

St. Francis of Assisi Parish: Generations of Faith

A Year on Prayer: Connecting to God in Traditional and Unique Ways

Recent documents from the U. S. Bishops challenge all members of the Church to embrace the practice of lifelong learning of the faith. At every age, there is something to be learned and experienced on an individual's journey of faith. Generations of Faith offers a unique experience for all members of our faith community to learn and grow together in relationship with Jesus and His Church. In this sixth season of Generations of Faith our community will devote time to a study of prayer. It is our goal that all participants will connect with God in new ways as they become more aware of prayer as an expression of an intimate relationship with Jesus Christ.

October is considered the month of the Rosary with the celebration of Mary's special Feast Day as Our Lady of the Rosary on October 7th.

October 2009

G of F EVENT

Our Generations of Faith participants, Parish members, and members of our Knights of Columbus will soon gather together for the dedication of the K of C Memorial to the Unborn. The engraved pink granite bench, remembering all unborn children, will be placed in front of the statue of Mary to the right of the church.

The ceremony on **Sunday evening October 25th** will include a Living Rosary. It will begin at **7pm** outside the church, weather permitting. We will move inside the church if it is raining. Our 5th and 6th grade children will participate by leading the rosary prayers at the ceremony. †

continents for which we pray. Mother Teresa would pray for "the poor and dying on each continent." The green decade is for Africa. The red decade is for the Americas, Mexico and Canada. The white decade is prayed for Europe. The blue decade is for the Islands in the South Pacific. Finally, the yellow decade is for Asia. When the rosary begins, the first three Hail Mary's are recited for Faith, Hope, and Charity and for all the missionaries throughout the world.

The Blessed Mother said at Fatima: "Pray the rosary every day. Pray for the world and for peace. Only my Immaculate heart can help you." †

slowly counted off on a string. When the words are repeated so often, it is not important always to think about what they mean. Often the words will simply become a sort of background music, while we think about the life of Jesus for that length of time and the virtues that are being conveyed by His example.

When people pray the rosary they usually meditate on five of the stories to think about at a time, either joyful, sorrowful, glorious, or luminous. Usually the Our Father is said at the beginning of each story, and the Glory Be at the end. People often add the Fatima prayer at the end of each story also.

(Adapted from Some Catholic Prayers by Hubert Richards) †

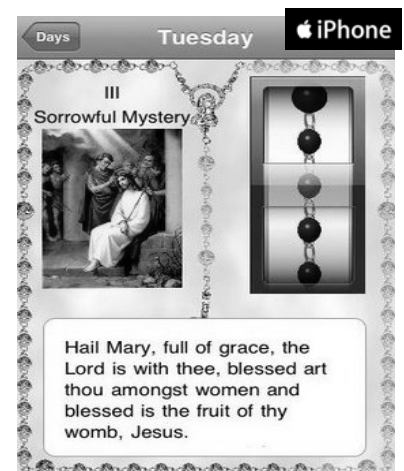
The World Mission ROSARY

Have you ever seen a rosary where each of the sections of ten Hail Mary beads was a different color? Did you know that this kind of rosary is called a World Mission Rosary? The purpose of the World Mission Rosary, promoted by Mother Teresa, is to pray for world peace and conversion. The five different colors represent the five

PRAYING the Rosary

In the rosary the friends of Jesus have always remembered the stories told about Him, and pray about them. The rosary is made up of 20 of these stories. Five are joyful. Five are sorrowful, five glorious and five luminous.

For each story the Hail Mary is said ten times, while the beads are



**ANSWER to last month's
Riddle to Ponder**



*What is greater than God?
More evil than the devil?
The poor have it?
The rich need it?
And if you eat it, you'll die?*

Answer: Nothing!

**Pope John Paul II's
FAVORITE Prayer**

*"To recite the rosary is nothing
other than to contemplate with
Mary the face of Christ."*

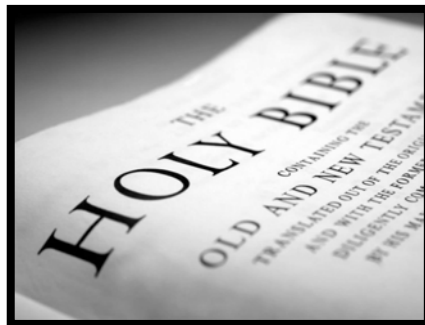
*~Pope John Paul II (Rosarium
Virginis Mariae #3)*

For Pope John Paul II the rosary was a daily and "favorite" prayer. He states, "The rosary has accompanied me in moments of joy and in moments of difficulty. To it I have entrusted any number of concerns; in it I have always found comfort. The rosary is marvelous in its simplicity and in its depth." (#1) It is under the protection of the Blessed Mother, that he placed his Papal Ministry. (#2)

In his 1995 Apostolic letter on the rosary called Rosarium Virginiae Mariae, Pope John Paul II called for a renewal of the devotion, citing the rosary as the "most effective means" of fostering contemplation on the mystery of Christ. "By its nature the recitation of the rosary calls for a quiet rhythm and a lingering pace, helping the individual to meditate on the mysteries of the Lord's life as seen through the eyes of her who was closest to the lord." (#12)

In the letter, he proposed a new set of mysteries, called the Luminous Mysteries, or the Mysteries of Light. By adding these 5 mysteries, one broadens the contemplation of the life of Christ to include significant moments in His public ministry between His Baptism and His Passion. (#19)

At the end of the letter, Pope John Paul II suggested that we willingly entrust the power of this prayer to the cause of peace in the world and the cause of the family, just as He did. He went on to state, "A prayer so easy and yet so rich truly deserves to be rediscovered by the Christian community." (#43) †



**SCRIPTURE for the Mysteries
of the Rosary**

The following Scripture references will provide a source from which each of the Mysteries of the Rosary originated. Consider using these to meditate on the life of Christ.

Joyful Mysteries

- Annunciation..... Luke 1:28
- Visitation..... Luke 1:41-42
- Nativity..... Luke 2:7
- Presentation..... Luke 2:22-23
- Finding of Jesus in the Temple..... Luke 2:46

Luminous Mysteries

- Baptism of Jesus Matthew 3:16-17

- Wedding at Cana..... John 2:5-7
- Proclamation of the Kingdom..... Matthew 10:7-8
- Transfiguration..... Luke 9:29, 35
- Institution of the Eucharist..... Luke 22:19-20

Sorrowful Mysteries

- Agony in the Garden Luke 22:44-45
- Scourging at the Pillar John 19:1
- Crowning with Thorns..... Matthew 27:28-29
- Carrying of the Cross..... John 19:17
- Crucifixion..... Luke 23:46

Glorious Mysteries

- Resurrection Mark 16:6
- Ascension..... Mark 16:19
- Descent of the Holy Spirit Acts 2:4
- Assumption..... Judith 15:9-10
- Coronation Revelation 12:1

