

The Thirtieth Sunday in Ordinary Times
October 25, 2015
Know Your Faith

The Rosary

The Month of October is dedicated to Our Lady of the Rosary.
According to tradition, **the rosary was given to St. Dominic in an apparition by the Blessed Virgin Mary in 1214.**



There is good evidence, however, that **the practice of praying with beads began before the 7th century as a way for illiterate laity to imitate the 150 Psalms of the Liturgy of the Hours prayed by the monks.** Reverent Catholics substituted Our Fathers and Hail Mary's for the Psalms. Beads were placed on a cord and organized into 5 decades of 10 Hail Marys separated by a Glory Be and Our Father.

The Rosary became such a popular prayer that by the 12th century there were four trade guilds, called Paternosters, making the prayer beads.

Called the Rosary by 1597, the Rosary developed into a prayer form from the 16th till even today. The Rosary contains 15 meditations which involved biblical “mysteries” or scenes from Jesus' life. These Mysteries are entitled Glorious, Sorrowful, and Joyful. In 2002 Pope St. John Paul II added 5 more mysteries, called the Luminous Mysteries.

The Rosary is a meditative prayer with solid Scriptural origin. In the Rosary, the Our Father is a direct quote from Matt. 28:19. The first half of the Hail Mary is a direct quote from Lk. 1:28 & 42. The second half is a prayer to ask Mary to pray to her son for us and intercede as she did at the wedding of Cana for us, “now and at the hour of our death.” 2Sam. 6:9 & 1Kgs 2:20.

At Fatima (1917) the Blessed virgin asked that the Rosary be said often to stop war.

Many non-Catholics contend Jesus opposed repetitious prayer citing Matt. 6:6-8. Meditative prayer requires an open heart, not “worthless repetition.” Jesus, Himself, used repetitive prayer in the Agony in the Garden. Matt. 26:44 Check also Rev. 4:8, Lk. 18:13, Acts 10:2-4, Rom 1:9, Rom. 12:12, & Thess. 5:17 & Psalm 126 to find examples of repetitive prayer in Scripture.



Non-Catholics can pray the Rosary too. There are even great groups of lay people who band together to create some extremely well attended public days of demonstration in favor of life.

Why should we invite others to pray the Rosary in public?

Source: Scott Hahn. Hail, Holy, Queen “The Venerable Beads” (Doubleday, New York, 2001) PP. 163-175