



Dominican Rosary Pilgrimage - Backgrounder

About the Dominican Rosary Pilgrimage

The Dominican Rosary Pilgrimage is a full-day event at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., on Saturday, September 27, hosted by the Dominican Friars of the Province of St. Joseph and local charters of the Confraternity of the Most Holy Rosary. The pilgrimage welcomes Dominican Friars, Dominican Sisters, members of the Rosary Confraternity and everyone who wants to come from across the country to experience a spiritually edifying day of prayer, preaching and public devotion to Our Lady. To view the full schedule, click [here](#).

The Origin of the Rosary

According to a centuries-old tradition, Our Lady herself entrusted the Rosary to St. Dominic de Guzman, the founder of the Order of Preachers (the Dominicans), in 1208, when he was ministering in Southern France. This happened during the turmoil of the [Albigensian heresy](#) in the Catholic Church. The Rosary, as St. Dominic witnessed during his preaching mission to the Albigensians, is also a powerful prayer to draw souls to the fullness of the Catholic faith. The Dominicans have since been the caretakers of the Rosary.

The Rosary Pilgrimage bringing Catholics together all over the country

While the Dominican Rosary Pilgrimage is a day-long, in-person event at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., the spiritual pilgrimage started on January 25, 2025, with the nine-month novena leading up to the event.

This is a wonderful opportunity for laity, churches, prayer groups and families to come together to pray the Rosary, just as Our Lady and so many saints and popes have urged for hundreds of years.

The spreading of the Rosary devotion through the Confraternity of the Rosary, or the Rosary Confraternity

The Confraternity of the Most Holy Rosary is a spiritual association of the Catholic Church, the members of which strive to pray the entire Rosary during the course of one week. They form a union of hundreds of thousands of the faithful throughout the world who, under the patronage of the Blessed Virgin Mary, along with their own intentions, include the intentions and needs of all its members. The first Rosary Confraternity was established in the 1470s through the zealous preaching of the Dominican friar Blessed Alan de la Roche, O.P.

As Pope Leo XIII stated in his apostolic constitution on the Confraternity, “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. The Dominican Order, which from its very beginning has been most devoted in honoring the Blessed Virgin, and by which the institution and propagation of the Confraternity of the Rosary was accomplished, holds as its inheritance all that belongs to this devotion” (Ubi Primum, 1).

Any Catholic can enroll in the Confraternity of the Most Holy Rosary and a charter (local group) of the Confraternity can be established at any parish church through the local province of Dominican Friars.

The 15 Promises of the Rosary

The benefits of what Pope St. John Paul II called “an exquisitely contemplative prayer” were enumerated in a special way by a 15th century Dominican friar. According to the tradition, Blessed Alan de la Roche, O.P., received the following 15 promises to those who pray the Rosary devoutly from the Blessed Virgin Mary herself through a private revelation. We hope that they encourage you in meditating on the mysteries of Christ by praying the Holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

1. Those who faithfully serve me by the recitation of the Rosary shall receive signal graces.
2. I promise my special protection and the greatest graces to all those who shall recite the Rosary.
3. The Rosary shall be a powerful armor against hell. It will destroy vice, decrease sin, and defeat heresies.
4. The recitation of the Rosary will cause virtue and good works to flourish. It will obtain for souls the abundant mercy of God. It will withdraw the hearts of men from the love of the world

and its vanities, and will lift them to the desire of eternal things. Oh, that souls would sanctify themselves by this means.

5. The soul which recommends itself to me by the recitation of the Rosary shall not perish.

6. Those who recite my Rosary devoutly, applying themselves to the consideration of its sacred mysteries, shall never be conquered by misfortune. In His justice, God will not chastise them; nor shall they perish by an unprovided death, i.e., be unprepared for heaven. Sinners shall convert. The just shall persevere in grace and become worthy of eternal life.

7. Those who have a true devotion to the Rosary shall not die without the sacraments of the Church.

8. Those who faithfully recite the Rosary shall have, during their life and at their death, the light of God and the plenitude of His graces. At the moment of death, they shall participate in the merits of the saints in paradise.

9. I shall deliver from purgatory those who have been devoted to the Rosary.

10. The faithful children of the Rosary shall merit a high degree of glory in heaven.

11. By the recitation of the Rosary you shall obtain all that you ask of me.

12. Those who propagate the holy Rosary shall be aided by me in their necessities.

13. I have obtained from my Divine Son that all the advocates of the Rosary shall have for intercessors the entire celestial court during their life and at the hour of their death.

14. All who recite the Rosary are my beloved children and the brothers and sisters of my only Son, Jesus Christ.

15. Devotion for my Rosary is a great sign of predestination.