

Scripture Luke 18: 1-8

"Then Jesus told his disciples a parable to show them that they should always Pray and not give up. He said: "In a certain town there was a judge who neither feared God nor cared about people. And there was a widow in that town who kept coming to him with the plea, "grant me justice against my adversary." For some time he refused. But finally he said to himself, "Even though don't fear God or care about people, yet because this widow keeps bothering me, I will see that she gets justice, so that she wont eventually wear me out with her coming". And the Lord said, LISTEN to what the unjust judge says. And will not God bring about justice for his chosen ones, who cry out to Him day and night? Will He keep putting them off? I tell you, He will see that they get justice, and quickly. However, when the Son of Man comes, will he find Faith on the earth?"







Ask.

ASK AND IT WILL BE

TO YOU;

CIVEN

Seek.

SEEX AND YOU WILL

FNO:

Knock.

THE DOOR WILL BE

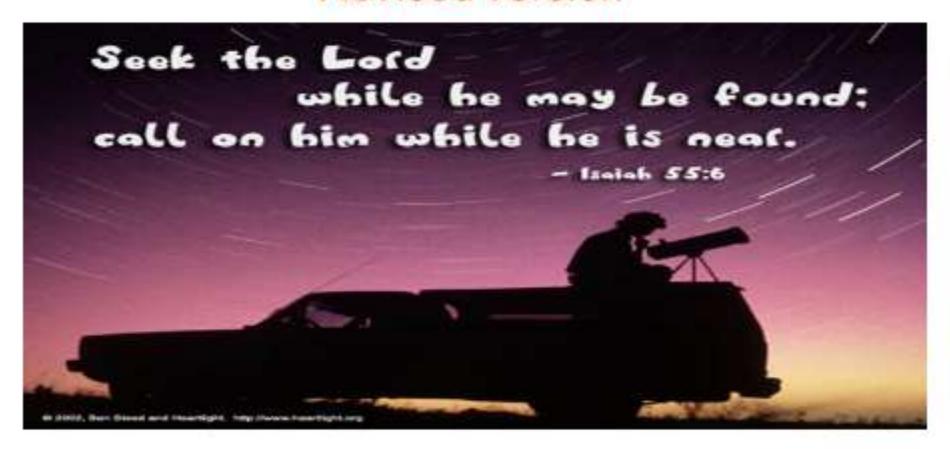
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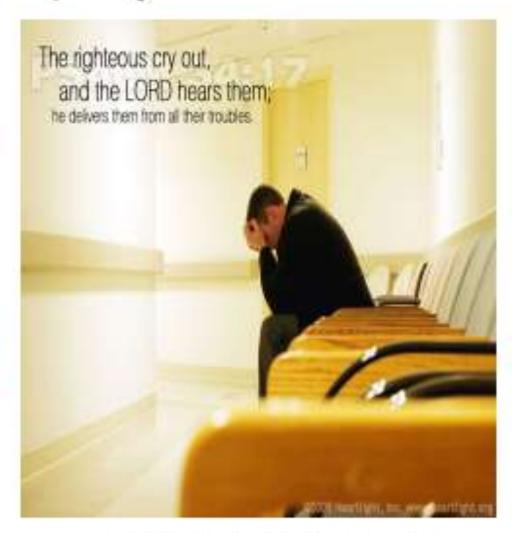
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What is Prayer? Revised version



Mr. Pablo Cuadra Religion Class

- Prayer is a gift from God
- Prayer is a conversation from the heart with Lord.
- Prayer is the spiritual oxygen of every Christian person.
- Prayer helps us to nurture a relationship with Almighty God.
- Prayer is an act of trust in God's divine providence



Prayer is: "The God connection"

- For me, prayer is a surge of the heart; it is a simple look toward heaven, it is a cry of recognition and of love, embracing both trial and joy.
 - St. Therese of Lisieux
- Man achieves the fullness of prayer not when he expresses himself, but when he lets God be most fully present in prayer.
 - John Paul II, Crossing the Threshold of Hope

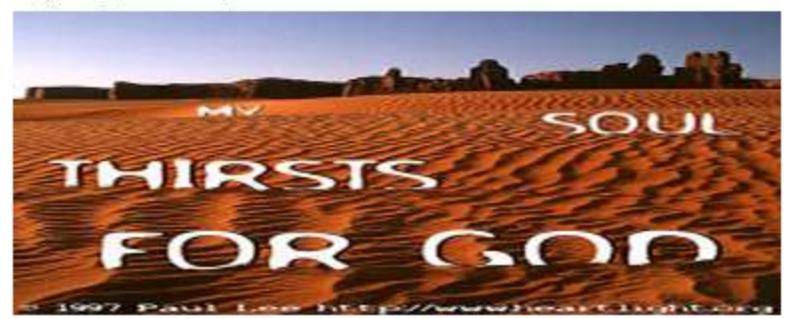
Prayer is a search for God, but it is also a revelation of God. Through prayer God reveals Himself as Creator and Father, Redeemer and Saviour, as the Spirit who "scrutinizes everything even the depths of God" (1Cor 2:10) and above all "the secrets of human hearts" (cf. Ps 43:22)

Through prayer God reveals Himself above all as Mercy – that is, Love that goes out to those suffering, Love that sustains, uplifts, and invites us to trust.

Ibid.

Prayer, "The Desire for God"

"There was a young man who approached a hermit with this request: "Show me how can I find God," "How great is this desire of yours?" asked the saintly man. "More than anything in the world," came the reply. The hermit took the young man to the shore of a lake and they waded into the water until it was up to their necks. Then the Holy man put his hand on the other's head and pushed him under water. The young man struggled desperately, but the hermit did not release him until he was about to drown. When they return to the shore, the saint asked, "Son, when you were under water, what did you want more than anything in the world? "Air", he replied without hesitation. "Well, then, when you want to find God as much as you just then wanted air, your eyes will be open to the wonder of God"



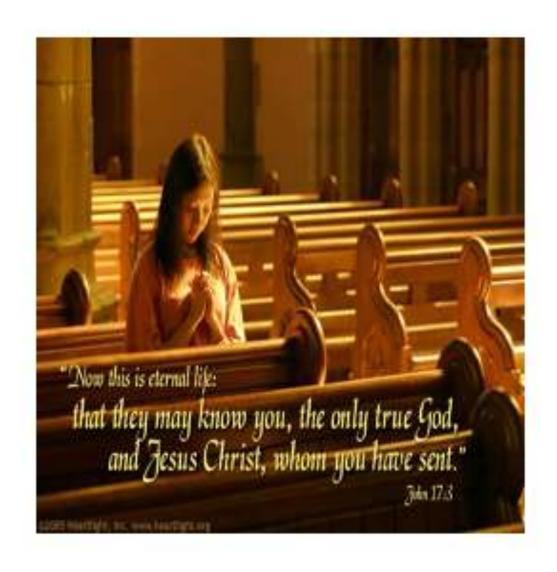
• But,,,,

• Why do we really pray?



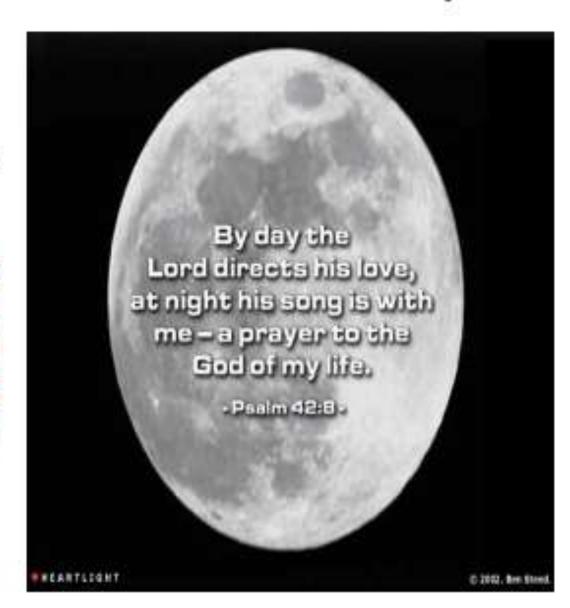
What is the Purpose of prayer?

- To bring us closer to God's transforming presence.
- To <u>strengthen</u> <u>us</u> <u>spiritually through God's</u> <u>grace</u>.
- To help our faith grow
- To help us <u>listen to God's</u> will for our lives.
- To seek divine assistance and wisdom.



When and where is the best time to Pray?

- Any time
- Any place, is a good place or time for prayer
- Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, a good friend of Pope Paul VI, in his book God in search of Man writes: "Even before we have moved in search of God, God has come in search of us".



Forms of Christian prayer

Blessing

The prayer of blessing is man's response to God's gifts: we bless the Almighty who first blesses us and fills us with his gifts. (CCCC 551)

Adoration

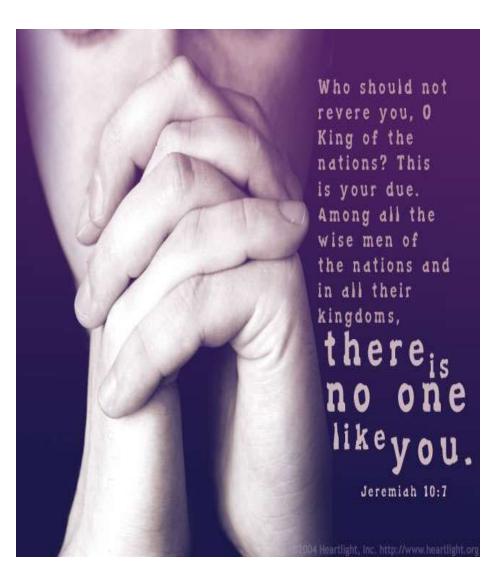
- An attitude that acknowledges we are creatures in the presence of our Creator.
- It is an act by which we glorify the God who made us. (USCCCA, p. 467)

What is a prayer of Adoration and Blessing?

- A prayer of <u>acknowledgement</u> of <u>God's awesome greatness.</u>
- Prayers of Adoration and Blessing show great reverence, awe and respect for God's unending goodness.

Catechism # 2626

"Blessing expresses the basic movement of Christian prayer: it is an encounter between God and man. In blessing, God's gift and man's acceptance of it are united in dialogue with each other. The prayer of blessing is man's response to God's gifts: because God blesses, the human heart can in return bless the One who is the source of every blessing."



Forms of Christian prayer

Petition

- "To ask, to implore, to plead to cry out. In each case, it acknowledges how much we depend on God for our needs, including forgiveness and persistence in seeking him." (cf. Mt. 7:7; USCCA, p. 467)
- The first thing to ask for, however, is the coming of the Kingdom. (CCCC 553)

What is a prayer of Petition?

- Is a prayer that requests for something personal for ourselves. Psalm 34:6
- Prayers of Petition include:
 contrition, the act of being
 sorry for our sins and asking
 God's forgiveness.



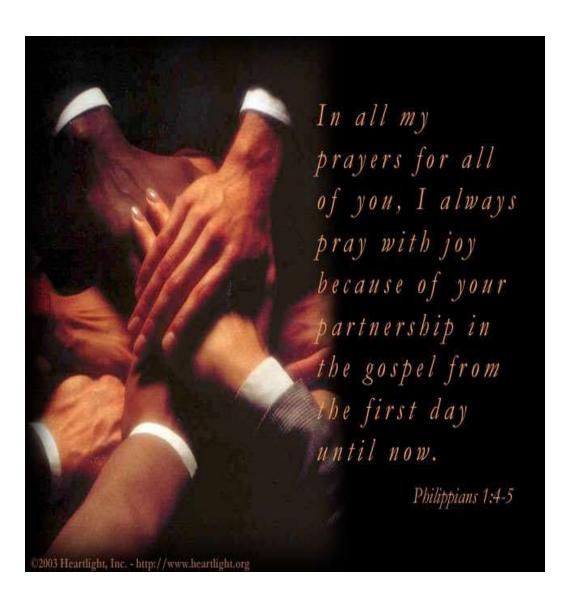
Forms of Christian prayer

Intercession

Consists in asking on behalf of another. It conforms us and unites us to the prayer of Jesus who intercedes with the Father for all, especially sinners. Intercession must extend to one's enemies. (CCCC 554)

What is a prayer of Intercession?

- Is a <u>prayer for **other** people</u>
- For example: the general prayers of intercession at mass.
- On this year's Ash Wednesday message (2008). Pope Benedict XVI called prayer the "engine of the world".
- The Pope said: "true prayer is a dialogue with God, and without this our interior dialogue becomes a monologue, giving rise to thousands of self-justifications. Prayer, therefore, is a guarantee of being open to others. True prayer is the engine of the world, because it keeps us open to God. Without prayer, there is not hope, just illusion, which induces us to escape from reality".



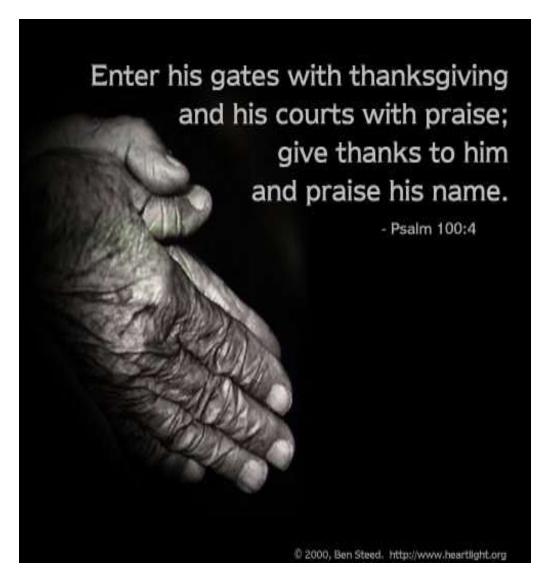
Forms of prayer

▶ Thanksgiving

Flows from the Church's greatest prayer, the celebration of the Eucharist. Every moment or event can become a thanksgiving offering. We are called to thank God for all the gifts we have received, including our joys and sorrows, all of which, through love, work towards our benefit. (USCCA, p. 468)

What is a prayer of Thanksgiving?

- A prayer of thanksgiving is <u>one</u> that <u>acknowledges</u> God's many gifts with a profound spirit of gratitude toward almighty God.
- Who are the people you are grateful for?
- What are the material blessings you are thankful for?
- What are the human experiences God has blessed you with?



Forms of prayer

Praise

- The form of prayer which recognizes most immediately that God is God. It is a completely disinterested prayer: it sings God's praise for his own sake and give him glory simply because he is. (CCCC 556)
- A particular gift of the charismatic renewal to the whole church

What is a prayer of Praise?

Psalm 33

"Sing joyfully to the Lord, you righteous; It is fitting for the upright to praise him.

Praise the Lord with the harp;

Make music to him on the ten-stringed lyre.

Sing to him a new song; Play skillfully, and shout for joy."

- Prayer of praise are <u>joy</u> filled prayers
- They are a response to God in the form of song or dance.
- St. Augustine of Hippo: "To sing is to pray twice."





Expressions of prayer

- At Mass when the reading of the Gospel begins, we place the sign of the Cross on our foreheads, lips and hearts.
 - Lips, minds and hearts symbolize the three kinds of prayer: vocal, meditative and contemplative. (USCCA, p. 473)
- Vocal prayer
 - Associates the body with the interior prayer of the heart. Even the most interior prayer, however, cannot dispense with vocal prayer. In any case it must always spring from a personal faith.

Expressions of prayer

Meditation

- . . . is a prayerful reflection that begins above all in the Word of God in the Bible.
- Engages thought, imagination, emotion and desire in order to deepen our faith, convert our heart and fortify our will to follow Christ.
- Is a first step toward the union of love with our Lord. (CCCC 570)

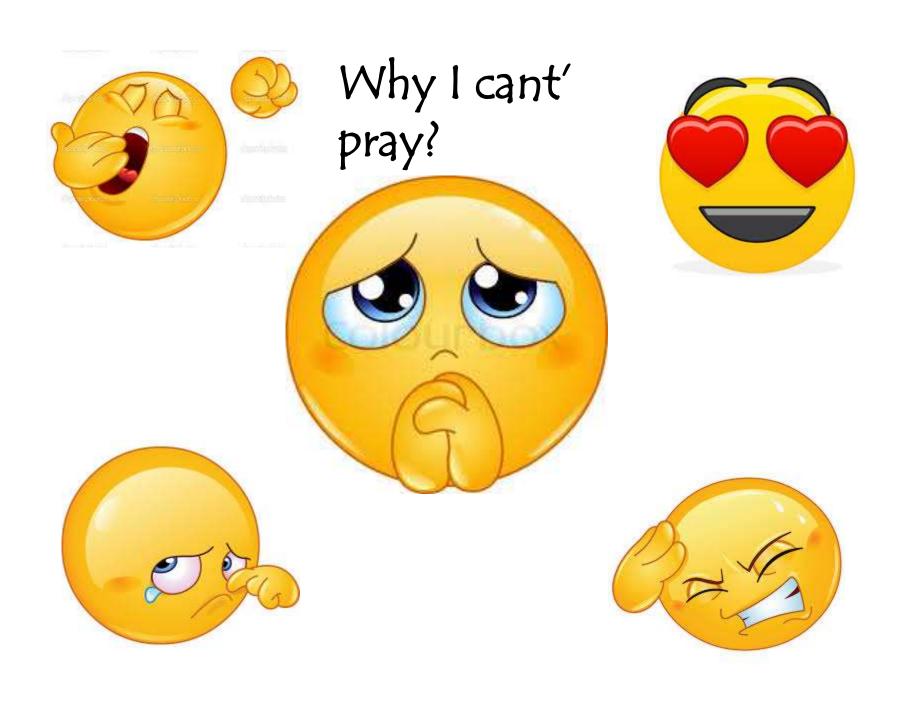
Expressions of prayer

Contemplation

- Contemplative prayer . . . is a gaze of faith fixed on Jesus, an attentiveness to the Word of God, a silent love (CCC 2724).
- Contemplative prayer is a gift to which we dispose ourselves by resting attentively before Christ. It involves hearing and obeying God's Word. It is a time of silent listening and love. (USCCA, p. 474)

The Holy Trinity and prayer

Christian prayer is always Trinitarian. The sweep of our prayer moves us toward the Father. But access to the Father is through Jesus Christ. Therefore we also address our prayer to Christ. Yet it is the Holy Spirit who helps us to draw near to Jesus (USCCA, p. 478-9)



Obstacles to prayer

Distraction

Takes our attention away from God and can reveal what we are attached to (CCC 2729).

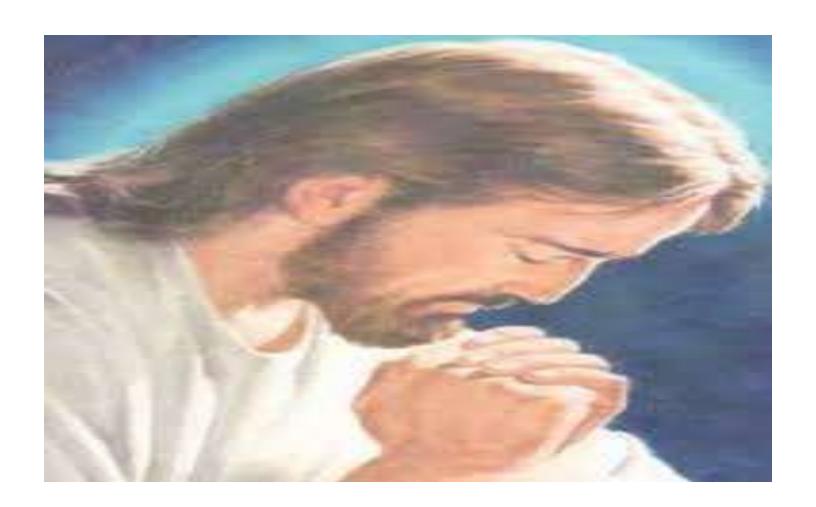
Dryness

- Is the moment of sheer faith clinging faithfully to Jesus in his agony and in his tomb.
- If it is due to a lack of roots, because the word has fallen on rocky soil, the battle requires conversion (CCC 2731).

Obstacles to prayer

- Lack of faith
 - The most common and yet most hidden temptation in prayer
- Acedia (spiritual laziness)
 - A form of depression due to lax ascetical practice, decreasing vigilance, carelessness of heart. . . . Painful as discouragement is, it is the reverse of presumption. The humble are not surprised by their distress; it leads them to trust more, to hold fast in constancy.

Lord teach us how to pray.



The Our Father as a guide

- Our Father who art in heaven
 - Begin by acknowledging that you are a child of God and loved
- Hallowed be thy name
 - Praise God!
- Your kingdom come
 - The Church prays for the final coming of the Kingdom of God through Christ's return in glory.

Our Father as guide

- The Church prays also that the Kingdom of God increase from now on through people's sanctification in the Spirit and through their commitment to the service of justice and peace (CCCC 590).
- Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven
 - The will of the Father is that "all men . . . be saved" (1 Tim. 2:4).
 - We pray to God our Father to unite our will to that of his Son

The Our Father as guide

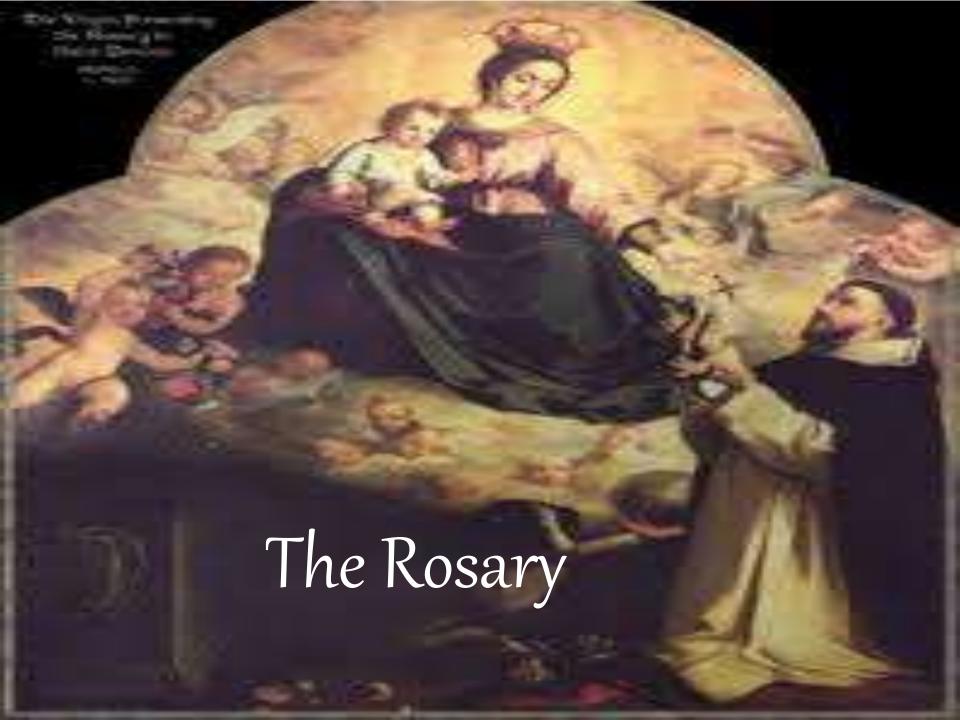
- It is through prayer that we can discern "what is the will of God" (Rom. 12:2) and have the "steadfastness to do it" (Heb. 10:36).
- Give us this day our daily bread
 - That there would be food and a dignified human life for all
 - We do not live on bread alone we hunger for the Word of God and the Body of Christ (CCCC 593)

Our Father is guide

- Seek a word for the day
- Forgive us as we forgive those who trespass against us
 - Repent
 - Forgive others
- Lead us not into temptation
 - Ask God not to leave us alone in temptation

Our Father as guide

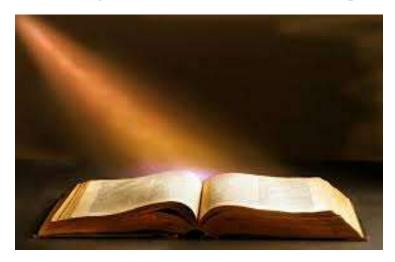
- Ask the Holy Spirit to help us know how to discern between a trial that makes us grow in goodness and a temptation that leads us to sin
- Between being tempted and consenting to temptation (CCCC 596)
- But deliver us from evil
 - We entrust ourselves to God so that the devil may not lead us into sin. . . We ask God to deliver us from all evils – past, present and future – of which Satan is the author or instigator. (USCCA, p. 489)



Introduction to the Holy Rosary



- The Rosary is made up of 2 things:
- mental prayer



vocal prayer



• Mental Prayer:

Meditation on the chief life, ministry, death and glory of Jesus Christ and his mother.

• Vocal prayer:

Saying 20 decades of the Hail Mary, each decade headed by Our Father, while at the same time meditating on the contemplating the 20 principal virtues which Jesus and Mary practiced in the 20 mysteries of the Rosary

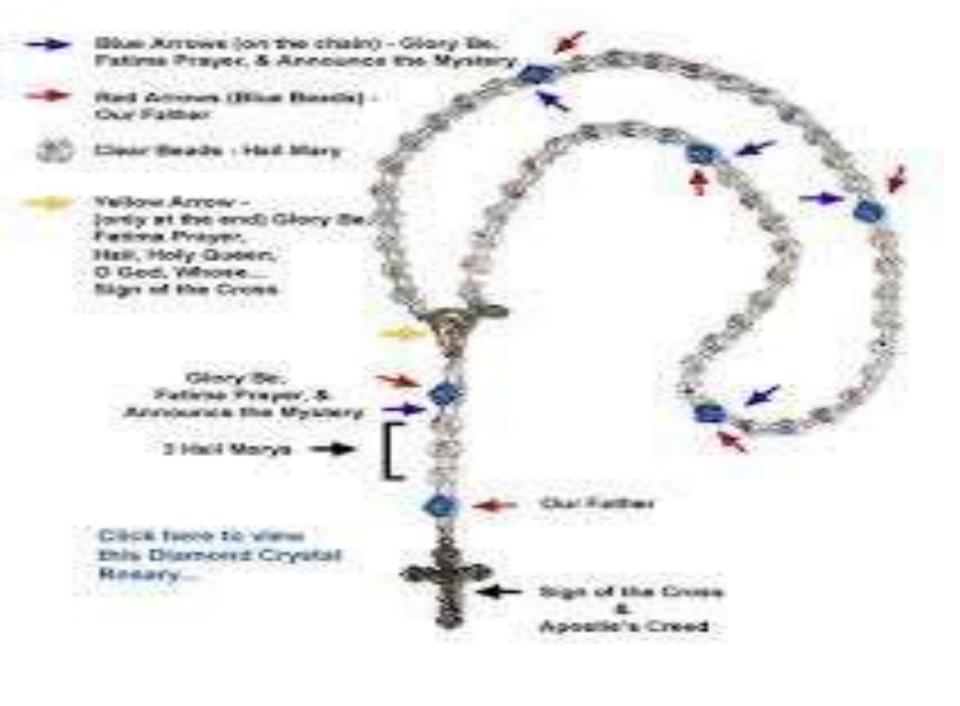
History of the Rosary



- The Rosary has been a major influence in Roman Catholic thought for over 500 years while paving the way
 for a greater understanding of the mystery of Christ celebrated within family prayer.
- The historical development of the Rosary begins with the desert fathers (monks) and their need to find a system to ease their laborious and repetitive prayer life.
- It is generally agreed by scholars that a system for counting repetitive prayers began with the Hindus some
 nine centuries before Christ. Prayer counters such as rocks, sticks or notches in wood were employed to
 ensure that the proper number of prayers were recited. Over time, counters and psalms were united into a
 "three groups of fifty" format so that "fifties" could be used for personal and/or penitential prayer.
- The fifteenth century saw the Rosary begin its development into the familiar prayer form we know today.
 - The Our Father came intact from the Gospel of Matthew.
 - The Hail Mary developed from the scriptural greetings of Gabriel and Elizabeth to Mary in Luke's Gospel.
 - The Glory Be was used as a common doxology from the earliest of Christian times when praying the psalms.
 - The Hail Holy Queen, a later addition to the Rosary, states all relevant medieval themes about the Blessed Virgin Mary.
 - The Apostles' Creed along with the rosary pendant were also later developments, being added to the Rosary only in the early seventeenth century.
- Popes John XXIII and Paul VI introduced new teachings on the Rosary while continuing the teachings of their predecessors. For Pope John, the Rosary was the universal prayer for all the redeemed.

 Since the Holy Rosary ids composed, principally and in substance, of the Prayer of Christ and the Angelic Salutation, that is the our Father and the Hail Mary, it was without doubt the prayer and the first and the first devotion of the faithful; an dhas been use all through the centuries, from the time of the apostles and the disciples down to the present.

 But itas only in the 1214, however, that Holy Mother Church received the Rosary in the presentform to the Church by Saint Dominic who had received it from the Blessed Virgin as apowerful means of converting the Albigensians and other sinners.



MYSTERIES OF THE ROSARY

JOYFUL MYSTERIES

Happy times in the Lives of Jesus and Mary

- 1. The Annunciation
- The Visitation
- The Nativity of Jesus
- The Presentation
- Finding Jesus in the Temple

GLORIOUS MYSTERIES

These Mysteries show the Divinity of Jesus

- The Resurrection
- The Ascension
- The Descent of the Holy Spirit
- The Assumption of Mary
- The Coronation of Mary

SORROWFUL MYSTERIES

Sad moments in the Lives of Jesus and Mary

- 1. The Agony in the Garden
- The Scourging at the Pillar
- The Crowning with Thorns
- 4. The Way of the Cross
- The Crucifixion

LUMINOUS MYSTERIES

These recall times in Jesus' Life when He revealed God's Kingdom

- The Baptism of Jesus
- The First Miracle at Cana
- The Proclamation of the Kingdom
- 4. The Transfiguration
- The Institution of the Eucharist





• Now....,,

What is prayer for you?





The End



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