



## ARCHDIOCESE OF BALTIMORE

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OFFICE OF THE ARCHBISHOP

January 14, 2019

Dear Friends in Christ,

From the first occurrences of our Blessed Mother's appearances to her children here on earth, she has asked you and me to always look to her Son, to love her Son, and to pray.

The Diocesan Rosary Congresses are a direct answer to our Blessed Mother's ardent requests – and a most powerful answer. In its current form, the Rosary Congress began in 1978, when the Polish faithful held seven solid days and nights of prayer to petition our Blessed Mother to intercede for Pope John Paul II so that he would be allowed to visit communist Poland. On the seventh day, after continuous Eucharistic Adoration, rosaries, and Masses, the government relented and astoundingly gave allowance for the papal visit.

The Rosary Congresses spread to the United States in 1988. They flourished in the nation's capital first, then found a stronghold in New Orleans (where one has been held annually for almost 30 years), and since 2017 Diocesan Rosary Congresses have spread around the country in an inspiring response of the faithful to Our Lady's call. At least eleven locations held the week-long events in 2018, including here in Baltimore.

Primarily an effort led by the lay faithful, Diocesan Rosary Congresses are deeply prayerful events consisting of week-long 24/7 Eucharistic Adoration, hourly Rosaries, and special Masses. Many locations also adorn the week with processions, nightly conferences, confraternity enrollments, and healing services.

I can see no effort more suitable or powerful in responding to Our Blessed Mother's requests at Fatima to spread devotion to her Immaculate Heart or to implore her intercession during these trying times than the Diocesan Rosary Congresses, and I highly encourage your participation every year.

I give my enthusiastic and urgent endorsement to the Diocesan Rosary Congresses. I ask that dioceses throughout the country unite to deepen our consecration to the Immaculate Heart of Mary and to beg her intercession for her divine Son's grace, love, and mercy upon us all during these trying times.

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With assurances of my prayers, and asking the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary upon you and your families, I remain

Faithfully in Christ,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William E. Lori". The signature is written in a cursive style with a small cross at the beginning.

Most Reverend William E. Lori  
Archbishop of Baltimore