

## THE POWER OF THE ROSARY – Part 4

If you think that the world is too steeped in sin to begin saying your rosary every day or that it is too monotonous and “fruitless”, just read this article and it will change your mind. I encourage all to learn more about these amazing events on their own. This story is the most astonishing of all rosary miracles. I will give brief stories of two religious communities that existed in Japan precisely in the cities where the atomic bombs fell during World War II and these men were spared because of their prayers and devotions to Our Lady, who interceded for them as a witness for us!

The first story is about Hiroshima. As one single bomb neared the ground, a city died in an instant. Houses were destroyed, people evaporated, an immense ball of fire shot skywards, and a terrible wave of super-heated gas bulged out from ground zero, flattening buildings for miles. Amongst the unsuspecting inhabitants of Hiroshima was Fr. Schiffer, a Jesuit missionary assisting the many Catholics of that city. On the morning of August 6, 1945, he had just finished Mass and sat down at the breakfast table when he saw that there was a bright flash of light. His first thought was that a fuel tanker had exploded in the harbor, as Hiroshima was a major port where the Japanese refueled their submarines. Then, in the words of Fr. Schiffer: “Suddenly, a terrible explosion filled the air with one bursting thunder stroke. An invisible force lifted me from the chair, hurled me through the air, shook me, battered me, whirled me round and round like a leaf in a gust of autumn wind.” Next thing he remembered was that he opened his eyes and found himself on the ground. He looked around, and saw there was nothing left in any direction: the railroad station and buildings in all directions were gone. Yet, the only harm to him was a few slight cuts in the back of his neck from shards of glass. As far as he could tell, there was nothing else physically wrong with him.

The small community of Jesuits to which Fr. Schiffer belonged lived in a house near the parish church, situated only eight blocks from the center of the blast. When Hiroshima was destroyed by the atomic bomb, all eight members of the small Jesuit community escaped unscathed, while every other person within a radius of one-and-a-half kilometers from ground zero died immediately. The house where the Jesuits lived was still standing, while buildings in every direction from it were leveled. Father Hubert Schiffer was



30 years old when the atomic bomb exploded right over his head at Hiroshima. He not only survived, but also lived a healthy life for another 33 years!

How did this group of men survive a nuclear blast that killed everyone else, even people over ten times further away from the blast? It is absolutely unexplainable by scientific means. An interesting detail is that this group of Catholic clergy was made up of ardent enthusiasts of the Message of Fatima and prayed their rosaries daily. They lived the Message. Was their fidelity to Our Lady rewarded by this stupendous miracle of their survival?

Even more astonishing is that the story was to be repeated a few days later at Nagasaki, the second Japanese city to be hit by an atomic bomb. In both Hiroshima and Nagasaki the survivors were Catholic religious. Most other buildings were leveled to the ground, even at three times the distance, but in both cases their houses stood – even with some windows intact! Those within a radius ten times the distance of the Jesuits from the explosion were exposed to fierce radiation and died within days.

All who were at this range from the epicenter should have received enough radiation to be dead within a matter of minutes. Scientists examined the group of Hiroshima Jesuits over 200 times during the next 30 years and no ill effects were ever found.

Today, nuclear disaster is a threat to our physical well-being but in reality and more importantly - we have present day enemies of our souls which do damage every day, every hour and every minute. If Our Blessed Mother can reward these men for their faithfulness to prayer in this way, just imagine what She can do for us both spiritually and physically – Worry is useless – what is needed is trust. Trust in the Mercy of God and be obedient to Our Lady – pray your Rosary daily in order to combat the evils that threaten the world and our souls.