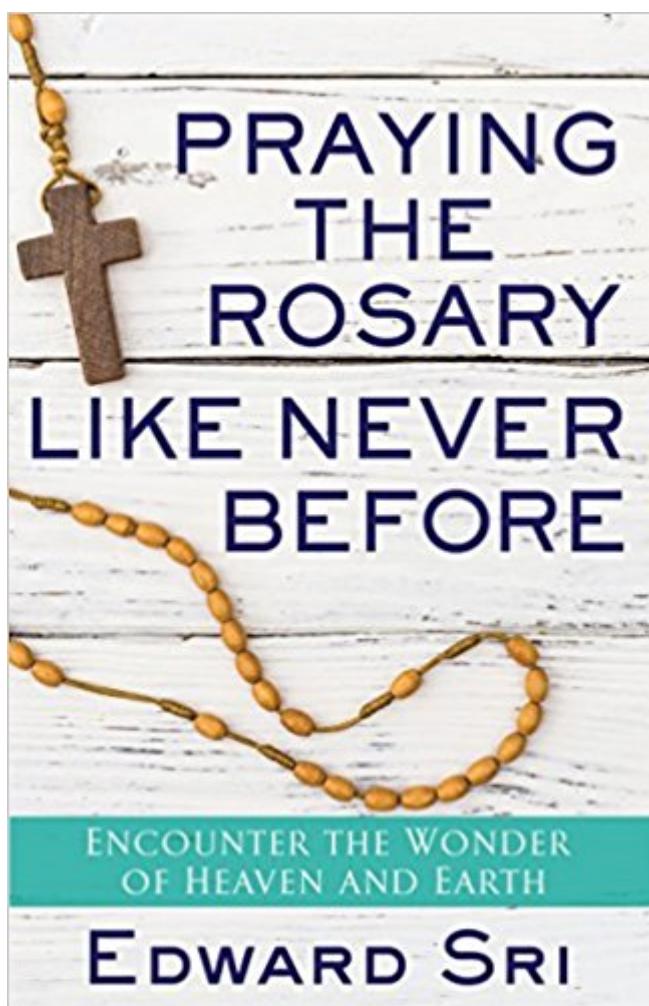


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Praying The Rosary Like Never Before: Encounter The Wonder Of Heaven And Earth



Synopsis

“These words express, so to speak, the wonder of heaven and earth; they could be said to give a glimpse of God’s own wonderment as he contemplates his masterpiece.”
•the Incarnation of the Son in the womb of the Virgin Mary.
•Saint John Paul II
Do you have two and a half minutes in your day that you can give to God? This is the beauty of the rosary. You don’t have to pray the rosary all at once and you can pray it anywhere! Do you struggle with praying the rosary: finding time, fighting distractions, worrying about your mind wandering? In *Praying the Rosary Like Never Before*, Edward Sri offers practical suggestions that come from the rosary tradition and, most especially, St. John Paul II. These helpful tips will make the rosary a constant companion through the different seasons, moments, and challenges we all face. These tips serve as easy on-ramps for those who don’t pray the rosary regularly motivate avid devotees of the rosary to go deeper with the Lord. “Offering God a decade or two in the midst of my daily life gives him something beautiful, even if I give it without my full, relaxed, undivided attention,” says Sri. “I’m giving God some space in my day and filling it with words of praise for him.”
You will find answers to common questions such as the significance of the Hail Mary, whether the attention given to Mary distracts us from God, the meaning of all the repetition, where the rosary came from, what to think about for each of the mysteries, and whether one should focus on the prayers or the mysteries. You will also find biblical reflections on the twenty mysteries of the rosary that provide practical insights to help you not only understand the twenty mysteries but also live them. In this book, Sri takes what he did in *The New Rosary in Scripture* to a new level.

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Customer Reviews

"The rosary is meant to be a simple prayer. A simple way to pray that has been available to Christians for hundreds of years. And yet many people are intimidated by this simple prayer. Dr. Sri has written this book to reconnect Catholics with their inheritance given to them in the rosary. This book can help the most inexperienced beginner or the most regular pray-er of the rosary deepen their understanding and experience of this great gift." •Fr. Michael Schmitz, speaker, and director of youth ministry, Diocese of Duluth •"As we celebrate the one hundredth anniversary of Our Lady's apparitions at Fatima, we remember her timeless message, repeated over and over, to pray the rosary daily. Praying the Rosary Like Never Before is an excellent resource for anyone wanting to delve into one of the richest devotions given to us from heaven!" •Curtis Martin, cofounder of FOCUS, vocation director, Archdiocese of St. Louis •"Dr. Sri's scholarship on Our Lady is tremendous, but his love for her is still deeper. When these two qualities are merged, the result is persuasive and powerful. Whether you love the rosary or have never felt drawn to it, this book will indeed help you to pray it like never before." •Jason Evert, author, Saint John Paul the Great: His Five Loves •"Get ready to experience the rosary like never before! Dr. Edward combines intellectual arguments with contemplative inspiration to help us see this age-old prayer in a completely new light. I have no doubt that this book will transform a lot of people's spiritual lives." •Jennifer Fulwiler, SiriusXM radio host and author, Something Other Than God

Edward Sri is a theologian, well-known Catholic speaker and author of several bestselling books, including Men, Women and the Mystery of Love (Servant) and A Biblical Walk through the Mass (Ascension). He is professor of theology at the Augustine Institute and host of the acclaimed film series Symbolon: The Catholic Faith Explained (Augustine Institute). He is also a founding leader with Curtis Martin of FOCUS (Fellowship of Catholic University Students). He resides with his wife Elizabeth and their eight children in Littleton, Colorado.

When I first started praying the Rosary I had lots of questions that I never really got answered, this

book answers those questions and so much more. It gives so much more than the standard "how to" of one Our Father, ten Hail Marys. This book takes you through the why, opening my eyes to much more than I knew. I am walking away with much more and the desire to know more. I got myself a copy of Rosarium Virginis Mariae, the encyclical by Pope St John Paul II which is quoted and referenced often throughout the book. The book has twelve chapters. The first seven chapters gives you the hows and the whys of the Rosary. You are furnished with help and understanding for the defense of the Rosary. Help and understanding for struggles in starting and praying the Rosary. There is also a short history of the Rosary. Each chapter has group study questions to help you delve deeper and for further reflection. Chapters eight to eleven takes you deeper into each decade of the Rosary as I have never been. The scriptures that relate to the various decades are broken down, expounded and opened to me in ways that have given new meaning to each decade. These allow for further contemplation, meditation and understanding. Chapter twelve is a Scriptural Rosary. I've prayed the Scriptural Rosary before it is great especially if your mind wanders a lot during prayer. This book is great for group study as well as individual reading. The discussion questions at the end of the first eleven chapters work well to encourage discussion in a group setting or allow for deeper reflection should you decide to go through this book on your own. I consider Edward Sri a great and respected resource for anything Marian, even after owning and reading other books by him he has still managed to impart new knowledge and understanding to me in this book. I received this book free from NetGalley and Franciscan Media for my honest opinion.

For the last couple of years I have had a few books by Edward Sri on my to be read list, but had not got to them yet. After reading this book they have jumped way up in that pile of books waiting to be read. Dr. Edward Sri packs a lot of material into this short volume on the Rosary. In 12 chapters and under 200 pages this book is about encountering Jesus, engaging Jesus through Mary and being encouraged in our faith through this devotion. Dr. Sri encourages us by unfolding this simple prayer and taking the intimidation factor out of this practice. Throughout the book we are inspired to engage with Jesus and Mary and the biblical narrative. And Through the reflections, and meditation we will encounter Jesus and be drawn closer to him. The book opens with a quote from Pope Saint John Paul II: "These words express, so to speak, the wonder of heaven and earth; they could be said to give a glimpse of God's own wonderment as he contemplates his "masterpiece"-the Incarnation of the Son in the womb of the Virgin Mary. *ÃfÃ¢Ã ¬Ã* The repetition of the Hail Mary in the Rosary gives us a share in God's own wonder and pleasure: In jubilant amazement we acknowledge the greatest miracle of history." And that is Sri's starting point. He outlines how the

Rosary can be integral to our faith, and how it can draw us home. The chapters in this book are: Why Pray the Rosary? The Wandering Mind and Other Struggles Too Much Attention to Mary? The Hail Mary: Jesus at the Center Repetition: You Can Never Say "I Love You" Enough The Origins of the Rosary More than Words: Ten Ways to Encounter Jesus More in the Rosary Seeds for Contemplation: Biblical Reflections on the Joyful Mysteries Seeds for Contemplation: Biblical Reflections on the Luminous Mysteries Seeds for Contemplation: Biblical Reflections on the Sorrowful Mysteries Seeds for Contemplation: Biblical Reflections on the Glorious Mysteries A Scriptural Rosary Notes How to Pray the Rosary In the preface Sri states: "A good Catholic friend of mine summed up what I think is the sentiment of many: "If you could help a simple, ordinary guy like me understand what the rosary is all about and inspire me to find time to pray it, that would go a long way. I just need to figure out how to pray it in a way that will be meaningful to me." That's what this book aims to do: inspire ordinary Catholics to turn to their beads more often and help them pray the rosary in a way that is meaningful for their lives-in a way that is truly life-giving. And in the process, I hope they'll discover what many great saints and ordinary folk throughout the centuries have experienced: a deeper peace, joy, and encouragement that comes from the subtle but profound encounter one can have with Jesus and Mary in this prayer." And that is what he does throughout the rest of the book. As you work through the book either on your own or in a group, each chapter ends with a series of questions. They are intended for group study but can also be worked through individually. Each chapter has either 4 or 5 questions in this section. The chapter that had the greatest impact on me was "More than Words: Ten Ways to Encounter Jesus More in the Rosary" The questions from the end of this chapter as an example are: "Group Study Questions 1. Why is the Glory Be a fitting finale for each decade of the rosary? How does this prayer relate to the mysteries we contemplate? 2. How do the beads aid your prayer of the rosary? 3. Pope St. John Paul II wrote, "It is clear that many people will not be able to recite more than a part of the Rosary" every day, and hence comes the practice of reciting different sets of mysteries on different days. Some people might find it difficult to recite even five decades at one sitting-or kneeling. What are some ways of incorporating the rosary into a busy schedule? 4. The pope suggested that reciting different mysteries throughout the week "has the effect of giving the different days a certain spiritual 'color'" (RVM, 38). How can the Joyful Mysteries color your Mondays and Saturdays? The Luminous, your Thursdays? The Sorrowful, your Tuesdays and Fridays? The Glorious, your Sundays?" The four chapters going deeper in the bible on each of the different mysteries are wonderful. And overall it is an excellent book. I would see it becoming a spiritual classic on the Rosary over the next few decades. It is a wonderful book and a great tool for

our spiritual life. I highly recommend it!

Dr. Sri begins the book by breaking down why we pray the Rosary and what can cause us to stop praying it. His explanations are clear and concise. On the chapter about if the Rosary gives too much attention to Mary, Sri writes, "As a father, I do not view my children's love for each other as competition for love and attention that should be given to me. Rather, I rejoice all the more when I see my children asking each other for help and lovingly responding to each other's needs. In a similar way, our heavenly Father rejoices when he sees his sons and daughters loving each other so much that they ask each other for prayer and intercede for each other's needs." (Sri, 21) This is something I can relate to as a mother, but also something I've never thought of prayer in such a way before.

Focus Upon the Mysteries The last few chapters covers in depth each of the mysteries of the Rosary and the biblical meaning of each event. Again, this debunks the theory that the Rosary is focused too much on Mary, in the fact that the majority of the mysteries we are to ponder focuses upon an event in Jesus' life. The mysteries that focus upon Mary contemplate who Mary was, how her life was changed by being the Mother of God, and in these mysteries what we are to look forward to if we are a Child of God.

Small Group Focused This book would be a wonderful small group study book, in that the chapters are short and there are discussion questions at the end of each chapter that will help facilitate good discussion among the group, without being too personal. *Praying the Rosary Like Never Before*, by Dr. Edward Sri, would be a great book to bring to your prayer time and will help you fall completely in love with the Rosary!

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