



The Power of Three, part 2 The Rosary of the Seven Sorrows

If you read my article last weekend that included a personal reflection about my visit to the Shrine of Our Lady of Kibeho in Rwanda – and then did a bit of research – you know about the “Rosary of the Seven Sorrows.”

This somber devotion was taught by the Blessed Mother, beginning in 1982, to Marie-Claire Mukangango, the third of the three seers at this Vatican-approved apparition. The focus of the meditations of the Rosary of the Seven Sorrows are the sufferings that Mary went through during her earthly life. This Rosary is dedicated to the consolation of the Blessed Mother and helps us reflect on how suffering is a part of our lives as we each carry our crosses. Marie-Claire obeyed Mary’s request to spread the word about this Rosary, and this young woman steadfastly proclaimed the Blessed Mother’s urgent call for sincere repentance.

This Rosary has a rich history. One source was St. Bridget of Sweden (1303-1373) who invited the faithful to unite their sufferings to Mary’s and to pray for strength. Then in the fourteenth and fifteenth centuries, the Servite Order embraced this special chaplet, which offers prayers of consolation to the Blessed Mother and petitions her for help in accepting our sufferings.

The mysteries of the Rosary of the Seven Sorrows are:

- The Prophecy of Simeon (“a sword will pierce your heart”)
- The Flight into Egypt
- The Loss of Jesus in the Temple
- Mary Meets Jesus on the Way to Cavalry
- The Crucifixion and death of Jesus
- Mary Receives the Dead Body of Jesus in Her Arms
- Jesus is Placed in the Tomb

The beads of the Rosary of the Seven Sorrows - consisting of seven groups of seven beads separated by a small medal depicting each of the mysteries - is often made of black wood befitting the mournful themes of this devotion.

The Blessed Mother emphasized to Marie-Clarie that the Rosary of the Seven Sorrows does not replace the traditional rosary. Rather, with its simple elegance, the Rosary of the Seven Sorrows enhances our understanding of Mary’s role in our salvation and draws us nearer to her motherly care. Furthermore, she gave the rosary to the visionaries as a spiritual weapon against the abyss of evil, suffering, and sin.

Among the many sources of information and instruction about the Rosary of the Seven Sorrows is the “7 Sorrows Rosary Store,” located in New York City and operating since 2013. Here is the link: <https://7sorrowsrosaries.com/pages/seven-sorrows-rosary>

- Bobbie DuMelle