

# DID YOU KNOW BY DEACON AL

## THE HISTORY OF THE ROSARY

The rosary is a beautiful prayer, it is one of the most cherished prayers of the Catholic Church. So, what do we know about the rosary and where did it come from? When did it arise as a popular devotion? The rosary is a prayer for all seasons of life, and it is 900 years old. The origins of the rosary are sketchy, but the use of prayer beads and the recitation of prayers to aid us in meditation come from the earliest days of the church. There is some evidence from the Middle Ages that a string of beads was used to count the Our Fathers and Hail Mary's. These are known as Paternosters, Latin for Our Father. Rope was first used with knots in them so a person could keep count of the prayers/psalms chanted by running them through their fingers. Monks prayed 150 psalms a day and many of the laity could not read so they used 150 Our Fathers instead. In the 12th and 15th centuries the structure of the rosary gradually evolved. To be continued.