




To Our Beloved Son  
*Patrick Peyton*

*Priest of the Congregation of Holy Cross*

In the beginning of this month, which is dedicated in a very special way to devotion to the Most Holy Virgin, it is particularly gratifying to Us to reiterate to you Our expression of affection, to maintain your courage on the long journey which your zealous priestly ministry has undertaken to spread devotion to Mary, and which, after the fruitful days in Ghile, you are now carrying out in Venezuela.

We are convinced that true piety to Mary, in which the recitation of the Holy Rosary takes prece-



dence, besides contributing towards an intensification of the religious life of the faithful, can and should make them - as your own characteristic method of preaching shows and your experiences prove - to be efficacious collaborators in the various branches of the Apostolate under the guidance of the Pastors of souls, who represent the authority of God, to Whom so fruitfully and humbly the Word Incarnate and the Virgin Mary submitted themselves.

In fact, whoever meditates on the Mysteries of the Rosary and contemplates the examples of total sacrifice and boundless charity proffered by Our Lord Jesus Christ and His Mother in their supreme ideal of glorifying God and saving the world, must feel

impelled to orientate his life in such a way that the sublime message of the Our Father and the Hail Mary, as well as the benefits of the Annunciation, Calvary and Pentecost, may reach the greatest possible number of souls abundantly and rapidly.

Zeal is the natural consequence of a completely fulfilled devotion to Mary; a true Christian, conscious of the exigencies of this title and in love with the prerogatives and the triumph of Mary, must not content himself with a position of selfish piety in which he is concerned only with his own good, when his Faith tells him that there are others who are his brothers, to whom perhaps it is necessary to teach the truths that are interwoven in the Gospel scenes of Nazareth, Bethlehem and Jerusalem,

in order to impress upon them the need to know how to take advantage of the inexhaustible graces obtained there for the human race.

With these paternal wishes, We are pleased to confer on you, beloved son, and on all those who are helping you in your noble and exacting mission, a special Apostolic Blessing, which we joyfully impart to the individuals and families who are assisting in your work for the honor and glory of the Queen of the Most Holy Rosary.

The Vatican, 6th May, 1961.

John XXIII

A handwritten signature in cursive script, likely of Pope John XXIII, consisting of a large initial 'J' followed by a series of loops and a long horizontal flourish.