

## Prayer for Evangelization

Eternal Father, we ask you,  
through your Son Jesus Christ,  
and the intercession of Mary Immaculate,  
Star of the New Evangelization,  
to pour forth your Holy Spirit upon  
the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.  
Through the gift of the Holy Spirit,  
renew and transform us,  
and make fruitful the work of evangelization.  
Root us deeply in the heart of your Son  
so that we may radiate him more fully,  
sharing with others the Good News of  
salvation in Christ, who alone  
is the fulfillment of all human desiring.  
Transform our parishes and make of them  
shining lights, beacons of hope  
that reach those who are far from you,  
drawing them back to your fold.  
Consecrate us in your truth  
and accomplish your plans in us  
according to your holy will.  
Amen.



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## Rosary for Evangelization



*"The Most Holy Virgin in these last times in which we live has given a new efficacy to the recitation of the Rosary to such an extent that there is no problem, no matter how difficult it is, whether temporal or above all spiritual, in the personal life of each one of us, of our families...of the life of peoples and nations that cannot be solved by the Rosary. There is no problem, I tell you, no matter how difficult it is, that we cannot resolve by the prayer of the Holy Rosary."*

*- Sister Maria Lucia of Fatima*

Spending our time with Mary, contemplating the life of her Son, is the reason for the Rosary's great spiritual power. With the Rosary in hand, we take a receptive posture before the life of Christ and allow him to fill our hearts and minds with the graces of each Mystery. When taking up the Rosary as a work of evangelization, we do so remembering that the Rosary is a "compendium of the Gospel", that Gospel that we wish to share in our evangelizing efforts. Therefore, no matter what mysteries we pray, Joyful, Luminous, Sorrowful, or Glorious, we are entering more fully into our vocation to evangelization because we are entering each time more deeply into the Gospel we hope to proclaim. The intimacy with Christ that comes about through our prayer of the Rosary will be evident to those we encounter. We will speak of Christ not as someone we barely know, but someone who is deeply familiar to us. This speaks more profoundly to others than all eloquent words combined!

The effect of praying the Rosary in the way suggested here, entrusting to Our Lady specific names or groups of people, is profound. Not only does it win grace for others, but also it develops in us an evangelical sensitivity to those around us who may not yet have encountered Christ. It leads us to become more and more aware of them and also cultivates in our hearts a genuine love for them. Each time we pray this way, our hearts are widened to include the whole world. We become more united to Christ, who extended his arms on the Cross to gather the whole world to himself.



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## *Suggested Ways to Pray a Rosary for Evangelization*

Following the traditional form of the Rosary, these simple nuances can be added to give this prayer an evangelization character.

**Option 1:** *With each Hail Mary bead, preface the Hail Mary by saying, "Mother, I give you..." and mention the name of someone who might be far away from Christ or his Church using the groups below as a guide. For example, after praying the Our Father, one might say "Mother I give you my brother John. Hail Mary, full of grace..." A new name would be mentioned for each Hail Mary.*

- Decade 1: Family Members
- Decade 2: Friends
- Decade 3: Co-workers
- Decade 4: People from your past
- Decade 5: People in the media or strangers

**Option 2:** *Instead of mentioning names according to groups, simply ask the Holy Spirit to bring to mind anyone in need of your prayer and use the same format above to pray for them.*

**Option 3:** *Instead of mentioning specific names, a general group of people can be prayed for with each decade. Particularly suitable would be those groups identified by the Church as most in need of her evangelization efforts.*

- Decade 1: Practicing Catholics
- Decade 2: Those who no longer practice the Faith
- Decade 3: Those who do not know the love of Christ
- Decade 4: Those who do not believe in God
- Decade 5: Those who have been injured by one or more members of the Church