



Our Lady of the Rosary

The Church

The Confraternity of the Most Holy Rosary

EVERY Catholic knows what the Rosary is; its efficacy; its spiritual richness and its indulgences. But many Catholics who are devoted to this form of prayer do not know the many special and additional advantages that may be obtained by enrolling as a member of the Confraternity of the Most Holy Rosary. It is even possible that some may wonder: "What is the Rosary Confraternity?"

The late Very Rev. Charles H. McKenna, O. P., that zealous Apostle of the Rosary, responded to that mental question hundreds of times from missionary pulpits throughout our country; he anticipated the same question from present day Catholics in his "The Rosary, the Crown of Mary"—that familiar little blue-covered book of the mission book-rack—from which we take this extract:

"The Confraternity of the Most Holy Rosary is an association, the members of which undertake to say the fifteen Mysteries of the Rosary each week. It was founded by St. Dominic early in the thirteenth century, at the express instruction of Our Lady herself, who taught him this manner of praying, and inspired him to found the Confraternity in her honor. It is the most ancient of all confraternities existing in the Church, and probably none is more widely spread, or enriched with as many indulgences and other privileges.

"The advantages of the Confraternity of the Most Holy Rosary are obvious:

1. It obtains the special protection of the Blessed Virgin, since it was erected at her inspiration and in her honor.
2. The fulfilment of the obligation it imposes secures a number of prayers being said by each member, and reminds him of the principal Mysteries of our Holy Faith.
3. The members, in immense numbers, and all over the world, share in the benefits of each other's prayers and good works.
4. The members also participate in the merits and good works of the Order of St. Dominic, to which they are affiliated.
5. Numerous indulgences, both plenary and partial, are granted to the Confraternity.

"For hundreds of years this great Confraternity has literally embraced the world. The Rosary, which is the Gospel meditated, as well as the sweetest hymn of praise to Jesus and Mary, has become the daily companion of the learned and the simple. The Rosary has become the instructor of the child in the mysteries of Christianity; the consoler of the afflicted; the treasure of the poor; the monitor of the rich; the companion of the missionary; the prayer of the religious; the crown of the martyr. The Rosary has become the emblem of truth and the type of charity."

How to Join the Confraternity

The method of enrolling in the Confraternity is remarkably simple: merely give your full name to be registered in a Dominican Convent, or in some church where the Confraternity is canonically established. If it be more convenient you may send your name to Dominicana and it will be registered for you.

In order to obtain indulgences attached to the saying of the Rosary you must have your beads blessed by a Dominican or any other priest who has the power from the Master General of the Dominicans to impart the Dominican blessing to beads. Any priest can obtain faculties to bless beads with the Dominican indulgences by applying for that faculty to the Very Rev. M. J. Ripple, O. P., 869 Lexington Ave., New York City.

The obligation imposed upon members of the Confraternity is that they must say with meditation the entire Rosary each week, that is, the fifteen decades. It is not necessary to say the fifteen decades at one time or in one day. One may say five decades, or even one decade at a time. Even if a part or all of the fifteen decades is omitted during the week the member commits no sin. The loss he incurs is that he does not gain the indulgences which he would have gained as a member of the Confraternity for reciting the Rosary.

The indulgences to be gained, both plenary and partial, are so numerous that it is impossible to enumerate them here. Extracts from the various lists of indulgences may be obtained upon application, or by consulting Father McKenna's "The Rosary, the Crown of Mary" and the Dominican Calendar of Indulgences.