

LITURGY BYTES

Rosary Tidbits



Since May is dedicated to our Blessed Mother, I thought some reflection on a most popular prayer, the Rosary, would be helpful. There are two versions of how it got started. One pertains to St. Dominic who preached the Gospel to combat various heresies. Even though the heresies continued to reappear, Dominic asked Mary to guide him. Tradition tells us that Mary appeared to him in 1221 and gave him the devotion of the Rosary, encouraging him to share the prayer with others. The other historical version lies in the monastic practice of reciting 150 Psalms each week. This practice additionally expanded into the repetition of Hail Marys since many wanted to do what the monks were doing, but some were unable to read and, thus, recited Hail Marys in place of the Psalms.

What do we know about the Rosary? It is Scripture based and begins with the Apostles Creed which summarizes the mysteries of the Catholic faith. The repetition in the Rosary is meant to lead one into restful and contemplative prayers related to each mystery. The gentle repetition of the words helps us to enter into the silence of our hearts, where Christ's spirit dwells. The Rosary is grouped into four sets: the Joyful mysteries; the Sorrowful mysteries; the Glorious mysteries; and the newest mystery, the Luminous mysteries added by St. John Paul II in 2002. The following are the Luminous mysteries: the Baptism of Christ in the River Jordan, the Wedding Feast at Cana, the Coming of the Kingdom of God, the Transfiguration, and the Institution of the Eucharist.

When we pray the Rosary, we ask Mary to pray for us as we seek to grow closer to her son Jesus by contemplating His life, death, and Resurrection. Pope Francis asks us to pray the Rosary every day in May for peace. One of Hollywood's actors, Mark Wahlberg, who openly professes his Catholic faith has encouraged his million plus followers on Instagram to pray the Rosary. He partnered with a Catholic app "Hallow" recently where he prays all of the mysteries of the Rosary. He mentioned how many messages he is receiving from people who have been praying the rosary daily and find it peaceful. It is a beautiful prayer from the heart. Why not make it your daily routine?

Have a blessed, safe, prayerful, and healthy week! ~ *Michele Hall*