

The Rosary

Submitted by Claudette Schroeder

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The Rosary is composed principally of the Our Father and Hail Mary (the Angelic Salutation) It was likely one of the first prayers and central to devotion for the faithful. It has been in use in one form or another from the time of the apostles to the present. It was only in the year 1214, however, that the Church received the Rosary in its present form and according to the method we use today. It was given to the Church by St. Dominic, who had received it from the Blessed Virgin as a means of converting the Albigensians and other sinners.

The word Rosary means "Crown of Roses". Our Lady has revealed to several people that each time they say a Hail Mary they are giving her a beautiful rose and that each complete Rosary makes her a crown of roses. The Holy Rosary is considered a perfect prayer because within it lies the awesome story of our salvation. With the Rosary in fact, we meditate on the mysteries of joy, of sorrow, of light and the glory of Jesus and Mary. It's a simple prayer, humble so much like Mary.

It is a prayer we can all say together with Her, the Mother of God. With the Hail Mary we invite Her to pray for us. Our Lady always grants our request. She joins Her prayer to ours. Therefore it becomes ever more useful, because what Mary asks She always receives, Jesus can never say no to whatever His Mother asks.

Pope John Paul II wrote in his Apostolic Letter, *Rosarium Virginis Mariae*, "(The Rosary) blends easily into the spiritual journey of the Christocentric life, which, after two thousand years, has lost none of the freshness of its beginnings and feels drawn by the Spirit of God to "set out into the deep" in order once more to proclaim, and even cry out, before the world that Jesus Christ is Lord and Saviour, "the way, and the truth and the life" (Jn 14:6), "the goal of human history and the point on which the desires of history and civilization turn."

The Living Rosary of St. Augustine Catholic Church

Our Living Rosary prays for those in pain, that they find relief; for the sick, that they heal; for the troubled, that they find solace, and for the dying, that they have a peaceful passing.

There are five people in each group who represent all the decades of the rosary each day. Imagine five people, praying at home and the five decades of prayer rise to Heaven to honor our Blessed Mother and to ask for her help. Currently, there are several groups, about 48 people praying daily. Some continue in our prayer chain, even after they move.

For more than twenty years, the Living Rosary has been an active ministry at St. Augustine. In the past, communicating prayer requests was accomplished by telephone, a time consuming task.

Joni Kaletka has directed the Living Rosary for about eighteen years; she credits the help of several parishioners, including Louise Woodcock and Bev Lorenz for the success of the program. In recent years, the Internet makes communication much easier and faster.

When asked what is most important for parishioners to know about the Living Rosary, Joni said, "For myself, and I think I speak for all of us, we become so much closer to Our Lady; and to be able to intercede for the sick and dying, is a life-changing experience. We have witnessed many miracles."

Archbishop Sample reminds us that in troubling times we must always look to Heaven for hope. It is helpful to remember what Our Lady said to the child Lucia at Fatima: *"I will never leave you; my Immaculate Heart will be your refuge and the way that will lead you to God."*

Consecration of the Archdiocese of Portland to Mary under the title

"Immaculate Heart of Our Lady of Fatima"

By Archbishop Alexander Sample

Recent events in our state highlight the ongoing threat to the sanctity of marriage and family life in our society. These threats cannot be overcome by human effort alone, and we must turn with renewed confidence to our Lord and His Mother to seek spiritual help and protection.

To this end, and inspired by the example of Pope Francis, I recently announced my intention to consecrate anew the Archdiocese of Portland to the Blessed Mother under the title of the "Immaculate Heart of Our Lady of Fatima". I will make the consecration following a special Mass at the Cathedral on Saturday, June 28, 2014.

Immaculate Heart of Mary, pray for us!

For more information about the Living Rosary at St. Augustine Catholic Church, contact Joni Kaletka, 541-996-5636, tonyandjoni@charter.net.