimage site in South America
* Readings of the Day
  + Gal 5:18-25
  + Lk 11:42-46

**Friday October 13 - Final Apparition of Fatima and the Miracle of the Sun -** (470)

* Some 70,000 people filled the Cova da Iria during the final apparition on October 13, 1917, when Lucia heard the woman in white say, “I am the Lady of the Rosary. I want you to tell them to build a chapel here, and to continue to say the rosary every day.” The crowd didn’t see the Lady, but they saw the “miracle of the sun,” which appeared to roll and bounce across the sky, radiating colors. Despite this spectacular event, the Fatima apparitions did not become widely known for many years.    
  As the Lady foretold, Francisco and Jacinta Marto soon died in the flu pandemic—Francisco in 1919, when work on the chapel began; Jacinta in 1920, when the first cedarwood statue was installed there on May 13. Gilberto Fernandes dos Santos, a merchant from Torres Novas, some 20 miles southeast, funded the statue and questioned the children about Our Lady’s appearance, so that sculptor José Ferreira Thedim could replicate it. When civil authorities forbid its transfer to Fatima, the donor’s father smuggled it out of Torres Novas in an oxcart.
* Readings of the Day
  + Eph 1:1-10
  + Lk 11:47-54

**Saturday October 14 - Final Apparition of Fatima and the Miracle of the Sun -** (470)

* Optional Memorial of the Blessed Virgin Mary; check ordo for Ordinary time options. 8 choices!