

Confraternity of the Most Holy Rosary



What is the Confraternity?

The Confraternity of the Most Holy Rosary (often known also as the Rosary Altar Society in the United States) is an international association of the faithful that exists “to praise and honor the Blessed Virgin Mary and to secure her patronage by the recitation of the Rosary for the mutual spiritual benefit of all the members throughout the world.” Each week, countless thousands of members pray the Holy Rosary and include each other’s intentions in their prayers.

The first Rosary Confraternity was established in the 1470s through the zealous preaching of the Rosary by Blessed Alan de la Roche, O.P. A few years later, another local Rosary Confraternity was established in Cologne by Fr. Joseph Sprenger, O.P. After this, Rosary Confraternities began to be established in still other cities. In no small part, it was due to the spread of the Confraternity that devotion to Our Lady’s Rosary likewise flourished and a more uniform system of reciting the Rosary developed. From the beginning, Rosary Confraternities were erected under the direction of the Dominican Friars and the establishment of all Rosary Confraternities eventually became a privilege reserved to the Dominican Order.

Today, members of the Rosary Confraternity promise the recitation of a weekly Rosary as their sole obligation. Although this obligation is very minimal—and does not bind under pain of sin—the spiritual benefits are extensive. Along with several plenary and partial indulgences that are granted to members of the Confraternity, members also benefit from the countless Rosaries that are offered for their intentions by the other members throughout the world. The Rosary Confraternity is probably the largest organization of this type within the Catholic Church. In addition, enrolled members also participate in all the prayers and good works performed by the friars, nuns, sisters, and laity of the Dominican Order.

The Confraternity was last reorganized by Pope Leo XIII in 1898 with his Apostolic Constitution, *Ubi Primum*, and continues to exist, under the direction of the Dominican Friars, in accordance with the norms of the current Code of Canon Law (1983).

Concerning Membership

All living faithful of the Catholic church who have reached the age of reason and are able to recite the fifteen decades of the Marian Rosary once a week may be enrolled as members of the Rosary Confraternity.

Obligations of Membership

The only obligation of the members of the Confraternity... is to recite the fifteen mysteries of the Rosary ...once a week.”

- It does not bind under pain of sin.
- Meditation on the mysteries is necessary.

- All members of the Confraternity are to be included in the intentions of each member's Rosary. A general intention suffices, and it need not be renewed each time.
- The fifteen decades of the Rosary do not need to be said at one time, but may be divided into decades and recited when convenient, as long as the fifteen decades are said during the week.
- This obligation does not imply the recitation of an *extra* fifteen decades if one recites the Rosary frequently, for example if one is accustomed to recite five decades a day.
- An altar of the Rosary Confraternity has been designated in our parish

The Privileges and Benefits of the Rosary Confraternity

- The participation in life, at death and after death in all the prayers and good works of all members of the Confraternity.
- The participation in the good works of the Dominican Order.
- And most importantly, the intercession and special protection of Our Lady, the Mother of God.

Indulgences Granted to the Members of the Rosary Confraternity

A plenary indulgence, under the usual conditions, is granted to all members:

- On the day of enrollment.
- On Christmas, Easter, and the Feast of the Annunciation, the Assumption, Our Lady of the Rosary, the Immaculate Conception, and the Presentation of Jesus in the Temple.

A plenary indulgence may be gained (under the usual conditions) to all who pray the Rosary in a Church or public oratory, in a family, religious community, or in a pious association. Otherwise, a partial indulgence is gained.

Rosary Confraternity Prayer

Queen of the Most Holy Rosary and Mother of us all, we come to you for help in our sorrows, trials, and necessities. Sin leaves us weak and helpless but divine Grace heals and strengthens.

We ask you for the grace to love Jesus as you loved Him, to believe as you believed, to hope as you hoped; we ask to share your purity of mind and heart. Give us true sorrow for sin and make us love people as you and Jesus loved them. Obtain for us the gifts of the Holy Spirit that we may be wise with your wisdom, understand with your understanding, know with your knowledge, prudent with your prudence, patient with your patience, courageous with your fortitude and desire justice ardently for everyone with the all-consuming desire of the Sacred Heart of Jesus your Son.

Open our minds that as we pray the Rosary we will understand the teachings of the Gospel contained in its mysteries.

We pray especially for the members of the Rosary Confraternity whom we love. Help them wherever they may be; guide them, watch over them and make them strong in their trials and suffering. We are drawn together by a common bond of great charity for you and for each other; keep us faithful to your Son and to your Rosary till death.

Intercede for the souls in Purgatory, especially for the members of the Rosary Confraternity who have died. May they rest in peace. Finally, we ask for the grace of final perseverance for ourselves and for our loved ones that we may all be reunited in heaven forever.

Saint Dominic, you who received so much Grace and Strength from the Rosary, Pray for Us.

Imprimi Potest Thomas P. Rafferty, OP, Lect. S. Th., J.C.P. Provincial

Nihil Obstat +Paul E. Waldschmidt, CSC D.D. S.T.D.

Imprimatur +Cornelius M. Power. D.D. J.C.D. Archbishop of Portland March 30, 1979

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE ROSARY CONFRATERNITY

Please enroll me in the Rosary Confraternity.

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ **State** _____ **Zip** _____

Phone _____ **Email** _____

Place in Collection Basket, or leave at Parish Office, or contact rtalnave@att.net

