

DON'T EQUATE OUR 'ECUMENICAL MARY & JESUS ROSARY'
WITH THE 'ECUMENICAL MIRACLES ROSARY,'
INITIATED IN 1999 BY AN EARNEST LUTHERAN LAYMAN SINCE ORDAINED.
TO DO SO, WOULDN'T BE FAIR TO EITHER ROSARY

As he did more than 20 years ago when he launched his *Ecumenical Miracles Rosary*, the Rev. Dr. Dennis R. DiMauro forthrightly stresses that its purpose is to introduce Protestants to the power of the Rosary's methodology as a tool to deepen devotional prayer and to promote Christian unity .

Married to a Catholic and attending Rosary sessions with her, he became aware how handling beads while repeating sets of prayers aids meditation on specific New Testament events. He wanted to devise a beaded arrangement Protestants could share with Catholics and others who already pray Rosaries.

But DiMauro "remembered how I was specifically told not to pray to the saints. Since I feel that my Sunday school and confirmation training was typical in regards to such devotion, I became convinced that the rosary, as it has been traditionally prayed, would never be a prayer that Protestants would overwhelmingly adopt. So, in 1998, in praying about it, I considered creating an ecumenical variation of the rosary."

His goal: A beaded variation "Christians from any denomination can feel comfortable [in] reciting the prayers and meditating on the events of Christ's life. "




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To achieve that stated objective, the Miracles Rosary does not include any *Hail Marys*. Another stated aim was to avoid any appearance of trying to rival the traditional Holy Rosary. So sets of entirely different prayers were substituted. Meditations on Jesus' healings, wonders and appearance replace all but two of the standard Rosary meditation-mysteries. The two kept are the Incarnation (Annunciation) and Cana water-into-wine.

In contrast, our ecumenical rosary not only keeps all the standard mediation-mysteries, it adds another, the *Flight to Egypt*. We do so because the gospel scenes recalled point to Jesus' main mission (Redemption and Salvation), many of which scenes were experienced or witnessed by his first and most dedicated disciple, His mother. Trinity signing is kept and a Byzantine Trinity prayer added. (BTW, Di Mauro's church is Trinity Lutheran.)

Likewise, we keep the Apostles Creed. We cherish its "communion of saints" tenet because the intra-faith prayer sessions we seek with our rosary fit so well that saintly solidarity's very essence: ecumenicalism between heaven and earth. Also, not only does our rosary retain the *Hail Mary*, it offers two recognized versions (Roman and Byzantine). Likewise, it offers not one, but three Doxology versions.

The two ecumenical rosaries' difference arises from having different aims. The *Miracles Rosary* seeks to introduce Protestants to beaded prayer; the *Mary & Jesus Rosary* seeks to introduce them to Mary, mother of their, our and humanity's Redeemer and Savior. 

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Although our intra-faith Rosary arrangement deliberately didn't adopt the approach of the *Miracles Rosary*, the latter warrants positive recognition for being among the first, perhaps even being *the* very first to explicitly self-identify in name as an "Ecumenical Rosary." Its pioneering 20+ years of on-line accessibility has had impressive impact introducing beaded prayer to many Christians who otherwise not ever deign to touch a rosary.

To its credit, the *Miracles Rosary* disclaims having any special miraculous powers of its own. Its author: "I also want Catholics to understand that the *Ecumenical Miracle Rosary* is in no way meant to be a replacement for the Most Holy Rosary." He explains, "It is for that reason it includes different prayers and meditates specifically on Christ's miracles performed during his life on earth."

One has but to view his 1/1/2019 *Mary, Model of Humility* sermon as Warrenton, Va., Trinity Lutheran Church (NALC) pastor to recognize his admiration and appreciation of Mary in the life of Jesus, His Church and Salvation history. Pastor DiMauro's labors as a local and national Lutheran and Christian pro-life leader reflect his commitment to Christian ecumenism in action as well as in prayer. Likewise does his promotion of other rosary prayer sites.