



Dominican Rosary Pilgrimage - Media Tip Sheet

Synopsis

The fourth 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 26, 2026, 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 Jan. 31, 2026. Thousands attended last year's Dominican Rosary Pilgrimage at the Basilica.

News Hooks

A Marian response to a historic influx of new Catholics

Thousands of Catholics, including some of those who entered the Church this past Easter, will gather at the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception for the fourth annual Dominican Rosary Pilgrimage. Thus, the Dominican Rosary Pilgrimage offers a powerful next step that grounds these new Catholics in Marian devotion and the ancient yet new prayer life of the Church.

With the first American pontiff, there is a renewed Marian identity in the U.S. Church

Pope Leo has a profound Marian piety and devotion. He sang the *Regina Caeli* in Latin at the beginning of his pontificate and invoked her intercession in his first address. Following such saints as St. Dominic and St. Louis Marie de Montfort, His Holiness has proposed her as a model of humility and a bridge to Christ. His Marian piety emphasizes Mary as the "Mother of the Faithful People," sometimes engaging in the Rosary with the faithful, as when he and tens of thousands of Angolan Catholics prayed this devotion this past April.

The Rosary as a weapon of spiritual warfare and instrument of peace

In a time marked by cultural confusion and unrest around the world, the faithful wield the Rosary as both a weapon of spiritual warfare and a powerful means of interceding for peace in the world.

Mary is playing a tremendous role in fostering vocations to the priesthood

An [April 2026](#) survey of newly ordained priests showed that 79% of them regularly prayed the Rosary before entering the seminary.

Young Catholics are discovering the Rosary

The “new” interest is seen as both digital and deeply personal, breaking the assumption that the Rosary is only for older generations. Furthermore, some young Catholic creators are actively promoting “Rosary challenges” and using platforms like TikTok and Instagram to share tutorials and personal testimonies, making it popular among peers. See one example [here](#).

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

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 preaching 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.

2026 Dominican Rosary Pilgrimage Spokesmen



Fr. Joseph-Anthony Kress, O.P

Fr. Joseph-Anthony Kress, O.P., is a dynamic Dominican priest, popular co-host of the hit Godsplaining podcast, and a gifted preacher known for bringing Catholic truth to life with clarity, warmth, and humor. A former chaplain at the University of Virginia, he now serves as Promoter of the Rosary for the Dominican Province of St. Joseph.



Fr. Peter John Cameron, O.P.

Father Peter John Cameron, O.P., was ordained a priest in 1986 for the Dominican Province of St. Joseph. Fr. Cameron is the founding editor-in-chief of *Magnificat*, where he worked from 1998-2018. He holds the Carl J. Peter Chair of Homiletics at the Pontifical North American College in Rome, and he teaches a seminar at the Angelicum. Fr. Cameron is the author of *Mysteries of the Virgin Mary: Living Our Lady's Graces* (Cluny Media, 2022).



Fr. Walter C. Wagner, O.P.

Fr. Walter Wagner entered the Order of Preachers on August 15, 1988. Since his ordination on May 21, 1993, he has served as a college teacher, a retreat master, novice master, and pastor. He is the Religious Assistant to the North American Association of Dominican Monasteries. Most recently, he served as pastor at the Parish of St. Vincent Ferrer Parish and St. Catherine of Siena in New York City from 2010 to 2021.

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 three 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 people participate in the pilgrimage if they're unable to attend it?
- 10) Where can Catholics learn more about the pilgrimage?