

# History of the Rosary



In the past, when the monks wanted to pray they would recite the 150 Psalms of the Bible. They would count them with stones they kept in a pouch.



Later, they used strings with 150 knots or with pieces of woods to count their prayers. This was more practical than keeping 150 pebbles around.



The common people also wanted to pray and praise God, but they couldn't read the Psalms, the monks suggested that they pray the Our Father they knew.



As time went by, the 150 Our Fathers were replaced by Hail Marys. Each group of 50 Hail Marys was called a "rosary" (bouquet).



During the XIII century, Saint Dominic had an apparition of the Blessed Virgin. She told him that devotion to the Rosary would convert sinners.



The Rosary we pray today keeps the 50 Hail Marys, and the Our Father, it also includes thoughts about the chapters in Jesus and Mary's lives.



To meditate the Joyful, Sorrowful, and Glorious mysteries of the Rosary in family, is one of the most treasured traditions of the Catholic faith.



In October 2002, Pope John Paul II added the Luminous mysteries about Jesus' public life. He then proclaims 2003 "Year of the Rosary".