

The Fatima Prayer

Since the 13th century, Christians have been praying what later would come to be known as the “Dominican” Rosary. The Rosary developed into the form we pray in modern times over the centuries – one particular addition to the Rosary which came into being in the 20th century is commonly known as “The Fatima Prayer”. This prayer was given to us by Our Lady – Mary, the Mother of God, during one of several Marian apparitions at Fatima, Portugal in 1917. This prayer was officially recognized and promoted as part of the Rosary by the Roman Catholic Church in 1956.

In developing the Rosary documents for the website, I discovered different versions of this prayer – the three foremost in use in the USA appears to be:

“O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of Hell, lead all souls to Heaven, especially those in most need of Thy mercy. Amen.”

Or,

*“O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of Hell, **and** lead all souls to Heaven, especially those in most need of Thy mercy. Amen.”*

Or,

“O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of Hell. Lead all souls to Heaven, especially those in most need of Thy mercy. Amen.”

One website I reviewed listed two of the versions noted above as being correct.

Another version I happened upon was in the form of prayer cards – *“O My Jesus forgive us our sins; Save us from the fires of hell and bring all souls to heaven, especially those who most need Thy mercy. Amen.”*

As you can see there are slight differences. But which is correct? I decided to go with the version promoted by organizations within the Church or in association with the Church:

The Congregation of Marian Fathers of the Immaculate Conception of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary, (www.marian.org) founded in 1670, promotes this version of the prayer - *“O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of Hell, lead all souls to Heaven, especially those in most need of Thy mercy. Amen.”*

The Confraternity of the Rosary (www.rosarycenter.org) originally founded by St. Dominic in the 13th century and is a spiritual association of the Catholic Church today, promotes this version of the prayer - *“O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of Hell, lead all souls to Heaven, especially those in most need of Thy mercy. Amen.”*

The World Apostolate of Fatima, USA (www.bluearmy.com) promotes this version of the prayer - *“O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of Hell, lead all souls to Heaven, especially those in most need of Thy mercy. Amen.”*

While there may be even more versions of the prayer in use than all those I have noted above, you will note these groups all promote the same version of the prayer – this influenced my decision as to which version of the Fatima Prayer to include in the Rosary documents for this website.

Does the slight difference in punctuation, capitalization, or the inclusion or exclusion of a word or two, make this prayer more right or more wrong? That is not for me to answer; I can only attest to how I came to the decision to use one particular version of the prayer in the Rosary documents for this website.

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