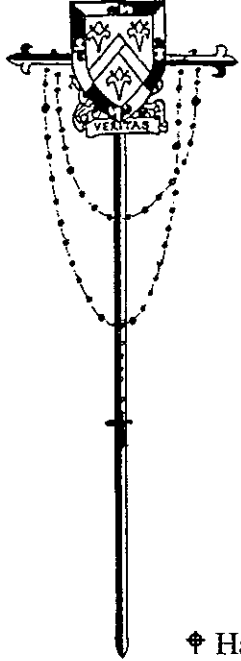


Sword of Truth

No. 1 Special Edition



A Rosary Confraternity Publication

Dear New Member of the Rosary Confraternity,

God's love and blessings be upon you always for choosing to become a member of the Rosary Confraternity - Our Lady's Rosary Army! For hundreds of years until the II Vatican Council, the Rosary Confraternity literally embraced the world. But today, unknown to the average Catholic, it needs to be revived yet again, particularly since in our own century Our Lady at Fatima called upon all to pray the Rosary "always". Without this sword of the spirit, the world is perishing in its sins.

Your name has been enrolled in the Confraternity's registry. To enjoy its benefits two other things are necessary:

- ✦ Have your beads blessed by a Dominican, or by one granted the power to give the Dominican blessing. (If you wish one from us, please send \$5.00.)
- ✦ Say the entire Rosary (fifteen Mysteries) every week, meditating on the Mysteries while saying the Our Fathers and Hail Marys.

It is not necessary to say all at one time, or in one day; you can say 5 decades, or even one at a time. No sin is committed if you neglect your 15 decades or part of them during the week, though you lose your share for that week in the benefits of the rosaries recited by the other Rosarians around the world.

THE CONFRATERNITY of the MOST HOLY ROSARY

THE CONFRATERNITY OF THE ROSARY is the oldest confraternity existing in the Church, and probably none is more widely spread and enriched with so many privileges and indulgences. It is under the special protection of the Blessed Virgin, since, as Catholic tradition tells us, it was erected under her inspiration. The fulfilment of the obligation it imposes secures a number of prayers being said by each member, and brings to his mind the principal mysteries of our Faith. These members share in each other's prayers and good works, and also participate in the merits, Masses, and good works of the whole Order of St. Dominic, to which they are affiliated; and this not only during their life, but also after their death. (The Treasures of the Rosary by Fr. Charles McKenna, 1913)

ITS HISTORY: More than 500 years ago, Alan de la Roche of the Dominican Order, in an effort to restore devotion to the Rosary, organized a guild called the Confraternity of the Most Holy Rosary. He had some success in France and in the Low Countries and sought Papal approval. He died however, September 8, 1475, thinking that his efforts had failed. Through an unusual coincidence, on the same day of Alan's death another guild was being established by Jacob Sprenger in the Dominican Church in Cologne for which Papal approval was obtained.

Intrusted to the care of the Dominican Order by the Popes, the Rosary Confraternity spread to every nation of the world. From pole to pole and around the world voices of the members rise to heaven in a chorus of prayer for each other; their badge of identity is the Rosary and their mutual love and concern for one another.

In the United States, the Confraternity is sometimes known as the Rosary Society, or, the Rosary Altar Society. Since the time of Alan de la Roche, the Rosary Confraternity has been the chief means of propagating the devotion of the Rosary.

ITS PURPOSE: The object of the Rosary Confraternity is to promote the devotion of the Rosary. The goal is the same that Blessed Alan had in mind. This young Dominican worked hard to put that devotion back into the hands of the people which his Founder, St. Dominic, used with such great effectiveness.

ITS BENEFITS: The special mark and feature of the members of the Rosary Confraternity is the love and concern members have for each other. They pray for each other during life and after death. As a member of the Rosary Confraternity I know that every member prays for me and I for them, both now and hereafter. This led the Holy Cure of Ars to say: "If anyone has the happiness of being in the Confraternity of the Rosary, he has, in all corners of the world, brothers who pray for him." And St. Alphonsus said: "After Holy Mass, the best means of helping the souls in purgatory is to join the Confraternity of the Rosary." Pope Leo XIII said: "Among the different associations, we do not hesitate to give the place of honor to the Confraternity of the Rosary."

At Rome, the Dominican Master General decreed that every member of the Rosary Confraternity is to share, during life and after death in every Holy Mass, in every Divine Office, prayer and meditation, in every penitential exercise and apostolate of all Dominicans throughout the world.

At Our Lady of the Rosary Chapel in Monroe, Connecticut the First Saturday Mass is offered each month for the faithful members of the Rosary Confraternity, living and deceased.

ITS GUARDIAN: For 500 years the Order of St. Dominic has been the Guardian of the Rosary Confraternity. Therefore each Dominican regards every member as his own spiritual child and responsibility. All the members of the Order of St. Dominic pray for the Confraternity members and consider each one his own spiritual charge.

The Rosary Confraternity has no meetings. Four times a year this Rosary Center issues the publication, **Sword of Truth**. Its purpose is to provide sound doctrine and spiritual guidance for readers everywhere.

Anyone may subscribe. Send your name and address to:

Our Lady of the Rosary Chapel
Sword of Truth
P.O. Box 283
Monroe, CT 06468

ITS INDULGENCES: We define an Indulgence as a remission granted by the Church of the temporal punishment due to sin after its guilt has been forgiven. Indulgences are either plenary or partial. A plenary Indulgence remits **all** the temporal punishment; a partial Indulgence remits only some of the debt of temporal punishment. Should one die immediately after gaining a plenary Indulgence, the soul would go directly to heaven. It can be easily seen why Indulgences should be eagerly gained by the faithful. They should avail themselves of the opportunity offered.

Of all the devotions in the Church the one upon which the Church has showered her greatest blessings is the Rosary. One Pope after another has opened the treasury of the superabundant merits of Christ, the Blessed Virgin, and the Saints, to grant Indulgences generously to those who say the Rosary and are members of the Confraternity of the Most Holy Rosary. (The Rosary, The Crown of Mary by a Dominican Father, 1947)

A partial list of Indulgences: (See The Rosary, The Crown of Mary for a more complete list)

1. For Members of the Rosary Confraternity: a plenary Indulgence, under the usual conditions of Confession, Communion, and prayers for the Holy See is granted:

- a) on the day of enrollment. (Please refer to your Certificate of Membership and your enrollment date included with this issue of Sword of Truth)
- b) on the following feast days: Christmas, Easter, Annunciation, Purification, Assumption, Our Lady of the Rosary, and the Immaculate Conception.

2. For all those who pray the Rosary: A plenary indulgence may be gained under the usual conditions, when the Rosary is said in Church or in a public Oratory, in a family, religious community, or pious association. Otherwise a partial indulgence is gained.

3. Indulgences on beads with Dominican and Crozier Blessing: (granted by Pius X, June, 1907)

For each third part: (The Joyful Mysteries, The Sorrowful Mysteries, The Glorious Mysteries)

5,500 days	For saying the beads (Our Fathers and Hail Marys)
101,250 days	For devoutly pronouncing the Holy Name of Jesus
2,025 days	For saying a third part of the Rosary, (each time)
300 days	Again for a third part of the Rosary
40,500 days	For carrying the beads
27,500 days	For Crozier Indulgence
177,075 days	TOTAL 485 years and 50 days of Indulgences

ROSARY 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. Original sin has left us helpless and weak, but Divine Grace from your Divine Son heals and strengthens.

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 love for you and for each other. Keep us faithful to your Son and to your Rosary until death.

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; make us love people as you and Jesus loved them. Obtain for us the gifts of the Holy Spirit, to be wise with your wisdom, to understand with your understanding, to know with your knowledge; to be prudent with your prudence, to be patient with your patience; to be courageous with your fortitude and ardently to desire justice for everyone with the all consuming desire of the Sacred Heart of Jesus Christ.

Intercede for the souls in purgatory, especially for members of the Rosary Confraternity. May they rest in peace. Finally we ask for the grace of final perseverance for ourselves and our loved ones that we may all be reunited in heaven forever.

St. Dominic, you who found Grace and Strength in the Rosary, Pray for Us.