



Ranger Rosary Partners

Help us put rosaries in the hands of the brave men and women serving in our Armed Forces

President's Corner

by Pat Evans

The Ranger Rosary ministry recently celebrated 10 years of rosary making at St. Mary's Church here in Annapolis, Maryland. Our anniversary was marked by a Marian retreat led by Fr. Kevin Milton, C.Ss.R.

Afterward the board members personally hosted a luncheon to thank all the parish volunteers whose work has made this ministry flourish over the years. More than sixty St. Mary's parishioners attended. Volunteers from the Church of the Resurrection in Ellicott City, Maryland, St. John in Westminster, Maryland, and other parishes came to share in reflection and friendship also.

Every Autumn brings a sharp increase in chaplains' rosary orders as servicemen and women face reassignments and, for many, overseas deployments. The chaplains struggle to meet the spiritual needs of the troops they serve, so they especially appreciate receiving Ranger Rosary's free rosaries, prayer cards, religious medals, and reading material. Many shipments include drawings and notes from school children from across the country.

The rosary design, created by parishioner Frank (Bo) Ristaino in the 1990s, was an immediate hit with his fellow soldiers. When his family could no longer make enough rosaries to meet the burgeoning demand, he turned to St. Mary's to take over the ministry.

Since 2003, Ranger Rosary has grown to include over 30 church groups and hundreds

of volunteers in 49 of our states. Rosaries are now made in unique color schemes for each branch of the Armed Services along with specific color schemes for the military's desert, urban, and jungle camouflage uniforms.



First Ranger Rosary Makers--2003

Almost a million free rosaries have been shipped over these 10 years to military bases and hospitals in 43 states and 18 countries. They have even been shipped to foreign service members and NATO forces allied with U.S. military operations overseas!

From 2009 to 2011 alone, Ranger Rosary members made and shipped 298,205 rosaries. In those three years, volunteers threaded almost 17.6 million beads on over 235 miles of parachute cord! Surely our Blessed Mother's loving embrace goes with each rosary.

God bless you,

Pat

JOURNEY TO FREEDOM by Herminia T. Littleton

The path to freedom is a tortured journey,
nations caught in fevered war and uncertainty,
protesters gunned down without mercy the
dispossessed huddled in misery.

We have to believe that there is a gift of fire
that sets aflame hearts grown cold,
overcomes fright, makes the weak bold
to hold the uprooted young and old.

We have to dare to believe that wars cease,
that we can work together for peace,
that all people have hope to be free
not just for a day but for all posterity.

A SPOTLIGHT ON OUR NETWORK

**Some of the many churches in our network:**

St. Ignatius of Loyola, NYC

According to Marilyn Esposito, the coordinator, these dozen dedicated women with their recent shipment of 452 rosaries have now made more than 10,000. They raise their own funds, buy their own supplies and ship to Annapolis.

St. Mary's, Annapolis, MD

We have a new table of worker bees. We are very glad to welcome them from Providence Center, a nonprofit based in our Anne Arundel County, Maryland. These women come once a week with

their helpers to make rosaries and share in fellowship.

*St. John the Evangelist,
Westminster, MD*

Seven years ago Carolyn Peters, now coordinator for this ministry, noticed an article in the Catholic Review, a newspaper from the archdiocese of Baltimore, about making rosaries for troops overseas. They make their rosaries at home, then twice a month they meet at the church to check and prepare them to be shipped. They also put together the new kits to take home for continuing the cycle.

*Our Lady of Perpetual Help
School, Canyon Country, CA*

*Queen of Apostles, San Jose,
CA*

St. Mary's, Visalia, CA

*St. Patrick Catholic Church,
Sonora, CA*

*Immaculate Conception
Church, Lafayette, CO*

*Georgetown Visitation School,
Washington, DC*

*Our Lady of Lourdes Parish,
Seaford, DE*

*Our Lady Queen of Peace,
Hunter Army Air Field, GA*

*Sacred Heart Rosary Makers,
Atwood, KS*

*St. Mary's Queen of Angels,
Russell, KS*

St. Luke's, Slidell, LA

*Church of the Resurrection,
Ellicott City, MD*

*Mary Star of the Sea,
Ocean City, MD*

St. Joseph's, Cockeysville, MD

St. Joseph's, Elderburg, MD

*St. Jude's Shrine, Baltimore,
MD*

*St. Timothy's, Walkersville,
MD*

*All Saint's/St. Peter's, Walpole,
NH*

*St. John the Evangelist, San-
Marcos, TX*

St. John's, Antigo, WI

Ranger Rosary Ministry Going on 11 Years !

Ranger Rosaries, made of parachute cord, dark, plastic beads, and crucifix, have no metal parts to reflect light or make noise in combat. These handmade and blessed rosaries give soldiers who protect and defend us, a means to continue journeying with God, through the powerful intercession of Our Mother, Mary.

“I promise my special protection and the greatest graces to all those who shall recite the rosary... All those who propagate the holy rosary shall be aided by me...” from 15 promises given to St. Dominic by Our Lady



By the end of 2013, almost a million free rosaries had been sent to more than 900 chaplains of all denominations, to distribute to troops.



Thank You to those who have generously supported our ministry throughout the years.

All are welcome to join in making these special rosaries.

Can You Help Ranger Rosary?

Yes you can! You can help with your prayers, your time and talent making rosaries, and with your financial support. We are an all-volunteer IRS-approved 501(c)(3) charity. All of our support comes from individuals' donations and faithful volunteers who buy supplies, make, check, burn, pack, and mail Ranger Rosaries.

Ranger Rosary Inc.

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Visit our web site: www.rangerrosary.org

Know a chaplain or military unit that needs rosaries? Contact

juliehwalton@comcast.net

What Chaplains Are Saying . . .

Thank you for the rosaries you provided for our Army Materiel Command (AMC) throughout the past 18 months. These tangible expressions of prayer and incentives to spiritual development directly assist our Soldiers and Family members in these difficult but exhilarating days.

...thank you for your faithfulness to God, the Church, to our Soldiers and their Families.

---Command Chaplain Ft. Belvoir

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