



## ***Dominican Rosary Pilgrimage - Media Tip Sheet***

### **Synopsis**

The third annual [Dominican Rosary Pilgrimage](#) is a day-long event at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., on Saturday, September 27, 2025, hosted by the Dominican Friars of the Province of St. Joseph. All are encouraged to attend. The Dominican Rosary Pilgrimage began spiritually with a [nine-month novena](#), starting on January 25, 2025. More than 3000 people attended last year's Dominican Rosary Pilgrimage at the Basilica.

### **News Hooks**

#### **A national witness of Marian devotion**

Thousands of Catholics will gather at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception for the third annual Dominican Rosary Pilgrimage — a day of prayer, preaching, and public devotion to Our Lady. The event reflects growing momentum around Eucharistic and Marian renewal in the Church.

#### **Mary is playing a tremendous role in fostering vocations to the priesthood, diaconate and religious life**

The Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate (CARA) recently released a [report](#) detailing the findings of a first-of-its-kind survey, titled “Impact of Mary, Mother of the Church, on Ecclesial Vocations.” A total of 1,019 U.S. bishops, diocesan priests, permanent deacons, deacon directors and major superiors of men and women completed a survey. The results show that for a majority, devotion to Mary has had an impact on their vocational discernment as well as in how they live out their vocations. One of the Dominican Rosary Pilgrimage’s primary goals is to increase devotion to Mary, which, in turn, can strengthen ecclesial vocations, as revealed in the report. The Dominicans, with

their strong Marian devotion, are a case in point: With approximately 50 friars in formation, they are one of the fastest-growing orders in the country.

### **The Rosary is a national call to renewal in the Church**

As we experience turmoil inside and outside the Church, we as Catholics can unite at the Dominican Rosary Pilgrimage to pray the Rosary, sparking a renewal that deepens one's relationship with God, strengthens our faith and fosters a deeper understanding of the mysteries of Christ's life.

### **Strengthening the Church in the United States, one pilgrimage at a time**

As the Church enters a new chapter under its first American pope, Pope Leo XIV, the Dominican Rosary Pilgrimage stands as a clear sign of the strength and vitality of the Church in the United States. Led by the Dominican Friars, the pilgrimage draws thousands to the heart of the nation's capital for a day rooted in the Rosary, the Eucharist, and the preaching of the Gospel. More than just an event, it has become a spiritual anchor for a growing Church. At a time when the faithful hunger for truth, beauty, and renewal, the friars are rising to meet the moment — forming souls, preaching Christ and helping build a Marian foundation for the future of Catholic life in America.

## **2025 Dominican Rosary Pilgrimage Spokesmen**



### **Fr. Joseph-Anthony Kress, O.P**

Fr. Joseph-Anthony Kress, O.P., entered the Dominican Province of St. Joseph in 2010. He made his solemn profession on August 9, 2014, and was ordained a priest on May 21, 2016. In the spring of 2010 he graduated from Franciscan University of Steubenville with a Bachelor of Arts and subsequently received a Bachelor of Sacred Theology and Masters of Divinity from the Pontifical Faculty of the Immaculate Conception. Fr. Joseph-Anthony has served as the Chaplain to Catholic Hoos at the University of Virginia since February of 2017. He is a co-host of the *Godsplaining* podcast alongside four of his Dominican classmates. Over the years he has

worked in overseeing large-scale liturgies which include World Youth Day Krakow, National Eucharistic Congress, USCCB Convocation, Fr. Emil Kapaun Homecoming, and Amazing Parish conferences. A native of St. Clairsville, Ohio, he is the youngest of three.



**Fr. Patrick Briscoe, O.P.**

Father Patrick Mary Briscoe, O.P., is a Dominican friar and the editor of *Our Sunday Visitor* magazine. Along with his Dominican brothers, he is host of the podcast *Godsplaining* and a co-author of *Saint Dominic's Way of Life: A Path to Knowing and Loving God*. He is also the author of the OSV devotional series "My Daily Visitor."



**Fr. Austin Dominic Litke, O.P.**

Fr. Austin Litke, O.P., is a Dominican friar of the Province of St. Joseph. He was ordained a priest in 2011 and has served as chaplain to patients at Sloan Kettering Memorial Cancer Hospital in New York city as well as to students at New York University. He earned a doctorate in Patristic Theology from the Pontifical Patristics Institute of the Lateran University in Rome and has taught at the Pontifical University of St. Thomas (the Angelicum) in Rome as well as the Dominican House of Studies in Washington, D.C. He is currently a professor in the Department of Catholic Studies at the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul, Minnesota. This Fall, he will move to Rome to teach at the Angelicum. Fr. Austin is a member of the Hillbilly Thomists.



**Fr. Andrew Hofer, O.P.**

Fr. Andrew Hofer, O.P., is Ordinary Professor and Editor-in-Chief of *The Thomist* at the Pontifical Faculty of the Immaculate Conception, Dominican House of Studies and Master of Students for the deacons of the Province of St. Joseph at St. Dominic Priory in Washington, D.C. Previously he served as a parochial vicar in Rhode Island; a missionary in Nairobi, Kenya; a doctoral student at the University of Notre Dame; and formator at the Dominican House of Studies. He is an author of many publications including *The Power of Patristic Preaching: The Word in Our Flesh*, *Magnificat's Way of the Cross* and *Rosary for a Eucharistic Revival*, and he co-authored *A Living Sacrifice: Guidance for Men Discerning Religious Life* and *Our Father: Our Prayer of Hope*. He enjoys preaching on the Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary.



**Fr. Josemaría Guzmán-Domínguez, O.P.**

*Spanish Language Preacher*

Fr. Josemaría is the chaplain for Catholic Community at Johns Hopkins University and a parochial vicar at SS. Philip and James Catholic Church in Baltimore, MD. He is from Venezuela via New York. As an undergrad at Notre Dame (IN), he studied Italian Literature and from there God brought him to the Dominicans!

**Suggested Interview Questions**

- 1) What is the Dominican Rosary Pilgrimage?
- 2) What is the purpose of the Dominican Rosary Pilgrimage?
- 3) What are the spiritual fruits you have seen from the two previous pilgrimages?
- 4) What's different about this year's pilgrimage?
- 5) How is the Dominican Rosary Pilgrimage rooted in prayer?
- 6) Preaching is one of the key components of the pilgrimage. Which topics will be addressed this year?
- 7) Why do you believe the Rosary is essential to the spiritual lives of Catholics?
- 8) What is the Rosary Confraternity?
- 9) How do you participate in the pilgrimage if you're unable to attend it?
- 10) Where can Catholics learn more about the pilgrimage?