

Pray the Rosary with Poetry

Brother Jerome Kroetsch, C.S.C.

Mysteries of the Rosary

Joyful

Sorrowful

Glorious

Luminous



Institution of the Holy Eucharist

*Our Lord told us some two thousand years ago,
I will leave you soon and return to my Father,
But I'll be with you always,
so, spread your faith and make it grow.*

*I'll come to you every day at Holy Mass
to pray with you and break your fast.
Know then, one and all,
we have a kinship that will forever last.*

*I may come incognito, hither or thither,
so trust me, let your faith not wither.
As life goes on, problems may arise,
and my help then, you'll come to realize.*

*And so it is, in this present age,
life goes on, some days good, others may be bad.
But, there're no worse than Jesus had.
So, let's live our role, on Jesus' stage.*

*And remember, as Saint Peter fell at times,
he always got up and tried again.
So with us, the Lord will help us up.
Let's pick up the pace and finish the race.*

Acknowledgements

Br. Richard Johnson, CSC
Cover Design & Structure

Br. George Klawitter, CSC
Proof Reading

**The transfiguration
(read Matt. 17:1 thru 8)**

*In my prayer I climbed up Mount Tabor.
It being a long, hard climb, I tired with labor.
While stopping to rest and observe the weather,
I saw four men up there, standing together.*

*Moving closer, with great care,
I heard them talking, it sounded like prayer.
Then suddenly, being struck with fear,
out of nowhere, I saw two more men appear.*

*One of the four, his face a marvelous sight,
and his clothes shown a brilliant white.
As I stood there, still looking ahead,
suddenly two men fell, as if they were dead.*

*I crept closer, not making a sound,
watching the two men, as they lay on the ground.
Then, all of a sudden, again for safety I feared,
as into thin air, two men suddenly disappeared.*

*Then one man bade the others get up saying,
"Let's go home now,
to pray and drink from the cup."
He said to them, "keep this quiet for now,
then, after I rise, you can tell it somehow."*

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Print Date **September, 2016**

Notre Dame, IN 46556-0776

Proclamation of the Kingdom

*A certain man was born many years ago.
He came with seeds of love to sow,
and by his works, many people he did inspire.
With love he planned to set the world afire.*

*He had a proclamation for all to hear,
Telling them they had not a thing to fear,
for his message was one of love for all,
and those sincere listened to his call.*

*His call for love was strong indeed,
a call to help each other's needs.
His proclamation was loud and clear,
that those who love have naught to fear.*

*In fact, so loud and clear it was, that,
people wondered, can this be true,
that the kingdom of God is among you?*

*But, this man, Jesus, proclaimed,
The kingdom of God is not only among you,
Indeed, if you believe
and live with love, it is within you!*

***Jesus begins his Public Ministry
The Wedding at Cana***

*A timely wedding it was, I'm sure,
the bride and bridegroom with love so pure.
With salutes, hugs and kisses,
the young couple is given the best of wishes.*

*Jesus and some friends were present, as invited.
They wished the couple well,
and as mealtime came, with all the guests excited,
Jesus heard Mary exclaim, "they have no wine!"*

*His first thought might have been,
what is that to me, my time has not yet come;
but on second thought, he prayed and said,
"Father, I'll jump the gun and bring forth some."*

*"Fill the jars with water," he told his friends,
"fill them to the brim no less,
and what shall happen next,
will surpass everybody's guess."*

*"So much water, his friends said,
let's hope it won't be wasted."
Then, when it was delivered to the tables
and tested, an exclamation rang out,
surely, it's the best wine we've ever tasted!*

*Some friends were heard to say, "what a wonder,
this feat is as rare as a marriage of
sunshine and thunder!"
Still others exclaimed,
"these works are not small trifles,"
and they decided to work as his disciples.*

Annunciation of the Incarnation

*For many centuries, throughout the ages,
we read of a Messiah, in Isaiah's pages.
So, for those who believed and patiently waited,
news of the Annunciation came as anticipated.*

*Our heavenly Father in his own time did send
the message; our fallen nature he would amend.
But, some born in a ruling caste, for some reason,
wouldn't accept the Messiah in any season.*

*But those who believed and patiently waited
were awarded the good news they anticipated,
when the Angel Gabriel appeared to Mary
saying, "the Baby Messiah, you shall carry."*

*And today, as part of humankind we are,
we give thanks, both near and far,
for it was by God's act of love,
that he sent His Son from heaven above.*

The Visitation

*Excitement, joy and loads of charity--
today that combination might be a rarity.
But for a maiden named Mary,
it was surely no burden to carry.*

*Thus it was to Elizabeth her cousin
that Mary went,
within her mind many things a'buzzin,
with not a wasted minute spent.*

*An angel from heaven came, she said,
and divine seed within me has been fed.
Through me the Messiah will be born,
and no longer people's souls will be forlorn.*

*She said, "in me God's Will shall take place,
and by this act, he will save the human race.
For this, all generations will call me Blessed,
and my soul doth magnify the Lord."*

The Baptism of our Lord

*To ponder the baptism of our Lord,
in the waters of the Jordan,
is like a preview of life
lived in the family of Almighty God.*

*Laying prerequisites aside,
as for him, baptism wasn't needed,
but Jesus, seeing it was for the people,
took it all in stride.*

*This Jordan River venture,
far from just a whim,
was for humankind, one and all,
for our salvation, no ordinary swim.*

*Our baptism, a commission of Almighty God,
is a mandate to call us all
to join God's family,
a most welcome nod.*

*A more loving gesture was never known,
as then and there it was that,
with divine love for all,
salvation's seed was sown.*

The Nativity of our Lord

*People for untold generations have believed
that our Lord was miraculously conceived,
born of a blessed Virgin, named Mary,
and that the burden of our sins, he was to carry.*

*With this in mind, we as a global society,
should sing together, giving praise, in piety,
for the Word of God now in mankind does abide
as the prophet Isaiah had prophesied.*

*We as humankind think small sometimes,
our values amounting to nickels and dimes.
But when we think of what Jesus did for our sake,
that fork in the road,
leading to him, is ours to take.*

*There's never enough time it seems,
to finish the work and accomplish our dreams.
But these times then, let's call on the Lord--
he's sure to help,
if our hopes and his are in accord.*

4th Joyful Mystery

The Presentation

*The presentation of Jesus in the temple,
although true, is a bit of a mystery.*

*We know it actually happened,
as it is recorded in the annals of history.*

*We also know it as a mystery
that we cannot fully understand,
although we need not have any doubt.
It's our faith; that's what it's really all about.*

*The point is, God enlightened Simeon
that he would live to see the Messiah,
and thus, Isaiah and Simeon, although
living centuries apart, did work together.*

*Yes, they worked together,
to let the world know that
our savior would come, that he did come,
to redeem us from our fallen nature.*

5th Glorious Mystery

Coronation of Mary as Queen of Heaven

*The crowning of Mary of heaven,
a most glorious, stupendous event,
must be the highest honor and blessing
placed on woman, that God has ever sent.*

*Queen of all Saints, Angels and Prophets,
Mary had a chance to be proud, but she was not.
She could have said, I stand out in a crowd,
but, being who she was, this was not her lot.*

*This Immaculate, Blessed Young Lady,
bore seven piercing sorrows,
which brought her much pain,
yet helped all humankind, in soul saving gain.*

*Yes, Blessed Mary, so few words did she speak,
so profound, yet so humble they were;
immortal words they were, and I quote:
"Be it done unto me according to Thy Word."
"Do whatever he tells you to do."*

*These words, as sincerely spoken,
and carried so much weight,
have me full of faith and hope,
that God's promise to us,
will never be broken.*

4th Glorious Mystery

The Assumption of Mary into Heaven

*The Blessed Virgin Mary,
being assumed into heaven
is a most blessed event, which,
forever in my mind, I hope to carry.*

*It seems natural to believe,
that life carries the penalty of death,
before being qualified for heaven.
However, this might not always be the case.*

*Consider the life of
our Blessed Mother Mary.
Our faith tells us that
she was conceived without sin.*

*Added to this, our faith tells us that
she committed no sin
during her time on earth, which I believe
could exempt her from the penalty of death.*

*So, by faith we know that Almighty God
preserved her conception free from original sin
and that she sinned not during her natural life.*

*This gives assurance in my faith,
she could have been assumed into heaven
without enduring the penalty of death.*

5th Joyful Mystery

Finding Jesus in the Temple

*As explained in Luke, chapter 2,
his parents used to go to Jerusalem each year
for the feast of the Passover.
This was normal and they had no cause for fear.*

*Afterward, while returning in the caravan
they found Jesus was missing,
something outside their traveling plan,
as they thought surely he was among their clan.*

*On returning to Jerusalem
they found their son, there in the temple,
listening, questioning and learning the faith
and he grew in wisdom and grace.*

*But his parents did let him know
he caused them much concern and bother,
causing his question, "did you not know,
I would be about the business of my Father?"*

*He then returned home with them
to Nazareth, growing in wisdom and age.*

*Then later on, working miracles
throughout the land,
Jesus chose followers to join his band.*

***Decent of the Holy Spirit upon
the Apostles***

*Using the "Presentation of the First Fruits"
we can trace Pentecost back to its original roots,
the presentation of the harvest's First Fruits to God,
which took place fifty days after "Passover."*

*As we fast forward to the first Christian Pentecost,
we find this easily done with no real time lost.
As Christ ascended to heaven, leaving us on earth,
he had plans on giving his Christians new birth.*

*They were all gathered together in one place,
in the upper room, when suddenly,
a strong wind came upon them.*

*Then the Holy Spirit appeared
as a large flame of fire and separated
into tongues and settled over each of them.*

*They were filled with the Holy Spirit,
able to speak in different languages and dialects.
Thus, Pentecost came to be known
as the Birthday of the Church.*

*Now, forwarding again,
to this modern age,
it's time for us Christians,
to live our lives
as holy ones, on today's page.*

2nd Glorious Mystery

Ascension of Christ into heaven

*Some time ago, while in prayer,
I met some men, it seemed from another age.
They were fishermen, working often day and night,
with nets tattered and torn, it was a pitiful sight.*

*But now it was not night, but broad daylight.
These same men, looking into the sky,
said they saw their friend lifted up on high;
as he rose he waved and vanished, out of sight.*

*These men talked long through the day,
reminiscing about how he taught them to pray.
In prayer and being together,
they felt his presence,
and so they stayed together, living out his lessons.*

*Sometimes they talked of going from town to town,
and about the time he walked on water.
They said his talk was joyful, with never a frown.
He also told stories, of clay in the hands of a potter.*

*These men cherished that day,
and decided it must not be forgotten.
This day will be special, was their intention,
agreeing, let's call it
"The Day of our Lord's Ascension."*

1st Sorrowful Mystery

The Agony in the Garden

*We don't often see gardens
as a place of sorrow,
but this garden, uniquely,
gives a savor all its own.*

*In this garden we shall find
a person distressed, maligned
and in fervent prayer for a solid hour,
he endured by supernatural power.*

*His will, in accord with the Father,
as said, for my will, I will not bother.
Then again, Father, as you and I are One,
let not mine, but Thy Will be done.*

*Going into the garden with him
were three friends, not of royalty,
but whom he may have thought,
possessed the virtue of loyalty.*

*But, as it happened, there in the garden,
not even the Lord would be given a pardon.
It was then and there he was arrested,
as in the annals of history, it is attested.*

2nd Sorrowful Mystery

Scourging of our Lord

*There are days when God shows mercy,
there days when it seems withheld.
Sometimes cruelty just demands its day,
and this time the Father let it have its way.*

*The scourging of our Lord on that day,
showed injustice, violence and disrespect.
But the Father had a reason for it all,
So, let's be grateful and let him have his call.*

*The people who saw our Lord put on trial,
were like us in many ways,
they lived among the rank and file,
and no doubt many also walked the extra mile.*

*We must remember,
it's not good to judge another,
that lot is not for us you see,
but for God alone, it's his responsibility.*

*Also, when all is said and done,
and our last day on earth has come,
a sobering day that will be,
so let us pray, the Lord's mercy
and our will, might be as one.*

1st Glorious Mystery

The Resurrection of our Lord

*A most wonderful event has taken place,
one that amazes the whole human race.
Our Lord's rising on that Sunday morning,
showed supreme power and love outpouring.*

*Yes, when we ponder Christ's resurrection,
we get food and thought for deep reflection,
and we should know that, as he loved us so much
we should in turn give him our love as such.*

*The Sadducees refused to trust in Christ's name,
and didn't believe his life he could reclaim.
But by rising and all doubt dispelled,
his claims for heaven were again upheld.*

*That day on Mount Tabor,
he gave voice that he would rise,
so to those with faith, it came with glad surprise,
but to those with no faith, a myth it implies.*

*No faith in afterlife had the Sadducee.
But in his rising he proved them wrong,
And that is why they're called sad, you see.
They should have believed him all along.*

The Crowning with Thorns

*Pondering the passion of our Lord
must include the crowning
of Jesus with a crown
made of sharp, prickly thorns.*

*This mystery portrays
the mocking of our Lord Jesus
by the very men whose salvation,
or condemnation, he holds in his hands.*

*Nobody knows Christ's Redemption Plan,
as his horizon is far beyond our mortal span,
and the seeds of grace he sows,
bear fruit at a time only his Father knows.*

*For those who fully accept God's grace,
drink the cup and walk Jesus' pace,
then that crown of thorns that he wore,
will bring him the joy that he suffered for.*

*Can we begin to let Jesus be our friend,
resolve to love him fully until the very end?
If we can do this, for love of him alone,
we may take part in his scourging,
and possibly be invited to his home.*

4th Sorrowful Mystery

Jesus Carries His Cross

*The road to Calvary,
a most difficult journey,
I'm sure it was,
for both Jesus and his mother.*

*Stretching one's strength and will
beyond human limits, as needed here,
could only have been done
with divine love, for people he held dear.*

*The day of Christ's Passion,
and his carrying of the cross
showed us a road of bravery,
to freedom from sin and from its slavery.*

*His show of love and endurance,
for you, me and all of mankind,
surely makes a demand of us
to keep our lives more virtue inclined.*

*When we feel beaten, tired and all drawn out,
with no victory in sight, all seems a loss,
we must remember, we're following Jesus,
and he might be saying,
it's your turn to carry some cross.*

5th Sorrowful Mystery

The Crucifixion and Death of Christ

*Lord Jesus, when you came
to save us from our sins
you took on the burden of our blame
and removed from us our cause for shame.*

*By your cross you call us all,
to follow you in your loving call,
and now may we as we tread our road,
have hopes that you will help us with our load.*

*Your scourging took its ugly toll,
the lashes and the gashes--
they all played a Satanic role
in this cruelty right from the start.*

*But, in your plan, revenge has no place.
Yours it is to bring salvation to every land
and people of every race.
That's why you came to this Bethlehem place.*

*So, Lord, we pray we won't let you down.
Give us the grace we need
to help you wear that thorny crown.
Then, when our yeast and dough is leaven,
may we be at home with you in heaven.*