



*Scripture: Lk 1:28, 42*

The history of the rosary began with Saint Dominic, a famous preacher. His goal was to teach people the truth about Jesus. But just like today, people of Saint Dominic's time wanted to fit Jesus into their own way of thinking, rather than changing their way of thinking to fit the teachings of Jesus. At times Dominic met with little success. One day when he was feeling particularly low and disappointed by the stubbornness of the people, he prayed that Mary would help him. The year was 1208 and Mary appeared to St. Dominic in a vision. She told him to teach the people to pray. It seemed like a weird request to St. Dominic, because people were already praying and meditating. Even the common illiterate people were substituting 150 "Our Fathers" in place of the Psalms. Why was she asking that the people pray prayers they were already praying?

Mary further explained her request. She wanted people to meditate on the life of Jesus as they pray. She wanted them to elevate their minds with her as she heard the words of the Angel Gabriel when he announced the conception of Jesus, the joy she felt at her cousin Elizabeth's greeting, the serene awe she felt as she looked upon the baby Jesus that first Christmas in Bethlehem, and how she felt as she and Saint Joseph took the baby Jesus to the temple in accordance with Jewish law. She wanted to share with us everything to do with Christ's life and her role in it.

She encouraged St. Dominic to teach people to feel her happiness as she was assumed into heaven to be with her Son, and where, shortly thereafter, Jesus gloriously crowned her Queen of Heaven and Earth. Dominic, who spread the devotion of praying the rosary by following Mary's advice, taught everyone he met these prayers.

Though Mary's giving the rosary to St. Dominic is recognized as a legend, the development of this prayer form owes much to the followers of St. Dominic. One of them, Alan de la Roche, was known as "the apostle of the rosary." He founded the first Confraternity of the Rosary in the 15th century. In the 16th century, the rosary was developed to its present form—with the 15 mysteries (joyful, sorrowful, and glorious). In 2002, Pope John Paul II added five Mysteries of Light to this devotion.





*Scripture: Jn 19:27, Lk 1:38*

Holy moly, sisters! We're here! The last day of this 3-week long study has arrived, and I hope that you've learned and loved as much along this journey as I have. Learning about the Marian apparitions was one of my favorite parts of this study. Diving into the different ways to venerate our Mother and different devotions was also really exciting. I'm such a type-a structure-loving gal, having a "form" for praying is really helpful for me.

Finding Scripture references for all of the Marian feasts was tricky, but we are so blessed to have so much to learn, and so many ways to pray with and grow closer to our Mother Mary. The Glorious Mysteries are one of the most beautiful forms of prayer, and they cover the most wonderful parts of Mary's life. Consecration to Jesus through Mary is a BEAUTIFUL and life-long way to offer up one's prayers and graces to Mary to use as she sees fit. Let us only turn to her and to the Lord with the same zeal and obedience that Mary had when the angel told her she was to bear a son through the Holy Spirit. "Let it be done to me according to thy word," without any hesitation!

God had a plan, right from the beginning of time, for our salvation. He knew it would involve Mary, and He worked through the prophets of the Old Testament to foreshadow her beautiful and loving presence in our lives as the mother of His loving Son, our savior.

At the foot of His cross, Christ gave Mary to us. She is our spiritual mother, we are her spiritual children, and it was all preordained and part of God's loving plan for us. Mary offers us so many devotionals and ways to come to her and pray with her, and all of these ways are wondrous gifts. Our dearest mama Mary will take care of her spiritual children, if we only turn to her and let her.

- Mandi

