



# *The Block Rosary*



**THE BLOCK ROSARY**

by

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## WHY A BLOCK ROSARY?

Truth is stranger than fiction. If the prophecy had been made that over a period of less than two months, within the confines of a single parish, Block Rosary groups approximating forty in number would have been formed--with the movement still gaining momentum--the prediction would have sounded unbelievable. Yet such has actually been so in one locality. The fervor evidenced by the members as they pray to God's holy Mother produces a sense of the supernatural, an almost tangible contact with heaven. Mary is indeed making her presence felt in the world. She asks for prayer and penance today, as she did at Fatima.

Our Blessed Lady, during her every apparition to Lucy, Jacinta and Francisco, stressed the necessity of saying her Rosary daily and of inducing others to do so. The Block Rosary is an inevitable outcome of the desire to make reparation through the Immaculate Heart of Mary, since one sure means of fulfilling her wish is to gather friends and neighbors together for the recitation of the beads. In this way we leave nothing to chance. Our Lady insisted: "Pray, pray much and make sacrifices for sinners". The Block Rosary combines the elements of both prayer and sacrifice, with the added assurance of consistency.

Our enemies seize every opportunity that presents itself for the accomplishment of their designs. It has been aptly stated that "Those who work for the devil, work like the devil." Shall we, whom Our Lord called the children of Light, strive less earnestly for the Kingdom of Christ than do the powers of darkness for the reign of Satan?



## THE BLOCK ROSARY

You who read these lines have proven your love for Our Blessed Mother by the very fact that you selected this booklet treating of the Block Rosary. You desire to know more about the devotion. Perhaps you already belong to a group composed of friends and neighbors who meet to pray the Rosary; or, on the other hand, perhaps you would like very much to organize such a group. In either case the suggestions contained herein will, I trust, prove helpful. What has been done locally can readily be repeated on a national scale.

The instructions outlined, though as comprehensive as possible, must be adapted to your individual needs and supplemented with the grace of the Holy Ghost. Therefore, let me ask, with specific reason, that you read not only carefully, but prayerfully. I suggest that after the perusal of each chapter of this pamphlet, you pause to consider what you have just read, and to utter a prayer for understanding and guidance. You will not regret the additional effort.

Mary, our Mother, who alone, as the Church says, "Has conquered all heresies", listens willingly to the prayers of her children. She desires peace even more than do we ourselves, for Mary is the Queen of Peace. A true mother is always distressed when her children quarrel; and Mary is the most loving of all mothers. The threat of the atom bomb is to her maternal Heart the anticipated repetition of Calvary. We can remove the threat only by remedying its cause.

Let us, then, offer through her the reparation for which she expressly asks, in the mass recitation of her favorite prayer, the Daily Rosary. Can anyone faithfully repeat the Hail Marys, whilst pondering on the Joyful, Sorrowful and the Glorious Mysteries, and at the same time neglect the duties of his or her state of life? Hence the meditations found on the last pages, to precede each of the fifteen decades.

In return for our fidelity, we may confidently hope that Mary will obtain for us true peace, that peace which



## THE BLOCK ROSARY

the world cannot give.

It may be that you would like to report favors received through membership in a Block Rosary; there have been instances of conversions, particularly in homes of mixed marriages where this form of prayer is peculiarly adaptable because of its community spirit. Accounts of such graces will be welcome.

Also, perhaps you have worked out a plan of organization all your own, and believe that others might profit by hearing of it. If so, your letter will be most gratefully received. Simply address it to the author of this pamphlet, in care of the Publisher.

Thus, with your cooperation, dear Reader, and that of every true Christian, we may trust that we shall obtain for ourselves and the whole human race, the intercession of the Immaculate Virgin, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, to whom this booklet is lovingly dedicated.

( P A U S E - P R A Y )

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Sincere thanks are humbly offered to all who contributed in so willing a manner to the preparation of a Block Rosary Handbook. Particularly do I desire to express my gratitude to the clergy and laity who have done so much heartfelt gratitude to the clergy and laity who have done so much to encourage the effort, the former by their inspiration and advice, the latter by their ready assistance.

Thanks are due to the Philadelphia Catholic Lay Forum, for permission to reprint the Suggestions for Organizing which have proven to be an indispensable part of the Block Rosary Program in this area.



## THE BLOCK ROSARY

### SUGGESTIONS FOR ORGANIZING

All grace stems from the tabernacle of your parish church. Each morning Christ offers Himself, through the hands of the priest, to His Eternal Father as a clean oblation to atone for the sins of the world. Immediately after the words of Consecration, He says to His priests, as He once said to His Apostles: "Do this in commemoration of Me," thus delegating to them the authority over every spiritual activity within the district under their supervision. The Block Rosary is intended merely to condition us to receive more abundantly the grace that the Mass and the Sacraments make available to us.

Hence the first recommendation for organizing:

- (1) NO GROUP SHOULD BEGIN TO FUNCTION UNTIL THE PASTOR OF THE LOCAL PARISH HAS BEEN CONSULTED.

In fact, it is in working wholeheartedly with your pastor and those appointed by him to direct the campaign, that you will have outstanding results. If the priests are willing to announce the project from the pulpit, and to encourage the plan in other ways—for instance, by recommending it to the Sodality and the Holy Name Society--so much the better. But in any event, be sure that you do have your pastor's consent.

- (2) SELECT AN EVENING AND A TIME THAT DOES NOT CONFLICT WITH ANY OF THE ESTABLISHED DEVOTIONS IN YOUR PARISH CHURCH.

Seven o'clock is a good hour, as this leaves everyone free for the major part of the evening. The recitation of the beads occupies only fifteen minutes, so that even though church services should begin as early as 7:30, you will still have ample opportunity to be punctual.

- (3) THE GREATER THE INDIVIDUAL ACTIVITY, THE GREATER THE RESPONSE.

It will be found that an energetic leader can readily arrange to have the Rosary recited every single



## THE BLOCK ROSARY

evening in the week, by the simple method of suggesting to a neighbor that she be the first to have the Block Rosary in her (the neighbor's) home and promising to help her obtain members. In this way she will have double the number you might have been able to secure alone. Then, after the first or second weekly recitation of the beads, announce that the Block Rosary will be conducted in your home also, on another night of the week. Try to have at least a few new faces present; and you will find that others will readily offer their homes likewise, with little or no prompting, until all the evenings (or days) of the week have been filled up. The attendance will increase gradually.

(4) BE SURE TO CONTACT YOUR NEIGHBORS PERSONALLY. DO NOT TELEPHONE. YOU WILL BE MORE CORDIALLY RECEIVED.

One of the immense benefits of the Block Rosary is the effect it has of giving us ease in speaking on spiritual topics. Once you introduce your subject, you will invariably be edified by the eagerness, the child-like faith that greets your words. In the rare cases when this is not so, simply pray that the disagreeing one may eventually see eye to eye with you.

(5) KEEP IT SPIRITUAL. REFRESHMENTS SHOULD NOT BE SERVED. THIS COULD CAUSE EMBARRASSMENT TO SOME.

Of course, if you are attending a social gathering and it is suggested that the Rosary be recited before refreshments are served, then you are sanctifying your recreation and all is well. But for a Block Rosary Group, as such, to deviate so far from their purpose as to eat and drink before leaving would greatly detract from the solemnity of the occasion whose prime purpose is prayer and sacrifice.

(6) BE PUNCTUAL. MANY WILL BE MAKING A SACRIFICE OF THEIR TIME IN COMING: DO NOT DELAY THEM.

The leader should start the prayers promptly at the hour designated. If one or two come late the first



## THE BLOCK ROSARY

time, to find the Rosary in progress, they will not do so again; whereas if the leader waits for that certain one or two, the result will be that they, or others, will come later each evening.

(7) THE MEETING IS NOT FOR SOCIAL PURPOSES. ALL SHOULD RETURN HOME IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE CONCLUSION OF THE PRAYERS.

This may appear difficult, especially to women. There is such a temptation to linger--to be the last one, with a splendid opportunity to compare notes, even to criticize someone who has left; uttering the thousand-and-one remarks so typical yet so unnecessary. Let us not lose the graces we have garnered in prayer and the sacrifice of those moments, by offending against Charity. In order to obviate the possibility of doing so -- LEAVE.

(8) EVERY COMMUNITY WILL, OF COURSE, EITHER ELABORATE ON OR ELIMINATE ANY OF THESE SUGGESTIONS.

After thought and prayer, with the aid of experience, you will arrive at the most suitable arrangements governing your individual circumstances. For instance, some may prefer to hold the Rosary Devotions in a different home every evening, until the entire block has been visited.

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## THE BLOCK ROSARY

### CONDUCTING A BLOCK ROSARY

It is half past six. In a little while our neighbors will, one after the other, open the unlocked door of our home to spend fifteen minutes in the company of the Queen of Heaven, as we recite together her Holy Rosary.

I recall asking each one of those who will be here; it is at times an edifying recollection, as in the case of the nurse whose name I did not even know. Yet, having seen her at Mass Sunday after Sunday, and being sure that she was a Catholic, I approached her. Now not only she, but her mother and sister have been coming regularly and in the meantime they have started a group to pray the Rosary in their home on another evening of the week. Then there is the one with whom I became acquainted through meeting her on the street car daily. At first this friend (as she has since become) had excuses to offer, but after the parish priests announced at the Sunday Masses that the Block Rosary Campaign was in full progress, she suddenly evidenced interest and has been most faithful in her attendance. There are others - the ways and means of inducing them to be with us are too varied to list: Of course, a few grasped the idea eagerly--God bless them! Would that there were more like them!

What a privilege it is thus to honor her who has so loved us; and how Mary has blessed our home since we began what at first appeared to be something new and strange in the way of a Rosary Devotion. Since then, it has become a part of our lives. The weekly assembly is like a visit from the Queen of Heaven herself. True, I was invited out to dinner this evening, but the prospect of being entertained does not compare with that of entertaining so royal a guest.

True charity exists now in the vicinity where before so many of us were practically strangers; this is another fruit of the Block Rosary.



## THE BLOCK ROSARY

A quarter to seven: The door opens and we greet the first arrival. She pauses for a moment before the statue of Our Lady of Fatima to offer a silent prayer and then, in answer to our question, replies that her mother, whom we know to have been seriously ill, is not expected to live. She hastens to add, "God's Will be done" and explains that she has taken time away from her mother's bedside because the knowledge that we keep her in our prayers has so comforted the invalid as to help her where medicine failed.

While she speaks, others are entering and all promise to continue remembering the sick woman. Amidst the conversation, with occasional introductions, five persons are requested and each consents to lead the recitation of one decade of the beads. This will relieve the Leader who announces the mysteries and reads the accompanying meditations.

The church clock sounds the first stroke of seven. Immediately there is silence. Some kneel; others, because of age or infirmity, remain seated. The Leader begins: "In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen. This Rosary is being offered to Our Lady of Fatima for the conversion of Russia and world peace, for our own final perseverance and the return of lapsed Catholics to the Sacraments, as well as for our personal intentions. Let us especially remember in our prayers Mrs. ----- who is ill."

It is Saturday evening—we say the Glorious Mysteries. The Resurrection, with its keynote of Faith! What greater demonstration of the faith that is in us than the spectacle we are witnessing! How our Risen Savior must be pleased with the simple, fervent responses to each Hail Mary; the attitude of reverence; the utter humility, betokening complete dependence on Almighty God. "For where two or three are gathered together for My sake, there am I in the midst of them." (Matt. 18.20). Indeed, Jesus is truly present in such a gathering; and where Jesus is, there is Mary also. Her motherly heart cannot but be



## THE BLOCK ROSARY

touched with the obvious sincerity of her clients. These clients, wearied with the inefficacy of material means to convey peace of heart are heeding her maternal warning: "Pray, pray much. Say the Rosary every day. After each decade say, 'O My Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fire of hell and lead all souls to heaven, especially those who have most need of Your Mercy'."

As we reach the Third Glorious Mystery we hear:

"Mother of the Infant Church, you remained on earth to guide and instruct it in its first beginnings, even as you watched over the first faltering steps taken by your Infant Son. He was Divine, whereas the first Apostles were very human and incapable, of themselves, of performing the tremendous task assigned to them. And so, after nine days of prayer--the first novena, in which you joined with them to assure the fulfillment of their petition--Jesus sent the Holy Ghost upon them. We too, pray in union with you during this Block Rosary, Blessed Mother of God; and we hope that the Holy Ghost will come and will bring to us the inestimable gift of His Peace."

Yes, the work of Justice shall be Peace, and the Block Rosary movement is so obviously inspired by the Holy Ghost that its very accompaniment is a deep sense of peace. This is one of the simplest forms of the Lay Apostolate. Try it. Our Lady loves simplicity; within the last hundred years she has frequently appeared to children. Always she selects the childlike in heart, the poor in spirit, as the recipients of her lavish graces. How happy must she be now, as, her Rosary ended, she beholds these her beloved children, with the Name of Mary in their hearts as well as on their lips, descending the steps into the night. They carry back into the world the spark of that faith which has been rekindled during these few brief moments of prayer; and like other apostles, they will not rest content until through Christian example, the darkness of our neo-paganism comprehends the light that is Eternal Day.

(P A U S E - P R A Y)



# THE BLOCK ROSARY

## PRAYERS OF THE BLOCK ROSARY

**LEADER:** In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

We offer this Rosary to Our Lady of Fatima for the conversion of Russia and world peace, as well as for:  
(MENTION ANY PERSONAL INTENTIONS)

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, Our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried. He descended into hell; the third day He arose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven, sitteth at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead.

**GROUP:** I believe in the Holy Ghost, the Holy Catholic Church, the Communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and life everlasting. Amen.

**LEADER:** Our Father, Who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy Name; Thy Kingdom come; Thy Will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

**GROUP:** Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

**LEADER:** Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou amongst women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus.

**GROUP:** Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

(LEADER AND GROUP REPEAT THE HAIL MARY 3 TIMES)

**LEADER:** Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

**GROUP:** As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.



# THE BLOCK ROSARY

## FIRST JOYFUL MYSTERY

### THE ANNUNCIATION

Virgin Mother of God, your life on earth was one of obscurity. Though you were hidden from the sight of the world, your pure soul pleased the Most High so that He chose you to be the Mother of His only-begotten Son. "Behold the handmaid of the Lord; be it done unto me according to thy word."

Inspired by your example, we members of the Block Rosary earnestly pray for the grace to love and practice humility, so that we may ever be worthy children of such a Mother.

## SECOND JOYFUL MYSTERY

### THE VISITATION

Dear Blessed Mother, in response to the angel's message, you arose and went with haste into the hill country to serve your cousin Elizabeth. Today, in the guise of the Pilgrim Virgin, you traverse the earth, bringing to sinners repentance, and to the lukewarm, fervor. Through the Block Rosary you visit even our homes.

In truth we are witnessing the startling fulfillment of the prophecy you made in your joyful Magnificat: "Behold, from henceforth all generations shall call me Blessed."

## THIRD JOYFUL MYSTERY

### THE NATIVITY

As we enter the dimly-lit cave, O Mary, ever Virgin, we are attracted by an unearthly light surrounding you, the Mother and your Child. You contemplate Him Who is the very Son of God.

Those baby lips, sealed in silence inscrutable, are one day to speak words of Eternal Wisdom.

Yet that loving Heart beats even now in the breast of a Divine Outcast.

Those tiny hands and feet, as foretold by the prophet, will be pierced with cruel nails.



## THE BLOCK ROSARY

Your Immaculate Heart alone, Mother Mary, is capable of offering reparation to Jesus for the ingratitude of men. During these few minutes spent with you in praying the Block Rosary may we learn from you to accept life's sufferings in a spirit of penance, so that we may one day behold the Infant God face to face in heaven.

### FOURTH JOYFUL MYSTERY

#### THE PRESENTATION IN THE TEMPLE

As you ascend the steps of the temple at Jerusalem, sweet Mother Mary, your entire being is absorbed in adoration of the One Whom you are about to offer to His Eternal Father. He is both High Priest and Victim. You offer yourself together with Him, on our behalf. Thank you, Mother Mary. Like the aged Simeon, we too, long to see Him, our Savior and our Brother; but we must first pass through the shadow of the Valley of Death. Keep us close to your Immaculate Heart during this Block Rosary and always, so that in life's final hour we shall have no fear. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death.

### FIFTH JOYFUL MYSTERY

#### THE FINDING IN THE TEMPLE

After three days of heartbreaking, weary search for your lost Child, Mother of Jesus and good Saint Joseph, you find Him in His Father's House. He is sitting in the midst of the doctors, hearing them and asking them questions.

"For where two or three are gathered together for My sake, there am I in the midst of them." (Matt.18,20). Jesus, Mary and Joseph, you are truly present now, listening to our Block Rosary. We humbly resolve that in time of trial and temptation, we will betake ourselves immediately to prayer, to find Jesus present in the temple of our hearts, giving us grace, encouragement and strength.



## THE BLOCK ROSARY

### FIRST SORROWFUL MYSTERY

#### THE AGONY IN THE GARDEN

"And falling into an agony He prayed the more earnestly."  
(Luke 22,43)

Dear Jesus, knowing that You had been betrayed into the hands of Your enemies, Your human Heart was overcome with grief. The prospect of Your approaching Passion and Death overwhelmed You. Yet, in the excess of Your Love, You accepted the bitter chalice of suffering.

Immaculate Heart of Mary, we, your children, face the prospect of a third World War. We fear lest the just punishment of our national sins overtake the entire universe. Yet, even as Jesus was consoled in His agony by an angel, so we have the remembrance of your own words at Fatima: "In the end, my Immaculate Heart will triumph and an era of peace will be conceded to humanity." We members of the Block Rosary pray that our lives may be such as to merit the fulfillment of your promise.

### SECOND SORROWFUL MYSTERY

#### THE SCOURGING

"Pilate, then, took Jesus and had Him scourged."  
(John 19,1).

Mother of Christ, the innocent flesh of Him Who is your Child and our Victim quivers beneath the torment of the lash. The sound of the blows reechoes through the courtyard, until even the God-Man can scarcely endure more; He falls in a pool of His own Blood. Our hearts are moved to compassion as we behold the patience of the Divine Sufferer. Would that we could put an end to the scourging that Jesus is enduring today, in countries behind the Iron Curtain! We offer, through your Immaculate Heart, in reparation, our little sacrifices together with this Block Rosary and we beg through the merits of His Sacred Passion the grace never to offend against holy Purity.



# THE BLOCK ROSARY

## THIRD SORROWFUL MYSTERY THE CROWNING WITH THORNS

"And the soldiers, plaiting a crown of thorns, put it upon His Head." (John 19,2)

Mother of the Prince of Peace, who can fathom the mystery of the humiliation to which Jesus is subjected in this mockery of His royal power?

Jesus is God; He has but to will it, and His captors will be instantly struck dead. Being the God of infinite Love, He suffers in silence, to atone for our pride and materialism. That thorn-crowned Head, turning, looked on Peter, and the Prince of the Apostles, going out, wept bitterly. Mother of Sorrows, your Immaculate Heart was ever humble in its purity; may our hearts be ever humble in their penitence.

## FOURTH SORROWFUL MYSTERY THE CARRYING OF THE CROSS

"And bearing the cross for Himself, He went forth to the place called the Skull." (John 19,17)

With you, Mother Mary, we are following during this Block Rosary in the bloodstained footsteps of Jesus. As we recognize the love with which Jesus embraces the Cross, we are sorry for our frequent rebellion against the Holy Will of God. From this day forward we will tread patiently along the Royal Road of the Cross, the only highway that leads directly to heaven.

## FIFTH SORROWFUL MYSTERY THE CRUCIFIXION

"There stood by the cross of Jesus, His mother."  
(John 19,25)

Sorrowful Mother, you stand at the foot of the cross, treasuring the last words of your dying Son. His work is finished; in obedience to the Divine Decree He has given His all, the very last drop of His Precious Blood.



by means of His Sacraments, the merits of His Passion and Death are applied to our souls, through your mediation. Gratefully we dedicate ourselves to your service forever. May you be with us at the moment of our death; and may you present each soul to your Divine Son, our Redeemer; with the words, "This is my child."

## FIRST GLORIOUS MYSTERY

### THE RESURRECTION

In the early dawn of Easter morning, an angel announced to the holy women the glad tidings of the Resurrection. Beloved Mother of Jesus, you were already enjoying the consolation of His Presence. The sorrow and suffering of Calvary are no more. "O Queen of heaven, rejoice!" We members of the Block Rosary share your joy as we shared with you the anguish of Good Friday. Your happiness is ours; no earthly interest compares with the knowledge and love of the Risen Savior.

## SECOND GLORIOUS MYSTERY

### THE ASCENSION

Victorious over sin and death, your Divine Son ascends by His own power into heaven. Together with you, His Mother, we watch until a cloud hides Him from our view. He has been so lavish of His graces that even we sinners have shared in them; and now He returns to His Father's House, to receive a welcome such as only God can offer to God. "The Lord said to my Lord: Sit Thou at my right hand, until I make Thine enemies Thy footstool." (Ps1. 109,1).

Mother of God, we who have been faithful to your Block Rosary beg, through your intercession, for a remembrance in His Heavenly Kingdom, where we already dwell in spirit as children of adoption.



## THE BLOCK ROSARY

### THIRD GLORIOUS MYSTERY

#### THE DESCENT OF THE HOLY GHOST

Mother of the Infant Church, you remained on earth to guide and instruct it in its first beginnings, even as you watched over the first faltering steps taken by your Infant Son. He was Divine, whereas the first Apostles were very human and incapable, themselves, of performing the tremendous task assigned to them. And so, after nine days of prayer--the first novena, in which you joined with them to assure the fulfillment of their petition,--Jesus sent the Holy Ghost upon them. We, too, pray in union with you during this Block Rosary, Blessed Mother of God; and we hope that the Holy Ghost will come and will bring to us the inestimable Gift of His Peace.

### FOURTH GLORIOUS MYSTERY

#### THE ASSUMPTION

As the evening of life approached for you, sweet Mother Mary, it was your desire for reunion with the Beloved that broke the bonds which held you captive to this earth. Scarcely had your pure soul winged its upward flight to the Eternal Realms than Jesus, wishing to honor the one who had mothered His Human Nature of her immaculate flesh, assumed you bodily into heaven.

Reverently we pay you homage, we who are exiles in this vale of tears. May our union of prayer as a Block Rosary group be but a prelude to the eternal happiness of loving and praising Jesus, together with you, our Mother, in our heavenly home.

### FIFTH GLORIOUS MYSTERY

#### THE CORONATION

O most glorious Queen of the Heavenly Citizens, thou art fittingly honored as the beloved daughter of God the Father, the most dear Mother of God the Son, the cherished



spouse of God the Holy Ghost. We humbly salute thee, and we lay our Block Rosary as a crown of roses at thy feet. May our hearts be so inflamed with longing to see thee thus gloriously crowned that the desire may never die within us until we attain the fruition of thy blessed sight. Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, deign to accept the renewed consecration which we fervently offer to Thy Immaculate Heart this day!

**LEADER:** Hail, holy queen, mother of mercy, our life, our sweetness, and our hope! To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve; to thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn then, most gracious advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us; and after this our exile show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary!  
Pray for us, O holy mother of God.

**GROUP:** That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

**LEADER:** O God, Whose only-begotten Son, by His Life, Death and Resurrection, has purchased for us the rewards of Eternal Life, grant, we beseech Thee, that we who meditate on these mysteries of the most holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary, may both imitate what they contain and obtain what they promise. Through the same Christ Our Lord.  
Amen.

Queen of the Most Holy Rosary!

**GROUP:** Pray for us.

**LEADER:** May the Divine assistance remain always with us.

**GROUP:** And may the souls of the faithful departed, through the Mercy of God, rest in peace.  
Amen.



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