

Enhance your family prayer with
FAMILY ROSARY

Leading Them to a New Normal

Helping others through despair

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THE FAMILY THAT PRAYS TOGETHER STAYS TOGETHER

WELCOME TO OUR FAMILY

When tragedy strikes our friends or family it can be jarring. Finding the right words to comfort, embracing their sorrow and hurt, truly empathizing with their situation ... the discomfort can sometimes make us run in the other direction!

This reflection from CatholicMom.com reinforces that if we are open to God's grace and can abide by our loved ones through their darkest times, the Holy Spirit can use us to fill them with the wisdom and hope they need to embrace their new normal.

Stand firm, be the light for your community.

A LITTLE HISTORY

Father Patrick Peyton, C.S.C. began his ministry in 1942 with the goal of building **family unity** through daily prayer of the Rosary. Inspired by his own father who had a deep devotion to family prayer, praying the Rosary became the foundation for the life of Father Peyton (1909-92).

We at Family Rosary are ever so grateful Father Peyton's family instilled in him the importance of **family prayer**. Now it can be part of your family's tradition so you can fulfill the vision that "The Family That Prays Together Stays Together," the message created by Father Patrick Peyton, C.S.C., so many years ago.



WE BECOME HOLY WHEN WE WORK FOR OTHERS.
WHEN WE DO SO, WE CONTINUE THE CREATIVE
ACTION OF GOD IN HISTORY.

POPE FRANCIS



LEADING THEM TO A NEW NORMAL



Stand firm in your faith and be the light for your loved ones experiencing hurt or despair.

BLINDED BY DESPAIR

Recently, over the course of just one month, several friends had major catastrophes in their lives. The devastations knocked each one to her knees. When they got up, despair blinded them to any hope that things could ever get better.

SCRIPTURE RELATES

"Saul got up from the ground, but when he opened his eyes he could see nothing; so they led him by the hand and brought him to Damascus. For three days he was unable to see ..." Acts 9:8-9

Saul was blinded too, on the road to Damascus. There, the light of Jesus knocked him to the ground; and Jesus asked him, "Why are you persecuting me?" As Saul got back on his feet, he discovered he couldn't see. His traveling mates had to lead him by the hand the rest of the way.

For three whole days, Saul remained without his sight. Then Jesus sent Ananias to heal him. When Ananias placed his hands on Saul, the Holy Spirit filled him, causing the scales of blindness to fall away. At once, Saul began to proclaim Jesus as the Son of God.

OUR ROLE

We are all called to be like Saul's traveling mates and Ananias. As mothers, fathers, wives, husbands, daughters, sons, sisters, brothers and friends, when people we love experience a devastating blow, we're supposed to take them by the hand and help lead them through. Yes, it's God's job to heal them, but He can do so through our listening ears, our comforting shoulders, and our steadfast prayers.

It may take three days, like Saul, for them to see and come to terms with their new normal, or it may take three weeks, three months, or three years. Everyone's journey through hardship is different. But if we can abide by our loved ones, the Holy Spirit can use us to fill them with the wisdom and hope they need to embrace their new normal.

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GOING DEEPER

"'You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind.' This is the greatest and first commandment. And the second is like it: Love you neighbor as yourself. On these two commandments depend all the law and the prophets" (Matthew 22:37-40).

As we read in scripture above, we are called to community, serve each other, be our brother's and sister's keeper. How can you embody this call and fill those hurting with the hope of embracing their new normal?

A QUIET PRAYER

"Jesus walked the road to Calvary carrying the cross on his shoulders. During this walk he encountered people who gave him assistance; some volunteered, while others were forced to help him. As he lived through this painful part of his journey, Jesus accepted the help offered to him.

We pray in thanksgiving for the times when (insert name) is open to having others assist him/her to carry the cross on the journey of faith he/she walks."

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CONTINUE THE JOURNEY

If you know someone who's in need of a special prayer, offer a petition for them at WorldAtPrayer.org. You'll send your requests to a community of people who will lift you up in prayer and kneel with you at Mary's feet, imploring her intercession. Take comfort in knowing you're not alone, we're with you!



CLAIRE MCGARRY

Claire McGarry is the author of the Lenten devotional "With Our Savior," published by Creative Communications for the Family/Bayard, Inc. Her freelance work has appeared in various Chicken Soup for the Soul books, Focus on the Family magazine, and the Keys for Kids devotional. The founder of MOSAIC of Faith, a ministry with several different programs for mothers and children, she blogs at Shifting My Perspective.

BRINGING FAMILIES TOGETHER IN PRAYER

We hope the time you've spent reflecting with this material has been enriching. Remember, we're with you in prayer, every step of the way!

For additional online resources for family prayer including a Prayer Petition Page and our World at Prayer Blog, please visit our website at www.FamilyRosary.org.

This e-book and all our resources represent a culmination of Father Peyton's passion for family unity through prayer. We hope our services will enhance your family's prayer life particularly remembering Father Peyton's famous words, "*The Family That Prays Together Stays Together.*"

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