Rosary for LGBTQ+ People

Reflections on the mysteries of the Rosary

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Cover Image
The image of Our Lady of Częstochowa and the Holy Child with a rainbow for a halo was created by a Polish artist and activist. In 2019, Elżbieta Podlesna, a polish activist was arrested by Polish authorities for “offending religious beliefs.” We place this image on the cover of this booklet in solidarity and to highlight the purpose of this Rosary - to bring understanding and unity in the Body of Christ through the intercession of Mary, our Spiritual Mother. Image is used with artist’s permission.

Scripture Passages
Before Praying the Rosary

The Rosary for LGBTQ+ People is designed to add prayerful time to the LGBTQ+ person’s – or allied person’s – day while continuing to affirm God’s love for all of humanity. We are made in the image of our Creator, perfect and pleasing in God’s sight. Because our Creator has made us this way, we pray this rosary, proudly and devoutly, to Our Lady so she might look upon us with her Motherly love and bring us closer to her Son, Jesus.

To prepare to recite the rosary, set aside time in your day – 15 to 25 minutes – in a quiet and private space. The Rosary can be prayed individually or in a group. Each person recites the rosary differently, at different speeds, and you will find the speed which is right for you.

Keep in mind this is a contemplative prayer. As you spend time reflecting upon these mysteries, you draw closer to the divine. If you are praying this individually, take your time. Read and re-read the scripture passages and the reflections. Take notes of the thoughts which enter your mind and be open to receiving these thoughts. If your mind strays, stop and allow it. You can always pick up where you left off.

If you are praying in a group, perhaps you might want to pause after every reflection and discuss your feelings on what the reflections says. Or, perhaps, after each decade, you pause to share the thoughts and feelings which you had while you were reciting the prayers.

However you or your group decides to pray this prayer, make your own. This booklet is only a guide. Your relationship with Jesus is unique. Explore and cultivate this relationship through the recitation of the Most Holy Rosary.
Praying the Rosary

The Basics
Whether you are praying individually or in a group, the basics of the Rosary are the same: you begin and end at the cross. The format for praying either individually or in a group are different, but the prayers all are the same.

Praying Individually

Introductory Prayers
Begin your Rosary by holding the cross in your right hand, cross yourself while saying, “In the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit.” Next, recite the Apostle’s Creed. (All prayers found the booklet.) On the first bead, recite one Our Father. On the next three beads, recite one Hail Mary per bead, for the intentions of bringing reconciliation to the LGBTQ community and the Church. On the final bead, recite one Glory Be.

Many people also announce the first mystery and the first Our Father on the same bead, others do so while holding the medallion. You can do whatever feels best for you.

Reciting the Decades
You are ready to begin reciting the five daily mysteries of the Rosary. At the end of this booklet is a chart explaining which mysteries are reflected upon which days of the week.

For each mystery, recite the prayers as follows:
1 Our Father
10 Hail Mary (one per smaller bead)
1 Glory Be and 1 Fatima Prayer

Closing Prayers
When you have finished all five decades of the Rosary, you will be back at the medallion where you began your decades. Here you will recite the Hail, Holy Queen and pray the Doxology. If there is a special devotional prayer, you may recite it after the Doxology. Finish with the Sign of the Cross.

See diagram on the next page for visual explanation
Praying the Rosary

1. Make the sign of the Cross and Pray The Creed.
2. Pray the First Mystery:
   - Announce the First Mystery, and Pray The Our Father.
   - Pray 10 Hail Marys, meditating on the 1st Mystery.
   - Pray 3 Hail Marys for the gift of Faith, Hope and Love.
   - Pray The Our Father.
3. Pray the Second Mystery:
   - Announce the Second Mystery, and Pray The Our Father.
   - Pray 10 Hail Marys, meditating on the 2nd Mystery.
   - Pray 1 Glory Be.
4. Pray the Third Mystery:
   - Announce the Third Mystery, and Pray The Our Father.
   - Pray 10 Hail Marys, meditating on the 3rd Mystery.
   - Pray 1 Glory Be.
   - Lastly, pray 1 Hail Holy Queen.
5. Pray the Fourth Mystery:
   - Announce the Fourth Mystery, and Pray The Our Father.
   - Pray 10 Hail Marys, meditating on the 4th Mystery.
   - Pray 1 Glory Be.
6. Pray the Fifth Mystery:
   - Announce the Fifth Mystery, and Pray The Our Father.
   - Pray 10 Hail Marys, meditating on the 5th Mystery.
   - Pray 1 Glory Be.

Rosary for LGBTQ+ People
Praying the Rosary

For Group Prayer
Praying the Rosary with a group of people is a very spiritual experience. To pray within a group setting, one person should be identified as the “leader”. The “leader” usually begins or finishes the prayers (explanation below), announces the mysteries, and reads the reflections. Each group should discover what is best for their group.

Leading the Prayers
The “leader” will usually begin the prayers and the group will finish. The prayers in the back of the booklet are divided to show the leader part and the group part. This is a suggested way of praying, you should find the best method for your group.

Reciting the Decades
In some cases, the “leader” begins all the prayers of each decade and the group finishes them, beginning at the proper place. In other cases, the “leader” and the group alternate beginning the prayers and then finishing.

For example, for the first mystery, the “leader” will begin all the prayers. For the second mystery, beginning with the Our Father, the group will say the first part and the “leader” will finish the prayer. Whichever method the group wishes to use is acceptable.

The pattern for alternating the prayers is:
1st decade: Leader begins, group finishes
2nd decade: Group begins, leader finishes
3rd decade: Leader begins, group finishes
4th decade: Group begins, leader finishes
5th decade: Leader begins, group finishes

Don’t get caught up in the mechanics of how to pray, just pray. This is a contemplative prayer and, as with most things, the more you do it, the easier it will be.
The Prayers of the Rosary

The prayers below are divided. The first part of the prayer is typically the part the “leader” recites in group prayer; the second part would be recited by the group. If you are praying individually, you would say the full prayer without interruption.

Apostle’s Creed
I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen

Lord’s Prayer
Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. Amen

Hail Mary
Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you; blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb, Jesus.

Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. Amen

Glory Be
Glory be to the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit;

as it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen
Prayers of the Rosary

Fatima Prayer
O my Jesus,
-
forget us our sins, save us from the fires of Hell. Lead all souls to heaven, especially those in most need of your mercy. Amen

Hail Holy Queen
Hail, holy Queen,
-
Mother of Mercy, our life, our sweetness, and our hope. To you we cry, poor banished children of Eve; to you we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn, then, most gracious advocate, your eyes of mercy toward us; and after this, our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of your womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.

Leader: Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God.
Response: That we may be made worthy of the promises of Chris

Doxology
Let us pray:
-
O God, whose only begotten Son, through his Life, Death, and Resurrection, has claimed for us the rewards of eternal life, grant, we beseech thee, that while meditating on these mysteries of the most Holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we may imitate what they contain, and obtain what they promise, through the same Christ, our Lord. Amen

At the end of the Rosary, you may say any special devotional prayer (for example, the prayer to St Michael the Archangel) which you would like to pray.
Praying the Rosary

**Mysteries for Days of the Week**

There are different mysteries which are prayed depending on the day of the week. Below is a list of which mysteries are prayed on which days. Included in the list are the Luminous Mysteries.

These mysteries were included with the Rosary as an option to pray by Pope Saint John Paul II. The Luminous Mysteries are focused on five events during the life and ministry of Jesus, which the original fifteen mysteries do not highlight.

The original 15 mysteries were given to St Dominic in the early 1200s by Mary, Our Lady of the Rosary, as help to argue against the Albigensian heresy which was taking over Europe at the time. (Albigensianism stated only the spiritual is divine. As such, the human body was evil.) The Rosary was a tool to help disprove the heresy. The prayers included in the Rosary mostly predate its creation. The last prayer added to the Rosary was the Fatima prayer, added to the Rosary by Mary, Our Lady of Fatima.

Sunday - Glorious Mysteries
Monday - Joyful Mysteries
Tuesday - Sorrowful Mysteries
Wednesday - Glorious Mysteries
Thursday - Luminous Mysteries
Friday - Sorrowful Mysteries
Saturday - Joyful Mysteries

**Intentions**

The intentions listed for each mystery are in the same pattern. This is done to promote the purpose of this Rosary - the bridging of the gap between the church and the LGBTQ+ Catholic community. This, by no means, keeps you from adding your own intentions for each mystery and reflection.

Each area will have its own individual challenges and/or oppotunities. Make the experience of praying the rosary for you or for your group specific to your situation.
Why I Wrote This Booklet

The journey began in writing this set of reflections some eight years ago.

At the time, my ministry was focused on nursing home chaplaincy in the North County area of San Diego county for the Diocese of San Diego and a local parish in Escondido, CA, where I reside.

When I was not ministering to the residents of the area nursing homes, I found myself at the U.S./Mexican border ministering to people on the Mexican side of the fence. On Sundays, I would gather with other ministers at Friendship Park, located at the south-western most point in the United States, and partake in a communion service.

The idea for a booklet of reflections geared toward the LGBTQ+ community was born out of a desire and need to do something more. To speak with people who had been deported into Mexico and to hear the hardships of all those people, especially the LGBTQ+ deportees, ignited a fire within my soul to help in anyway I could.

I began to write these reflections and over the years, the reflections and focus has changed, but the core belief that this was necessary and additive remained. With the 2020 global pandemic, I found myself praying the Rosary six nights a week with an online community. I believe this has much to do with the completion of this booklet.

It is my sincere prayer you find this booklet to be a tool with which you can draw closer to God through the intercession of our Mother Mary. As I say in the opening, your relationship with Jesus is a unique one; you must find a prayer life which works for you. I hope this booklet helps you to discover the love of a compassionate and embracing God who loves and adores you.

Peace!
The Joyful Mysteries
The First Joyful Mystery

The Annunciation - Coming Out to Our Parents

Scripture:
“The angel Gabriel was sent from God to a virgin and he said to her, ‘Hail, favored one! The Lord is with you.’ But she was greatly troubled at what was said and pondered what sort of greeting this might be. Then the angel said to her, ‘Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. Behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall name him Jesus. The holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you, therefore the child to be born will be called holy, for nothing will be impossible for God.’ Mary said, ‘Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word.’ Then the angel departed from her.”

Reflection:
Coming out to family and friends is a momentous occasion. Those with whom we choose to share our news are chosen to receive a great truth. Many, like Mary, when she was chosen to fulfill a great task, are filled with doubts, concerns, fear, and everything other than joy. It is God who has ordered and planned our lives, including the very nature of our sexuality or gender – “your eyes saw me unformed; in your book all are written down; my days were shaped, before one came to be.” (Psalm 139:16) Let us pray that our Coming Out, presented with love and fear, is met with the same trust in God’s plans that Mary showed in accepting God’s plan for her.

Intention:
With each Hail Mary, we pray for the lives of our Lesbian family members: that they may find peace, reconciliation, and joy in the church and know they are loved children of our Creator.
The Second Joyful Mystery
The Visitation - Coming Out to Our Friends

Scripture:
“During those days Mary set out and traveled to the hill country in haste to a town of Judah, where she entered the house of Zechariah and greeted Elizabeth. When Elizabeth heard Mary’s greeting, the infant leaped in her womb, and Elizabeth, filled with the holy Spirit, cried out in a loud voice and said, ’Most blessed are you among women, and blessed is the fruit of your womb. And how does this happen to me, that the mother of my Lord should come to me? For at the moment the sound of your greeting reached my ears, the infant in my womb leaped for joy. Blessed are you who believed that what was spoken to you by the Lord would be fulfilled.’”

Reflection:
It is our friends who, most often, are the first to hear from us the news of our coming out. To feel comfortable and safe, we choose friends we know who love us and will embrace us for who we are. We look for those around us who will see the good and the gift which God has given us and rejoice with us, not scorn or mock us. Elizabeth greeted Mary as the “Mother of my Lord” and even John, in the womb, jumped with joy. Let us be thankful for the friends in our own lives who made our coming out easier and safe; let us pray for like-minded people to be present and to rejoice for those who are yet to come out.

Intention:
With each Hail Mary, we pray for the lives of our Gay family members: that they may find peace, reconciliation, and joy in the church and know they are loved children of our Creator.
The Third Joyful Mystery

The Nativity - Coming Out to the World

Scripture:
“The time came for her to have her child, and she gave birth to her firstborn son. Now there were shepherds in that region living in the fields and keeping the night watch over their flock. The angel of the Lord appeared to them and the glory of the Lord shone around them, and they were struck with great fear. The angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid; for behold, I proclaim to you good news of great joy that will be for all the people. For today in the city of David a savior has been born for you who is Messiah and Lord.’”

Reflection:
The angels announced with great joy the birth of the Savior of the World. Similarly, when we accept the plan which God has for us, there is great rejoicing in Heaven. Our full and new birth, into the person whom God has made, is cause for celebration. For the shepherds of the fields, there was fear, but it was soon overcome with the love and joy. Many who hear our good news will not know how to react; let us pray that God will calm their hearts as the angels calmed the hearts of the shepherds. Let us pray that, when we enter the world fully as God intended, the heavenly host will say, “Glory to God in the highest and on earth peace to those on whom his favor rests.”

Intention:
With each Hail Mary, we pray for the lives of our Bisexual family members: that they may find peace, reconciliation, and joy in the church and know they are loved children of our Creator.
The Fourth Joyful Mystery
The Presentation in the Temple - Being “Right” with God

Scripture:
“Now there was a man in Jerusalem whose name was Simeon. He came into the temple; and when the parents brought in the child Jesus, he took him into his arms and blessed God, saying: ‘Now, Master, you may let your servant go in peace, according to your word, for my eyes have seen your salvation.’ There was also a prophetess, Anna, of the tribe of Asher. And coming forward at that very time, she gave thanks to God and spoke about the child to all who were awaiting the redemption of Jerusalem.”

Reflection:
Perhaps the hardest part of our coming out is understanding the depth and breadth of God’s mercy and love for us. We are part of His plan, created in his image; “in the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.” (Genesis 1:27) We should not fear the God who made us, knew us before we were to be, and gave us our life. Simeon and Anna waited for Jesus in the temple, to know all would be right in the world; so that they may finally know peace. Let us pray that God will grant us the same peace he granted to Simeon and Anna, so we too may be at peace with his presence in our lives.

Intention:
With each Hail Mary, we pray for the lives of our Transgender family members: that they may find peace, reconciliation, and joy in the church and know they are loved children of our Creator.
The Fifth Joyful Mystery

The Finding of Jesus in the Temple - Finding God’s Love for Us

Scripture:
“After three days, they found him in the temple, sitting in the midst of the teachers, listening to them, and asking them questions, and all who heard him were astounded at his understanding and his answers. When his parents saw him, they were astonished, and his mother said to him, ‘Son, why have you done this to us? Your father and I have been looking for you with great anxiety.’ And he said to them, ‘Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father’s house?’ But they did not understand what he said to them.”

Reflection:
A parent’s worst nightmare is fearing something is wrong with their child. Joseph and Mary were unable to find Jesus and they search for him, wanting to know he was safe. God wants us to be safe and protected in his love; all we need to do is accept his love. Just as Joseph and Mary were confused by Jesus’ actions and his words, “did you not know I must be in my Father’s house?” (Luke 2:49b), many will be confused when we declare to them we must be in our Father’s house. Let us proudly present ourselves in our temples and be about our Father’s work.

Intention:
With each Hail Mary, we pray for the lives of our Queer, Intersex, and all other of our family members: that they may find peace, reconciliation, and joy in the church and know they are loved children of our Creator.
The Sorrowful Mysteries
The First Sorrowful Mystery
The Agony in the Garden - Living Our Truth

Scripture:
“After withdrawing about a stone’s throw from them and kneeling, he prayed, saying, ‘Father, if you are willing, take this cup away from me; still, not my will but yours be done.’ And to strengthen him an angel from heaven appeared to him. He was in such agony and he prayed so fervently that his sweat became like drops of blood falling on the ground. When he rose from prayer and returned to his disciples, he found them sleeping from grief. He said to them, ‘Why are you sleeping? Get up and pray that you may not undergo the test.’”

Reflection:
Ours is a hard truth to accept, often for ourselves and frequently for others. Many of us secretly pray that if we could only be straight – be “normal” – our lives would be fine. God’s promise of love and compassion comes with the responsibility to accept the person whom he made us to be. Though our own “sweat may become like drops of blood” (Luke 22:44b) because we agonize over our own truth, we can be sure that God loves us and guides down the right path. Let us pray for the strength and grace to take the cup which God offers us, the truth of our lives, and let his will be done, not our own.

Intention:
With each Hail Mary, we pray for the lives of our Lesbian family members: that they may find peace, reconciliation, and joy in the church and know they are loved children of our Creator.
The Second Sorrowful Mystery
The Scourging at the Pillar - Suffering for Our Truth

Scripture:
"Then they brought Jesus from Caiaphas to the praetorium. It was morning. And they themselves did not enter the praetorium, in order not to be defiled so that they could eat the Passover. Then Pilate took Jesus and had him scourged."

Reflection:
The scourge was a horrific tool. Used to break down the body and will of a person, it cut into the flesh of the body and scarred it permanently. Hateful words from hateful people said against us are designed to be modern day scourges: to break down our will and our bodies, to force conformation to their ideas of who we should be; not who God intended us to be. All too often these hateful words scar our bodies and our minds. Just as Jesus did not conform in the sight of those who did not understand, let us pray for the strength to face our accuser's scourges and remain unscarred, knowing God's love for us will heal all our wounds.

Intention:
With each Hail Mary, we pray for the lives of our Gay family members: that they may find peace, reconciliation, and joy in the church and know they are loved children of our Creator.
The Third Sorrowful Mystery

The Crowning with Thorns - Accepting Our Truth

**Scripture:**
Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus inside the praetorium and gathered the whole cohort around him. They stripped off his clothes and threw a scarlet military cloak about him. Weaving a crown out of thorns, they placed it on his head, and a reed in his right hand. They spat upon him and took the reed and kept striking him on the head. And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the cloak, dressed him in his own clothes, and led him off to crucify him.

**Reflection:**
The soldiers in the praetorium believed the final indignity they could impose on Jesus was crowning him, not with gold but thorns which dug into his head. Those who hate us crown us with the same indignity; a crown which injures and demeans. In the face of this pain and indignity, Jesus did not give up the truth of who he was – the Son of God. Let us pray for the same strength to wear our crowns with dignity and grace; to never bow our heads but to raise them high and look upon Jesus on the cross and his great gift to us.

**Intention:**
With each Hail Mary, we pray for the lives of our Bisexual family members: that they may find peace, reconciliation, and joy in the church and know they are loved children of our Creator.
The Fourth Sorrowful Mystery
The Carrying of the Cross - Walking in Our Truth

Scripture:
“And when they had mocked him, they stripped him of the purple cloak, dressed him in his own clothes, and led him out to crucify him. A large crowd of people followed Jesus, including many women who mourned and lamented him. Jesus turned to them and said, ‘Daughters of Jerusalem, do not weep for me; weep instead for yourselves and for your children.’”

Reflection:
The weight of the world’s hatred can be, at times, overwhelming. Walking every day in the valley of the shadow of people’s persecution and condemnation can make us trip and fall on our daily journey. As disciples of Christ, we are called to “deny ourselves, pick up our cross, and follow him.” (Matthew 16:24b) Walking with the weight of our sins is daunting and a heavy load to bear. Add to that the weight of the accusation of others and our cross becomes even heavier. Let us pray for the grace to know that Jesus has bourne the weight of our cross for us and take strength from knowing that we walk with Jesus every day.

Intention:
With each Hail Mary, we pray for the lives of our Transgender family members: that they may find peace, reconciliation, and joy in the church and know they are loved children of our Creator.
The Fifth Sorrowful Mystery
The Crucifixion - Dying for Our Truth

Scripture:
“When they came to the place called the Skull, they crucified him and the criminals there, one on his right, the other on his left. Then Jesus said, ‘Father, forgive them, they know not what they do.’ When Jesus had taken the wine, he said, ‘It is finished.’ And bowing his head, he handed over the spirit.”

Reflection:
Throughout the ages, many have expressed their interpretation of God’s love in terms of the things “God hates.” For many of us, we hear the message of God’s love through human hatred; at times it seems overwhelming and sure that God does not care for us. Too many times, members of our LGBTQ+ family have died at the hands of others simply because of this twisted view of God’s love. Let us pray for the souls of those who have gone before us; let us pray for their intercession for our lives. We lift up their souls to God as they lift us up on the shoulders of their sacrifice.

Intention:
With each Hail Mary, we pray for the lives of our Queer, Intersex, and all other of our family members: that they may find peace, reconciliation, and joy in the church and know they are loved children of our Creator.
The First Luminous Mystery
The Baptism of Jesus - Accepting God’s Love

Scripture:
“Then Jesus came from Galilee to John at the Jordan to be baptized by him. After Jesus was baptized, he came up from the water and behold, the heavens were opened, and he saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove, coming upon him. And a voice came from the heavens, saying, “This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.””

Reflection:
Jesus was fully human and fully God, yet he told John the Baptist he needed to be baptized ‘for thus it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness.’ (Matthew 3:15) God’s voice announced, ‘this is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased.’ (Matthew 3:17) God is pleased with all his children, sinner and saint alike. Through our baptism we are acknowledged as children of God with whom he is well pleased. Let us embrace our rightful place in the family of God and accept the love only which a Creator can have for his creation.

Intention:
With each Hail Mary, we pray for the lives of our Lesbian family members: that they may find peace, reconciliation, and joy in the church and know they are loved children of our Creator.
The Second Luminous Mystery
The Wedding at Cana - Doing God’s Work

Scripture:
“On the third day there was a wedding in Cana in Galilee, and the mother of Jesus was there. Jesus and his disciples were also invited to the wedding. When the wine ran short, the mother of Jesus said to him, ‘They have no wine.’ Jesus said to her, ‘Woman, how does your concern affect me? My hour has not yet come.’ His mother said to the servers, ‘Do whatever he tells you.’"

Reflection:
Mary tells the wine stewards, “do whatever he tells you.” She says the same to us, to do whatever Jesus tells us to do. He instructs us throughout the Gospels to “love your neighbor as yourself.” There is no other commandment greater.” For the wedding party, Jesus performs a miracle to save them from embarrassment. For us, he teaches his presence in the world will make our lives better and he instructs us to go forth and make the world a better place for everyone. Let us pray we can be witnesses to Jesus’ instructions and go forth to make the world a better place for our LGBTQ family members.

Intention:
With each Hail Mary, we pray for the lives of our Gay family members: that they may find peace, reconciliation, and joy in the church and know they are loved children of our Creator.
The Third Luminous Mystery
The Proclamation of the Kingdom - Professing Our Faith

Scripture:
“When he saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he had sat down, his disciples came to him. He began to teach them. ‘Blessed are you when they insult you and persecute you and utter every kind of evil against you because of me. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward will be great in heaven. Thus, they persecuted the prophets who were before you.’”

Reflection:
At the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus gives hope to those who follow him; he tells them they will inherit much for their faith. His simple teachings to those gathered with him give us a vision of the rewards of the kingdom to come for believing in him. We, too, can profess our faith to the world: We are the children of a welcoming, inclusive, and loving God. Let us pray for the Grace to openly proclaim our faith to all whom we meet and be confident in knowing that we are heirs to the Kingdom of God.

Intention:
With each Hail Mary, we pray for the lives of our Lesbian family members: that they may find peace, reconciliation, and joy in the church and know they are loved children of our Creator.
The Fourth Luminous Mystery
The Transfiguration of the Lord - Becoming Who We are Meant to Be

Scripture:
"After six days Jesus took Peter, James, and John his brother, and led them up a high mountain by themselves. And he was transfigured before them; his face shone like the sun and his clothes became white as light. Then from the cloud came a voice that said, ‘This is my beloved Son, with whom I am well pleased; listen to him.’ When the disciples heard this, they fell prostrate and were very much afraid. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, ‘Rise, and do not be afraid.’"

Reflection:
Before their very eyes, Peter, John, and James witness the transfiguration of Jesus; they witness Jesus becoming the fulfillment of who he is meant to be. When we accept who we are meant to be and profess our place in the kingdom, we live in the fullness of God’s plan for our lives. ‘Jesus’ face changed in appearance and his clothing become dazzling white’ (Luke 9:29) as his destiny becomes clear, just like our person changes when we accept our own destiny. We must pray that God will grant us the Grace to accept our destiny joyfully and completely.

Intention:
With each Hail Mary, we pray for the lives of our Gay family members: that they may find peace, reconciliation, and joy in the church and know they are loved children of our Creator.
The Fifth Luminous Mystery
The Institution of the Eucharist - Feeding our Souls

Scripture:
“While they were eating, Jesus took bread, said the blessing, broke it, and giving it to his disciples said, ‘Take and eat; this is my body.’ Then he took a cup, gave thanks, and gave it to them, saying, ‘Drink from it, all of you, for this is my blood of the covenant, which will be shed on behalf of many for the forgiveness of sins.’”

Reflection:
Jesus gives us the gift of his Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity in the presence of bread and wine at Mass. We take into us the gifts which Jesus left for his disciples and carry them out into the world so that all may know the love of God through our actions. The gifts freely given us are healing to the sick and tired soul; there are no requirements set by Jesus to partake of these gifts other than to love the Lord, our God, with all our heart, our soul, and our minds and to love one another as we would love ourselves. We are asked to bring our pain, our sufferings, our doubts and fears, and lay them at the altar (the foot of the cross) so that Jesus might take them from us and give to us what he gave those gathered when he fed the multitude – the gifts which feed our bodies and our souls. Let us pray for the freedom to continue to accept these gifts as Jesus intended.

Intention:
With each Hail Mary, we pray for the lives of our Lesbian family members: that they may find peace, reconciliation, and joy in the church and know they are loved children of our Creator.
The Glorious Mysteries
Rosary for LGBTQ+ People
The First Glorious Mystery
The Resurrection - Living Our Life in God’s Love

Scripture:
“Then the angel said to the women in reply, ‘Do not be afraid! I know that you are seeking Jesus the crucified. He is not here, for he has been raised just as he said. Come and see the place where he lay. Then go quickly and tell his disciples, “He has been raised from the dead, and he is going before you to Galilee; there you will see him.” Behold, I have told you.’”

Reflection:
When we accept that God has laid out a path for our lives, we can begin to live in the fullness of God’s love for us. We are all welcome to be a part of the great love God has for the world; all we need to do is accept him and allow him to fill our life with love and joy. This is our resurrection, a coming into new life after dying to a life of shame, fear, hopelessness, accusation, hatred, and persecution. Just as the tomb could not hide away Jesus, the stones which others place in our way – to lock us away – will not hold us once we are filled with the love of God. Let us answer Jesus’ call to “come out” of the tombs of a death into a new life with God, filled with his Love.

Intention:
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The Second Glorious Mystery
The Ascension - Rising Above Hatred

Scripture:
“When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, ‘Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?’ He said to him, ‘Yes, Lord, you know that I love you.’ He said to him, ‘Feed my lambs.’ And when he had said this, he said to him, ‘Follow me.’”

Reflection:
As predicted, Peter rejects Jesus three times before he is crucified. On the beach of the Sea of Galilee, Jesus embraces Peter anew, “Simon, son of John, do you love me?” (John 21:16a) Jesus then ascends to heaven and says to the disciples, “Follow me.” (John 21:19) We are invited to rise above the opposition in our lives and follow Jesus. No matter what it is we have done in our lives – even if we have rejected him because we have feared he rejects us – Jesus invites us to his warm embrace and to rise with him in Glory. Let us pray we will trust in Jesus’ love for us and follow him where he leads.

Intention:
With each Hail Mary, we pray for the lives of our Gay family members: that they may find peace, reconciliation, and joy in the church and know they are loved children of our Creator.
The Third Glorious Mystery
The Coming of the Spirit - Receiving God’s Gifts in Our Life

Scripture:
“And suddenly there came from the sky a noise like a strong driving wind, and it filled the entire house in which they were. Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them. And they were all filled with the holy Spirit and began to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim.”

Reflection:
How like the disciples are we? They hid in fear in the upper room, not wanting to be discovered for their secret. Jesus, to free them from their fears and hesitations, sends down the Holy Spirit to fill their lives with the gifts needed to be true messengers of the Good News. The Spirit fills us with the same gifts to help us to leave the shadows of our closets of fear, self-loathing, and hatred and to go forth into the world to share the Good News of Jesus’ love for us. Just as each disciple spoke in a different tongue, our message is not meant for all to hear; just some. Let us seek out the people who are meant to hear our message and share the Good News of Jesus’ love for us and for everyone with them.

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The Fourth Glorious Mystery
The Assumption of Mary - Honoring Our Spiritual Mother

Scripture:
“Standing by the cross of Jesus were his mother and his mother’s sister, Mary the wife of Clopas, and Mary of Magdala. When Jesus saw his mother and the disciple there whom he loved, he said to his mother, ‘Woman, behold, your son.’ Then he said to the disciple, ‘Behold, your mother.’ And from that hour the disciple took her into his home.”

Reflection:
Not all of us are lucky enough to have understanding and accepting parents. Mary was accepting of Jesus from the very moment she said ‘yes’ to the angel Gabriel. Even when others foretold of her impending pain and hurt, Mary continued to say yes to her son. When our mothers are unable to be supportive or even present for us, Mary continues to love us and say ‘yes’ to us. Before his death, Jesus gives us to Mary as her children and Mary to us as our Mother. Let us be like John and take our Mother into our homes and our hearts today.

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The Fifth Glorious Mystery
The Crowning of Mary - Embracing Our Spiritual Family

Scripture:
“A great sign appeared in the sky, a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet, and on her head a crown of twelve stars. She gave birth to a son, a male child, destined to rule all the nations with an iron rod. Her child was caught up to God and his throne”

Reflection:
It is reassuring to know our Mother Mary awaits us in heaven to bring us to the warm embrace of her Son and will never turn her back to us in our times of joy or need. We heed her words to the wine stewards and we “do whatever he tells us.” (John 2:5) Mary, as Queen of Heaven, intercedes for us and brings us closer to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. She is a mother who will never turn her face from us and sees the beauty and love within us. How encouraging to know we have a mother in heaven who advocates for us unceasingly. Let us pray that our recitation of the Rosary brings blessings and good favor from our heavenly Queen.

Intention:
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Rosary for LGBTQ+ People
Acknowledgements

This booklet would not have come together without the help of a number of people whose input and assistance was vital to this booklet’s completion.

First, to the artist who granted permission for their collage to be used as the cover image for this booklet, thank you. Your bravery in standing up to oppressive powers is commendable and we lift you up in prayer and spiritual support.

To Elżbieta Podleśna, who remained strong and faithful to the message of Jesus’ all-inclusive love, who was arrested by Polish authorities for displaying the collage, I thank you for being an intermediary between myself and the artist, and I thank you for being you. We lift you up in our prayers, too.

To Marianne Duddy-Burke, Executive Director of DignityUSA, you input on different aspects of this booklet were helpful and additive. I hope this tool is able to spread the message of tolerance and God’s love throughout the world.

To the Global Network of Rainbow Catholics, who in the face of sometimes difficult situations throughout the world, have embraced this tool as one to continue the message of the love which God has for all the peoples of the world.

To everyone who is touched by this booklet, my prayer for you is that you draw closer to God through the intercession of our Mother Mary. Allow her to bring you, through her Immaculate Heart, to the Sacred Heart of her son, Jesus.

May God bless you all!

Fr Don
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