



My Dear Parishioners,

Praised be Jesus Christ! Many thanks to all who made our 2021 Oktoberfest such a terrific time. Special thanks to **Braeloch Brewing** and **Rump Roasters** for providing the drink and food (Please be sure to support these fine establishments!) And of course, thanks Jen Keller and her great team of parishioners who made the day! While cloudy and cool, the Blessed Mother came thru once again, holding off the rain throughout our time.

Two weeks ago as October began, I shared a bit about RESPECT LIFE. This week, as the month continues, I share a bit about the ROSARY. After the Mass and the Sacraments, the rosary is a most powerful means of grace because it is so Christ-centered. Centered in the Word of God, a means of meditation and contemplation of Christ with Mary, it is hard to overestimate the importance, power and significance of this Christian Prayer. Personally, I never leave home without it, it is always in my pocket and serves as a reminder of my connection with God. It's my "spiritual umbilical cord": letting out all that is not of God and letting in all that is of God, thru it I breathe and come to life. The Catholic Poet Joyce Kilmer called it "**the stringed instrument that any hand can play**". In modern days, one might call it a spiritual fidget spinner! All kidding aside, I commend this prayer to everyone and share this brief descriptive of it from St. Paul Center of Biblical Theology.

The Rosary focuses on key aspects of the Christian faith, especially as seen in the twenty mysteries. These meditations have been called a short course in theology because of the wealth of truth and inspiration they contain. Through meditating on these mysteries we are led to prayers of adoration, contrition, thanksgiving, and petition. It is also an opportunity for the Holy Spirit to work in our hearts and minds as we pray to bring understanding and formation.

Where and when the Rosary began is unknown. The use of beads as an aid in prayer has a long history both in the Catholic Church and in other religions. The chain of beads establishes a framework, a setting, a pace for the prayer, and the repetition provides a background for meditation. Even though the origin of the Rosary is unknown, it is undeniable that its popularity grew significantly through the preaching of Saint Dominic, who died in 1221. Dominic encouraged the Rosary as a remedy to heresy. The meditation on the mysteries developed a foundation of the truths of the faith. This saint also saw the prayer as an antidote to sin. As Dominic and his followers preached throughout Europe, they encouraged the laity to regularly pray the Rosary.

The word rosary comes from the Latin *rosarius*, which means "garland" or "bouquet of flowers." It is an apt word for a bouquet of prayers offered to God. The word *bead* is an Old English term that originally meant "a prayer." As with any sacramental, prayer, or devotion, the Rosary can be a tremendous aid in drawing closer to God. The structure and flow of the prayer is meant to aid the individual in meditation. The rhythm of the prayer can quiet the spirit and help a person be more receptive to hearing God, and thus be formed spiritually.

Peace, Fr. Rogers