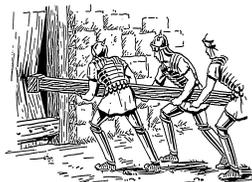




***The Armor of Faith***  
**Topic Summary: Spiritual Warfare**  
***Part XII: The Spiritual Battering Ram***



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## **Introduction**

[Greeting:] → Welcome to “The Armor of Faith,” a show where we hope to bring our listeners closer to the Word of God and the blessings we receive through living in the fullness of the Catholic faith. My name is Doug and I will be your host as we discuss the blessings of the Church Christ built upon Peter.

I am joined today by my panel: [names]

Helen is a lay-Dominican with a love for music ministry. The Dominicans, I always mention, are also known as the Order of Preachers. In addition to being my lovely wife, as well as my blessing, Sharon is a youth and adult formation catechist; and we are also blessed to have on our panel, Donna Mae, who is the artist who sculpted the statue of Our Lady of America which was carried by our youth and blessed by Saint John Paul II at the 1993 World Youth Day.

We are also joined today by special guest panelist, Father Donald Calloway, who is a prominent Marian priest with an unmistakable zeal for the priesthood and devotion to Our Lady. He is a well-known conference speaker and author of several books on Divine Mercy and the Blessed Virgin Mary, and the book we are going to include in our discussion today is Champions of the Rosary, which everyone can obtain through Father Calloway's website, [www.fathercalloway.com](http://www.fathercalloway.com).

Father Calloway, welcome to our panel.

Of course, as everyone knows by now, I am simply here to ask questions because questions allow us to explore answers. I'm sure someone with a philosophy degree might be able to elaborate on that, but it's probably best if we just move on. Anyway, to answer my questions, correct my pronunciation, and make sure I know which century I am talking about is why we have our panelists, so welcome to our panelists as well as to our listeners.

Let us open with a prayer:

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit.

Heavenly Father, we lift up our hearts in thanks and praise for this opportunity to open and share your Holy Word this day. We pray that You are with us and all our listeners as we share with one another the blessings of faith. We pray You will grant us wisdom and understanding as we seek to learn Your Holy Truth.

Dear Lord, we also lift up the prayers in our prayer basket. You know what is written on each one and you know the hearts of those who offer their thanks and praise as well as their petitions for the blessings of Your great mercy.

Dear Lord, we pray especially today for your healing hand to rest upon Lynn, who is suffering from bone cancer. We pray you will restore her health so she may continue to care for her son who suffers from cerebral palsy. We pray you will look after and provide for both mother and child.

We also lift up our hearts, asking for your protection of our good shepherds, as well as for an increase in their numbers. We are in such desperate need of them and they are so few. We pray, dear Lord, You will grant them the wisdom, courage, and strength, as well as the good health by which they may minister to and bring Your holy truth to all the children of Your creation.

In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit we pray. Amen.

If you would like to add your prayers to our prayer basket, send us an email at [armoroffaithradio@gmail.com](mailto:armoroffaithradio@gmail.com). We ask that you include the word “prayer” in the subject line so that we will give it priority and ensure we capture it and get it placed in our prayer basket. Just so you know, Sharon and I lift up our prayers with those in the Armor of Faith Radio prayer basket during the course of our daily prayers.

We would like to remind you that you can listen to all of our shows on demand through any device with an audio component where you can connect to the Internet, including your smartphone. In addition to [wcatradio.com/armoroffaith](http://wcatradio.com/armoroffaith), we are available through a number of streaming services, such as iHeart Radio, Spreaker, iTunes, Apple PodCasts, Spotify, and CastBox, among a host of others. Simply search for “Armor of Faith Radio” and select the episode you desire. We will be happy to keep you company wherever you are and wherever you are waiting.

We would also like to ask you to assist us in our evangelization. By sharing the URL for our show, you can help us spread knowledge of our faith. All you need to do is share the URL, [wcatradio.com/armoroffaith](http://wcatradio.com/armoroffaith) via email or social media and tell family and friends as well. Several of the streaming services through which we are available on demand also have share options, so we invite you to join the evangelization and help us spread the good news of the Gospel and our trust in Jesus Christ. You can also help us by selecting the follow or subscribe option associated with the service through which you listen to our show.

## Current Day Commentary:

### *A Rosary in the Park*

This past weekend, Sharon and I were blessed to participate in a Rosary Rally in a nearby town. We gathered in the open park to share the Angelic Psalter as well as various praises and litanies. It was really a beautiful day, especially with the fall colors surrounding us. I really appreciate those who coordinated and worked to pull the rally together.

As we prayed, people passed by. Some stopped to look and perhaps to listen as we peacefully lifted up our love and intentions to the Lord. We prayed for the sanctity of life and the protection of the unborn. We prayed for our nation. We prayed for the mercy and blessings of our Lord. We prayed to lift up our thanks and praise to our Lord.

As is custom in such a group, each decade was led by a different person. I was particularly touched when a young family all knelt together and led a decade in unison. It was wonderful to see them pray and lead together. It was also nice to see other children there as well, but I wish there were more. I pray more children will discover the rosary and the blessings to which it points. I pray more parents will bring their children to join in praying the rosary and help them understand the mysteries and the Sacred Heart to which it points.

As we gathered, I noticed a man with a hat which said on it, "Make America Nineveh." I suspect there are a number of people who might read that short statement with a quizzical look and wonder, "What does that mean?" Of course, if we turn to scripture, it becomes quite clear.

(Jonah 3:1-10)

*1 The word of the LORD came to Jonah a second time: 2 Set out for the great city of Nineveh, and announce to it the message that I will tell you. 3 So Jonah set out for Nineveh, in accord with the word of the LORD. Now Nineveh was an awesomely great city; it took three days to walk through it. 4 Jonah began his journey through the city, and when he had gone only a single day's walk announcing, "Forty days more and Nineveh shall be overthrown," 5 the people of Nineveh believed God; they proclaimed a fast and all of them, great and small, put on sackcloth.*

*6 When the news reached the king of Nineveh, he rose from his throne, laid aside his robe, covered himself with sackcloth, and sat in ashes. 7 Then he had this proclaimed throughout Nineveh: "By decree of the king and his nobles, no man or beast, no cattle or sheep, shall taste anything; they shall not eat, nor shall they drink water. 8 Man and beast alike must be covered with sackcloth and call loudly to God; they all must turn from their evil way and from the violence of their hands. 9 Who knows? God may again repent and turn from his blazing wrath, so that we will not perish." 10 When God saw by their actions how they turned from their evil way, he repented of the evil he had threatened to do to them; he did not carry it out.*

When we consider this scripture, the message on the man's hat is quite powerful. Every day we have a choice before us. We, as a nation, can continue in our current direction, away from what God asks of us, or we can repent, and by our actions – and these are perhaps the most important

words to note in this story – “by our actions” – demonstrate our desire to turn away from evil ways and towards God's ways of love.

The story ended well for Nineveh, but what if Jonah was marching through our city, state, or nation today? Let us pray that hearts will see the shape we are in and what we must lift up to God, not just through our words, but also through our deeds. Let us join hands with one another, both in prayer and in ministry, so that God may see our desire to turn to His ways of love.

## **Why Catholics Do What We Do:**

### ***Saints – Part XVI:***

#### **St. Isaac Jogues, S.J.**

Feast day: October 19

*Jesuit priest, missionary and one of the North American martyrs*

Isaac Jogues was born on January 10, 1607 in Orleans, France.

Not much is known about his childhood, but that is OK, as his life and call to sainthood began as an adult and a priest. When he was only 17 years of age, he joined the Society of Jesus. His first duties for the Society was to be a professor of literature. Twelve years later, he was sent to Canada. Isaac had a life long dream of teaching and converting the Indians of the Americas and with this new assignment, he was reaching his goal.

During his time in Canada, he was living in often dangerous situations. He and his companions were not only the first missionaries to the people, they were also the first white people to enter the tribal regions. He and others of his Order, were sent to teach the Native Indians and they are known to have accomplished the job by being able to Baptize many of their students.

Not only did the priests care for spiritual needs, they became explorers and founded missions in as yet unexplored areas of southern Canada and the northern United States. The French explorer/missionary was called the “Apostle of the Mohawks” and the Mohawks themselves called him “Ondessonk”, which means “indomitable one.”

The living was less than comfortable as the Canadian winters were harsh, the grounds were difficult to plow for growing food and the housing they were given was inferior at best. Nevertheless, the priests carried on with their mission with the people. They worked very hard to care for their own needs as well. They established a small chapel for prayer time and attempted to garden for food sources. Because of the harsh living conditions, many of this band of missionaries took on illnesses of which they would never recover.

While in the regions of Canada, Fr. Jogues and his companions visited many areas to meet the people and to bring them the good news of the Bible. They traveled far and wide to do their ministry work. Often as they traveled they ran into some who did them great harm.

In 1642, Fr. Jogues, and some of his brother priests took a trip to another region and fell into trouble as they were returning to Quebec. They were captured and placed into slavery by

Iroquois Indian tribesman. During the time in captivity, the priests were tortured and brutally treated. Some of his companions were tortured so badly that they finally died from the abuse. After much intervention by government officials, Isaac was rescued and taken to New Amsterdam, which is now called New York.

In 1643 he was sent back across the ocean and landed in Brittany on Christmas day. He was not in good health and in great need of nourishment and medical care. His hands were in very bad condition for some of his fingers had been burned or cut off. However, he found his way to a college of the Society and here he was greeted with great honor. Because of his condition, Pope Urban VII declared him a martyr of Christ, a living martyr. This particular pronouncement had never been done before as people are normally declared martyrs after death.

After time to heal and mend his broken body, Fr. Jogues requested to return to his mission work in America. There was much concern by the leaders of his Order and they spoke with him about the craziness of returning to possible tortures. He said he understood their concerns, but that he felt he truly needed to return. He told them that he believed that he should go, but that he felt he would never return. He seemed to have an inner knowledge of his fate.

In 1646, illness fell upon the Indian tribes. They believed a spell of illness was cast upon them and blamed the priest for it. On October 18, 1646, members of the Iroquois met Fr. Isaac near Lake George. They ripped his clothing from his body, slashed him with knives and beat him. He was then led into the village. As he was going into a cabin, he was hit in the head with a tomahawk.

Today, in memory of Fr. Isaac and his brother priests, there is a Catholic shrine and pilgrimage place near Auriesville, New York. It was dedicated in 1885 to honor those who are today known as the Martyrs of North America. In 1925, the following were beatified, Fathers Jogues, Lalande, Brebeuf, Lalemant, Garnier, Daniel, Goupil and Chabanel. On June 29, 1930 all of these men were canonized by Pope Pius XI.

*Have a blessed week All. Remember, you are loved dearly by God the Father, God the Son, God the Holy Spirit and yes, by us as well.*

If you would like to learn more about Saint Isaac Jogues, we invite you to follow the links in the reference section of the topic summary for this show. You can obtain the topic summary by visiting <https://wcatradio.com/armoroffaithstudyguides/> and look for episode 168.

### **Discussion:**

As we concluded our discussion last time, I mentioned that when we recognize temptation before us or those planting the seeds of doubt, we may initially seek to rely upon our personal strength, but we must recognize, we cannot fight the evil one alone. We do have each other. We also have the Word of our Lord. We have the love of Our Blessed Mother who always calls us to the Sacred Heart of her Son, the only begotten Son of God. We have the angels God sends to

help protect our souls. We have the saints to help lift up our prayers to God. We have the Holy Spirit. We have the sacrifice, love, and mercy of our Lord and Savior.

When we consider all which is on our side, there is but one way we cannot prevail against the evil day, and that is if we defeat ourselves; and so Satan probes our weaknesses to accomplish just that. The spiritual weapons and tactics arrayed against us by the evil one are formidable, but they are only so when we let go of the hand of Christ.

We may take blows in our daily life. We may endure times of tribulation and suffering, but if we take the advice of Saint Faustina, especially when we find ourselves weak and overwhelmed, then, we will flee to the Sacred Heart of our Lord and Savior, the ultimate hospital for the soul. To be effective soldiers in the spiritual battle, we must trust in Christ and open our hearts to Him so we might receive the blessings of His Wisdom and His Mercy.

During episodes 166 and 167, we laid out some of the counter tactics we may use to defend against those of the evil one, so, let's talk a little about the spiritual weapons available to us. Today, we will talk about the basic weapon of the spiritual soldier, which is also one of the most powerful. It is a versatile weapon, for it has been referred to as a battering ram, but it also has the precision of a sharp sword and has also been referred to as such. Our Blessed Mother told Saint Dominic that it is the preferred weapon to reform the world. (Montfort, 15) Of course, we are talking about the rosary.

Now some might say, "What, a set of beads?"

**(Question 1:** Of course, the rosary is not just a set of beads, the beads themselves are simply an index, a means by which to keep our place as we pray, contemplate, and meditate. **So, Father, let me ask you, in what way is the rosary a spiritual weapon?)**

- It turns our attention to the sacrifice made for us
- It reminds us of the good news of the Gospel
- It draws us into the Word of God which provides us the sword of the Spirit
- It is a means to lift up our intentions to the Lord
- It is a means to remind us of the foundations of our faith
- It places our heart behind the bulwark of the Gospel to help defend our soul
- It is a means by which the Gospel speaks to our heart
- It is a means to remind us of the blessings we are promised
- It is a means by which God pours His graces upon us

**Reminder:** A blessing is an invocation of God's power and care.  
Grace is God's undeserved help.

The rosary yields to us access to both God's power and care as well as His undeserved help.

**(Question 2:** During our series on the rosary, episodes 128 through 139, we mentioned there are a number of critics of the rosary and those who resist it. **Father Calloway, why do you think some resist praying the rosary?)**

- Some are intimidated by memorization, though they have the power to read
  - Some believe it is repetitive, not understanding how to follow the mysteries
  - Some believe it is prohibited by scripture, because they misinterpret the context of what they cite
  - They are not aware of to where the mysteries draw our soul
  - They are not aware of the fullness of faith to which it draws us
  - They are deceived to believe it is worship of Mary, when in fact it calls us to the Sacred Heart of her Son, to which Our Blessed Mother always points
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**(Question 3:** I have to admit, initially, I was one of those who resisted praying the rosary, and for many of the reasons we just discussed. **Father, how might we share with someone, who was like me, to help them understand why we should pray the rosary?)**

From Champions of the Rosary, pg 331

- The rosary conquers the evil one
- The rosary preaches Jesus Christ and brings peace
- The rosary teaches virtue
- The rosary is an expression of our love of Jesus and Mary

**Note:** Remember when I said the rosary was versatile? Father Calloway points out in his book that the rosary is also a medicine for the soul. As Father Calloway states in his book, “The rosary is heavenly medicine, an antidote that draws the poison of sin and vice out of our hearts.” (Calloway, 333)

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**(Question 4:** Father, as we mentioned, the title of your book is Champions of the Rosary. **Can you tell us, who may be a champion of the rosary, and how might we join that number?**

“To be a champion of the rosary, it is not necessary to write books on the rosary or give conferences about it. All that is needed is a heart docile to the Holy Spirit and a desire to make the rosary more known.” (Calloway, 345)

- Pray the rosary
  - Encourage others to pray the rosary
  - Join an official organization that promotes the rosary  
(Calloway, 345 – 348)
- 

Father Calloway, Archbishop J. Augustine Di Noia referred to your book as, “...probably the most comprehensive book ever written on the rosary.” Indeed, it is full of history and

inspiration. I also think it is a wonderful reference for Catechists as well as anyone who wants to learn more about the rosary's history and the blessings we may receive through lifting up this prayer daily. Father, you also reference a rather long list of encyclicals concerning the rosary, especially those written by Pope Leo XIII, which I intend to start collecting and reading.

**(Question 5:** I highly recommend this book to anyone who wants to learn about the full power of the rosary. So, Father, how can our listeners obtain a copy of your book?)

<https://www.shopmercy.org/champions-of-the-rosary.html>

## Quotes:

– *Father Donald Calloway* – “*The Rosary: The Spiritual Sword of Mary*”

The rosary was forged in an age of chivalry. It is a spiritual weapon, a heavenly sword, fashioned by the hands of a Divine Craftsman. All swords take time and skill to make, but this heavenly sword required the greatest of efforts — centuries — to produce. It is a weapon unlike any other. It has the power to slay dragons (demons), converts sinners, and conquer hearts. The blade of this sword was forged in the living Word of God, shaped by the hammer of divine inspiration, and entrusted to the Queen of Heaven and her chosen servants.

– *Pope Pius XI*

The Rosary is a powerful weapon to put the demons to flight and to keep oneself from sin...If you desire peace in your hearts, in your homes, and in your country, assemble each evening to recite the Rosary. Let not even one day pass without saying it, no matter how burdened you may be with many cares and labors.

– *St. Louis De Montfort*

If you say the Rosary faithfully until death, I do assure you that, in spite of the gravity of your sins, you shall receive a never fading crown of glory. For even if you are now on the brink of damnation, even if you have one foot in hell, even if you have sold your soul to the devil... sooner or later you will be converted and will amend your life and save your soul. If—you say the Rosary devoutly every day of your life.

– *Our Lady of America* – *from the diary of Sister Mary Ephrem (Mildred Neuzil)*

Making the rosary a family prayer is very pleasing to me. I ask that all families strive to do so. But be careful to say the rosary with great devotion, meditating on each mystery and striving to imitate in your daily lives the virtues depicted. Live the mysteries of the rosary as I lived them, and it will become a chain binding you to me forever. They who are found in the circle of my rosary will never be lost. I myself will lead them at death to the throne of my Son, to be eternally united to Him.

## Final Thoughts:

As a military man, when I think of a weapon, I think of a device which may be used to injure, or kill an opponent or destroy the resources they use to fight. The choice of the weapon is often scoped as to its capabilities to accomplish these objectives in relation to the threat. For example,

you do not use a rifle to combat a tank. If you want to destroy a tank, you use an anti-tank weapon.

When we select a weapon with which to fight, we must also consider the collateral damage it may cause. You do not use a nuclear weapon to take out a sniper. We must consider both effectiveness and precision by which to defeat the enemy and prevent friendly casualties.

The rosary is unique in that it is both a very powerful weapon, but also one with tremendous precision and focus. Its versatility as a weapon is so unique that it also contains that which is healing. Only God can provide such a weapon by which demons may be scattered and souls healed.

If you are like I was, resisting the rosary, I recommend you read Father Calloway's book. Pray the rosary and let the Holy Spirit lead you through the mysteries. Lift up your intentions to the Lord. Lift up your devotion. Lift up your weaknesses and ask for our Lord's help. Tell Jesus and Mary that you love them. Reflect on the virtues to which our Lord calls us. Allow the rosary to help you put on the armor of faith so that you may "*stand firm against the tactics of the devil*" and may "*resist on the evil day.*" (cf. Ephesians 6:10-17)

**Wrap Up:** Well, our time has once more come to an end. We hope you will be able to join us next time as we turn our discussion to the evil one's avenues of attack.

Let us conclude with a prayer: Heavenly Father, we thank you for this opportunity to share the blessings of our trust and faith in You. We pray that as we go our separate ways, You will continue to walk with us and help us to see how we may put on the armor of **truth, righteousness, peace, faith, salvation**, and the **Word** of the gospel not only for the benefit of our lives, but also the lives of all who cross our path. In the name of the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit, we pray. Amen.

Thank you all and God bless.

**Next Session:** Spiritual Warfare – Part XIII: The Evil One's Avenues of Attack

### **Current Day Commentary References:**

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