

Embrace the World in Prayer!



As the Summer Olympics begin in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, August 5- 21, 2016, now would be good time to pray the World Mission Rosary. The colors of the Olympic rings can be remembered in the colors of this Rosary.

In February of 1951, Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen (national director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith from 1950 to 1966), in a radio address (The Catholic Hour), inaugurated that World Mission Rosary. He saw the need for us to pray not just for ourselves, but for the whole world, and especially for those who are poor and vulnerable at home and around the world.

Each of the five decades of the World Mission Rosary has different colors that represent different mission regions of the world:

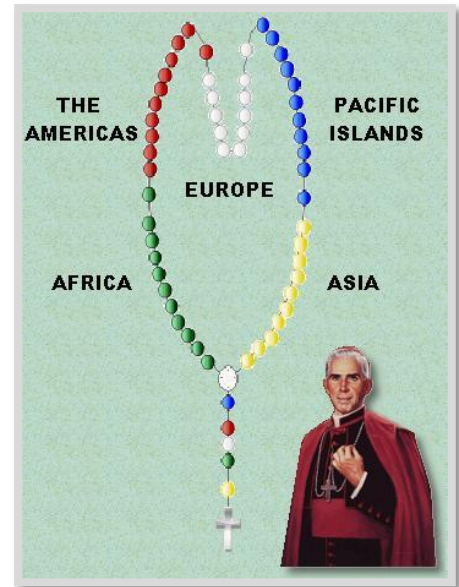
Yellow for the rising sun over Asia

Red for the blood of the martyrs of the Americas

White for Europe, home of the Holy Father, and his call for new evangelization

Blue for water surrounding Oceania (the island nations) of the world

Green for the grasslands and forests of Africa



To this "geographical" rosary, we reflect on the five points of evangelization described by Pope Saint John Paul II in his encyclical *Redemptoris Missio*, "On the Mission of the Redeemer." These are: Inter-religious dialogue, Liturgy, Solidarity, Witness, Proclamation.

It is also suggested to meditate on five Scriptural "Mission Mysteries" while praying the rosary: The Visit of the Magi; Jesus Talks with the Samaritan Woman; Jesus Heals the Centurion's Servant; Jesus Sends out His Disciples; and The Conversion of Paul.

*"When the Rosary is completed, one has...embraced all continents, all people in prayer.
Won't you please make a tour of the world on your World Mission Rosary?"*

Bishop Fulton Sheen