October 7th: Memorial of Our Lady of the Rosary

Gospel text (*Lk* 1:26-38): In the sixth month, the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a town of Galilee called Nazareth, to a virgin betrothed to a man named Joseph, of the house of David, and the virgin's name was Mary. And coming to her, he said, "Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you."

But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, "Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High, and the Lord God will give him the throne of David his father, and he will rule over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end..."

The Virgin of the Rosary

Fr. Antoni CAROL i Hostench
(Sant Cugat del Vallès, Barcelona, Spain)

Today we celebrate the Virgin under the advocacy of the Rosary. So many times has She appeared with the "rosary in her hands"! She likes it! The reason is this: although it may seem that the prayer of the Rosary is a manifestation of Marian piety (of course, it is!), however its substantiation is Christological, Jesus Himself. The protagonist of the Holy Rosary is Jesus Christ, the Son of God born of Mary Most Holy! The different mysteries of the Rosary —joyful, sorrowful, glorious and luminous— are like "photographs" of emblematic moments in the life of Jesus as seen with Mary's eyes.

—The mysteries are mysteries of Christ. With good reason, Saint Paul VI said of the Rosary that "it is a compendium of the Gospel." In addition, to the "Hail Mary" —repeated around each one of these mysteries— it contains in its very heart the name of Jesus. Mary is blessed among all women because the fruit of her womb is blessed: Jesus!