

FIFTY-FOUR DAY ROSARY NOVENA

Origin

In an apparition of Our Lady of Pompeii, which occurred in 1884 at Naples, in the house of Commander Agrelli, the heavenly Mother deigned to make known the manner in which she desires to be invoked. For thirteen months Fortuna Agrelli, the daughter of the Commander, had endured dreadful sufferings and torturous cramps. The most celebrated physicians had given up.

On February 16, 1884, the afflicted girl and her relatives commenced a novena of Rosaries. The Queen of the Holy Rosary favored her with an apparition on March 3rd. Mary, sitting upon a high throne, surrounded by luminous figures, held the divine Child on her lap, and in her hand a Rosary. The Virgin Mother and the Holy Infant were clad in gold embroidered garments. They were accompanied by Saint Dominic and Saint Catherine of Siena. The throne was profusely decorated with flowers; the beauty of Our Lady was marvelous.

Mary looked upon the sufferer with maternal tenderness and the patient saluted her with the words: "Queen of the Holy Rosary, be gracious to me; restore me to health! I have already prayed to thee in a novena O Mary, but have not yet experienced thy aid. I am so anxious to be cured!"

"Child", responded the Blessed Virgin, "thou hast invoked me by various titles and hast always obtained favors from me. Now, since thou hast called me by that title so pleasing to me, 'Queen of the Holy Rosary', I can no longer refuse the favor thou dost petition; for this name is most precious and dear to me. Make three novenas, and thou shalt obtain all".

Once more the Queen of the Holy Rosary appeared to her and said: "Whoever desires to obtain favors from me should make three novenas of the prayers of the Rosary, and three novenas in thanksgiving".

This miracle of the Rosary made a very deep impression on Pope Leo XIII, and greatly contributed to the fact that in so many circular letters, he urged all Christians to love the Rosary and say it fervently.

Method

The 54 Day Rosary Novena consists of five decades of the Rosary each day for 27 days in petition; then immediately the same for 27 days in thanksgiving, whether or not the request has been granted.

The meditations vary from day to day. On the first day meditate on the Joyful Mysteries; on the second day the Sorrowful Mysteries; on the third day the Glorious Mysteries and on the fourth day the Luminous Mysteries; and so on throughout the 54 days.

Follow the format of the prayers for each of the mysteries as outlined in this booklet. This is an arduous novena but it is a novena of love. If you are sincere, you will not find it difficult to obtain your request.

Should you not obtain the favor you seek, be assured that the Rosary Queen, who knows what each one stands most in need of, has heard your prayer. You will not have prayed in vain. No prayer ever went unheard and Our Blessed Lady has never been known to fail.

Look upon each Hail Mary as a rare and beautiful rose which you lay at Mary's feet. These spiritual roses, bound in a wreath with Spiritual Communions, will be a most pleasing and acceptable gift to her and will bring down upon you special graces.

Prayers Within the Rosary Novena

The Sign of the Cross

+ In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Glory Be

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

The Fatima Prayerⁱ

O my Jesus, forgive us our sins, save us from the fires of hell. Lead all souls to heaven, especially those in most need of Your mercy.

Our Father

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 Maryⁱⁱ

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Apostles' Creedⁱⁱⁱ

I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth.
and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
(Bow:) 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.

Concluding Prayers for Each Category of Mysteries

The following prayers are said after all the five mysteries for any of the four categories are completed.

Hail Holy Queen (Salve Regina)^{iv}

Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy, hail our life, our sweetness and our hope! To thee do we cry poor banished children of Eve; to thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this vale of tears. Turn then, O most gracious advocate, thine eyes of mercy towards us and after this our exile show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus; O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary.

Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us pray: O God, whose only-begotten Son, by His life, death and resurrection has purchased for us the rewards of eternal life; grant, we beseech You, that meditating on these mysteries of the most Holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we may both imitate what they contain and obtain what they promise, through the same Christ our Lord. Amen.

Prayer After The Rosary

O God, whose only-begotten Son, by His life, death and resurrection, has purchased for us the rewards of eternal life; grant, we beseech Thee, that, meditating upon 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.

May the divine assistance remain always with us. Amen.

And may the souls of the faithful departed, through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.

Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, really present in the most Holy Sacrament of the altar, since I cannot now receive you under the Sacramental Veil, I beseech you, with a heart full of love and longing, to come spiritually into my soul through the immaculate heart of Your most Holy Mother, and abide with me forever; You in me, and I in You, in time and in eternity.

In days of petition: Sweet Mother Mary, I offer you this Spiritual Communion to bind my bouquets in a wreath to place upon your brow. O my Mother! Look with favor upon my gift, and in your love obtain for me (*specify request*).

In days of thanksgiving: Sweet Mother Mary, I offer you this Spiritual Communion to bind my bouquets in a wreath to place upon your brow in thanksgiving for (*specify request*), which you in your love have obtained for me.

The Joyful Mysteries

The Sign of the Cross

Hail Mary

Hail! Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, my Mother Mary, hail! At your feet I humbly (*in days of thanksgiving: gratefully*) kneel to offer you a crown of roses – snow-white buds to remind you of your joys -- each bud recalling to you a holy mystery; each ten bound together with my petition for a particular grace.

In days of petition: O Holy Queen, dispenser of God's graces and Mother of all who invoke you! You cannot look upon my gift and fail to see its binding. As you receive my gift, so will you receive my petition; from your bounty you will give me the favor I so earnestly and trustingly seek.

I despair of nothing that I ask of you. Show yourself my Mother!

In days of thanksgiving: O Holy Queen, dispenser of God's graces and Mother of all who invoke you! You cannot look upon my gift and fail to see its binding. As you receive my gift, so will you receive my thanksgiving; from your bounty you have given me the favor I so earnestly and trustingly sought.

I despaired not of what I asked of you, and you have truly shown yourself my Mother.

Apostles' Creed, Our Father, 3 Hail Marys, & Glory Be.

First Joyful Mystery – The Annunciation

Sweet Mother Mary, meditating on the Mystery of the Annunciation, when the angel Gabriel appeared to you with the tidings that you were to become the Mother of God; greeting you with that sublime salutation, "Hail, full of grace! The Lord is with thee!" and you did humbly submit yourself to the will of the Father, responding: "Behold the handmaid of the Lord. Be it done unto me according to thy word." I humbly pray...

Our Father, 10 Hail Marys, Glory Be and Fatima Prayer.

Then say: I bind these snow-white buds with a petition for the virtue of *humility* and humbly lay this bouquet at your feet.

Second Joyful Mystery – The Visitation

Sweet Mother Mary, meditating on the Mystery of the Visitation, when, upon your visit to your holy cousin, Elizabeth, she greeted you with the prophetic utterance, "Blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb!" and you answered with that canticle of canticles, the Magnificat, I humbly pray...

Our Father, 10 Hail Marys, Glory Be and Fatima Prayer.

Then say: I bind these snow-white buds with a petition for the virtue of *charity* and humbly lay this bouquet at your feet.

Third Joyful Mystery – The Nativity

Sweet Mother Mary, meditating on the Mystery of the Nativity of Our Lord, when, your time being completed, you did bring forth, O holy Virgin, the Redeemer of the world in a stable at Bethlehem; whereupon choirs of angels filled the heavens with their exultant song of praise – “Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men of good will.” I humbly pray...

Our Father, 10 Hail Marys, Glory Be and Fatima Prayer.

Then say: I bind these snow-white buds with a petition for the virtue of *detachment from the world* and humbly lay this bouquet at your feet.

Fourth Joyful Mystery – The Presentation

Sweet Mother Mary, meditating on the Mystery of the Presentation, when, in obedience to the Law of Moses, you did present the Child in the temple, where the holy prophet Simeon, taking the Child in his arms, offered thanks to God for sparing him to look upon his Saviour and foretold your sufferings by the words: “Thy soul also a sword shall pierce...” I humbly pray...

Our Father, 10 Hail Marys, Glory Be and Fatima Prayer.

Then say: I bind these snow-white buds with a petition for the virtue of *purity* and humbly lay this bouquet at your feet.

Fifth Joyful Mystery – The Finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple

Sweet Mother Mary, meditating on the Mystery of the Finding of the Child Jesus in the Temple, when, having sought Him for three days, sorrowing, your heart was gladdened upon finding Him in the temple speaking to the doctors; and when, upon your request, He obediently returned home with you, I humbly pray...

Our Father, 10 Hail Marys, Glory Be and Fatima Prayer.

Then say: I bind these snow-white buds with a petition for the virtue of *obedience to the will of God* and humbly lay this bouquet at your feet.

Pray concluding prayers.

The Sorrowful Mysteries

The Sign of the Cross

Hail Mary

Hail! Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, my Mother Mary, hail! At your feet I humbly (*in days of thanksgiving: gratefully*) kneel to offer you a crown of roses – blood-red roses to remind you of the passion of your divine Son, with whom you did so fully partake of its bitterness – each rose recalling to you a holy mystery; each ten bound together with my petition for a particular grace.

In days of petition: O Holy Queen, dispenser of God's graces and Mother of all who invoke you! You cannot look upon my gift and fail to see its binding. As you receive my gift, so will you receive my petition; from your bounty you will give me the favor I so earnestly and trustingly seek.

I despair of nothing that I ask of you. Show yourself my Mother!

In days of thanksgiving: O Holy Queen, dispenser of God's graces and Mother of all who invoke you! You cannot look upon my gift and fail to see its binding. As you receive my gift, so will you receive my thanksgiving; from your bounty you have given me the favor I so earnestly and trustingly sought.

I despaired not of what I asked of you, and you have truly shown yourself my Mother.

Apostles' Creed, Our Father, 3 Hail Marys and Glory Be.

First Sorrowful Mystery – The Agony in the Garden

O most sorrowful Mother Mary, meditating on the Mystery of the Agony of Our Lord in the Garden, when, in the grotto of the Garden of Olives, Jesus saw the sins of the world unfolded before Him by Satan, who sought to dissuade Him from the sacrifice He was about to make; when, His soul shrinking from the sight, and His precious blood flowing from every pore at the vision of the torture and death He was to undergo, your own sufferings, dear Mother, the future sufferings of His Church, and His own sufferings in the Blessed Sacrament, He cried in anguish, "Abba! Father! If it be possible, let this chalice pass from Me!"; but, immediately resigning Himself to His Father's will, He prayed, "Not as I will, but as Thou wilt!" I humbly pray...

Our Father, 10 Hail Marys, Glory Be and Fatima Prayer.

Then say: I bind these blood-red roses with a petition for the virtue of *resignation to the will of God* and humbly lay this bouquet at your feet.

Second Sorrowful Mystery – The Scourging at the Pillar

O most sorrowful Mother Mary, meditating on the Mystery of the Scourging of Our Lord when, at Pilate's command, your divine Son, stripped of His garments and bound to a pillar, was lacerated from head to foot with cruel scourges and His flesh torn away until His mortified body could bear no more, I humbly pray...

Our Father, 10 Hail Marys, Glory Be and Fatima Prayer.

Then say: I bind these blood-red roses with a petition for the virtue of *mortification* and humbly lay this bouquet at your feet.

Third Sorrowful Mystery – The Crowning With Thorns

O most sorrowful Mother Mary, meditating on the Mystery of the Crowning of Our Lord with thorns, when, the soldiers, binding about His head a crown of sharp thorns, showered blows upon it, driving the thorns deeply into His head; then, in mock adoration, knelt before Him, crying, “Hail, King of the Jews!” I humbly pray...

Our Father, 10 Hail Marys, Glory Be and Fatima Prayer.

Then say: I bind these blood-red roses with a petition for the virtue of *humility* and humbly lay this bouquet at your feet.

Fourth Sorrowful Mystery – The Carrying of the Cross

O most sorrowful Mother Mary, meditating on the Mystery of the Carrying of the Cross, when, with the heavy wood of the Cross upon His shoulders, your divine Son was dragged, weak and suffering, yet patient, through the streets, amidst the revilements of the people, to Calvary; falling often, but urged along by the cruel blows of His executioners, I humbly pray...

Our Father, 10 Hail Marys, Glory Be and Fatima Prayer.

Then say: I bind these blood-red roses with a petition for the virtue of *patience in adversity* and humbly lay this bouquet at your feet.

Fifth Sorrowful Mystery – The Crucifixion

O most sorrowful Mother Mary, meditating on the Mystery of the Crucifixion, when, having been stripped of His garments, your divine Son was nailed to the cross, upon which He died after three hours of indescribable agony, during which time He begged from His Father forgiveness for His enemies, I humbly pray...

Our Father, 10 Hail Marys, Glory Be and Fatima Prayer.

Then say: I bind these blood-red roses with a petition for the virtue of *love of our enemies* and humbly lay this bouquet at your feet.

Pray concluding prayers.

The Glorious Mysteries

The Sign of the Cross

Hail Mary

Hail! Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, my Mother Mary, hail! At your feet I humbly (*in days of thanksgiving: gratefully*) kneel to offer you a crown of roses – full-blown white roses, tinged with the red of the passion, to remind you of your glories, fruits of the sufferings of your Son and you – each rose recalling to you a holy mystery; each ten bound together with my petition for a particular grace.

In days of petition: O Holy Queen, dispenser of God's graces and Mother of all who invoke you! You cannot look upon my gift and fail to see its binding. As you receive my gift, so will you receive my petition; from your bounty you will give me the favor I so earnestly and trustingly seek.

I despair of nothing that I ask of you. Show yourself my Mother!

In days of thanksgiving: O Holy Queen, dispenser of God's graces and Mother of all who invoke you! You cannot look upon my gift and fail to see its binding. As you receive my gift, so will you receive my thanksgiving; from your bounty you have given me the favor I so earnestly and trustingly sought.

I despaired not of what I asked of you, and you have truly shown yourself my Mother.

Apostles' Creed, Our Father, 3 Hail Marys and Glory Be.

First Glorious Mystery – The Resurrection

O glorious Mother Mary, meditating on the Mystery of the Resurrection of Our Lord from the Dead, when, on the morning of the third day after His death and burial, He arose from the dead and appeared to you^v, dear Mother, and filled your heart with unspeakable joy; then appeared to the holy women and to His disciples, who adored Him as their risen God, I humbly pray...

Our Father, 10 Hail Marys, Glory Be and Fatima Prayer.

Then say: I bind these full-blown roses with a petition for the virtue of *faith* and humbly lay this bouquet at your feet.

Second Glorious Mystery – Ascension

O glorious Mother Mary, meditating on the Mystery of the Ascension, when your divine Son, after forty days on earth, went to Mount Olivet accompanied by His disciples and you, where all adored Him for the last time, after which He promised to remain with them until the end of the world; then, extending His pierced hands over all in a last blessing, He ascended before their eyes into heaven, I humbly pray...

Our Father, 10 Hail Marys, Glory Be and Fatima Prayer.

Then say: I bind these full-blown roses with a petition for the virtue of *hope* and humbly lay this bouquet at your feet.

Third Glorious Mystery – The Descent of the Holy Spirit

O glorious Mother Mary, meditating on the Mystery of the Descent of the Holy Spirit, when, the Apostles being assembled with you in a house in Jerusalem, the Holy Spirit descended upon them in the form of fiery tongues, inflaming the hearts of the apostles with the fire of divine love, teaching them all truths and giving to them the gift of tongues, and, filling you with the plenitude of His grace, inspired you to pray for the apostles and the first Christians, I humbly pray...

Our Father, 10 Hail Marys, Glory Be and Fatima Prayer.

Then say: I bind these full-blown roses with a petition for the virtue of *charity* and humbly lay this bouquet at your feet.

Fourth Glorious Mystery – The Assumption of Our Blessed Mother Into Heaven

O glorious Mother Mary, meditating on the Mystery of your Assumption into Heaven, when, consumed with the desire to be united with your divine Son in heaven, your soul departed from your body and united itself to Him, Who, out of the excessive love He bore for you, His Mother, whose virginal body was His first tabernacle, took that body into heaven and there, amidst the acclaims of the angels and saints, reinfused into it your soul, I humbly pray...

Our Father, 10 Hail Marys, Glory Be and Fatima Prayer.

Then say: I bind these full-blown roses with a petition for the virtue of *union with Christ* and humbly lay this bouquet at your feet.

Fifth Glorious Mystery – The Coronation of Our Blessed Mother Mary

O glorious Mother Mary, meditating on the Mystery of Your Coronation in Heaven, when, upon being taken up to heaven after your death, you were triply crowned as the august Queen of Heaven by God the Father as His beloved Daughter, by God the Son as His dearest Mother, and by God the Holy Spirit as His chosen Spouse; the most perfect adorer of the Blessed Trinity, pleading our cause as our most powerful and merciful Mother, through you, I humbly pray...

Our Father, 10 Hail Marys, Glory Be and Fatima Prayer.

Then say: I bind these full-blown roses with a petition for the virtue of *union with you* and humbly lay this bouquet at your feet.

Pray concluding prayers.

The Luminous Mysteries

The Sign of the Cross

Hail Mary

Hail! Queen of the Most Holy Rosary, my Mother Mary, hail! At your feet I humbly (*in days of thanksgiving: gratefully*) kneel to offer you a crown of bright-yellow roses, to remind you of the ministry of your Son and you – each rose recalling to you a holy mystery; each ten bound together with my petition for a particular grace.

In days of petition: O Holy Queen, dispenser of God's graces and Mother of all who invoke you! You cannot look upon my gift and fail to see its binding. As you receive my gift, so will you receive my petition; from your bounty you will give me the favor I so earnestly and trustingly seek.

I despair of nothing that I ask of you. Show yourself my Mother!

In days of thanksgiving: O Holy Queen, dispenser of God's graces and Mother of all who invoke you! You cannot look upon my gift and fail to see its binding. As you receive my gift, so will you receive my thanksgiving; from your bounty you have given me the favor I so earnestly and trustingly sought.

I despaired not of what I asked of you, and you have truly shown yourself my Mother.

Apostles' Creed, Our Father, 3 Hail Marys and Glory Be.

First Luminous Mystery – The Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River

Courageous Mother Mary, meditating on the Mystery of the Baptism of Jesus in the Jordan River, when your Son, as an example to all, insisted on being baptized by His cousin John and the sky opened and the Holy Spirit came down to Him like a dove and a voice from heaven said, "You are my own dear Son in whom I am well pleased." I humbly pray...

Our Father, 10 Hail Marys, Glory Be and Fatima Prayer.

Then say: I bind these bright-yellow roses with a petition for the virtue of *openness to the Holy Spirit* and humbly lay this bouquet at your feet.

Second Luminous Mystery – The Wedding of Cana

Courageous Mother Mary, meditating on the Mystery of the First Miracle of Jesus at the Wedding Feast at Cana, when at your urging, your Son performed the first of His many miracles by helping a couple celebrate their marriage, by changing water into wine of such quality that the chief steward upbraided the host by saying, "Usually people serve the best wine first and save the cheaper wine for last, but you have saved the choice wine for last." I humbly pray...

Our Father, 10 Hail Marys, Glory Be and Fatima Prayer.

Then say: I bind these bright-yellow roses with a petition for the virtue of *manifestation through faith* and humbly lay this bouquet at your feet.

Third Luminous Mystery – The Proclamation of the Kingdom of God

Courageous Mother Mary, meditating on the Mystery of the Proclamation of the Kingdom of God, when your Son revealed that the reign of God has already begun "within us" and we are called to conversion and forgiveness, praying "Your Kingdom come, Your will be done, on Earth as it is in Heaven," I humbly pray...

Our Father, 10 Hail Marys, Glory Be and Fatima Prayer.

Then say: I bind these bright-yellow roses with a petition for the virtue of *trust in God* and humbly lay this bouquet at your feet.

Fourth Luminous Mystery – The Transfiguration

Courageous Mother Mary, meditating on the Mystery of the Transfiguration, when your Son revealed His glory to His three disciples, appearing on a mountain with Moses and Elijah, His face shining like the sun and a voice from heaven proclaiming, "This is my beloved Son... Listen to him." I humbly pray...

Our Father, 10 Hail Marys, Glory Be and Fatima Prayer.

Then say: I bind these bright-yellow roses with a petition for the virtue of *desire for holiness* and humbly lay this bouquet at your feet.

Fifth Luminous Mystery – Institution of the Eucharist

Courageous Mother Mary, meditating on the Mystery of the Institution of the Sacrament of the Eucharist, when on the day before He died your Son celebrated the Passover with His disciples and took bread and gave it to them saying, "Take and eat; this is My body" and when dinner was finished He took a cup of wine and shared it with them saying, "Take and drink; this is My blood, which will be given up for you; do this in memory of Me." I humbly pray...

Our Father, 10 Hail Marys, Glory Be and Fatima Prayer.

Then say: I bind these bright-yellow roses with a petition for the virtue of *adoration of the Eucharist* and humbly lay this bouquet at your feet.

Pray concluding prayers.

Novena Record

In Petition

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
J	S	G	L	J	S	G	L	J
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
S	G	L	J	S	G	L	J	S
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
G	L	J	S	G	L	J	S	G

In Thanksgiving

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
L	J	S	G	L	J	S	G	L
10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18
J	S	G	L	J	S	G	L	J
19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26	27
S	G	L	J	S	G	L	J	S

This document was compiled from varying sources.

End Notes

i

This prayer was not in any original form of the Rosary. Neither in its original scripting to Saint Dominic in 1214 or its official standardisation and approval by Pope Pius V in the 16th century. However, most Catholics now add it after each Glory Be, as this was requested by the Blessed Virgin Mary in her apparition at Fatima. There are many English variations to this prayer, with the most common difference being the position of the word “in” to before or after the word “most”. Not much difference here, so feel free to use whatever version you are accustomed to.

ii

When reciting the Hail Mary, it is important to remember that the first section is in fact straight out of the Holy Bible. “Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee” is the Archangel Gabriel’s greeting to Mary – Luke 1:28. The second sentence “Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb” is also from the Holy Bible, when Mary’s cousin Elizabeth greets her during the visitation – Luke 1:42. The two most common mispronunciations are the word “among” and the non-pause after the word “womb”. The correct pronunciation is “among” and not “amongst”. Almost every version of the Holy Bible contains the word among, except for the Darby Bible Translation. Section 2676 of the Catechism of the Catholic Church is very clear that the word is among and not amongst. The second common mistake is not pausing after the word womb. This implies that Mary’s womb is called Jesus, rather than the intended meaning, which is the fruit of Mary’s womb is Jesus. It’s nice to say the Hail Mary but it’s even better to correctly reflect on the words.

iii

The Apostles’ Creed contains 12 articles of faith (an obvious link to the Twelve Apostles, which it is named after). I thought it would be helpful to divide the Creed into the respective articles, as outlined in the Catechism of the Catholic Church. This version is not to be confused with the multitude of variations, which the traditional Apostles’ Creed has.

iv

When reading the first sentence, most people confuse what they are “hailing”. You are not hailing your life, your sweetness and your hope, those components are actually in reference to our Mother Mary. Although the prayer is read with the second “hail” flowing directly to the phrase “our life”, its true meaning is much better understood if the second “hail” was completely removed. Reread the first sentence without the second “hail”. Please note that the second “hail” must be said but it’s important to understand that the Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy is the one who is in fact our life, our sweetness and our hope, we are not “hailing” those three things.

v

It is important to note that there is no Biblical evidence that Jesus first appeared to the Virgin Mary. On the contrary, the Biblical evidence stipulates that Jesus first appeared to Mary Magdalene (Mark 9:16). The only reason the mystery is worded in such a way is because many saints and blessed John Paul II all suggest that Jesus would have certainly appeared to the Virgin Mary first, out of respect and love for His mother. It is argued that the Bible’s silence on the matter should be taken to indicate the obviousness of this fact, rather than its falsehood. To be clear, the Catechism of the Catholic Church holds that the first appearance was in fact to Mary Magdalene and not to the Virgin Mary. The suggestion by blessed John Paul II is not dogmatic in nature and is only written to highlight what he believes to be an obvious point but in no way certifies it as a mandatory article of faith.