

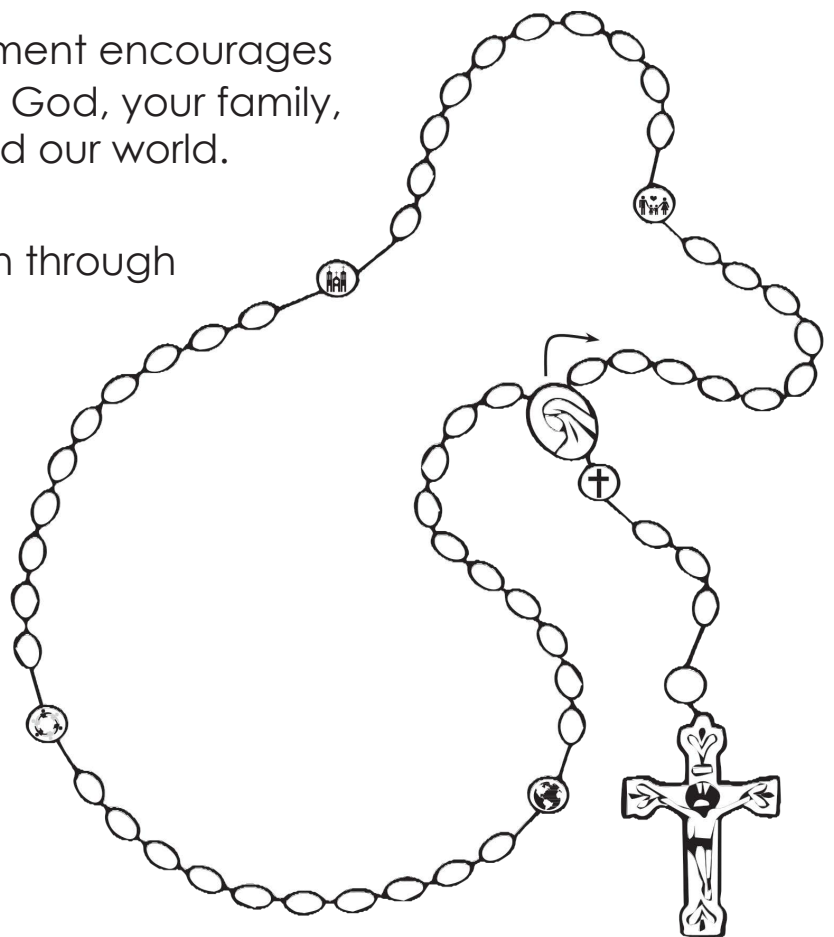
Does your **FAMILY** have a **MISSION**?



LEARN how a mission statement encourages your family's relationship with God, your family, our church, our community, and our world.

LIVE out your family's mission through thoughtful acts of service.

PRAY the rosary together as a family for your mission and actions.



GOD



FAMILY



CHURCH



COMMUNITY



WORLD

FAMILY MISSION ROSARY DIRECTIONS

PRAYER

We bless your name, O Lord,
for sending your own incarnate Son,
to become part of a family,
so that, as He lived His life,
He would experience its worries and its joys.

We ask you, Lord,
to protect and watch over all families,
so that in the strength of your grace
they may enjoy prosperity,
possess the priceless gift of your peace,
and, as the Church alive in the home,
bear witness in this world to your glory.

We ask this through Christ our Lord.
Amen.

-- from *Catholic Household Blessings and Prayers*

THE DOMESTIC CHURCH

Everyone is part of a family and it is in the context of the family where we first learn who God is and to prayerfully seek His will for us. Because of this, the Catholic Church often describes the family as “the domestic church.” This phrase, first used in the Church document *Lumen Gentium*, expresses the idea that it is in the family where we first experience God.

Family life is a special state of life where individuals have the unique ability to make Christ known to others while living in “ordinary circumstances.” Each day, families have the opportunity to live out their calling to be a “church” as they live a life of faith, hope, and charity.

Our Catholic faith also teaches us that “we constitute one family in Christ,” regardless of our national, racial, ethnic, economic, and ideological differences. Therefore, we are called not just to serve the family in our

own household, but those in our community, and those around the world. It's easy to feel disconnected, as we juggle work, family, school, activity after activity, and commitment after commitment. Sometimes there really doesn't seem to be enough hours in a day! But it can be hard to find the time to volunteer. It may be time to sit down and reflect on how we spend our waking hours.

One of the most satisfying, fun, and productive ways to regroup and unite as a family or as a part of a community is volunteering. Volunteerism sets a good example for family, friends, and neighbors.

The satisfaction and joy that come from helping others are important reasons to volunteer. When you commit your time and effort to an organization or a cause you feel strongly about, the feeling of fulfillment can be empowering.

Volunteering is a great way for families and friends to have fun and feel closer. You may want to focus on just one or two projects a year and create new traditions.

Talk about your family's mission. What does your family care about? How do you want to spend your time together? Then figure out how you can focus more on this mission and what means the most to you and your family. You may want to try new things together or take on new projects. You may want to start praying together. If you haven't done this before, it's never too late to start!

Families can volunteer in many ways. Even the smallest child (with adult supervision) can pick up garbage at the park, playground, or beach. You don't even have to be part of a big effort to do this. Get your family together, find some garbage bags, and head out.

Perhaps the first and biggest benefit of volunteering is the satisfaction of incorporating service into our lives and making a difference in our families, communities, in our country, and around the world. Let your domestic church shine Christ's light for all to see!



DIRECTIONS:

1. Sit with your family and begin to discuss your family mission using the prompts on the Family Mission Statement page, and then write out your family's mission statement. Rosary coloring pages are provided so that even your youngest family members can be involved.
2. Once your family has determined its mission statement, choose five family activities: one to serve God, one to serve each other, one to serve your parish, one to serve your community, and one to serve the world. You can come up with these activities on your own or use the suggestions in the box provided. This will be how your family chooses to live out its mission – be creative and make it your own! Once the activities are determined, your family will write them in the boxes on the top right.
3. Commit to engaging in these activities, as well as praying the rosary together, offering one activity per decade. For example, if you choose to volunteer at a nursing home as a family, offer one decade of your family rosary for the people who live there. Every family is different, so make this meaningful and realistic for your family!



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DISCUSS YOUR FAMILY MISSION

1. What are some of your core values as a family?
2. Do these values align with Catholic teaching and embody virtue?
3. How does your purpose as a family encourage relationship with God, each other, and your community?

YOUR FAMILY MISSION STATEMENT

Draft a mission statement that incorporates your shared family values, virtues, and purpose (vocation).

LIVE OUT YOUR FAMILY MISSION

Create your own, or choose a suggested activity for each of the five sections on this page. Write the number of your chosen activity in the boxes provided. If you choose your own activity apart from the list, write that inside the appropriate box. Commit to completing each of these together as a family.

MOVE FORWARD

Discuss important issues facing our world today, and talk about your responsibilities as a family in light of these issues.

PRAY

Pray the rosary together as a family offering one of your chosen activities per decade.



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SUGGESTED ACTIVITIES

1. Pray before and after meals.
2. Talk about what you are thankful for.
3. Fast from earthly distractions (i.e. TV, computer, electronics).
4. Pray for your family members.
5. Help each other with household chores.
6. Simplify your life by giving away things you don't need.
7. Greet families before Mass.
8. Participate in parish-hosted family activities.
9. Continue to attend Mass as a family.
10. Bake cookies for your neighbors.
11. Visit a nursing home.
12. Donate books to a family shelter.
13. Pick up litter in your neighborhood.
14. Make a lemonade stand and donate the proceeds to a charity you choose together.
15. Create and send thank you cards to service men and women.
16. Volunteer at an animal shelter.
17. Plant a garden.
18. Help those who are in most need, here and around the world.
19. Support Catholic Relief Services and Catholic Charities USA.
20. Pray for the world.

Office for Social Concerns

614-241-2540 | socmailbox@columbuscatholic.org
 columbuscatholic.org/social-concerns-office

Marriage & Family Life Office

614-241-2560 | familylife@columbuscatholic.org
 columbuscatholic.org/marriage-and-family-life-office

FAMILY MISSION ROSARY RESOURCES

CATHOLIC CHARITIES USA (catholiccharitiesusa.org) - Represents agencies across the country who serve the nation's poorest and most vulnerable people regardless of faith.

*Disaster Operations • Affordable Housing • Integrated Health & Nutrition • Social Enterprise Initiatives
Immigration and Refugee Services • Advocacy & Social Policy Initiatives*

CATHOLIC CLIMATE COVENANT (catholicclimatecovenant.org) - Inspires and equips people and institutions to care for creation and care for the poor.

CATHOLIC CONFERENCE OF OHIO (ohiocathconf.org) - The official representative of the Catholic Church in public matters affecting the Church and the general welfare of the citizens of Ohio.

CATHOLIC RELIEF SERVICES (crs.org) - Promotes human development by responding to major emergencies, fighting disease and poverty, and nurturing peaceful and just societies; and, serves Catholics in the United States as they live their faith in solidarity with their brothers and sisters around the world.

Share the Journey Migration Campaign • Rice Bowl • Confront Global Poverty • Ethical Trade • Food Fast

CATHOLIC RURAL LIFE (catholicrurallife.org) - Applies the teachings of Jesus Christ for the social, economic, and spiritual development of rural America, strengthening and sustaining the Church in the countryside by educating and inspiring leaders and advocating on their behalf.

CATHOLIC SOCIAL SERVICES (colscss.org) - Helps the poor and vulnerable seniors and families in our Diocese to reach their potential.

CATHOLIC VOLUNTEER NETWORK (catholicvolunteernetwork.org) - Fosters and promotes full-time domestic and international faith-based volunteer service opportunities for people of all ages, backgrounds, and skills.

DIOCESAN MARRIAGE & FAMILY LIFE OFFICE (columbuscatholic.org/marriage-and-family-life-office) - Exists to draw married couples, families, and all persons of the Diocese of Columbus into a deeper union with Jesus Christ and with one another. Through evangelization efforts, our office strengthens the remote, proximate, and immediate preparation for marriage, and equips the family to fulfill its mission of becoming fully alive in Christ.

DIOCESAN OFFICE OF SOCIAL CONCERNS (columbuscatholic.org/social-concerns-office) - The central Diocesan resource for Catholic Social Teaching, reaching out through prayer, education, service, and advocacy.

NATIONAL CATHOLIC PARTNERSHIP ON DISABILITY (ncpd.org) - Works collaboratively to ensure meaningful participation of people with disabilities in all aspects of the life of the Church and society.

PARENTING WITH PEACE & JUSTICE NETWORK (ipj-ppj.org/PPJN.htm) - An interfaith, interracial, transnational association of families of all descriptions who seek “Shalom” - well-being, wholeness, peace, justice - in our own living situations and in the broader community.

PEANUT BUTTER & GRACE (wpbgrace.com) - Helps Catholic parents raise children to be saints—that is, people who love Christ and his Church and take action to continue Christ’s mission in the world today.

POVERTY USA (povertyusa.org) - An initiative of the Catholic Campaign for Human Development (CCHD), PovertyUSA seeks to educate and promote understanding about poverty and its root causes.

SOCIETY OF ST. VINCENT DEPAUL (vincentianvoice.org) - Leads women and men to join together to grow spiritually by offering person-to-person service to those who are needy and suffering in the tradition of its founder, Blessed Frederic Ozanam, and patron, St. Vincent de Paul.

START TALKING DRUG PREVENTION PROGRAM (starttalking.ohio.gov) - Gives parents, guardians, educators, and community leaders the tools to start the conversation with Ohio’s youth about the importance of living healthy, drug-free lives.

UNBOUND (unbound.org) - Unbound sponsorship is about individuals and families helping each other. It is a connection between someone who wants to give help and someone who needs it. Unbound sponsorship lifts people up — both the sponsor and the sponsored — in ways that are large and small.

UNITED STATES COUNCIL OF CATHOLIC BISHOPS (usccb.org) - Promotes the greater good which the Church offers humankind, especially through forums and programs of the apostolate fittingly adapted to the circumstances of time and place.

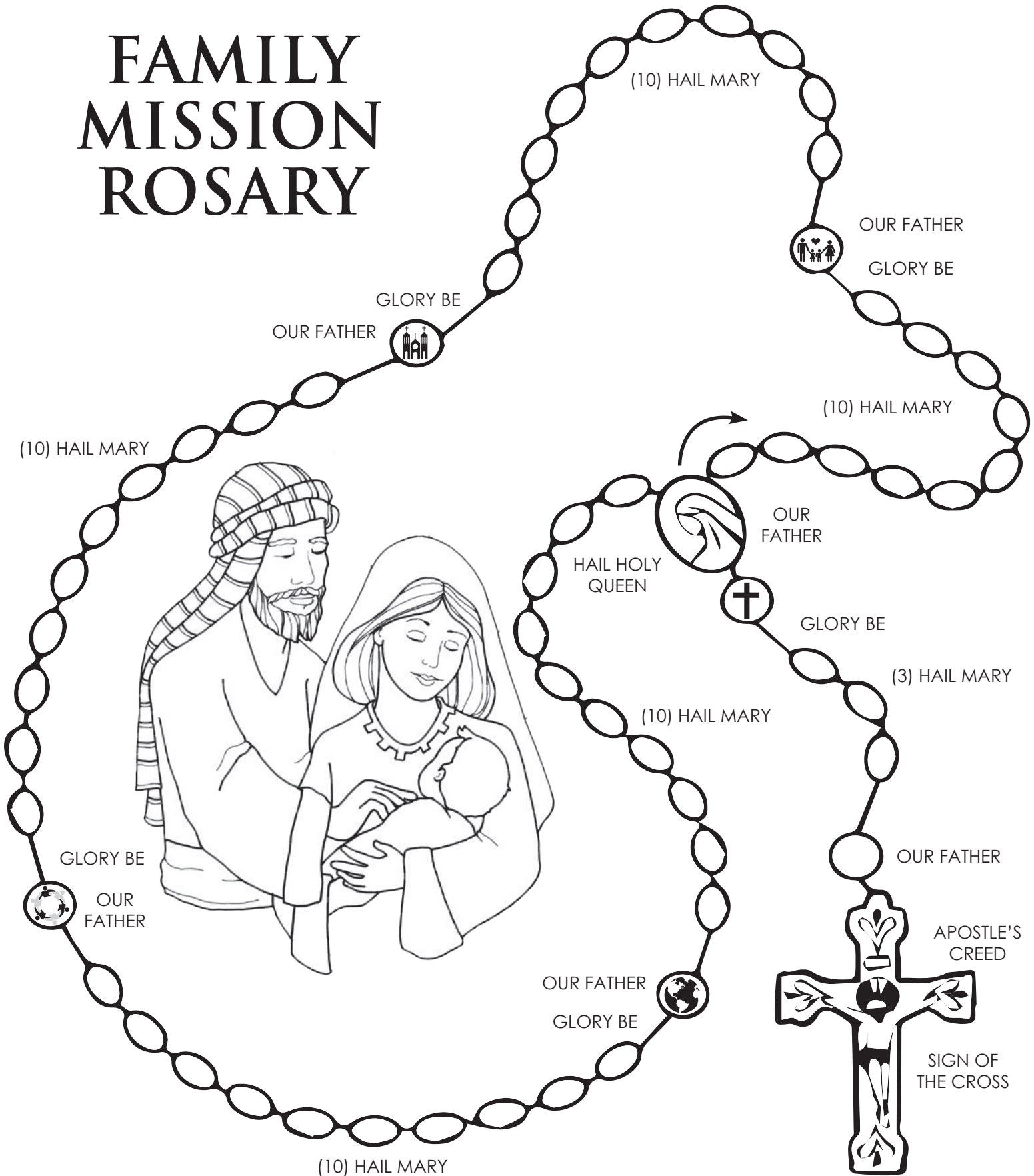
*Religious Liberty • Faithful Citizenship • Marriage & Family
Cultural Diversity • Human Life & Dignity • Child & Youth Protection*



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MARRIAGE & FAMILY LIFE OFFICE
OFFICE FOR SOCIAL CONCERNS

FAMILY MISSION ROSARY



GOD



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WORLD

A FAMILY PRAYER

Composed by
Archbishop William Lori, Archdiocese of Baltimore

Heavenly Father, thank you for the gift of our family. Enlighten our hearts and minds that we may live more fully this vocation of love. In our daily life and work, may we reflect the self-giving love which you, O Father, eternally show with your Son and the Holy Spirit. Let your love be evident in the peace that reigns in our home and in the faith we profess and live. May our family always be a place of generosity, understanding, forgiveness, and joy. Kindly give us the wisdom and courage to be witnesses to your eternal design for the family; and grant that the Holy Family of Nazareth may always guide our path to holiness as a family.

We ask this through our Lord, Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God forever and ever. Amen.





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