

PrayTheRosary Apostolate
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To our Visitors and Members:

This letter is to provide information and explain the charitable activities of PrayTheRosary Apostolate, of which I, Mary T Meier, am the founder.

PrayTheRosary “Web Apostolate” was first established in 2001, following the death of my brother, who had worked most of his life distributing rosaries to the homeless and drug addicted. When he passed away, I wished to continue his work. Following the guidelines indicated in Apostolicam Actuositatem, the decree of the Second Vatican Council on the Apostolate of Lay People, and truly inspired by Pope John Paul II’s love for the Rosary, our family, under the direction of our pastor, created a website to be able to reach a broader arena of people to whom we could offer free sacramentals.

I created a website with information and graphic display on the teachings of the Catholic faith, primarily the Rosary. I offered a free rosary to individuals who would request one through the site. I bore the cost of this activity out of pocket. Overseas Missions began to contact PrayTheRosary with requests for hundreds of rosaries. The demand was great, and it was soon determined I would need a way to supplement the costs.

I began making my own rosaries to distribute for free, and also fine quality rosaries to sell. Family members volunteered their time and efforts to make the mission rosaries. I eventually established another website, RosaryMakersGuide.Org, a fully illustrated online guide to help others learn how to make rosaries. The guide is offered for viewing, free of charge. From there grew the idea of putting together kits with all the supplies needed for beginners to make a rosary or a scapular, and to sell them at low-cost. I created an online store in 2006, PrayTheRosary Rose Garden, and offered rosaries, scapulars, the beginner kits to make each, and sold other hand-made Catholic goods as well. The store has become the source of revenue to continue most of the work accomplished by PrayTheRosary. I obtained a business license, and established a bank account to manage the funds. Our registered trade names are PrayTheRosary, PrayTheRosary Apostolate, and PrayTheRosary Web Apostolate. Rose Garden and RosaryMakersGuide.Org are divisions of PrayTheRosary Apostolate. We also host CatholicRefresherCourse.com, an online study catechism.

The profit from PrayTheRosary Rose Garden sales supply approximately 80% of the cost of all of the supplies to make the products we sell, as well as all of the supplies to make the rosaries we distribute for free, and all of the costs for shipping and shipping materials. Our family budget bears the remainder of the costs of operating the apostolate. I am the Sole Proprietor and I draw no salary whatsoever; all the work is accomplished by volunteers; we have no employees. All funds acquired through sales are used for the operation of the apostolate.

PrayTheRosary Apostolate distributes approximately 4000 rosaries per year, to individuals, and to 19 Catholic Missions throughout India, Africa and Pakistan, all at no cost to the recipients. We have donated statues, hand-made banners, books and various printed material as well, promoting devotion to the Holy Rosary, Our Lady of Fatima, and the Divine Mercy.

In February, 2010, we were contacted by a priest in Assam, India, asking out help to raise funds to build a Virgin Mary Grotto, to be erected on the grounds of his St Mary's Catholic School in Guhwarti. We have collected free-will donations on his behalf for this purpose, deposited in a separate interest-bearing account, to be delivered to Father Chourappa when the goal of \$2835 is reached. The funds collected are not used for the operation of PrayTheRosary Apostolate. But 10% of the monthly revenues from our Rose Garden store are donated to this cause. It is for the charitable works that we manage to accomplish that we designate the business a "charity." but we enjoy no tax-exempt status. Donations made to the Grotto Fund are not tax deductible.

Our apostolate sites are now hosted on Webs.Com. When our PrayTheRosary "Web Apostolate" was hosted on MSN, (2001-2008) we operated under the supervision of Father Casimir Puskorius, and we used some material provided by the Cordi-Marian Fathers Shrine of St. Jude website, for accuracy of content. Father Casimir often participated on the forum, answering questions. Deacon Bill Steltemeier, now a regular contributor on EWTN-hosted radio programs was also a frequent forum poster. Our 1000+ membership at the time was comprised of many religious as well as lay faithful.

In 2008, MSN closed their group sites, and we re-established our online presence and purchased our trademark name as "PrayTheRosary Apostolate." As of September 2010, with 191 active members, the forums remain mostly inactive; it has been difficult to achieve our formerly thriving online community. Membership consists of viewing the pages and contributing posts to the Forum; online members participate in the work of the apostolate only by their prayers. Occasionally, we solicit donations of rosaries from members at RosaryMakersGuide.Org, when we receive a request for a great number of rosaries which we alone would be unable to meet.

We sincerely hope our family operated sites will be of some small benefit to those dear ones who most desire to further their knowledge and love for the Catholic Faith, and especially for the Most Holy Rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Please contact us at moderator@praytherosaryapostolate.com if you have need of further information. Please pray that our humble work may continue, as the Lord wills. We entrust all to our Mother Mary: Immaculate Heart of Mary, pray for us!

Sincerely yours in Christ,
Mary T. Meier