



Left: St. John Henry Newman's Rosary in his study at the Birmingham Oratory, U. K.
 Right: Composite photo of Servant of God Paul Wattson, his full Rosary hanging from his rope belt, at one of his Ave Maria radio events.

Outreach to John Henry Newman & Paul Wattson followers

We fervently pray our *Ecumenical Mary & Jesus Rosary* arrangement finds favor with the Lord and Our Lady. Among the blessings we hope it will be graced with is active interest from admirers of St. John Henry Newman and Servant-of-God Paul Wattson, two great personages in the history of modern ecumenism. We invite their followers' prayerful participation in this endeavor.

With a link to podcasts, we posted this first part of the Newman-Wattson presentation on Oct. 9th, 2021, St. John Henry Newman's liturgical feast day. Below we provide a link to podcasts featuring excerpts from many of his sermons, including three specifically with Marian theme titles: on the Motherhood of Mary, on the Blessed Virgin Mary*, and on the Assumption of Our Lady.] *highly recommended
<https://www.cbcew.org.uk/celebrating-st-john-henry.../>

Newman's notable life spanned the 19th Century, impacting the English speaking, reading, and thinking world of his era, not always with harmonious effect. However, the once-controversial Oxford Movement Tractarian's 2019 canonization occasioned some remarkable displays of Christian unity.

The process for canonization of the American Franciscan Friar-Priest Wattson, begun by the NY Archdiocese in 2015, is presently at that stage during which Vatican authorities review materials marshaled and submitted by the cause's promoters. The review will determine if the process advances to the next step where he would be designated Venerable.

Why in particular invite St. John Henry Newman and Servant-of-God Paul Wattson's devotees to become involved in our *Ecumenical Mary & Jesus Rosary* project?

The 5-point answer:

- because each on his respective side of the Atlantic played a significant role in Christian ecumenism of his day, and in each case the role had international impacts;

- because each viewed as a Christian unity essential, the recognition and acknowledgment of Mary's willing involvement (a) in the Incarnation, (b) in Jesus' Redemption of humankind and therefore (c) in His continuing Salvific mission.
- because both Newman and Wattson were devoted to the Rosary, which in the former's case developed during his spiritual journey from Anglicism to Catholicism whereas the latter already was devoted to it as an Anglican priest;
- because Wattson's father, also an Episcopal priest, was significantly influenced by the Oxford Movement which fostered, among many other things, renewal of Anglican interest worldwide in Christian unity, Marian devotion, and founding of religious orders. The son, as Anglican priest, founded in 1898 a Franciscan order devoted (a) to humankind's divine Atoner; (b) to the Atoner's Blessed Mother and (c) to Christian At-One-Ment. That integrated focus has continued since the Franciscan Society Friars and Sisters of the Atonement -- as a group and its founders, Wattson and Mother Lurana White, -- converted to Catholicism in 1909.
- because Newman, after his formal conversion to Catholicism on Oct. 9th, 1845, and his later ordination as a Catholic priest, founded in 1849 the Birmingham Oratory as an English Catholic religious community of the Congregation of the Oratory of St. Philip Neri. Part of the complex of the Birmingham Oratory is the Parish Church of the Immaculate Conception, commonly referred to as the Oratory Church, now also serving as a Newman national shrine.

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