

JULIE M. FOGERSON

Article submitted to the Idaho Catholic Register, 3/14/2015
Accepted for publication, 3/16/2015

“The Queen of the Heavenly Rosary Makers”

Based on an interview with Cora Fischer, ministry leader of the Rosary Makers at Holy
Apostles church, Boise Idaho

It began with a group of women, gathering together each week to pray the rosary. They met every Tuesday for 10 years before a visitor showed them how to make rosaries, and in 2004, "Rosary Makers" at Holy Apostles was born.

Ministry Leader Cora Fischer said there were three members in the beginning, and rosaries were given away at coffee hours. They later donated them to missions, and when member Eva Pera started taking them to local Catholic schools, the Rosary Makers began crafting rosaries in all the school colors. Special rosaries are made for first communion (white), confirmation (red), Bishop Kelly graduates (black and gold) and ICYC participants (red and white), with this latter group in need of approximately 1,500 annually.

More than 9,000 rosaries were made in 2014, and Cora estimates they've given away over 40,000 since their inception. It's all volunteer time, and every member sets his or her own pace, making rosaries at the weekly meetings and also at home. Rosary Makers began with chain rosaries, which take an hour for an experienced maker, and later added cord rosaries, which generally take 20 minutes.

The group also repairs rosaries for free, and these are among Cora's favorites. She states, "I just love fixing old rosaries. Some of them have been used for years, and the beads are worn."

Rosary Makers continues to donate their rosaries to missions. The Holy Spirit guides Cora on where to send them, as she reviews a newsletter with a list of requests that's distributed by a rosary-making supplier in Kentucky. Eight hundred rosaries just went out the door for a mission, and many more are currently underway for a Holy Apostles Mission Building trip to Belize this spring.

"Every rosary we make, we know is going to someone who is praying the rosary, and every rosary counts. Praying a rosary brings people closer to God. It teaches us about Jesus' life, and we were asked to do so by the Blessed Mother for peace," says member Betty Muccia.

Rosary Makers receives many thank you cards and letters, which are kept in a scrapbook that member Debbie Westin maintains. The group doesn't get to meet the recipients, but they happily sometimes send pictures.

There are 26 registered members of Rosary Makers today, with around 12 to 13 ladies meeting at Holy Apostles each Thursday at 9:30am. The Rosary Makers will be busy keeping up with orders and letting the Holy Spirit guide their work.