

Dominican Sisters of Saint Cecilia

Laudare, Benedicere, Praedicare

TO PRAISE, TO BLESS, TO PREACH

October 2016

The Month of the Rosary

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The Rosary in the Dominican Order . . .



"The history of the Rosary shows how this prayer was used in particular by the Dominicans at a difficult time for the Church due to the spread of heresy. Today we are facing new challenges. Why should we not once more have recourse to the Rosary?"
~ Rosarium Virginis Mariae, Pope John Paul II

Dominic was a devoted lover of Our Lady, singing hymns to her as he walked the roads of Europe. Throughout the subsequent history of the Order, Dominicans have traditionally been known as promoters of the rosary, finding it an effective means to teach prayerful reflection on the mystery of the Incarnate Son of God. As Pope John Paul II states in his Apostolic Letter Rosarium Virginis Mariae, the rosary is "a compendium of the Gospel" and "one of the traditional paths of Christian prayer directed to the contemplation of Christ's face" (18). Through the rosary, Dominicans not only preach the Gospel but help the faithful to interiorize it and let it transform them.

While it was characteristic of the Eastern Church look to the "Jesus Prayer" as a means of practicing continuous prayer, in the West, the words of the Gospel which capture the moment of the Incarnation were repeated: "Hail full of Grace, the Lord is with you....Blessed is the fruit of your womb" (Lk 1:28, 42). For those who could not read the prayers of the Divine Office, the number of repetitions was 150, replacing the chanting of the 150 psalms. Over time, the Hail Mary as we know it developed, and the 150 Hail Mary's were later organized into groups of ten, with each group becoming the background for reflection on a specific mystery from the life of Christ. Throughout the prayer, the Blessed Mother, whose own life was so closely bound to the mystery of her Son, assists us in keeping all these things and pondering them in our hearts (cf. Lk 2:19).

...and in the Congregation of *St. Cecilia*

Many customs in our Community flow from this love of the rosary. The rosary is an essential part of the Dominican habit, worn on the belt and fingered throughout the day, "the emblem of prayer by which your soul will be united to God" (Rite of Reception of the Dominican Habit).

We pray the rosary daily in common and pray additional rosaries for the deceased in the month of November and after the death of one of our sisters. On the first Sunday of every month, there is a Rosary Procession at the Motherhouse, with the community singing Marian hymns and praying the rosary in procession. The first Sunday of October is "Rosary Sunday" with the rosary being prayed continuously at the Motherhouse by groups of sisters throughout the day. Through these rosary devotions the sisters of the community seek to become intercessors and contemplatives after the example of Our Lady.



Praying the rosary before a statue of Our Lady in our cloistered garden, during the Rosary Procession.

RECOMMENDED READING

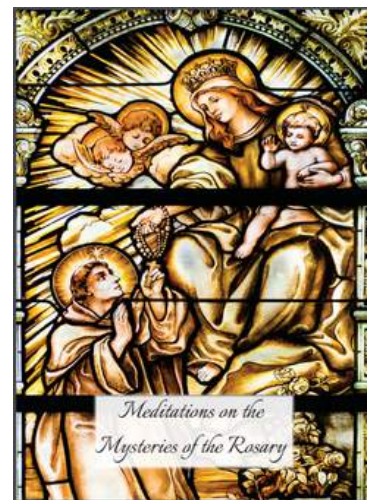


"In *Champions of the Rosary*, Fr. Calloway has written what is probably the most comprehensive book ever written on the rosary. The author deftly negotiates the complexities of the story of the rosary, weaving the historical, theological, and devotional strands into a veritable masterpiece of scholarship and piety. This book should turn every one of its readers into a champion of the rosary."

Archbishop Augustine Di Noia, OP, Assistant Secretary, Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith (Vatican City)

(Available through fathercalloway.com)

See also this booklet of meditations on the rosary composed by one of our sisters, available at nashvilledominican.org/bookstore/



The Rosary of the Virgin Mary . . . is a prayer loved by countless Saints and encouraged by the Magisterium. Simple yet profound, it still remains, at the dawn of this third millennium, a prayer of great significance, destined to bring forth a harvest of holiness.

~ Pope John Paul II

*Feast of
Our Lady
of the
Rosary
October 7*



The Church has always attributed particular efficacy to this prayer, entrusting to the Rosary . . . the most difficult problems. At times when Christianity itself seemed under threat, its deliverance was attributed to the power of this prayer, and Our Lady of the Rosary was acclaimed as the one whose intercession brought salvation.

(Rosarium Virginis Mariae, 39)

Jesu Caritas Retreat

SEPTEMBER 30 - OCTOBER 2, 2016



Over 80 young women participated in a weekend retreat at the Motherhouse the first weekend in October. Father John Baptist Hoang, a Dominican from the Eastern Province preached on the transforming power of grace. Enjoying a time of prayer and quiet in a monastic setting, many retreatants said they returned home refreshed and strengthened in their love for God.



*"The Immeasurable Riches
of His Grace."*

Eph. 2:7



Memphis, TN

October 15, 2016



Dominican 800 Jubilee Celebration



Sister Mary Lawrence Wright enjoyed the celebration at St. Peter's with members of her own family, who live in Memphis.

On Saturday, October 15, at St. Peter's Church in Memphis, friars of the Southern Province sponsored a celebration of the Order's 800th Anniversary. Dominican Master General, Father Bruno Cadore was special guest at the event, to which both religious and lay members of the Dominican Family, as well as friends of the Order, were invited. Father Bruno and Mother Ann Marie were among panelists who each presented a Dominican



Fr. Bruno
Cadore, OP

of the past and the future, noting their impact on the Church and the world. Over 90 of our sisters, including our novitiate, enjoyed time with our extended family, celebrating 800 years of preaching the truths of our Faith.

A Pilgrimage to the Catholic Beginnings of Kentucky



Bishop Flaget's Cabin



St. Catharine Motherhouse, Springfield



touching Flaget's altar stone in St. Thomas Church

Excited about community's new mission in Elizabethtown, Kentucky, a group of 24 sisters made a pilgrimage on October 7 to some of the Catholic Church's historic sites in our neighboring state. We visited the two-story log cabin of Bishop Joseph Flaget, first bishop west of the Appalachian Mountains. Its poverty was in contrast to the beauty of St. Joseph's Church, his first cathedral, built down the road in Bardstown. Next, in nearby Springfield we made our way to the site of the beginnings of Dominican life in America: St. Rose, the first foundation of Dominican friars, and St. Catharine that of the first Dominican Sisters.



Bishop Flaget



St. Rose Church, Springfield



St. Joseph's Proto-Cathedral, Bardstown

We next enjoyed visiting our three sisters in Elizabethtown, who have been staffing Saint James Catholic School and leading Family Faith Formation in the parish since August.

The pilgrimage ended with prayers at the Chapel of Divine Mercy in South Union. In all, it was a blessed day in Kentucky during this Jubilee Year of Mercy.



Above: Sister Mary Esther's parents, Mr. and Mrs. Potts, hosted our entire group for lunch.



Left: Supper that evening was with our sisters at St. James Parish in Elizabethtown.



Chapel of Divine Mercy

Fathers of Mercy
South Union, Ky

University Visits

This month, several universities invited sisters to spend time with students, simply to enjoy the time with them and provide the opportunity for students to learn more about religious life.

October 7-9, 2016



NOTRE DAME: "DAY WITH THE SISTERS"



While in Indiana, Sister Michaela and Sister Peter Marie also stopped by at **Ball State - Oct. 7, 2016.**



Meanwhile, Sister Maria Sophia
and Sister Margaret Joseph
participated in the

October 7-9, Texas Tech University

RAIDER AWAKENING.





Future Travels

this November

Providence College, RI – "O.P. Jamboree"
Nov. 3–7

University of Rhode Island
Nov. 9

New Haven, CT – St. Mary's Church
Nov. 10–12

Point Pleasant, NJ – The Church of St. Martha
Nov. 13–16

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