

3. The Proclamation of the Kingdom

As we read through the Gospel accounts, we find lots of complaining. The disciples are complaining about which one of them is more important (Luke 22:24–30). Religious leaders are complaining that Jesus is trying to destroy the peoples' faith (Matthew 12:22–24). Roman officials are complaining about the unrest (John 19:12–16). People are complaining about illness, poverty, and oppression (Mark 3:7–11). Even Jesus is complaining that his message is not being taken seriously (John 8:43); not even his disciples are consistent in believing what he teaches (Matthew 16:23).

How do I accept the teachings of Jesus as I read them in the Gospel and hear them from his Church?

4. The Institution of the Eucharist

Jesus gave us the Holy Eucharist, his Body, Blood, Soul, and Divinity, under the humble appearance of bread and wine (see Matthew 26:26–28). This greatest of gifts should have been received with gratitude and joy, but not even his contemporaries understood it. How many walk away in disbelief; how many remain indifferent, even in the presence of Jesus Host.

Do I take the time to adore my Lord and God in his Eucharistic Presence? Do I receive him reverently in Holy Communion?

5. The Resurrection

Jesus miraculously rose from the tomb on the third day as he had promised. After greeting Mary Magdalen, Jesus appeared to the assembled apostles and disciples. Thomas, who had been absent, complained that he would never believe this happened

until he could see and touch Jesus for himself. Was Thomas upset because Jesus came when he wasn't with the group, or did he really doubt the Resurrection happened? Jesus returned to satisfy Thomas' desire to see the Risen One personally. This confirmed Thomas' faith and devotion to Jesus (see John 20:24–29).

Do I complain and excuse my sins, failures, and doubts because I never saw Jesus with my own eyes? Let me take time to meditate on the gift of faith that I received at my Baptism. On that day, Jesus said of me, "More blessed is the one who has not seen and yet has believed."

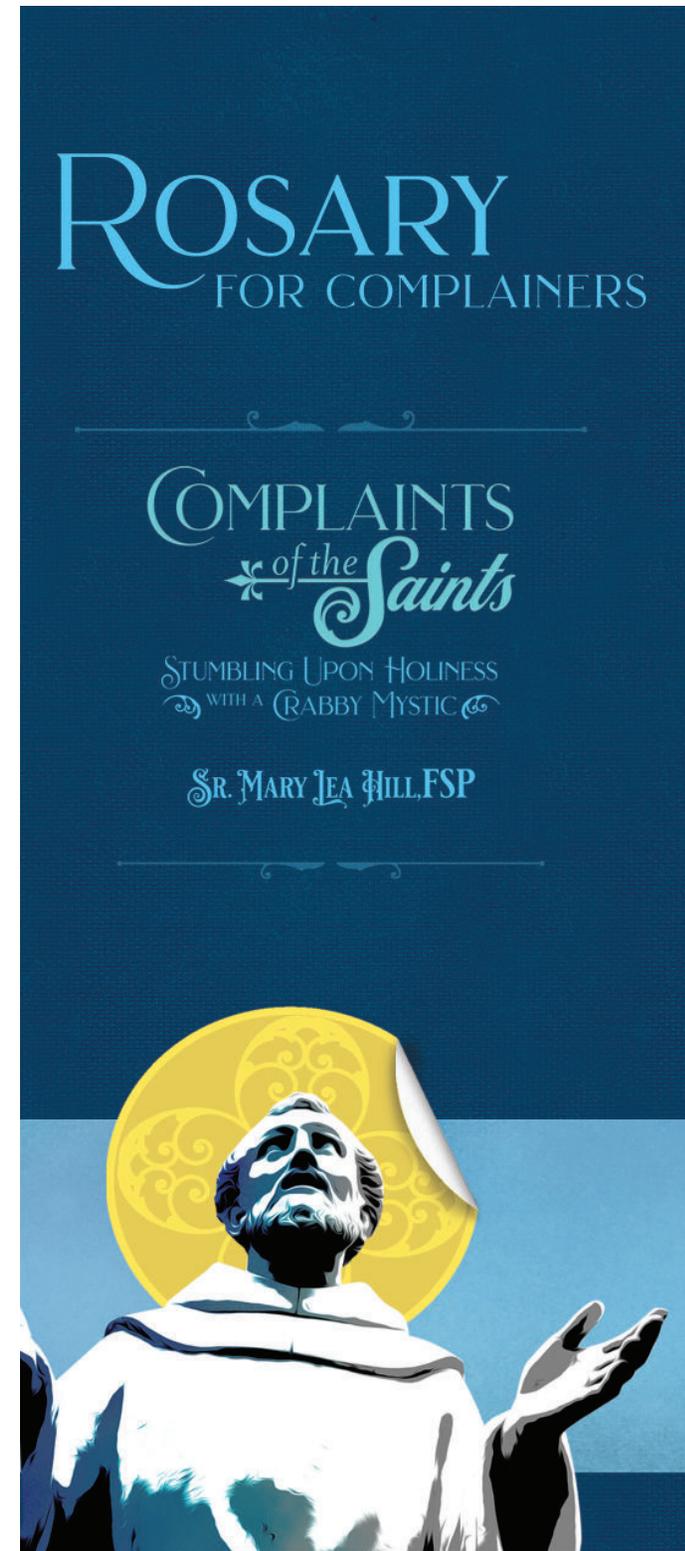
Final Prayer

Dear Lord, I have gratefully prayed these mysteries of your life in the company of your Blessed Mother. The mysteries I chose speak to my tendency to complain. Now I trust in the grace to face myself honestly when I feel the need to complain. Make me more like you and your Mother, that I may find stronger incentive to pray whenever the temptation to complain arises. I ask this favor through the gracious mercy you have always shown me. Amen.

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What is the recitation of the Rosary?

The Rosary is a meditation on the life of Jesus Christ, accompanied by Mary. Mary helps us enter into each mystery and opens us to the heart of her son. In this Rosary, we will reflect and pray over events in the lives of Jesus and Mary which could give rise to complaining: a human fault that I struggle with constantly.

Dear Jesus and Mary, offer me some insight as I pray. Inspire me to open up to your grace.

How to Pray the Rosary

Begin by making the *Sign of the Cross*.

Holding the Crucifix, say the *Apostles' Creed*.

1. On the first bead, say an *Our Father*.
2. Say one *Hail Mary* on each of the next three beads for an increase in the virtues of faith, hope, and charity.
3. Say the *Glory Be*.
4. At the beginning of each of the five decades, announce the mystery for that decade and read the reflection; then say the *Our Father*.
5. For each of the ten beads of the decade, say a *Hail Mary* while meditating on the mystery. Conclude each decade with a *Glory Be* followed by the *Fátima Prayer*.
6. After praying all five decades, say the *Hail, Holy Queen* and the final prayer. Conclude with the *Sign of the Cross*.

Prayers of the Rosary

The Sign of the Cross

In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

Apostles' Creed

I believe in God, the Father almighty, Creator of heaven and earth, and in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; he descended into hell; on the third day he rose again from the dead; he ascended into heaven, and is seated at the right hand of God the Father almighty; from there he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and life everlasting. Amen.

Our Father

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come, thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread, and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

Hail Mary

Hail, Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee. Blessed art thou among women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Glory Be

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit, as it was in the beginning is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.

Fátima Prayer

O my Jesus, forgive us our sins. Save us from the fires of hell. Lead all souls to heaven, especially those in most need of thy mercy.

Hail, Holy Queen

Hail, Holy Queen, Mother of Mercy, our life, our sweetness and our hope. To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve. To thee do we send up our sighs, mourning and weeping in this valley of tears. Turn then, most gracious advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us, and after this our exile show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus. O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God, that we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

1. Finding of Jesus in the Temple

This is a mystery very dear to our hearts because we are on a lifelong search for Jesus. Along the way, we may occasionally lose sight of him. Mary voices a very valid parental complaint: “Why have you done this without letting your father and I know, without asking permission?” (Luke 2:48).

Do I complain when Jesus does something unexpected in my life?

2. The Wedding at Cana

Mary always acted out of her motherly heart. At this wedding celebration, she observes that the wine was nearly finished. To avoid embarrassment to the hosts and complaints from the guests, she does something unexpected. She turns to her son, Jesus, to solve the problem. He replies in a form of complaint: “Why does this concern me? My time hasn’t yet come” (John 2:4). Mary simply calls over the servers and tells them to do whatever Jesus tells them to do. I always imagine Jesus smiling at her motherly audacity. He does what she tells him to do.

Do I bring my needs and complaints to Jesus and Mary in prayer and then do what they say?