

Enhance your family prayer with
FAMILY ROSARY

Sharing Your Walk with Jesus on Social Media

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THE FAMILY THAT PRAYS TOGETHER STAYS TOGETHER

WELCOME TO OUR FAMILY

We communicate through so many different social platforms. With a quick press of a button, we can easily share our lives with family, friends, and strangers through these online channels. But where does Jesus fit into all this?

Looking at the content we share, like, and follow, would you say your digital presence represents who you really are? Are you including your whole self, or just the qualities others "like" the most about you?

We discuss these questions and more as we navigate the complicated world of social media and evangelization!

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.

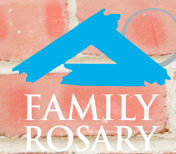


WE RECEIVE GOD'S GRACES TO SHARE THEM WITH
OTHERS.

POPE FRANCIS



SHARING YOUR WALK WITH JESUS ON SOCIAL MEDIA



We live in a world where people seem to have no problem sharing the most intimate or graphic elements of their lives. Yet there seems to be reticence when it comes to sharing how we live our faith in our social media posts.

FEAR FACTORS

The fear is real that you may be judged, unfriended, unfollowed or filtered for sharing your faith. A few years ago I shared a picture of myself with ashes on my forehead on all my pages, even the super-conservative LinkedIn platform. I remember that after pressing the publish button, a feeling of anxiety washing over me. Anxiety coupled with an expectation of an impending onslaught of negative comments. As time passed there were no negative comments; instead, my post garnered some likes and positive comments. This fueled my desire to look for opportunities to share me authentically practicing my faith.

Sometimes it's super easy to share things like First Communions, Confirmations, or graduations happening at my parish. But how I live my faith is not just about what happens in or at church. My faith shapes how I see and live in the world. Sharing through social media allows me to answer the call to evangelize without doing it in person.

SOCIAL SUMMER

During the summer season, beauty of nature is in full bloom and it's an easy way to get started sharing your faith through social media. When I read the first book of Genesis, land and sea are so intimately intertwined as the source of life for all living things. Maybe God ordains that we are drawn to beaches in summer. We find such peace and rest lying on them, basking in the glow of sunlight, gazing upon the blue sky as the clouds slowly move across it and for me a feeling that God is truly present.

“LET THE WATER TEEM WITH LIVING CREATURES, AND LET BIRDS FLY ABOVE THE EARTH ACROSS THE EXPANSE OF THE SKY.” GENESIS 1:20

When you post the beautiful snapshots you capture this summer, simply adding a hashtag or comment attributing the beauty to the hand of God is a powerful statement and inspires others to remember the blueprints outlined by Earth's holy architect. Pope Francis' encyclical *Laudato Si'* encourages us to participate in the care of Earth in simple ways. Sharing that you recycle with the

hashtag #laudatosi is a great social share. I share the ocean views from my room at whatever resort I'm staying in, don't you? Add a hashtag or comment expressing thanksgiving or something else that reflects how you see God's connectedness to your experiences.

One of my favorite things to do when on vacation somewhere is to visit the local Catholic church and capture pictures of unique elements of the church, grounds, or simply the bulletin. In some cases I even take a picture of the priest (with their authorization of course). I cherish one taken at the Shrine of the Holy Redeemer in Las Vegas of Fr. O'Brien sporting his St. Therese of Lisieux vestments on her feast day this year.

To encourage vacationing parishioners to attend Mass while on vacation, my parish shares a post with a call to share pictures hashtagging them #missingmartyrs from wherever they are attending Mass – so fun!

BE THE CHANGE

In the past two years people are increasingly turned off by all the negative social media posts. You have the power to turn the tide on this by posting about positive things. Injecting a little #JesusintheNewsfeed allows you to practice evangelization via your social media. Think before you post, what would Jesus post? #WWJP

I find inspiration from so many others sharing our Catholic faith through their personal social media. One of my favorite celebrities sharing their faith is Mark Wahlberg. This year he and his wife shared video of their daughter heading to her first confession through the @ConnectCatholic Twitter account. To be quite honest, Mark looked more scared than his daughter did about her experiencing reconciliation. I'm also a fan of Lizzie Reezay, an under thirty-year-old new Catholic from the RCIA class of 2018, and @Catholicistas. There are so many others that also inspire me, but each one of you can be an inspiration to someone too.

This article has ended; go forth, glorifying the Lord by your life and social media posts!

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GOING DEEPER

Check your social media presence. Is Jesus with you when you post? How can we each contribute to making social media a positive place? Challenge yourself and your family to include Him online whenever you share something with your virtual friends.

CONTINUE THE JOURNEY

There are many apps, games, and sites to check on that take time away from reflection and families. Bring both of these worlds together using resources at FamilyRosary.org.



SHERRY HAYES-PIERCE

Sherry Hayes-Pierce is a Catholic Social Media Strategist, Blogger, Conference Speaker, Chief Inspirational Officer at Church Social Tips and Missionary Disciple of the New Evangelization. She is passionate about sharing her treasured time and talents to inform, inspire and engage the next generation of Catholics through technology.

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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