

Scriptural Meditations



For the Divine Mercy Chaplet,
Franciscan Crown, Seven Sorrows and Rosary

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Franciscan Crown
Seven Sorrows
and Rosary**

Lucas J. Amato, S.F.O.



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Seven Sorrows, and Rosary***

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Introduction

The Divine Mercy Chaplet, the Franciscan Crown of Mary's Seven Joys, and the Seven Sorrows of Mary (the Servite Chaplet) are additional devotions that can be said using the beads of the rosary. This booklet offers instructions for praying each of these devotions, as well as the traditional (Dominican) Rosary, using passages from Scripture to focus our meditations on each mystery presented.

Don't you share my problems with meditating on the mysteries of the life of Jesus and Mary? I lose my concentration so easily. Sure, I start off fairly well at the beginning of each mystery; but before I realize it I've drifted off into thinking about some upcoming chore, such as my shopping list or some needed repairs at home.

Let's look to St. Dominic and St. Francis of Assisi for guidance to improve our meditation. These two great saints were well acquainted with each other during their lifetimes upon the earth. In fact, so high was their regard for one another and their respective missions that they seriously considered forming one single religious order. Although they ultimately decided that the Lord wanted them to remain separate, both orders retain a close fraternal relationship. In fact, to this very day a Franciscan is often invited to lead the celebration of St. Dominic's feast day for the Dominicans; likewise, a Dominican usually presides over the Mass on St. Francis' feast day for the Franciscans.

What was it that drew these men and their respective orders toward each other? Certainly among other things it was their great love of Holy Scripture and a deep devotion to Our Blessed Lady. Therefore, why don't we combine our

prayers with sections from the Bible that apply to those mysteries?

You will be happy to learn that I have found at least ten verses from the Bible that deal with each mystery, even appropriating the *Magnificat* from St. Luke for the Assumption of Mary and *The Book of Revelation's* "woman clothed with the sun" for her Coronation. Thus this booklet shows you how to read a quotation from Scripture before reciting each prayer of these four devotions. This method has enabled me to continually meditate on the specific mystery and still devoutly pray the intervening prayers. For me now, each prayer becomes the melody and the Bible verses the words to my spiritual song.

Come now, let us together pray with Holy Scripture the Divine Mercy Chaplet, the Franciscan Crown, the Seven Sorrows, and the Rosary.

The Divine Mercy Chaplet

The Divine Mercy Chaplet, or the Chaplet of Divine Mercy, is a relatively new form of devotion, but it has theological roots tracing back to the Old and New Testaments. Recent though it may be, it has spread with amazing speed throughout the world. For this purpose God chose as His unlikely instrument a young Polish nun, then called Sister Faustina, now revered as Saint Faustina. From 1931 through 1938, she received messages from Jesus and was asked to be a model and apostle of his mercy.

The message of Divine Mercy that Faustina received was meant not only for her personal spiritual advancement but for all of us. Our Lord even requested that His image be painted for us in accord with her visions.

She was instructed to keep a diary, *Divine Mercy in My Soul*, which has become the basis for the devotion to God's Mercy. This devotion can take the form of a novena, or a prayer (said preferably at 3:00 P.M. each day), or the recitation of a chaplet of five decades, said on traditional rosary beads. The latter is the format which is presented here.

This devotion has culminated in the establishment of the Feast of Divine Mercy, which is celebrated throughout the Church on the First Sunday after Easter.

Because the Divine Mercy Chaplet has five decades of ten prayers each, the traditional rosary beads are perfect for saying this devotion. Instead of saying the Our Father, ten Hail Marys and a Glory Be on each decade, however, we say the special prayers passed on to us by Saint Faustina.

Praying the Divine Mercy Chaplet Using Rosary Beads and Scripture

1. On the crucifix, make the sign of the cross while saying: "In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen."
2. On the first bead, pray the following opening prayer: *You expired, Jesus, but the source of life gushed forth for souls, and the ocean of mercy opened up for the whole world. O Fount of Life, unfathomable Divine Mercy, envelop the whole world and empty Yourself out upon us.* Then repeat three times: *O Blood and Water, which gushed forth from the Heart of Jesus as a fount of mercy for us, I trust in You.*
3. On the next three beads, pray one Our Father, one Hail Mary, and the Apostles' Creed.
4. On the first bead of each of the five mysteries, announce the name of the mystery and pray the opening prayer.
5. Then, aloud or silently, read one verse from Scripture and pray the mercy prayer on each bead, as follows.

The Agony in the Garden

Eternal Father, I Offer You the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your Dearly Beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, in Atonement for Our Sins and Those of the Whole World.

1. "And they went to a place which was called Gethsemane; and He said to his disciples: 'Sit here while I pray.'" Mark 14:32

*For the Sake of His Sorrowful Passion,
Have Mercy on Us and on the Whole World.*

2. "And He took with Him Peter, James and John and began to be greatly distressed and troubled. 'My soul is sor-

rowful, even unto death.” Mark 14:33-34

*For the Sake of His Sorrowful Passion,
Have Mercy on Us and on the Whole World.*

3. “‘Pray that you may not enter into temptation.’ And He withdrew from them a stone’s throw.” Luke 22:40

*For the Sake of His Sorrowful Passion,
Have Mercy on Us and on the Whole World.*

4. “Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from Me; nevertheless, not as I will, but as You will.” Mark 14:36

*For the Sake of His Sorrowful Passion,
Have Mercy on Us and on the Whole World.*

5. “And being in an agony He prayed more earnestly and His sweat became like great drops of Blood falling down on the ground.” Luke 22:44

*For the Sake of His Sorrowful Passion,
Have Mercy on Us and on the Whole World.*

6. “And there appeared to Him an angel from heaven strengthening Him.” Luke 22:43

*For the Sake of His Sorrowful Passion,
Have Mercy on Us and on the Whole World.*

7. “And when He rose from prayer, He came to the disciples and found them sleeping.... ‘The spirit is indeed willing, but the flesh is weak.’” Matthew 26:40-41

*For the Sake of His Sorrowful Passion,
Have Mercy on Us and on the Whole World.*

8. “And while He was still speaking, there came a crowd, and Judas leading them. ‘Judas, would you betray the Son of Man with a kiss?’” Luke 22:47-48

For the Sake of His Sorrowful Passion,

Have Mercy on Us and on the Whole World.

9. "Put your sword back into its place; for all who take the sword will perish by the sword." Matthew 26:52

*For the Sake of His Sorrowful Passion,
Have Mercy on Us and on the Whole World.*

10. "Then all his disciples abandoned Him and fled.... Those who had seized Jesus led Him to Caiaphas the high priest...but Peter followed Him as far as the courtyard." Matthew 26:56-58

*For the Sake of His Sorrowful Passion,
Have Mercy on Us and on the Whole World.*

The Scourging at the Pillar

Eternal Father, I Offer You the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your Dearly Beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, in Atonement for Our Sins and Those of the Whole World.

1. "...the high priest asked Him: 'Are you the Christ, the Son of the Blessed One'.... And Jesus said: 'I am; and you will see the Son of Man sitting at the right hand of Power....'" Mark 14:61-62

*For the Sake of His Sorrowful Passion,
Have Mercy on Us and on the Whole World.*

2. "And they all condemned Him as deserving death. And some began to spit on Him and to strike Him...." Mark 14:64-65

*For the Sake of His Sorrowful Passion,
Have Mercy on Us and on the Whole World.*

3. "And as soon as it was morning, the chief priest, with the elders and scribes, and the whole council...led Him

away to Pilate.” Mark 15:1

*For the Sake of His Sorrowful Passion,
Have Mercy on Us and on the Whole World.*

4. “We found this man...saying that He Himself is Christ a king.” Luke 23:2

*For the Sake of His Sorrowful Passion,
Have Mercy on Us and on the Whole World.*

5. “Pilate...said: ‘I do not find this man guilty of any of your charges against Him; neither did Herod.... I will therefore chastise Him and release Him.’ But they all cried... ‘Release to us Barabbas.’” Luke 23:14-18

*For the Sake of His Sorrowful Passion,
Have Mercy on Us and on the Whole World.*

6. “Pilate, wishing to satisfy the crowd, released for them Barabbas; and having Jesus scourged, gave Him over to their will.” Mark 15:15

*For the Sake of His Sorrowful Passion,
Have Mercy on Us and on the Whole World.*

7. “I offered My back to those who struck Me.” Isaiah 50:6

*For the Sake of His Sorrowful Passion,
Have Mercy on Us and on the Whole World.*

8. “The plowers plowed upon My back; they made their furrows long.” Psalm 129:3

*For the Sake of His Sorrowful Passion,
Have Mercy on Us and on the Whole World.*

9. “He was wounded for our iniquities, He was bruised for our sins...and by His stripes we are healed.” Isaiah 53:5

For the Sake of His Sorrowful Passion,

Have Mercy on Us and on the Whole World.

10. “Despised and the most abject of men, a man of sorrows and acquainted with infirmity.” Isaiah 53:3

*For the Sake of His Sorrowful Passion,
Have Mercy on Us and on the Whole World.*

The Crowning with Thorns

Eternal Father, I Offer You the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your Dearly Beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, in Atonement for Our Sins and Those of the Whole World.

1. “Then the soldiers of the governor took Jesus into the praetorium and they gathered the whole battalion before Him.” Matthew 27:27

*For the Sake of His Sorrowful Passion,
Have Mercy on Us and on the Whole World.*

2. “And they stripped Him and put a scarlet robe upon Him....” Matthew 27:28

*For the Sake of His Sorrowful Passion,
Have Mercy on Us and on the Whole World.*

3. “...and plaiting a crown of thorns, they put it on His Head...and they put a reed in His right Hand.” Matthew 27:29

*For the Sake of His Sorrowful Passion,
Have Mercy on Us and on the Whole World.*

4. “And kneeling before Him they mocked Him saying: ‘Hail, King of the Jews!’ And they spat upon Him, and took the reed and struck Him on the Head.” Matthew 27:29

*For the Sake of His Sorrowful Passion,
Have Mercy on Us and on the Whole World.*

5. “Pilate said: ‘I am bringing Him out to you that you

may know that I find no crime in Him.” John 19:4
*For the Sake of His Sorrowful Passion,
Have Mercy on Us and on the Whole World.*

6. “So Jesus came out, wearing the crown of thorns and the purple robe.” John 19:5
*For the Sake of His Sorrowful Passion,
Have Mercy on Us and on the Whole World.*

7. “Pilate said, ‘Behold the Man!’....but they cried out: ‘Crucify Him, Crucify Him!’” John 19:5-6
*For the Sake of His Sorrowful Passion,
Have Mercy on Us and on the Whole World.*

8. “Pilate said, ‘Shall I crucify your king?’ ...the chief priests said: ‘We have no king but Caesar.’” John 19:14-15
*For the Sake of His Sorrowful Passion,
Have Mercy on Us and on the Whole World.*

9. “And when they had mocked Him, they stripped Him of the robe, and put His own clothes on Him.” Matthew 27:31
*For the Sake of His Sorrowful Passion,
Have Mercy on Us and on the Whole World.*

10. “Then he handed Him over to them to be crucified.” John 19:16
*For the Sake of His Sorrowful Passion,
Have Mercy on Us and on the Whole World.*

The Carrying of the Cross

Eternal Father, I Offer You the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your Dearly Beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, in Atonement for Our Sins and Those of the Whole World.

1. "And (they) led Him away to crucify Him." Matthew 27:31

*For the Sake of His Sorrowful Passion,
Have Mercy on Us and on the Whole World.*

2. "...and He went out, bearing His own cross." John 19:17

*For the Sake of His Sorrowful Passion,
Have Mercy on Us and on the Whole World.*

3. "He has borne our infirmities." Isaiah 53:4

*For the Sake of His Sorrowful Passion,
Have Mercy on Us and on the Whole World.*

4. "And there followed Him a great multitude of the people and of women who bewailed and lamented Him. 'Daughters of Jerusalem, weep not for Me, but weep for yourselves and for your children.'" Luke 23:27-28

*For the Sake of His Sorrowful Passion,
Have Mercy on Us and on the Whole World.*

5. "...they seized one Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, and laid on him the cross, to carry it behind Jesus." Luke 23:26

*For the Sake of His Sorrowful Passion,
Have Mercy on Us and on the Whole World.*

6. "One who does not take up his cross and follow Me is not worthy of Me." Matthew 10:35

*For the Sake of His Sorrowful Passion,
Have Mercy on Us and on the Whole World.*

7. "He who puts his hand to the plow and turns back is not fit to be My disciple." Luke 9:62

*For the Sake of His Sorrowful Passion,
Have Mercy on Us and on the Whole World.*

8. "Like a lamb He was led to the slaughter and He opened not His mouth." Isaiah 53:7

*For the Sake of His Sorrowful Passion,
Have Mercy on Us and on the Whole World.*

9. "And they brought Him to the place called Golgotha, which means the place of the skull." Mark 15:22

*For the Sake of His Sorrowful Passion,
Have Mercy on Us and on the Whole World.*

10. "And they offered Him wine mingled with myrrh, but He would not drink it." Mark 15:23

*For the Sake of His Sorrowful Passion,
Have Mercy on Us and on the Whole World.*

The Crucifixion and Death of Jesus

Eternal Father, I Offer You the Body and Blood, Soul and Divinity of Your Dearly Beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ, in Atonement for Our Sins and Those of the Whole World.

1. "They have pieced My Hands and My Feet; they have numbered all My Bones." Psalm 22:16

*For the Sake of His Sorrowful Passion,
Have Mercy on Us and on the Whole World.*

2. "They parted My garments among them and for My clothing they cast lots." Psalm 22:18

*For the Sake of His Sorrowful Passion,
Have Mercy on Us and on the Whole World.*

3. "Jesus said: 'Father, forgive them; for they know not what they do.'" Luke 23:34

*For the Sake of His Sorrowful Passion,
Have Mercy on Us and on the Whole World.*

4. "Jesus, remember me when You come into Your kingdom." And Jesus said to him: 'Amen, I say to you; this day you will be with Me in paradise.'" Luke 23:42-43

*For the Sake of His Sorrowful Passion,
Have Mercy on Us and on the Whole World.*

5. "...standing by the cross of Jesus was His Mother.... Jesus saw His Mother, and the disciple whom He loved standing near...." John 19:26

*For the Sake of His Sorrowful Passion,
Have Mercy on Us and on the Whole World.*

6. "He said to His mother: 'Woman, behold your son!' Then He said to the disciple: 'Behold, your mother!'" John 19:26-27

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Have Mercy on Us and on the Whole World.*

7. "At the ninth hour Jesus cried out with a loud voice: 'Eloi, Eloi, lama sabachthani?' which means 'My God, my God, why have You forsaken me?'" Mark 15:34

*For the Sake of His Sorrowful Passion,
Have Mercy on Us and on the Whole World.*

8. "...Jesus, knowing that all was now finished, said to fulfill the scripture: 'I thirst.'" John 19:28

*For the Sake of His Sorrowful Passion,
Have Mercy on Us and on the Whole World.*

9. "Then Jesus, crying out with loud voice, said: 'Father, into Your hands I commend My spirit.'" Luke 23:46

*For the Sake of His Sorrowful Passion,
Have Mercy on Us and on the Whole World.*

10. "Jesus said, 'It is accomplished' and He bowed His

head and gave up His Spirit.” John 19:30

*For the Sake of His Sorrowful Passion,
Have Mercy on Us and on the Whole World.*

Concluding Prayers for the Divine Mercy Chaplet

1. Pray three times: “Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One, have mercy on us and on the whole world.”
2. Pray once: “Eternal God, in whom mercy is endless, and the treasury of compassion inexhaustible, look kindly upon us, and increase Your mercy in us, that in difficult moments, we might not despair, nor become despondent, but with great confidence, submit ourselves to Your holy will, which is Love and Mercy Itself. Amen.”
3. With the crucifix, make the sign of the cross, while saying: “In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.”

FOUR POPULAR CATHOLIC DEVOTIONS

Now with Scriptural Meditations for Each Mystery

Here are four of the most popular Catholic devotions, accompanied by a short passage from Scripture to inspire meditation on each mystery. A short history of each devotion, plus instructions for how to pray it using traditional rosary beads, is given. Included are:

- The Chaplet of Divine Mercy
- The Franciscan Crown of Mary's Joys
- The Seven Sorrows of Mary (The Servite Chaplet)
- The Rosary (including the Mysteries of Light)

“Don’t you share my problems with meditating on the mysteries of the life of Jesus and Mary? I lose my concentration easily. Sure, I start off fairly well at the beginning of each mystery; but before I realize it I’ve drifted off into thinking about some upcoming chore, such as my shopping list or some needed repairs at home. This book shows you how to read a quotation from Scripture before reciting each prayer of these four devotions. This method has enabled me to continually meditate on the specific mystery and still devoutly pray the intervening prayers. For me now, each prayer becomes the melody and the Bible verses the words to my spiritual song.”

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