



Essential Evangelization

The Rosary

The month of May brings with it memories of fragrant bright spring days dedicated to Our Blessed Mother and what traditional Catholics remember as the May Crowning ceremony dedicated to Mary. On May 13th we also celebrate the feast of Our Lady of Fatima where Mary appeared to three young girls in Portugal on this date and in six consecutive months in 1917.

Beyond the Liturgical Prayers of the Church, the rosary is arguably the most powerful form of prayer we have. The Rosary has been officially used since 1569, when Pope Pius V approved the devotion. It has been used by Catholics to pray for various needs and interventions throughout history. The beads are used by Catholics to meditate on the mysteries of Jesus' life and death and include: the joyful, the luminous, the sorrowful and the glorious mysteries.

The prayers that are said on the Rosary begin with the cross and The Apostles' Creed, followed by the Our Father, three Hail Mary's, and a Glory Be to the Father. From there we meditate on the mysteries by saying an Our Father, and ten Hail Mary's, five times around the circle of the Rosary beads. The word Rosary literally means "garden of roses," and some rosaries are even made from pressed rose petals.

According to Catholic tradition, Saint Dominic had a vision in which he received the Rosary from the Virgin Mary. St. Dominic became a great proponent of the Rosary and relayed fifteen promises for those who prayed it. One promise is the receipt of "signal graces" that are signs sent by God, that are not "coincidences" but signs to direct us to make the right decisions in life.

Many rosary miracles have been recorded throughout history. Included among these is the famous story of how St. Alphonsus who fell seriously ill and had a vision of his final judgment and the many sins he bore. When Mary appeared he was given intercessory freedom due to his good example from wearing the beads on his belt. Pray the rosary and expect a miracle in your life!

*This is one of a series of articles on
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