

WORLD MISSION ROSARY

“We must pray, not for ourselves, but for the world”

-Ven. Archbishop Fulton Sheen

October is the month of the Holy Rosary. We dedicate this month to pray the rosary for the missions. Ven. Archbishop Sheen said, “Peace will come only when the hearts of the world have changed. When the World Mission Rosary is completed, one has embraced all continents, all people in prayer.”



Each decade of that World Mission Rosary calls to mind an area where the Church continues her evangelizing mission:

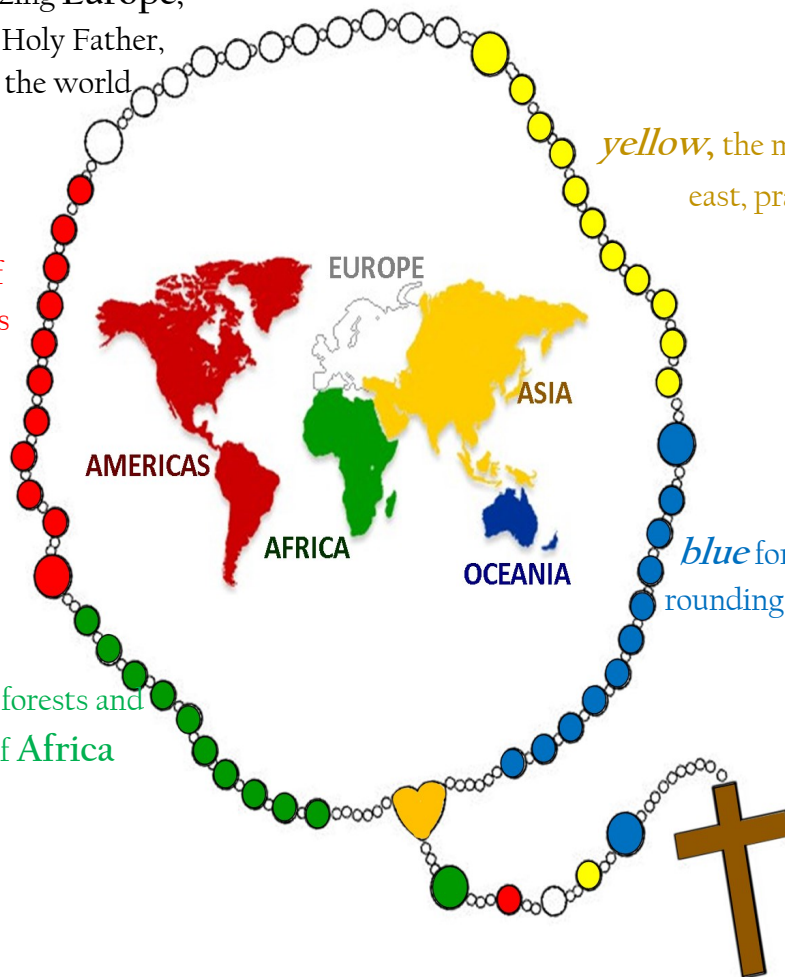
white symbolizing Europe,
the seat of the Holy Father,
shepherd of the world.

red calling to mind the fire of
faith that brought missionaries
to the Americas

yellow, the morning light of the
east, pray for Asia

green for the forests and
grasslands of Africa

blue for the ocean sur-
rounding the islands of the
Pacific



In Praying the Rosary, we remember Mary our Mother of the Missions. Let us ask for her intercession:

Africa

In 1981 in Rwanda, Mary appeared to eight young people, in the small village of Kibeho. Through these young people, Mary warned them of a great number of people would die if the Rwandans didn't open their hearts to God's love. In 1994, the prophecies tragically came true during 100 days of savage bloodletting and mass murder. After the genocide, and two decades of rigorous investigation, Our Lady of Kibeho became the first and only Vatican-approved Marian site in all of Africa. But the story still remains largely unknown.



Our Lady of Kibeho
Pray for us

Americas

During the 1630s a farmer emigrated from Portugal to Argentina. Saddened by the lack of faith in the area, he wanted to build a chapel to "liven" the Catholic faith in Sumampa, his region, in Argentina. He asked for a statue of Our Lady from a friend. His friend sent him two statues: the Immaculate Conception and the Madonna with Child. After embarking from the port of Buenos Aires, the caravan carrying the images stopped at the residence Don Rosendo Oramas.

When the caravan wanted to resume the journey, the oxen refused to move. Once the crate containing the image of the immaculate conception was removed, the animals started to move again. Given the evidence of a miracle, people believed the Virgin wished to remain there. The image was venerated in a primitive chapel for 40 years. Then the image was later carried to Luján, where it currently resides.



Our Lady of Lujan
Pray for Us

Europe

The shrine of Our Lady of Loreto is located on the Adriatic coast of Italy, three hours from Rome. It is the third largest shrine to Mary in Europe, next to Lourdes and Fatima. The ministry of the shrine is the hospitality shown to pilgrims especially through the sacrament of penance.

The tradition of the shrine at Loreto goes back to the year 1291. As the last of the crusaders returned to Western Europe they brought with them a number of relics, objects of devotion and remembrances of holy shrines. It happened that the dwelling of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the house which both tradition and Christian devotion had maintained as the site of the appearance of the archangel Gabriel and therefore the Incarnation of our Savior, was moved from Nazareth to Christian Europe. The house arrived at Loreto on December 10, 1294.



Our Lady of Loreta
Pray for us



Our Lady of China

Pray for us

Asia

During the Boxer Rebellion, a great number of soldiers attacked the village of Donglu, Hebei. The village consisted of a small community of Christians founded by the Vincentian Fathers. The Virgin Mary appeared in white, and a fiery horseman (believed to be St Michael) chased away the soldiers. The pastor, Fr Wu, commissioned a painting of Mary with Christ child dressed in golden imperial robes. This painting became the image of Our Lady, Queen of China. Donglu became a place of pilgrimage in 1924. The image was blessed and promulgated by Pope Pius XI in 1928.

Oceania

The etymology of the name, Our Lady Star of the Sea, dates back to the 8th century. 9th century has an allegorical explanation of the name, writing that Mary is the "Star of the Sea" to be followed on the way to Christ, "lest we capsize amid the storm-tossed waves of the sea." in the medieval period, stella maris came to be used as a name of Polaris in its role as lodestar (guiding star, north star). In the twelfth century, Saint Bernard of Clairvaux wrote: "If the winds of temptation arise; If you are driven upon the rocks of tribulation look to the star, call on Mary; If you are tossed upon the waves of pride, of ambition, of envy, of rivalry, look to the star, call on Mary. Should anger, or avarice, or fleshly desire violently assail the frail vessel of your soul, look at the star, call upon Mary.

The idea of Mary as a guiding star for seafarers has led to devotion to Our Lady, Star of the Sea in many Catholic coastal and fishing communities .



Our Lady Star of the Sea

Pray for us