



# Messenger Project Newsletter

## The Messenger

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A NONPROFIT CORPORATION PROMOTING THE BIBLE THROUGH THE ARTS

### Messenger Project Members

Lionel De Leon, President-Founder,  
Editor-Publisher of *The Messenger*  
Raymond Genovese, Treasurer  
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## Messenger Notes

**Skip Hahn** recorded keyboard tracks for 3 songs while **Bart Broadnax** (bass) and **Raymond Genovese** (drums) recorded 5 songs. This completes the recording of bass and drums for our upcoming CD.

## The Catholic Rosary



Roman Catholic use of prayer beads dates from the fourth century, when they were used to count *Hail Mary's*, *Our Father's* and other prayers. The modern Catholic rosary is thought to

have originated around 1409-1415 A.D., when a Carthusian monk (**Dominic**) began meditating on the life of Jesus while repeating Ave Maria's. Many Catholics believe that the rosary was given to St. Dominic (founder of the Dominican order) by Mary in a miraculous vision in 1214. This legend may have been started by the intertwining of the rosary's history with the history of the Dominican Order of Preachers, who were the primary advocates for praying the rosary since 1468.

The word rosary comes from the German *rosenkranz*, which means rose garden or wreath. There's a legend that a monk once said 50 Ave Marias and they turned into roses (a *rosenkranz*). In Latin, *rosarium* can mean either a rose garden or an anthology of prayer. The use of the word beads for the rosary may come from the Dutch word for prayer, *bede*. The words are connected because each bead means a prayer.

The rosary was first said while meditating on fifty clauses about the life of Jesus Christ. In 1483, a Dominican prayer book reduced the fifty meditations to fifteen mysteries.

The ultimate source of the rosary as a prayer form is the Book of Psalms. From the very beginning,

the Church claimed the psalms as part of its Jewish heritage and placed their recitation at the heart of its liturgy and daily prayer. The practice of praying an Our Father instead of a psalm caught on in the early medieval period, and this marked the birth of the rosary devotion. In order to keep count of the prayers, strings of beads were used. Soon, to each of the 150 Our Fathers people began to add a short phrase about Jesus and Mary, thus linking vocal prayer to contemplation of the mysteries of the faith. Then, they substituted brief meditations on Jesus and Mary from the Annunciation to the Resurrection of Jesus and the Assumption of Mary. In the early 15th century a Carthusian monk, Dominic of Prussia, linked 50 Hail Marys with 50 phrases about Jesus and Mary. This is the origin of the word rosary, since the series of 50 points of meditation was called a *rosarium* (rose garden).

The rose, a symbol of joy, referred to Mary, and *rosary* came to refer to the recitation of 50 Hail Marys. Another Carthusian monk (**Henry Kalkar**) contributed by organizing the Hail Marys into groups of ten (decades), with an Our Father before each.

In 1470, another Dominican (**Alan de la Roche**) founded the Confraternity of the Psalter of Jesus and Mary, which contributed to the rosary's popularity.

By 1480, rosaries of 50 mysteries (one for each Hail Mary) had been reduced to 5 mysteries, one for each decade. In 1483, *Our Dear Lady's Psalter*, a rosary book by a Dominican, mentions 15 mysteries, all of which are the same as today except the final two glorious mysteries.

In 1521, another Dominican (**Alberto de Costello**) was the first to use the term *mystery* to refer to the meditations for each decade of the rosary. He attached a mystery to each of the 15 *Our Fathers* while retaining 150 sub-mysteries for each *Hail Mary*.

In 1569, **Pope St. Pius V** published a papal bull that is often called the magna carta of the rosary, *Consueverent Romani Pontifices* (call to prayer). In doing this, Pope St. Pius V formally established the rosary prayer form that had been

developing for centuries. He made a lasting contribution by definitively linking meditation on the mysteries of Christ's life to the prayer of the rosary.

Today's Rosary is made up of twenty *mysteries*, which are grouped into four series :

### The Joyful Mysteries

1. The Annunciation of Gabriel to Mary
2. The Visitation of Mary to Elizabeth
3. The Birth of Jesus
4. The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple
5. Finding Jesus in the Temple

### The Luminous Mysteries

1. The Baptism of Jesus in the River Jordan
2. The Wedding at Cana
3. the Proclamation of the Kingdom of God
4. The Transfiguration of Jesus
5. The Last Supper, the Holy Eucharist

### The Sorrowful Mysteries

1. Agony of Jesus in the Garden
2. Jesus is Scourged at the Pillar
3. Jesus is Crowned With Thorns
4. Jesus Carries His Cross
5. The Crucifixion of Jesus

### The Glorious Mysteries

1. The Resurrection of Jesus
2. The Ascension of Jesus
3. The Descent of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost
4. The Assumption of Mary into Heaven
5. The Coronation of Mary as Queen of Heaven and Earth

Protestants believe that praying the rosary is contrary to Jesus' teachings: *And when you pray, do not keep on babbling like pagans, for they think they will be heard because of their many words.* (Mt 6:7). Protestants don't believe in praying to the saints: *For there is one God and one mediator between God and men, the man Christ Jesus* (1 Ti 2:5). Protestants reject the veneration of Mary because it is not scriptural. Yet for Catholics, reciting the rosary is an act of devotion and penance. And there is more in common than differences between Catholics and Protestants. In fact, today there are more differences between liberal and conservative Protestant sects than between Catholics and Protestants! In the final analysis, both worship the same God in different ways.