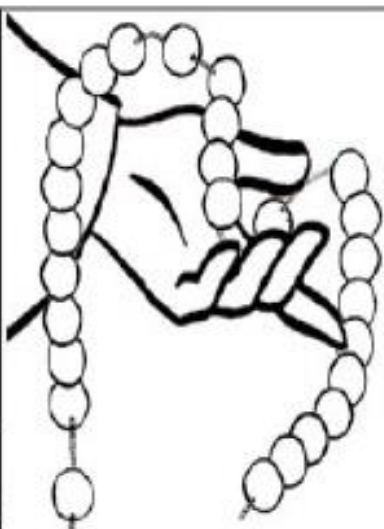




HISTORY OF THE ROSARY



Long ago, monks prayed by reciting the 150 psalms of David and counting them by placing small stones in sacs.

To lighten the load, they later made cords with 150 beads (or 150 knots or pieces of wood) to count their psalms.

The people wanted to pray and praise God, but not knowing how to read, nor the psalms, they prayed the Our Father 150 times instead.

With time, the Our Fathers were replaced with Hail Mary's. Each group of 50 Hail Mary's was called a "Rosary".



In the 12th century, Mary appeared to St. Dominic and told him that devotion to the Rosary would convert many people.

The Rosary we pray today maintains 50 Hail Mary's, the Our Father and adds reflections on the life of Jesus.

Meditating the Joyful, Sorrowful, and Glorious mysteries of the Rosary with the family is a treasured tradition of our faith; Mary gives 15 promises to devotees of the Rosary.

In October 2002, Pope John Paul II added the Luminous mysteries, about the public life of Jesus, and proclaims 2003 the "Year of the Rosary".



Friends of Jesus and Mary
Amigos de Jesús y María



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