

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

St. Jerome's Catholic Church
10895 Hamlin Blvd, Largo, FL 33774 Council 17249
The Divine Mercy of Jesus
August 2019



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 17249 UNITES TO WELCOME NEW OFFICERS FOR THE FRATERNAL YEAR



After the 5 p.m. Mass said by Fr. Tom, the new group of officers of the Knights of Columbus Council 17249 moved to the parish center for the officer installation.

District Deputy George Mercado officiated the installation with help from Bob Anderson.

The new officers were sworn in after the men promised to be good catholic men, a help to the community and church, and to fulfil their office with dignity and enthusiasm.

After the induction, everyone moved to the dining area to a delicious meal of baked ziti and/or chicken Parmesan, a salad, hors d'oeuvres, and dessert.



This was the first opportunity to display our new banner which was donated by Ray Bouch.



Meet our new District Deputy, George Mercado, who officiated the officers' installation. He has only recently been assigned to our council.

OFFICERS FOR THE 2019-2020 FRATERNAL YEAR

Grand Knight

- Presides over all council meetings
- Appoints program and membership directors
- Appoints committees as needed
- Countersigns orders for payment and checks
- Ensures the submission of all paperwork required by the Supreme and State Councils
- Maintains working relationships with the council's chaplain, district deputy, field agent and general agent, as well as with other local service organizations (e.g. Habitat for Humanity, food pantries/soup kitchens)
- Has a working knowledge of the kofc.org website, Officers Online, and Member Management
- Responsible for his council's First Degree Team and the scheduling of frequent First Degree Ceremonials



Pete Grasso

Deputy Grand Knight

- Assists the Grand Knight with operation of the council
- Presides at council meetings in the absence of the Grand Knight
- Is recommended to serve on the council's retention committee
- Has a working knowledge of the Knights of Columbus website, Officers Online, and Member Management
- Performs other such duties as the Grand Knight may direct



Billy Baldwin

Chancellor

- Assists the Grand Knight and Deputy Grand Knight with their duties, as assigned
- Is entrusted with strengthening the members' interest in council activities
- Is recommended to serve as the chairman of the Admission Committee
- Performs other such duties as the Grand Knight may direct.



Chuck Lake

Recorder

- Responsible for keeping and maintaining a true and permanent record of all actions of the council
- Maintains all correspondence of the council
- Reads the bills entered into the minutes for discussion
- Performs such other duties as the Grand Knight may direct.



Jim Hand

Financial Secretary

- Is appointed by the Supreme Knight for a three-year term upon the Grand Knight and trustees' recommendation
- Must complete and submit the Application for Appointment as Financial Secretary
- Collects dues from members through the timely sending of billing notices and initiates retention measures by providing a list of delinquent members to the grand knight (to prevent members from being suspended for nonpayment of dues)
- Ensures that the council's membership records, including email addresses, are kept updated and that new members sign the constitutional roll
- Receives honorary and honorary life membership cards from the Supreme Council and provides them to the Grand Knight for distribution
- Files various reports and membership/insurance transactions with the Supreme Council
- Has a working knowledge of the Knights of Columbus website, Officers Online, and the Member Management/Member Billing Applications
- Responsible for completing and submitting a Form 990 for the council
- Keeps the seal of the council and affixes it to membership cards, resolutions, and other official documents
- Performs such other duties as the Grand Knight may direct



Jim Blackwell

Lecturer

- Is appointed annually by the Grand Knight
- Is responsible for providing suitable educational and entertainment programs under the "Good of the Order" section of council meetings
- Stays abreast of developments within the council's charitable, membership and social programs
- Performs other such duties as the Grand Knight may direct



Edgar Lecuyer

Advocate

- Acts as parliamentarian for the council
- Has a working knowledge of Method of Conducting Council Meetings
- Knows the council's bylaws and the Order's Charter, Constitution and Laws
- Has access to Officers Online and Officers Desk Reference 12
- Seeks legal assistance from the state advocate as needed
- Performs other such duties as the Grand Knight may direct



Gregg Appel

Warden

- Supervises and maintains all council property
- Arranges the council chambers for meetings and degree exemptions
- Oversees inside and outside guards
- Performs other such duties as the GK may direct



Alfonso Ramos

Treasurer

- Handles council funds
- Receives money from the financial secretary and deposits it in the proper council accounts and savings accounts
- Is responsible for paying all council expenses, including assessments from the Supreme Council
- Performs other such duties as the Grand Knight may direct



Boone Bowen



KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Inside/Outside Guards

- Attend the doors of the council chamber, checking for current membership cards and allowing entrance
- Performs other such duties as the Grand Knight may direct



Inside Guard
Gene Sanders



Outside Guard
Joe Moore

District Deputy

(Appointed at District Level)

- Communicate priorities and be visible
- Encourage councils in the district and assist members in conducting charitable works
- Aid councils in the district with membership recruitment and ensure the exemplification of frequent First Degrees
- Help councils in the district earn the Star Council Award
- Promote our Order's top-rated insurance program
- Assist councils in the district in setting realistic goals
- Conduct productive district meetings and strategic planning sessions with the councils in the district



George Mercado

Field Agent

(Appointed at District Level)

- The Knights of Columbus field agent has the tools, expertise and products to address your concerns. By sitting with your agent and answering a few questions about your current financial situation, your agent can generate an accurate report of your financial needs in the event of death, disability, long-term care, or retirement or university funding. It is a complimentary benefit, available through your Knights of Columbus field agent to members and their families.



Francesco Franzese

Board of Trustees

- Consists of the grand knight and three other members, who are elected by the council's membership for terms of three years, two years, and one year. At each regular election, the position of each trustee will be voted upon, with the current three- and two-year trustee potentially moving on to become the two- and one-year trustees, respectively
- Supervises all financial procedures of the council and conducts the semi-annual audits
- Ensures that proper protocol and procedures are followed by the council for the 14 payment of monies; however, they cannot override the vote of the council's membership



1-Year Trustee
Edgar Lecuyer



2-Year Trustee
Jack Fitzgerald



3-Year Trustee
Dave Wilson

WORDS OF WISDOM

Seat belts are not as confining as wheelchairs .
 A good time to keep your mouth shut is when you're in deep water.
 How come it takes so little time for a child who is afraid of the dark to become a teenager who wants to stay out all night?
 Scratch a cat (or dog) and you will have a permanent job.
 There are no new sins; the old ones just get more publicity.
 I've reached the age where 'happy hour' is a nap.
 Be careful about reading the fine print. There's no way you're going to like it.
 The trouble with bucket seats is that not everybody has the same size bucket.
 After 60, if you don't wake up aching in every joint, you're probably dead.
 Always be yourself because the people that matter don't mind, and the ones that mind don't matter.
 Life isn't tied with a bow, but it's still a gift.



FROM THE DESK OF THE GRAND KNIGHT



Pete Grasso

Brothers All: We are moving into the month of August and have enjoyed great success to this point due to the smart work of all of our brothers in the council. All of the officers' positions

to help our Pastor and our church specifically. Second, I believe we are doing God's work in our Church and Diocese under Courageously Living the Gospel with some of the programs we are putting together and encouraging ourselves to live better Christian lives.

One truly good example of this is Brother Edgar's first Wednesday night prayer and educational time. We had two wonderful ladies from another ministry speak to us about ways to pray the Rosary during the first Wednesday of July.

Our council enjoyed an amazing installation evening with our wives and friends on Sunday, July 28, 2019. We begin with our Corporal Mass where Fr. Tom described the evening as a historical moment with the first-ever Knights of Columbus Council at St. Jerome's. This was followed by the installation of officers and finally a wonderful evening of food and fellowship.

PROGRAMS: The council participated

in the first Trivia Night held in the parish center and put on by the Youth Ministry. We had 12 Knights there to assist in various tasks as was needed; it was a very successful event. The last I heard, the youth ministry raised over \$1300.

Fr. Tom has now returned and we will be helping to coordinate the Golf Cart ministry. We will be looking to staff the golf cart at mass to assist anyone who needs a ride to the church building from their car. If we can acquire enough members to help, no one should have to do this more than once every couple of months.

COUNCIL SHIRTS: Brother Gregg Appel has developed a beautiful polo shirt with our emblem on it. It is available now and the first order has gone in.

Next month we will begin to develop our programs and missions in the church. We have a very talented group: please bring your ideas to the next meeting. Vivat Jesus.

Pete

have been filled, and nearly all of the Programs' Directors have been assigned.

We have an interactive presence on the St. Jerome Church Website and have started to develop relationships with other ongoing ministries within the church. As an organization we have started to work within two mandates. First is the work of the Knights, which falls under the concept of the Domestic Church where we find ways

FROM THE DESK OF THE CHAPLAIN

Healing Prayer of Surrender



Fr. Tom Morgan

Dear Lord Jesus, it is my will to surrender to you everything that I am and everything that I'm striving to be. I open the deepest recesses of my heart and invite your Holy Spirit to dwell inside me.

I offer you my life, heart, mind, body, soul, spirit, all my hopes, plans and dreams. I surrender to you my past, present, and future problems, habits, character defects, attitudes, livelihood, resources, finances, medical coverage, occupation, and all my relationships.

I give you my health, physical appearance, disabilities, family, marriage, children, and friendships. I ask you to take Lordship over every aspect of my life. I surrender to you all my hurt, pain, worry, doubt, fear and anxiety, and I ask you to wash me clean.

I release everything into your compassionate care. Please speak to me clearly, Lord. Open my ears to hear your voice. Open my heart to commune with you more deeply. I want to feel your loving embrace. Open the doors that need to be opened and close the doors that need to be closed. Please set my feet upon the straight and narrow road that leads to everlasting life. Amen.

DOMINICAN FRIARS — INCLUDING KNIGHTS — JOYFULLY EXPRESS FAITH THROUGH MUSIC

Hundreds of young fans packed the hall of Our Lady of Good Counsel Church on April 6 in anticipation of a night of music. The headliner: a bluegrass Americana group consisting of Dominican friars known as The Hillbilly Thomists.

They electrified the crowd, playing classic folk songs *Leaning on the Everlasting Arms*, *Amazing Grace*, *Poor Wayfaring Stranger*, along with originals. One in particular, *I'm a Dog*, was requested repeatedly during their set. Most of the songs can be found on their debut album that reached number 1 on the Amazon folk music chart.

The unconventional music group includes members of the Knights of Columbus, including founding members Father Thomas Joseph White and Father Austin Litke, along with Father Timothy Danaher, Father Joseph Hagan and Brother Simon Teller.

The Hillbilly Thomists originally began as a jam session during which the friars would play Irish folk tunes. Turning these jams into band practice was a natural progression. Soon, band practice turned into recording an album. Band members believe it was providential.

"Every year we would record an album of our schola— singing sacred music. But it was also a fundraiser," Brother Justin said. "We go out to all the parishes that we run and different parishes where we do ministry each year, and we'd make a pitch for selling these CDs that go to support our studies in seminary."





SPOTLIGHT on John Francks

"I know God was with me."

John Francks was speaking of the many hours he spent working at two jobs, one at the Post Office and the other at his cleaning business. "I was always working," John said. "How I got home after working two eight-hour jobs, I don't know except to thank God for watching over me."



John Francks

When John graduated high school in Hackettstown, NJ, he wanted to be a big-league baseball player, like so many other youngsters. When that didn't happen, he decided to go to college and major in liberal arts. After one semester, though, John got married and before he knew it, he had a child. He resurrected the idea of liberal arts, but to afford college and now raising a family, he began working nights and then going to college during the day. It was a grueling experience, but he graduated 3-and-a-half years later with a degree

in health and physical education. He subbed for a while but just wasn't making enough money to raise a family. Out of necessity, he applied for a job at the post office in Hackettstown and landed one. Suddenly he was making \$10,000 more than he would have teaching, plus he had health insurance.

At the old age of 24, John said he had three children and decided that the Post Office salary wasn't working out since living in NJ was so expensive, so he started working at a second job, sometimes a cleaning business, sometimes a sporting goods store. "I taught my system to get along on 2 or 3 hours of sleep a night. I was always only partially aware of my surroundings."

In 2008, he was given a buy-out offer from the Post Office, which he accepted. He was tired of being tired, and his children were gone from home. He was 50 years old and debt free. "All I wanted to do was relax," he said, "and try to recover some of that energy I had spent over the years. I used to look at my fellow postal workers and think how stupid they were for working so hard, and then it dawned on me that I was the idiot for working three jobs. I was a zombie most of the time. No wonder retirement was so attractive to me."

"I was born a Catholic," John said. "My faith has always meant a lot to me."

He said he was aware of the Knights of Columbus since he was a teenager. "Whenever someone in town had major financial problems, the Knights would line Main Street holding a sheet. As people drove by, they would throw money into the sheet. I was impressed by that." As an adult, John often thought of joining the Knights, but it seemed that the parish he attended at the time didn't have a council.

Out of curiosity one Sunday, as he and his wife Janee were talking to Pete Grasso and Dawn, his wife, John asked why St. Jerome didn't have a Knights of Columbus chapter. Pete said that he didn't know, that he attended a council at St. Pat's Parish, but John wasn't interested in joining that council. "If there's ever a council at St. Jerome's," John said, "I'll join." Intrigued, Pete continued pursuing an answer to John's question, and soon he and Jim Blackwell approached Fr. Tom about starting a council and were greatly surprised when Fr. Tom agreed to their request. Then things moved quickly.

The council now exists. It's called *The Divine Mercy of Jesus* and is Council #17249, and of course John is a member. "Now I'm thinking of how to help the Knights raise money for St. Jerome's, the community, and anyone else who points out a need for aid."

John exercises 5 times a week, so he has no excuses for running out of energy. Let's put him to work, Pete!

Trivia? NIGHT?

Saturday, July 20, was a FUN night at St. Jerome! Members of our parish, young and old, came together for our first ever Trivia Night. Some came as seasoned trivia veterans, with teams already formed and ready to compete. Others, having never played trivia before, arrived solo or in pairs, but joined together and made some new friends. The goal for the evening was to have fun and support our youth ministry programs, to plan to replace the old youth building, and to create a recreational space.

As the people filed into the parish center, the rain began to fall outside, but inside the mood was festive. We had a fantastic group of volunteers which included teens, young adults, youth ministry volunteers, office staff, and, of course, our new Knights of Columbus council. Mike's Pizza and soft drinks were served, the Knights sold 50/50 tickets, and people found their seats and caught up with new and old friends.

Small children had a designated area where they could be supervised while the adults played trivia. And everyone had an opportunity to enter to win one of the many door prizes or bid on the silent auction item.

Msgr. Muldoon began our event with a blessing and called upon the Holy Spirit to give us all the gift of Wisdom. And, boy, did we need it! There were six rounds of trivia with topics ranging from Geography to Movie Trivia to Mammals of North America to Literature. Some questions made us laugh – but they all made us think! In between rounds of trivia our dynamic quizmaster, Bill Hull, distributed door prizes and kept things moving along, while our judges reviewed everyone's answers. In the end, our top three teams won cash prizes, and the overwhelming response we received was that we should definitely start planning the next



Seven Blind Mice, the big winners.

Trivia Night soon!

We are so grateful to all the families who came together to help us raise money for our youth ministry program and for all who volunteered to put this event together.

We especially thank the Knights of Columbus and all their volunteers who showed up in a big way to help. We are so lucky to have our new KOC council at St. Jerome!

~~Tina Bowen



Knights of Columbus
INSURANCE
 YOUR SHIELD FOR LIFE



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What does “Discover the Catholic Difference” make? Is it just a marketing slogan, or is there real meaning behind it?

Let’s look at that at several levels. Our Catholicity as an organization forms all that we do. Our Order was founded on the principles of Charity, Unity, and Fraternity. As a Catholic business we also have core values of Integrity, Professionalism, Excellence, and Respect. In all our dealings we try to embody those values in the field and at our Supreme Office. Money from insurance premiums and annuity deposits is managed by our Knights of Columbus Asset Advisors. They manage that money, now amounting to more than \$24 million, using sound investment strategies. We will not invest in companies that engage in abortions, producing abortifacient drugs, embryonic stem cell research, human cloning or pornography. Our Asset Advisors prove that a business can operate on these principles and still produce a healthy profit. That’s a Catholic Difference!

Our charitable contributions of more than \$185 million last year went to a wide variety of organizations. Many were Catholic, but some were not. We give money to support worthy causes and we do that, not because they are

Catholic, but because we are Catholic. That’s what our faith calls us to do; Sirach 40:17 tells us that acts of kindness and charity last for an eternity. We are supporting victims of genocide in Syria and other places in the Middle East. We have placed more than 1000 ultrasound machines in all 50 states and saved more the 1 million lives. We financially and spiritually support seminarians, disaster victims, Special Olympians. and many others. All of this comes from the profits of our insurance program and investments and the contributions of members. That’s a Catholic Difference!

And now, let’s discuss our insurance program and The Catholic Difference! First, our products are designed with our members’ needs in mind. For example, I’m not aware of any other company that offers a Spousal Waiver of Premium benefit, and there is no additional premium for that! Second, we have never raised our Long-Term Care Insurance premiums, something very few, if any, insurance companies can say. Third, we offer Disability Income Insurance to blue collar workers as well as white and grey-collar workers. We recognize that it’s not just the affluent that need that coverage. Fourth, we still meet with brother Knights and their families in their homes if they prefer. Fifth, we want to make sure that if a member has young children, he has the opportunity to protect their insurability with life insurance that has a guaranteed purchase option. Sixth, our fixed-rate annuity has a minimum guarantee for life, meaning a member will always make money on his money. Seventh, our Supreme Office is currently developing new products to meet even more needs of our members, so stay tuned! Now that’s the Catholic Difference!

If you’d like to find out about more Catholic differences that could make a difference in your life, let me know. I’ll be around after the meeting and I’d appreciate the chance to meet with you.

Vivat Jesus!



Throughout my life, I have tried to be honest, considerate, humble, and respectful, but I haven’t always succeeded. As I think about what kind of person I’ve been, I remember when I first began teaching

grades 6, 7, and 8 in Lafayette, IN, in February of 1962. It was the beginning of a wonderful career, thirty-six years of it. I have thanked God over and over for his graces in leading me in that direction. I had absolutely no idea I would love the teaching profession so much.

When I began my graduate studies at Purdue a couple of years later, one of my professors said he’d like to come visit my classroom and observe for a couple of hours. I was tremendously flattered by his request and immediately said yes. I can still remember him sitting in the middle of the room looking at me as I leaned against the podium I was using. I was in my glory, wearing my best white shirt and favorite tie and cordovan shoes, shined to perfection. The shoes had leather soles and heels and I can still hear the sound they made as I walked across the wooden floor, strutting like a peacock.

I can’t remember what we were studying, but I do remember coming across a phrase similar to, “He was poring over the pages of the book with intensity.” I saw my moment and immediately pounced on what I thought was a terrible mistake on the book’s proofreader’s part. “It should be pouring,” I practically yelled. “Where did they get that proofreader!” I suddenly turned into Billy Graham at a tent revival, pounding on my English textbook, hoping to weed out those poor fools who didn’t know how to speak or write correctly. I began to hum “Just as I am” in preparation for my invitation to

all sinners to come to the altar and confess their ignorance. Hopefully, Professor Fulton would remain seated, giving me a thumbs up.

I remember absolutely nothing else about Professor Fulton’s visit. He never spoke to me about it. Eventually I just shrugged off his reticence and gave myself a pat on the back for being so observant about That Word!

pore: verb
 to be absorbed in the reading or study of
 synonyms: study, read intently, peruse, be absorbed in
 “Heather spent hours poring over cookbooks.”

Many years and learning experiences later, I once again came across the word poring. “What’s going on here!” I thought, remembering my moment in front of Professor Fulton. “Aren’t there any more decent proofreaders?” I wondered. Not knowing what else to do, I looked pored up in a dictionary and discovered, much to my great embarrassment, that

the word had been used correctly! Poring over something is carefully looking it over, being absorbed in what you’re reading. I was stunned, not so much that I had made a fool of myself so many years ago, but because of Professor Fulton’s grace for saying nothing to me, to keep me from being embarrassed. He had put this expression into effect: “If you have the opportunity to be correct or kind, be kind.”

As the apostle Paul said to the Corinthians in his first letter to them, “When I was a child, I spake as a child, I understood as a child, I thought as a child: but when I became a man, I put away childish things.” Every day I try to be more aware of my life and its purpose, and I thank God for his graces.

Editor’s Note: This is the second time I have had the pleasure of sharing moments in my faith journey. I hope what I have said has prompted some of you to do the same thing. If you feel so moved, please email your insights to editor-jhand@tampabay.rr.com.

Are You Carrying Your Rosary Right Now?



"Yes. My original (1984) Knights' rosary was always with me until February 2019. A man I met at a retreat saw me praying with it and wanted to know more about the rosary. I taught him how to pray it and then gave it to him. I now carry a different one. I never felt bad giving it to him, but I know I did the right thing. I see him every so often; he has started going to Sunday Mass. He thanks me every time we talk." ervguz

"I carry my great-grandfather's rosary daily. He would walk for several blocks to church daily despite being 90+ years old. I thought I had lost it until going through a bag I had put away after a trip." tmerket

"If I don't have the beads, I have my 3rd Degree coin with a decade on the one side. I've prayed the rosary with it many times! Vivat Jesus!" Council 13532

"I don't leave home without it." tedwardgidraud

The Rosary Program is one of the Knights of Columbus's signature programs. By encouraging devotion to Mary, the patroness of the Knights of Columbus, members emphasize the importance of prayer in their parishes, communities and families.

Knights lead with faith. Knights protect our families. Knights serve those in need.

"I got my first one in basic training in the Army, but it broke. I recently got one made of olive wood from the Holy Land that I will take to Iraq with me." jknig

"My grandpa was a Knight. He died on the way to Mass in 2002. I've been given so many rosaries, but I still use his rosary from when he joined." stjoseph-sactown

"Right front pocket, my sword against evil." KoC Council 12834



FROM AROUND THE WORLD OF INTEREST TO CATHOLICS

Indiana archbishop defends firing of teacher in gay marriage

Pope Francis 'profoundly saddened' at image of drowned migrant father and daughter

Doctors promised disabled woman 'new doll' after planned forced abortion

Tribunal says China uses coercion in organ harvesting, targets religious minorities

Unlicensed abortion facility can operate in Indiana at least until hearing

English bishops praise ruling that mentally disabled woman can give birth

A BRIEF HISTORY OF THE ROSARY

The rosary has had a long history and gone through many stages of development. The use of prayer beads actually precedes the time of Christ. Hindus used them to help keep track of prayers said throughout the day. In the Christian tradition, early monastic orders would pray the 150 psalms daily. At first they would use 150 pebbles in a small pouch in order to keep track. This later developed into a string with 150 knots and finally a rope with 150 wooden beads.

Members of the laity who did not necessarily know the psalms by heart wanted to have a comparable version of this practice and so the tradition of praying 150 "Our Fathers" each day was born. A similar string of beads was used to keep track of this as well. In time, the "angelic salutation" of Gabriel was added before each "Our Father": "Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you." Later on, Elizabeth's greeting was added to this: "Blessed are you among women." Still later, the prayer of "Holy

Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death" was added and the "Hail Mary" as we know it was developed.

Meanwhile, in the 1214, Mary appeared to St. Dominic and encouraged him to spread devotion to the rosary. She promised him that if he did so, he would be successful in converting the Albigensians and that his religious order that he founded would prosper. He spent the rest of his life encouraging others to pray the Rosary.

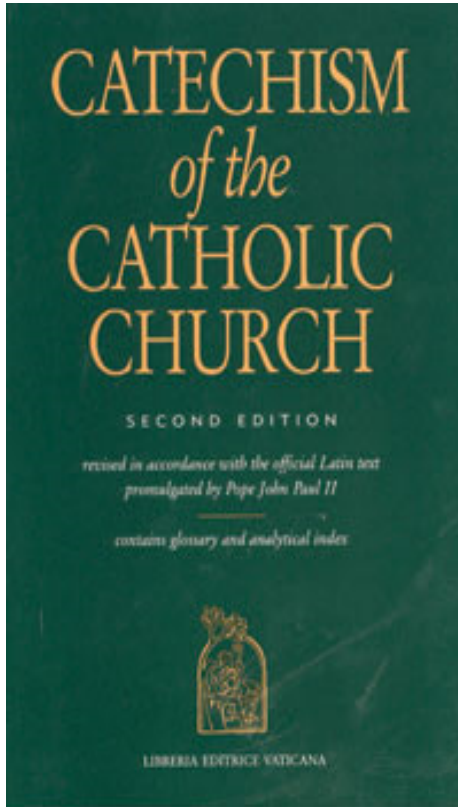
One hundred years later, Blessed Alan de la Roche picked up where Dominic's work had ended. He divided the rosary into 10 "Hail Mary" decades preceded by the "Our Father." In the 15th century, the mysteries of the rosary were assigned to each of the decades. This gave people an opportunity to reflect on Scripture while offering up this meditative prayer. In 1917, Our Lady appeared to three young shepherd children in Fatima, Portugal. She declared herself to be "Our Lady of the Rosary"

and repeatedly urged the children to recite the rosary daily.

In more recent times, Pope John XXIII taught that the Rosary must have a threefold purpose: "mystical contemplation, intimate reflection, and pious intention."

On October 16, 2002, Pope John Paul II added a new set of five mysteries to the rosary. Known as the "Luminous Mysteries" they focus on Jesus' public ministry. In his apostolic letter "The Rosary of the Virgin Mary", he wrote that "The rosary, though clearly Marian in character, is at a heart a Christ-centered prayer. It has all the depth of the gospel message in its entirety. It is an echo of the prayer of Mary, her perennial Magnificat for the work of the redemptive Incarnation which began in her virginal womb."





What does the Catechism say about Christ's visit to hell?

634 "The gospel was preached even to the dead."

484 The descent into hell brings the Gospel message of salvation to complete fulfillment. This is the last phase of Jesus' messianic mission, a phase which is condensed in time but vast in its real significance: the spread of Christ's redemptive work to all men of all times and all places, for all who are saved have been made sharers in the redemption.

635 Christ went down into the depths of death so that "the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God, and those who hear will live."

485 Jesus, "the Author of life," by dying destroyed "him who has the power of death, that is, the devil, and [delivered] all those who through fear of death were subject to lifelong bondage."

486 Henceforth the risen Christ holds "the keys of Death and Hades," so that "at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth."

636 By the expression "He descended into hell," the Apostles' Creed confesses that Jesus did really die and through his death for us conquered death and the devil "who has the power of death" (Heb 2:14).

637 In his human soul united to his divine person, the dead Christ went down to the realm of the dead. He opened heaven's gates for the just who had gone before him.