

ROSARY FOR CATECHISTS

THE FIVE JOYFUL MYSTERIES

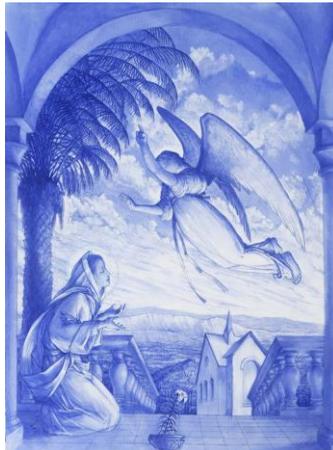
The Holy Rosary, According to Saint John Paul II's, October 16, 2002 Apostolic Letter *Rosarium Virginis Mariae*, "On The Most Holy Rosary."

First Joyful Mystery: The Annunciation—Mary, the spouse of Saint Joseph, consents to be the Mother of God

Leader: Bless All Catechists with The Fruit of the Mystery: A Profound Humility

Leader: "And [the angel Gabriel] came to her and said, 'Hail, Full of Grace, the Lord is with you!...Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a Son, and you shall call His name Jesus'" (Luke 1:28-31).

"Gabriel's greeting to the Virgin of Nazareth is linked to an invitation to messianic joy: 'Rejoice, Mary.' The whole of Salvation History, in some sense the entire history of the world, has led up to this greeting. If it is the Father's plan to unite all things in Christ, then the whole of the universe is in some way touched by the divine favour with which the Father looks upon Mary and makes her the Mother of His Son. The whole of humanity, in turn, is embraced by the *fiat* with which she readily agrees to the will of God" (*Rosarium Virginis Mariae*, n. 20).



Pause for a moment*

Leader: Our Father, Who art in Heaven... **R. Give us this day...**

Leader: Hail Mary...blessed is the Fruit of thy womb, Jesus, **Conceived in thee by the Holy Spirit.** **

R. Holy Mary, Mother ...

Leader: Glory Be..., Oh My Jesus,

Concluding prayer:

R. Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mother of America and Star of the New Evangelization, pray for the Holy Spirit to grant all catechists the grace to "teach by word and example the truth which comes from Christ" (cf. *Book of Blessings*, p. 212).***

Second Joyful Mystery: The Visitation

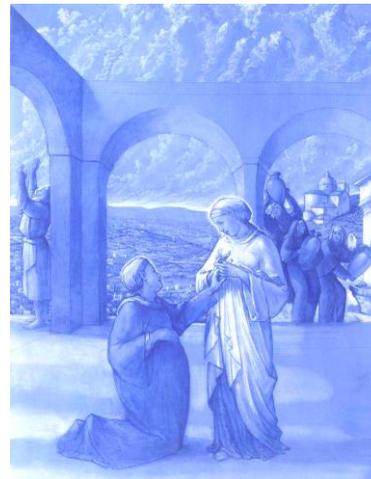
Leader: Bless All Catechists with The Fruit of the Mystery: Charity Towards Our Neighbor

Leader: "And when Elizabeth heard the greeting of Mary, the babe leaped in her womb; and Elizabeth was filled with the Holy Spirit and she exclaimed with a loud cry, 'Blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb! And why is this granted me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me?'" (Luke 1:41-43).

"Exultation is the keynote of the encounter with Elizabeth, where the sound of Mary's voice and the presence of Christ in her womb cause John to 'leap for joy'" (*Rosarium Virginis Mariae*, n. 20).

Pause for a moment*

Leader: Our Father, Who art in Heaven... **R. Give us this day...**



Leader: Hail Mary...blessed is the Fruit of thy womb, Jesus, **Whom thou carried to Elizabeth.** **

R. Holy Mary, Mother of God...

Leader: Glory Be..., Oh My Jesus, forgive us...

Concluding prayer:

R. Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mother of America and Star of the New Evangelization, pray for the Holy Spirit to grant all catechists the grace to entrust themselves daily to your maternal care that you may "act as Mother, Teacher and Guide, sustaining them and the faithful by your powerful intercession" (cf. *Rosarium Virginis Mariae* n. 37).

Third Joyful Mystery: The Nativity

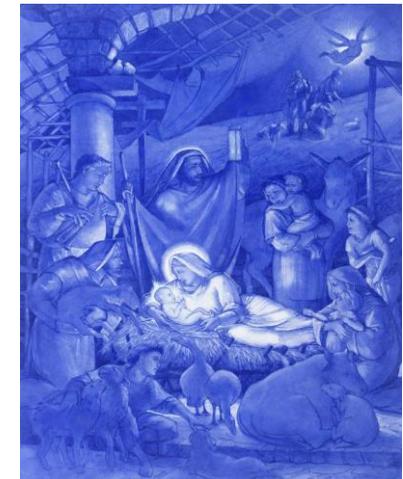
Leader: Bless All Catechists with The Fruit of the Mystery: Spirit of Poverty–Detachment from Material Things

Leader: "And the angel said to the shepherds, 'Be not afraid; for behold, I bring you good news of a great joy which will come to all the people; for to you is born this day in the City of David, a Savior, Who is Christ the Lord. And this will be a sign for you: you will find a babe wrapped in swaddling cloths and lying in a manger.'" (Luke 2:10-14).

"Gladness fills the scene in Bethlehem, when the birth of the divine Child, the Saviour of the world, is announced by the song of the angels and proclaimed to the shepherds as 'news of great joy'" (*Rosarium Virginis Mariae*, n. 20).

Pause for a moment*

Leader: Our Father, Who art in Heaven... **R. Give us this day...**



Leader: Hail Mary...blessed is the Fruit of thy womb, Jesus, **Who was born to thee in Bethlehem.** **

R. Holy Mary, Mother of God...

Leader: Glory Be..., Oh My Jesus, forgive us...

Concluding prayer:

R. Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mother of America and Star of the New Evangelization, pray for "the Holy Spirit to grant all catechists the grace to guide their hearts and lips, so that they remain constant in loving and praising our Lord, Jesus Christ" (cf. *Book of Blessings*, p. 215).***

Fourth Joyful Mystery:

The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple

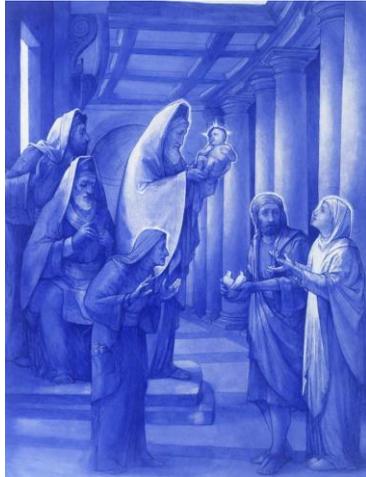
Leader: Bless All Catechists with The Fruit of the Mystery: Obedience

Leader: "[Simeon] took Him up in his arms and blessed God and said, 'Lord, now lettest thou Thy servant depart in peace, according to Thy word, for mine eyes have seen Thy salvation, which Thou hast prepared in the presence of all peoples, a light for revelation to the Gentiles, and for the glory to Thy people Israel'" (Luke 2:28-32).

"The Presentation in the Temple not only expresses the joy of the Child's consecration and the ecstasy of the aged Simeon; it also records the prophecy that Christ will be a 'sign of contradiction' for Israel and that a sword will pierce His mother's heart" (*Rosarium Virginis Mariae*, n. 20).

Pause for a moment*

Leader: Our Father, Who art in Heaven...**R. Give us this day...**



Leader: Hail Mary...blessed is the Fruit of thy womb, Jesus, Whom thou presented in the Temple. **

R. Holy Mary, Mother of God...

Leader: Glory Be..., Oh My Jesus, forgive us...

Concluding prayer:

R. Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mother of America and Star of the New Evangelization, pray for the Holy Spirit to grant all catechists the grace to be "docile to the teaching of the apostles and to live lives consistent with the truths we believe" (cf. Book of Blessings, p. 214).***

Fifth Joyful Mystery:

The Finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple

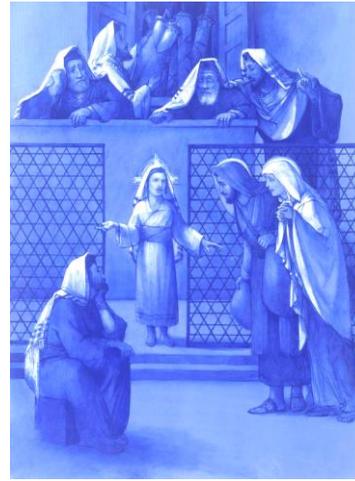
Leader: Bless All Catechists with The Fruit of the Mystery: The Gift of True Wisdom & To Serve Jesus with Great Love

Leader: "After three days they found Him in the temple, sitting among the teachers, listening to them and asking them questions; and all who heard Him were amazed at His understanding and His answers" (Luke 2:46-47).

"Joy mixed with drama marks the fifth mystery, the finding of the twelve-year-old Jesus in the Temple. Here He appears in His divine wisdom as He listens and raises questions, already in effect one Who 'teaches.' The revelation of His mystery as the Son wholly dedicated to His Father's affairs proclaims the radical nature of the Gospel, in which even the closest of human relationships are challenged by the absolute demands of the Kingdom." (*Rosarium Virginis Mariae*, n. 20).

Pause for a moment*

Leader: Our Father, Who art in Heaven...**R. Give us this day...**



Leader: Hail Mary...blessed is the Fruit of thy womb, Jesus, Whom thou found in the Temple. **

R. Holy Mary, Mother of God...

Leader: Glory Be..., Oh My Jesus, forgive us...

Concluding prayer:

R. Our Lady of Guadalupe, Mother of America and Star of the New Evangelization, pray for the Holy Spirit to grant all catechists the grace to be "faithful ministers of the Church, so that, having taught others, they themselves may be found faithful in Christ's service" (cf. Book of Blessings, p. 215).***

Hail Holy Queen

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 towards us; and after this our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus! O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary!

V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God.

R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

St. Michael the Archangel

St. Michael, the Archangel, defend us in battle. Be our safeguard against the wickedness and snares of the devil. May God rebuke him, we humbly pray, and do thou, O Prince of the Heavenly Host, by the power of God, cast into hell, Satan and all the evil spirits, who prowl about the world seeking the ruin of souls. Amen.

Summary of the Joyful Mysteries

"To meditate upon the 'joyful' mysteries, is to enter into the ultimate causes and the deepest meaning of Christian joy. It is to focus on the realism of the mystery of the Incarnation and on the obscure foreshadowing of the mystery of the saving Passion. Mary leads us to discover the secret of Christian joy" (*Rosarium Virginis Mariae*, n. 20).

The Rosary Beads—Pope Saint John Paul II reflects upon the significance of the Rosary beads, he suggests four meanings to give added depth to contemplation:

1) Reflect on the converging of the beads upon the crucifix as an expression of our life being centered on Christ crucified; everything begins from Him, everything leads towards Him.

2) Reflect on the use of the beads as a counting mechanism—which marks the progress of our prayer and evokes the unending path of contemplation and Christian perfection.

3) Reflect on the beads as a chain linking us to God in love.

4) Let the beads remind you of your many relationships in the one bond of love with God—united in Christ (cf. *Rosarium Virginis Mariae*, n. 36).

***Pause before starting the Our Father** to allow time to focus on the content of the mystery (cf. *Rosarium Virginis Mariae*, n. 31).

****The phrase is added as an aid in concentration.** "The center of gravity in the Hail Mary is the name of Jesus. Sometimes, in hurried recitation, this center of gravity can be overlooked, and with it the connection to the mystery of Christ being contemplated. Yet it is precisely the emphasis given to the name of Jesus and to His mystery that is the sign of a meaningful and fruitful recitation of the Rosary. [The phrase] is at once a profession of faith and an aid in concentrating our meditation..." (*Rosarium Virginis Mariae*, n. 33).

*****The Concluding Prayer is to request the fruits of each mystery; phrases are taken from *The Roman Ritual Book of Blessings*, New York: Catholic Book Publishing Co., 1989 (Recommended in *Rosarium Virginis Mariae*, n. 35).**

Sacred Scripture passages are given to provide "greater depth to our meditation," and to "allow God to speak" to us (*Rosarium Virginis Mariae*, n. 30).

Virtues prayed for:

Humility: Recognition that everything comes from God—recognizing our complete dependence on Him.

Charity: Love God above all things and our neighbor as ourselves for the love of God.

Spirit of Poverty: Internal detachment from material possessions. Those who possess *goods* must practice humility and charity.

Obedience: The sacrifice of one's will to the will of another in authority. Humility and Obedience go together.

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