



## The Confraternity of the Most Holy Rosary

The Rosary Confraternity is an International Spiritual Association of Catholics who strive to pray the traditional fifteen decades of the Rosary every week for the purpose of giving praise and honor to the Blessed Virgin Mary and obtaining, through her intercession, spiritual benefits for all its members. When reciting the Holy Rosary, every member includes in their own prayers, the intentions of all the living and deceased members of the Confraternity.

*If anyone has the happiness of being in the Confraternity of the Holy Rosary, he has in all corners of the world brothers and sisters who pray for him.*

– Saint John Vianney

*Whenever a person fulfills his obligation of reciting the Rosary according to the rule of the Confraternity, he includes in his intentions all its members, and they in turn render him the same service many times over.*

– Pope Leo XIII

*After Holy Mass the best means of relieving the souls in Purgatory is to join the Confraternity.*

– Saint Alphonsus Liguori

To join the Confraternity, one must be a baptized Catholic who personally chooses to undertake the obligations of membership in a spirit of genuine devotion. There are no membership fees and no meetings to attend. Only the commitment to pray and recite the Holy Rosary.

Those who already pray the fifteen Mysteries every week would do well to enroll in the Confraternity to gain additional spiritual benefits. Such individuals would not be required to pray additional Rosaries to fulfill their membership obligation.

### **Benefits**

Members of the Confraternity enjoy the following spiritual benefits:

1. The intercession and special protection of the Most Holy Mother of God;
2. A share during life, at the time of death, and after death, in all the good works and prayers of the countless members of the Confraternity;
3. A share in the prayers, Masses, and apostolic works of the entire Order of Preachers – The Dominican Fathers, Brothers, Contemplative Nuns, Sisters and Laity (Secular Dominicans);
4. An immense treasure of indulgences.
  - A Plenary Indulgence is granted to the members of the Confraternity on the day of their enrollment, as well as on the following feast days: Christmas, Easter, the Annunciation, the Assumption of Our Lady, the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary, the Immaculate Conception, and Our Lord's Presentation in the Temple.

- A Plenary Indulgence is granted to all who pray the Rosary in a church or public oratory, as a family, in a religious community, in a gathering of the faithful or with the Pope, when his recitation is broadcast live by radio or television (and presumably, internet).
- A Plenary Indulgence is also granted on the Feast of Saints Peter and Paul to those who use a rosary blessed by the Holy Father or a bishop.

*To gain a Plenary Indulgence, one must also fulfill the “usual conditions” which means the following: Make a Sacramental Confession; Receive Holy Communion; Pray for the Pope’s intentions and be free from all attachment to sin, even venial sin.*

- A Partial Indulgence is granted to those who use a Rosary blessed by a priest.

## **Obligations**

Members of the Confraternity are expected to fulfill the following:

1. Pray fifteen decades of the Rosary each week, meditating on the Joyful, Sorrowful and Glorious Mysteries.
  - Failure to complete this obligation does not constitute a sin, not even a venial one. However, members are deprived of the spiritual benefits that would otherwise have been granted to them by the merit of those prayers.
  - Members are not required to recite the Luminous Mysteries in order to share in the benefits of the Confraternity. Although they are encouraged to pray the extra Rosary each week, doing so, is entirely optional.
  - The fifteen decades of the Rosary may be prayed all at once or throughout the course of the week. Either way, members are urged to pray the Rosary with devotion taking the necessary time to meditate on the Mysteries of Christ.
2. Each member is required to pray for the needs of all the living and deceased members of the Confraternity. Many choose to fulfill this obligation by simply praying the *Confraternity Prayer* which may be added to the beginning or end of the Rosary.

The intention to pray for others may be made each and every time one prays the Rosary or by a one time “general intention” to always include in one’s Rosary the intentions of all the members. If one chooses the latter, one has no need to explicitly repeat that intention every time he/she prays the Rosary.

3. Each member must be officially enrolled in the Confraternity by having his/her name inscribed in the Confraternity’s Register. When this is completed, the new member will be issued a certificate of membership containing the official date of his/her enrollment.

## **Membership**

Membership in the Confraternity of the Most Holy Rosary is open to both men and women.

To become a member, one must be a Roman Catholic, understand and accept the obligations of membership and personally choose to enroll in the Confraternity. For this reason, a deceased person may not be enrolled.

To apply for membership, all one needs to do, is complete the attached form and send it to:

**THE ROSARY CONFRATERNITY  
Our Lady of Fatima Church  
50 Van Winkle Place  
Piscataway, New Jersey 08854**

Our Lady of Fatima Church was established in 1948 and is today the home to the *Little Shepherds of Fatima Shrine*. It was to them, in 1917, in the small village of Fatima, Portugal, that the Blessed Virgin Mary revealed herself as the “Lady of the Rosary” and repeatedly requested that the Rosary be prayed daily.

A local chapter of the Confraternity was officially established at Our Lady of Fatima Church on November 15, 1948. Although at the time, only parish women were encouraged to join, today, both men and women, whether they be members of the parish or not, are invited to join the Confraternity through this local chapter.

To become a member of the Confraternity is to join a multitude of people on earth, in purgatory and heaven *who are praying for each other*. This includes numerous men and women who have been canonized by the Catholic Church, including St. Dominic, St. Albert the Great, St. Thomas Aquinas, St. Martin de Porres, St. Rose of Lima, St. Catherine of Siena and many others.

***It should be noted that a person does not officially become a member of the Confraternity until his/her name is inscribed in the Confraternity Register and is issued a certificate of membership.***

*As stated earlier, there are no membership fees or dues associated with the Confraternity. However, donations are graciously accepted and very much appreciated to help cover expenses related to this local chapter. Donations help to pay for printing, postage, leaflets, booklets, rosaries, promotional materials, office supplies and other minor expenses.*

*Donations may be made in cash, check or credit card and should be clearly marked as a donation for the support of the Confraternity.*

*Checks should be made out to Our Lady of Fatima Church and, as with all Confraternity correspondence, should be sent to:*

***THE ROSARY CONFRATERNITY, Our Lady of Fatima Church, 50 Van Winkle Pl., Piscataway, NJ 08854***

## 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 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, be prudent with your prudence, patient with your patience, courageous with your fortitude and desire justice for everyone with that 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. Amen.*

*Saint Dominic, you who received so much grace and strength from the Rosary, pray for us.*

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### THE CONFRATERNITY OF THE MOST HOLY ROSARY Enrollment Application

*Please Print Clearly*

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

MAILING ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

E-MAIL \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE NUMBER(S) \_\_\_\_\_

**THE ROSARY CONFRATERNITY, Our Lady of Fatima Church, 50 Van Winkle Pl., Piscataway, NJ 08854**

(For Office Use Only: Date of inscription in the Confraternity Register \_\_\_\_\_)