

*Association of Rosary Guilds
and Rosary Makers Newsletters
Companion to "Our Lady's Communicator"*



**Margo Fernandes - Rosary Maker Extraordinaire
Our Lady of Victory Rosary Makers Member Passes Away**

She was making Rosaries on Sunday, March 13, 2011.
She passed away on Wednesday, March 16, 2011.

By: Namesake, Margaret Mary Fernandes, Jr.

Margaret Mary "Margo" Pestano Fernandes is my Mum. In the last edition of Our Lady's Communicator, you published an article featuring her encounter with the wonderful work of the Mission Canada Rosary Makers. At the age of 84 (2001), in spite of Macular Degeneration and the early onset of Alzheimer's, Mum teamed up with her first cousin, Gertie Del Castilho, leader of the Our Lady of Victory Rosary Makers of St. Bernadette's Church, and started to make Mission Rosaries. In her words, as quoted in that article, she said: "My hands are working for Our Blessed Mother. I thank God every day for sending the 'Rosary Lady' into my life. (She called Gertie the Rosary Lady!)

Mum was passionate about rosary-making. It was serious business for her. Gertie couldn't supply the beads fast enough. And, as some might recall, she didn't just make rosaries; she prayed all the while she was making them, as she had figured out that *Hail Mary, full of grace, through to Jesus*, gave her ten beads, and *Holy Mary, Mother of God through to Amen*, on the reverse count, confirmed the ten beads! And that wasn't all. After she had finished each rosary, she said a Hail Mary asking Our Blessed Mother to love and protect the person that would get that rosary and keep him or her close to Her and Her Beloved Son. "Make them holy", she would say.

On May 27, 2010, the brain turned off like a light bulb. She no longer knew us; her decline was rapid. But she never forgot how to say the Hail Mary! She received the Sacrament of the Anointing of the Sick on May 29. we had to put Mum in respite on September 1, 2010 while awaiting placement in a Long Term Care facility.

Continued on page 2.

**VOLUME 3, ISSUE 1,
October 2011**

The Blessed Virgin Mary
has promised;
Whoever shall faithfully
serve me by the recitation
of the Rosary,
shall receive signal graces.

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**God
Bless
Canada**





**Our Lady of Victory Rosary Makers Members Obituary
Margo Fernandes - Rosary Maker Extraordinaire Meets Her Maker
Margo Fernandes was making Rosaries on Sunday, March 13, 2011.continued**

She started to once again say the Rosary properly rather than just skipping over every bead as she said the Hail Mary as she had started doing. Some days we said three rosaries. Then a miracle happened. On November 24, 2010, she said to me: "I used to do something with my hands... what is it I used to do?" I picked up her tin with all her rosary-making stuff and put it in her lap. "You used to make rosaries for Gertie. Would you like to make some now?" I asked. "If you help me to remember how to do them, I can try." And so the rosary-making began again but at a much slower pace, as she now had to concentrate a lot more on what she was doing and she got tired after making just three or four.

Mum died on Wednesday, March 16, 2011 - just three weeks after celebrating her 94th Birthday. On Sunday, March 13 she wanted to make rosaries and we did. And she didn't want to stop making rosaries! I had to insist that it was time for lunch and that we would make rosaries again after lunch. We also said at least three rosaries that day. It is so fitting to note that, even though I took pictures of and with Mum every day, as I went through the last pictures of her on my camera after she died, the very last pictures were those of her making rosaries on Sunday, March 13! I took no pictures on March 14, 15 nor 16!

I still visit the nursing home (Trilogy) from time to time and am comforted to hear, each time, how much the nurses and support workers miss sneaking up and standing outside Mum's door every chance they had, to listen to us pray the Rosary and sing hymns. "It was sweet, Margaret. It was like a piece of heaven", they say. I watch the videos I have of her praying and singing and, I, too, experience that "piece of heaven" each time!

Full version of *Margaret Mary Fernandes, Jr.*' tribute can be obtained by contacting the editor.

Pope Benedict XVI has announced a "Year of Faith"

to help Catholics appreciate the gift of faith, deepen their relationship with God and strengthen their commitment to sharing faith with others.

The Pope said the observance would begin on October 11, 2012 – the 50th anniversary of the opening of the Second Vatican Council – and conclude on November 24, 2013 – the feast of Christ the King. Pope Benedict explained his intention more fully in [Porta Fidei](#) ("The Door of Faith"), an apostolic letter released to formally announce the special year.

He said the [Catechism of the Catholic Church](#), first published in 1992, should serve as the handbook for helping Catholics rediscover the truths of faith and deepen their understanding of Church teaching. The new platform, [Aleteia.org](#), is designed to be a multimedia "community" where people can ask questions about Catholic faith and practices and receive answers they can be sure are in line with official Church teaching. "The internet is where people go for answers today, even about God, religion and faith," Mr Colina announced that the website would be launched October 19. He said the site would involve journalists and theologians from around the world and would link to "the best sites" for Catholic teaching and information.

Taken from CatholicHarold.co.uk

please view your Diocese website for further information

THANKSGIVING FOR ROSARIES RECEIVED

From: **Margarete Sta Maria** Date: Mon, May 16, 2011 at 11:38 AM

Subject: Rosary To: Jonny Biafore

Dear Jonny and Rosary makers, Thank you very much for the rosaries I received from you for Malaysia . I am returning for good in the next couple of months and will return to active ministry once again. These rosaries will be shared with migrant workers who have come to Malaysia for work in rural and remote places. Most of the Christians who work there are from East Timor and a small number from Indonesia , Bangladesh while the rest are non Christians. We are only allowed to meet them twice a year at Christmas and Easter with special permission and on these occasions we give them religious articles so that they can group among themselves to pray the rosary and read the Bible since they do not have the chance to attend Sunday Eucharist because of distance, no transport, no day off and so on. These Christians are very devoted and faithful to God and I am inspired by their thirst for God being away from their own family and country.

Malaysia is predominantly a Moslem country and Christians are the minority. However, the Church is very active and alive despite restrictions in religious expressions. We are still growing in numbers and we thank God for the perseverance and fidelity to keep the faith alive among us. Once again, thank you very much and May you continue to spread the love of God and faith of Mary our Mother in all that you do. God's blessings be on you and your family always.

United in prayer, Sr. Margarete Sta Maria,
FdCC (Canossian Sisters)

From: Honorable Peter MacKay
Minister of National Defence
Subject; Immaculate Heart of Mary
Rosary Guild

Dear Mrs. Feeney” I am writing in response to correspondence sent by Mr. Stephen Woodworth concerning the Immaculate Heart of Mary Rosary Guild. Please accept my apology for this delay in responding. Canadians have graciously supported our soldiers over the years in many ways. The time and effort devoted by the members of the Rosary Guild to prepare and deliver Rosaries to schools and Canadian Forces Base Borden are a wonderful display of support for our soldiers. On behalf of the Department of National Defence and Canadian Forces, I would like to convey my heartfelt appreciation for your worthwhile contribution to the military and to your community. Thank you for your support of Canadian Forces members. I wish the Immaculate Heart of Mary Rosary Guild every success in its endeavours.

Sincerely,
Peter MacKay
Minister of National Defence.



FEAST DAYS HONOURING MOTHER MARY

[January 1 - Solemnity of Mary](#)
[January 8 - Our Lady of Prompt Succor](#)
[February 11- Our Lady of Lourdes](#)
[March 25 - Annunciation](#)
[April 26 - Our Lady of Good Counsel](#)
[May 31 - Visitation](#)
[June 27 - Our Mother of Perpetual Help](#)
[July 16 - Our Lady of Mount Carmel](#)
[August 15 - Assumption](#)
[August 22 - Queenship of Mary](#)
[September 8 - Birth of Mary](#)
[September 12 - The Most Holy Name of Mary](#)
[September 15 - Our Lady of Sorrows](#)
[October 7 - Our Lady of the Rosary](#)
[October 8 - Our Lady of Good Remedy](#)
[November 21 - Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary](#)
[December 8 - Immaculate Conception](#)
[December 12 - Our Lady of Guadalupe](#)
 -May is dedicated to Mary.
 -October is dedicated to the Rosary
 -The Feast of the [Immaculate Heart](#) is the Saturday following the Second Sunday after Pentecost.
 -The [Saturdays](#) are also dedicated to Marian Devotions.

ROSARY MIRALCES

Rosary Miracle at Hiroshima - August 6th, 1945 - There was a home eight blocks (about 1 kilometer) from where the A-Bomb went off in Hiroshima Japan. This home had a church attached to it which was completely destroyed, but the home survived, and so did the eight German Jesuit missionaries who prayed the rosary in that house faithfully every day. See [Miracle of the Rosary at Hiroshima](#)



The Country That Saved Itself - Brazil 1962 - In 1962 there was a **looming threat** of communist takeover in Brazil. A woman there named Dona Amelia Bastos was known to have formed a Rosary rally among the Brazilian women was there to do their part in opposing the looming threat. Their goal was simply to pray the Rosary in large groups asking the Virgin Mary for help in opposing the Communist takeover which the President of Brazil was leaning toward at the time. In Belo Horizonte 20,000 women reciting the Rosary aloud broke up a Communist rally. In Sao Paulo, 600,000 women praying the Rosary in one of the most moving demonstrations in Brazilian history, caused the President of Brazil to flee the country and not a single death was encountered, sparing the country from Communist takeover.

PROVIDING THE SPIRIT

Be Yourself!

Be understanding to your enemies.
Be loyal to your friends.
Be strong enough to face the world each day.
Be weak enough to know you cannot do everything alone.
Be generous to those who need your help.
Be frugal with that you need yourself.
Be wise enough to know that you do not know everything.
Be foolish enough to believe in miracles.
Be willing to share your joys.
Be willing to share the sorrows of others.
Be a leader when you see a path others have missed.
Be a follower when you are shrouded by the mists of uncertainty.
Be first to congratulate an opponent who succeeds.
Be last to criticize a colleague who fails.
Be sure where your next step will fall, so that you will not tumble.
Be sure of your final destination, in case you are going the wrong way.
Be loving to those who love you.
Be loving to those who do not love you; they may change.
Above all, **be yourself**.

Author Unknown

Benefits of the Rosary

1. It gradually gives us a perfect knowledge of Jesus Christ.
2. It purifies our souls, washing away sin.
3. It gives us victory over all our enemies.
4. It makes it easy for us to practice virtue.
5. It sets us on fire with love of Our Lord.
6. It enriches us with graces and merits.
7. It supplies us with what is needed to pay all our debts to God and to our fellow men; and finally, it obtains all kinds of graces for us from Almighty God.



Blessing of the Rosary

1. Sinners are forgiven.
2. Souls that thirst are refreshed.
3. Those who are fettered have their bonds broken.
4. Those who weep find happiness
5. Those who are tempted find peace.
6. The poor find help.
7. Religious are reformed.
8. Those who are ignorant are instructed.
9. The living learn to overcome pride.
10. The dead (the Holy Souls) have their pains eased by suffrages.

www.rosaryworkshop.com has done an excellent job in seeking information on the Rosary.
Please refer to the website listed for further information

DESERT FATHERS

Prayer Beads have been a counting device for almost every religion on earth. Sandstone sculptures of the Sunga and Kushan period show Hindu Sages holding Rosaries (185BC-AD320). Hindus predate Christians by 9 centuries B.C. and desert fathers counted with stones, sticks and notches long before recorded history.

+

ROSE GARDENS

Even the term 'Rosary' is not solely Christian nor is the rose symbol. In Tibet and India the Sanskrit word mala means 'garden', 'garden of flowers', 'necklace of beads'. In Hindu, 'prayer beads' is 'japamala' which translates 'rose chaplet'. Rosary is to a rose or flower garden as Aviary is to a collection of birds.

+

KNOTS AND BEADS - STRINGS AND CHAINS



Early Christians counted 150 beads (150 Psalms - see more below). The Buddhist and Hindu prayer beads have 108 while some have 66 (563438 BC). Muslim or Islam count prayers on 99. Worry Beads, from the Middle East, have 33, which are still used today. Greeks still use and call their 100 knots on cords 'Kombologion'. Historically strung rosaries and chained rosaries have been around for a long time. Cords and knots developed into strung beads and from there grew chained rosaries.

+ Today, elegant techniques have been developed in the craft now called 'wire bending' These wire techniques become a vital part of the design of jewelry and rosaries, many of the techniques actually creating the bead itself. This craft is not new as it has its roots in ancient and traditional forms but new designs have flowed from the old.

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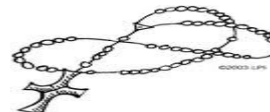
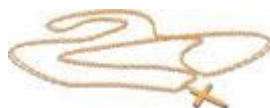
ORIGIN OF THE ROSARY

Of course, no one really knows the origin of the Christian prayer beads. Some believe it was given to the church fathers by the Muslims or possibly the Buddhist as they migrated or traveled the trade routes about a thousand years ago.

+

BUT COUNTING DEVICES ARE MORE LIKELY TO BE A LOGICAL CONCLUSION, A RESPONSE TO A NEED, HOWEVER ISOLATED A PEOPLE MAY BE.

+ We understand the Hebrews had a counting system that would have naturally been adopted by the newly formed Christians. Since the root of our rosary today lies in the Paternoster and counting of the 150 Psalms from the Old Testament, also known as the 'Psalter of David' - one has to consider this is the root and the original source of our rosary today.



www.rosaryworkshop.com has done an excellent job in seeking information on the Rosary. Please refer to the website listed for further information

WHERE DID THE HAIL MARY COME FROM?

The "Hail Mary" is a prayer of devotion to the blessed Mother Mary and her Son, the Lord Jesus Christ, our savior. The "Hail Mary" prayer comes from the words of the angel Gabriel to the Virgin Mary and Elizabeth's greeting to Mary. The Hail Mary falls into two parts.

+ The first part is taken from St. Luke chapter 1, starting at verse 28 and St. Luke chapter one and verse 42, the name of Jesus was added to explain the meaning of these verses taken right out of the Bible. In the middle ages this part of the "Hail Mary" had been said this way for 700 years.

+ The second part of the "Hail Mary" is a petition: Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and in the hour of our death. Amen. Here we ask the blessed Mother to pray for us. The words "Mother of God" were doctrine settled at the Council at Ephesus in the year 431. In 1495 in the English Calender of Shepherds printed these words to complete the "Hail Mary". asking the Virgin Mother to pray for us in life and at the hour of our death when time changes to eternity.

- **GATHERED FROM CHURCH DOCUMENTS AND TRADITIONS, BEAD RESOURCE BOOKS AND GENERAL HISTORY OF THE BEAD** (updated 02.12.11)

This little chronology, is like stringing the beads of history into place. It opens up two thousand years of time and becomes a wonderful telling of how important it has been for people to keep track of their prayers over the centuries 'so none are left unsaid.' The bead keeps us connected, not only in prayer but in migration routes over thousands of years.

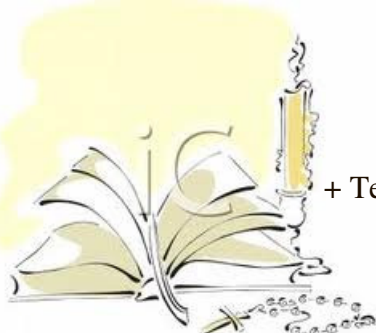
+ The guild hopes this journal will grow as we learn more and more about how people pray. How the traditional Rosary prayers (Scriptural) were chosen and the configuration of the Rosary beads as we know them today came into being. And how the 'mysteries' (the Gospel story) became the meditation part of today's Rosary. We have researched carefully and cross referenced the following material. It has been collected from church documents, tradition and bead resource books.

- + **59 BEADS IN A ROW**

The latter holds a wealth of material of why and how beads were made over the centuries. Certain sizes (such as 7 and 8 mm) were, at times in history given only to rosary making by law. They were also strung in units of 59 beads by the beadmakers for the rosary makers (developing the way beads were sold, the now standard strung length of 16 in) - and now and then, we will find some of these old strings of antique beads and smile!

+ **ANCIENTS USED 10 FINGERS TO COUNT PRAYERS.**

IT IS BELIEVED (by some) A POSSIBLE SOURCE OF THE TRADITIONAL DECADE IN ROSARIES BUT IT IS MORE LIKELY FROM THE EVENTUAL DIVISION OF THE 150 PSALMS.



+ Ten is also the ancient symbol of perfection of the divine order of God (e.g. Ten Commandments). The word 'bead' comes from the Anglo-Saxon root word, 'bede' and it means 'prayer.' 'Bidden' means 'to pray'+

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Companion to
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John Biafore

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**PRAY THE ROSARY DAILY
FOR WORLD PEACE**

Shrine of Our Lady of Gratitude
Behind St. Basils Ukrainian Church
3100 Weston Rd. at Sheppard, Toronto

**Rosary Guilds and
Rosary Making Groups**

are invited to submit articles of a
Rosary nature as well as thank you
notes and letters of thanks for
Rosaries donated or given away, for
publication in upcoming newsletters,
as well as information on the
activities of their group. .

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This is Our Newsletter

- ✠ What would you like to see, what are your thoughts and suggestions for the newsletter.
 - ✠ Would you like to receive future issues via email or by Canada Post?
 - ✠ Would you like to send submissions in? Submissions are due by;
December 1st for the January edition, April 1st for May for the edition,
September 1st for the October edition November 1st for the December edition
- Contact: Mrs. Marilynne Feeney, 80 Cardinal Cres., Waterloo, Ontario N2J 2E8



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