

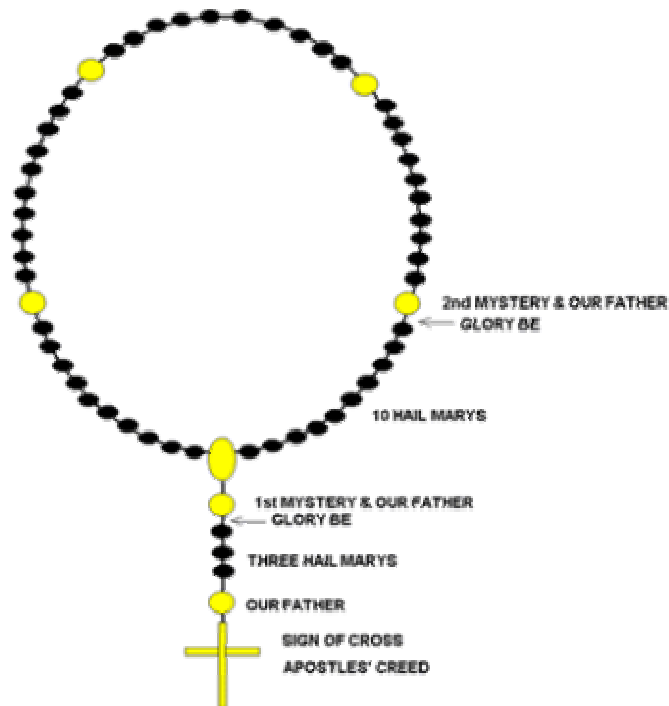
Voice of the Faithful



VOTF is a worldwide movement of concerned mainstream Catholics formed in response to the clergy sexual abuse crisis. The group's mission is to provide a prayerful voice, attentive to the Spirit, through which the Faithful can actively participate in the governance and guidance of the Catholic Church. Its goals are to support survivors of clergy sexual abuse, support priests of integrity, and shape structural change within the Catholic Church in full accordance and harmony with Church teaching. VOTF's supporting membership exceeds 35,000 registered persons from the 50 U.S. states and 37 other countries.

How To Pray The Rosary

The purpose of the Rosary is to help keep in memory certain principal events or mysteries in the history of our salvation, and to thank and praise God for them. There are twenty mysteries reflected upon in the Rosary, and these are divided into the five JOYFUL MYSTERIES, the five LUMINOUS MYSTERIES, the five SORROWFUL MYSTERIES, and the five GLORIOUS MYSTERIES. We will say the SORROWFUL MYSTERIES



1. Make the **Sign of the Cross** and say the "Apostles' Creed."
2. Say the "Our Father."
3. Say three "Hail Marys."
4. Say the "Glory be to the Father."
5. Announce the First Mystery; then say the "Our Father."
6. Say ten "Hail Marys," while meditating on the Mystery.
7. Say the "Glory be to the Father."
8. Announce the Second Mystery; then say the "Our Father." Repeat 6 and 7 and continue with Third, Fourth and Fifth Mysteries in the same manner.

After the Rosary:

HAIL, HOLY QUEEN, Mother of Mercy, our life, our sweetness and our hope! To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve; to thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn then, most gracious advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us, and after this our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary!

V. Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God.

R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray. O GOD, whose only begotten Son, by His life, death, and resurrection, has purchased for us the rewards of eternal life, grant, we beseech Thee, that meditating upon these mysteries of the Most Holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we may imitate what they contain and obtain what they promise, through the same Christ Our Lord. Amen.

After each decade say the following prayer requested by the Blessed Virgin Mary at Fatima: "O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell, lead all souls to Heaven, especially those who have most need of your mercy."

The Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord; Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into hell; the third day He arose again from the dead. He ascended into heaven, and sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Holy Catholic Church, the communion of Saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and life everlasting. Amen.

Our Father

Our Father, who art in heaven; hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us, and lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Hail Mary

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Glory be to the Father

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

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MEDITATIONS

The First Sorrowful Mystery: THE AGONY IN THE GARDEN

Jesus comes with his disciples to Gethsemani and says "Stay here, while I go yonder and pray."

Survivors of clergy sexual abuse ask us to stand with them. Do we do so until we become tired and lose interest? When the authorities accuse them do we run away as the disciples did?

The Second Sorrowful Mystery: THE SCOURGING AT THE PILLAR

Jesus is taken before the High Priest where He is falsely accused, buffeted and insulted. The Jewish leaders take Jesus before Pilate, for only he can impose the death penalty. The robber, Barabbas, is preferred to Jesus. Pilate can "find no cause in Him", yet to appease the Jews, he orders Jesus to be scourged.

Survivors have been doubted, vilified, and accused of money chasing. Credibly accused priests have had excuses made for them, had their crimes covered up, and been allowed to drop out of sight. Do we "wish the crisis would go away" so that we can relapse into our comfortable "no problem" relationship with our Church?

The Third Sorrowful Mystery: THE CROWNING WITH THORNS

In the praetorium, the soldiers place an old purple robe on Jesus in mockery of His claim to be a king. They fashion a crown out of thorns, and press it down upon His head. In His bound hands they place a reed, as a scepter, in mockery of His kingship.

Survivors have been mocked and scorned even in some cases by their very families. They have been ignored and oppressed by the Church because of a fear of scandal rather than being supported and healed out of a sense of justice.

The Fourth Sorrowful Mystery: THE CARRYING OF THE CROSS

One condemned to death by crucifixion is forced to carry the cross to the place of execution. The suffering of Jesus is intense as the cross is laid on His bruised and wounded back and shoulders.

Survivors are condemned to carry the memories of their experience for the rest of their lives. This is a sentence laid on them by their perpetrators. Such a sentence may be lightened by the assistance and support which we give them.

The Fifth Sorrowful Mystery: THE CRUCIFIXION

The hands and feet of Jesus are nailed to the cross. "I thirst." "It is finished."

The crucifixion of survivors continues everyday. Until those accountable face this reality more persons will be sexually abused by representatives of our Church. We must continue to pledge ourselves to thirst and work for justice for our brothers and sisters.

For more information about VOTF, contact your local affiliate at _____,
or call the VOTF national office at 617-558-5252 or visit us online at www.votf.org.

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