

# The Holy Spouses Rosary

**Prayer is a dynamic and living act of love.**

It arises out of the lived experiences of humankind's encounters with the divine.

**Each generation contributes to a vast collection** of texts, melodies, images, rituals and symbols - all giving witness to a deeply felt and abiding presence.

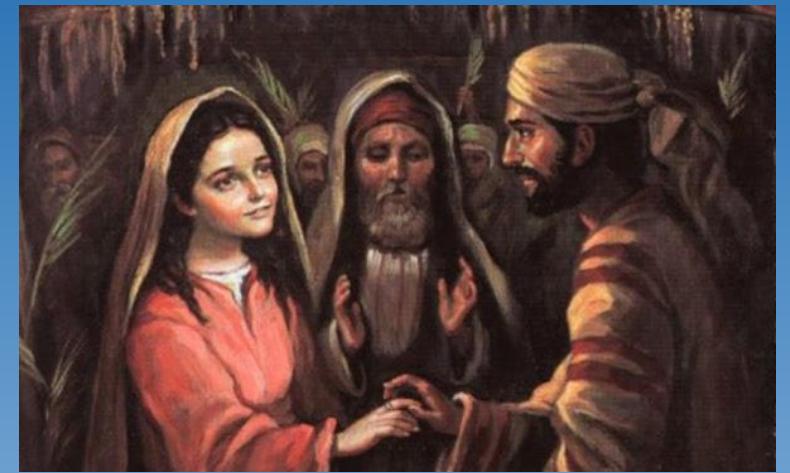
All are expressions, shared across time and culture, of the closeness that comes when heart speaks to heart.

During the annual retreat of the California Oblates in June of 1991, a **"Holy Spouses Rosary"** was developed, to extend the traditional Marian devotion to include St. Joseph. This rosary was approved by the provincial for use by the Oblates in their ministry with married couples and for promotion among the faithful. It follows the same pattern of the traditional Marian rosary, with the following changes.

- ❖ A prayer that includes St. Joseph and asks for their common intercession as spouses, replaces the traditional 'Hail Mary'.
- ❖ Five mysteries are added to the normal five joyful mysteries.

**The prayer used in place of the "Hail Mary" is:**

*Mary, full of grace, and Joseph, son of David;  
honor to you, Mother of God, and to you, guardian of the Redeemer.  
Eternal praise to the child with whom you formed a family, Jesus.  
Holy spouses, pray for us sinners, our families and communities,  
now and at the hour of our death.  
Amen.*



**Image of Mary and Joseph, receiving a wedding blessing from Mary's father, Joachim**

**The five additional mysteries to be reflected upon are:**

1. The Betrothal of Mary and Joseph (Mt 1:18, Lk 1:26-27, 2:4-5)
2. Annunciation to Joseph (Mt 1:19-25)
3. Circumcision and Naming of Jesus (Lk 2:21)
4. Escape into Egypt (Mt 2:13-15)
5. Hidden Life at Nazareth (Lk 2:51-52)