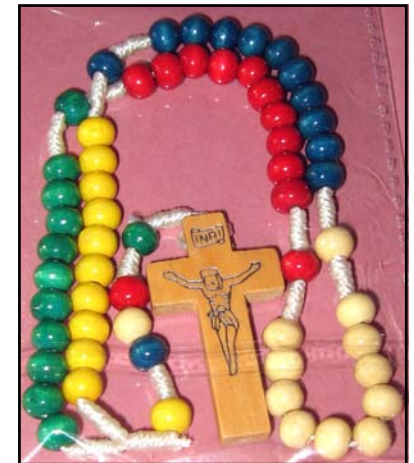




## THE MISSIONARY ROSARY

Missionaries consider themselves mandated to bring the message of the Gospel to the whole world, especially in view of promoting peace, justice and human communion. One of the tools they use is the missionary rosary. It encourages prayers for mission, for justice and for the whole world. The coloured beads symbolize the missionary efforts of the Church in each of the five continents. The beads of each decade of the rosary have a distinct colour:

- Green for Africa
- Red for the Americas
- White for Europe
- Blue for Oceania
- Yellow for Asia



## HOW TO PRAY THE MISSIONARY ROSARY

While the Missionary Rosary can be prayed individually, it is suitable for prayer with groups of all ages. To highlight the global context of the rosary, it is useful to have a centrepiece where a symbol or image of each of the five continents is displayed. Place five coloured candles in the centre also. If possible have a green, red, white, blue and yellow candle, representing each continent. Light the appropriate candle as the decade for a particular continent is prayed.



Saint Therese of Lisieux, patroness of the missions, never went to the missions but prayed for the work of the missionaries abroad.

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The Missionary Rosary is prayed like a normal Rosary but with two distinct characteristics. While meditating on each decade, the peoples of a particular continent are brought to prayer:

Pray the first decade for Africa.

Pray the second decade for the Americas.

Pray the third decade for Europe.

Pray the fourth decade for Oceania.

Pray the fifth decade for Asia.

The second difference relates to the Missionary Mysteries of the Rosary.

### **MISSIONARY MYSTERIES OF THE ROSARY**

We normally meditate on the joyful, sorrowful and glorious mysteries of the Rosary. But we can also meditate on the "Missionary Mysteries" of the life of Jesus. These are examples in the life of Christ where he reached out in love and compassion to those in need. They inspire the missionary life of the Church and our own personal response to the world around us.

Introduce each mystery with the suggested reflection before proceeding with the normal decade of the rosary.



### **Fifth Missionary Mystery: Jesus Teaches His Disciples to Pray to the Father, For the Fulfillment of the Reign of God.**

' You should pray like this," Our Father in heaven, may your name be held holy, your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as in heaven." (Matt 6:9-11)

In baptism Jesus calls everyone to be a missionary, to share in the mission of building the kingdom of God.

Missioners (all the baptized faithful) are sent out into the world to evangelize, to spread the good news that God reigns.

We don't need to go to other lands to do mission work. There are many 'worlds' around us, many 'worlds' in our families and in our communities that need to hear the Good News of the Kingdom. Like Jesus, the faithful must cross borders and frontiers to penetrate the worlds of others and share this Good News.

For some with the specific missionary vocation, that mission will bring them to far off lands. But for most that mission is to be lived in their native lands.

In a special way throughout this Month of Mission, we pray for Christians everywhere that they may grow in awareness of their own missionary vocation and continue to share more fully in building the Kingdom of God.

We bring the peoples of **Asia** and their intentions to this prayer. Let us also remember the Missionaries currently working there.



## Fourth Missionary Mystery: Jesus Offers the Gift of Living Water to Those Who Believe

'....When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, "Give me a drink". She said, "What? You are a Jew and you ask me, a Samaritan, for a drink?" Jesus replied; "If only you knew what God is offering and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink', you would have been the one to ask, and he would have given you living water.... Whoever drinks this water will get thirsty again. But anyone who drinks the water that I shall give will never be thirsty again. ....

'Sir', the woman replied, "Give me some of that water so that I may never get thirsty." (John. 4)

Many in our world continue to thirst for the good news of the Kingdom. Similarly there are many who are physically thirsty and who do not have access to clean water. We pray for them.

As we meditate on this fourth mystery, we bring the peoples of **Oceania** and their intentions to prayer.

Let us also remember the Missionaries



## First Missionary Mystery: Jesus is Baptized in the Jordan, Receiving His Mission from the Spirit of the Father.

"He has sent me to bring good news to the poor, to proclaim liberty to captives and to the blind new sight, to set the downtrodden free and to proclaim the Lord's year of favour." (Luke 4; 18)

One of the most insidious forms of modern captivity is human trafficking. This is the recruitment, transfer and sale of vulnerable people - women, children and men - through various forms of coercion or deception. They are kept in captivity by traffickers, sometimes in appalling conditions.

We pray for victims of trafficking and those who work to free them from this modern captivity.

As we meditate on this first mystery, we bring the peoples of **Africa** and their intentions to prayer. Let us also remember the Missionaries currently working there.



## Second Missionary Mystery: Jesus Proclaims the Good News of the Reign of God Especially to the Poor And Oppressed.

In our modern world, many of the poor and oppressed are migrants. In their own way each of the gospel writers emphasizes that Jesus was a foreigner where ever he went. Luke tells us that he was born in a town that was not his own. There was "no room for him" at the inn, so his mother laid him in a manger. The baby child Jesus was a refugee who, along with the Holy Family, fled the terror of Herod into Egypt. (Matt 2:14-15) In His public ministry, Jesus was an itinerant, moving from place to place, "with nowhere to lay His Head...." (Matt 8:20)

Jesus tells us to welcome the stranger:

"For I was hungry and you gave me food,  
I was thirsty and you gave me drink,  
a stranger and you welcomed me."

(Matt 25:35)

We pray for the 190 million migrants in our world today, that all those migrating in search of a better life will experience welcome and justice in their new homelands.

As we meditate on this second decade, we bring the peoples of the **Americas** and their intentions Let us remember the Missionaries working there.



## Third Missionary Mystery: Jesus Heals the Sick.

'Jesus went all around Galilee teaching in the synagogues, proclaiming the Good News of the Kingdom, and curing all kinds of diseases and sickness among the people. Those who were suffering from diseases and painful complaints of one kind and another were all brought to him and he cured them.'  
(Matt: 4: 23-24)

We pray for all those who are suffering from illness in our families, in our communities and in our world.

In a special way we pray for those suffering because of the HIV and AIDS epidemic.

As we meditate on this third decade, we also bring the peoples of **Europe**, and their intentions to prayer. Let us also remember the Missionaries working there.



Pilgrims visit the chapel of Rinschladen founded by Saint Willibrord, a Celtic monk who brought the Faith to Luxemburg and Northern Germany.