

Notes from the Author

In 2017, the 100th anniversary of the apparition of Our Lady at Fatima, I finished this set of three Scriptural Rosaries. In a small way, this prayer book responds to the 100-year old message of Our Blessed Mother, “to pray the rosary for the conversion of Russia.”

In the 1990s, I wrote *From Genesis to Revelation*. This prayer book was a collection of seven scriptural rosaries based on selections from the entirety of Sacred Scriptures. This rosary meditation prayer book was based on thematic collections, such as, the 150 Psalms, the Prophets, the Blessed Words of Jesus and Mary, and the writings of St. Paul.

For many centuries, the Most Holy Rosary consisted of fifteen decades prayed in three groups of mysteries - the Joyful, the Sorrowful, and the Glorious. Pope Saint John Paul II in his 2002 Apostolic Letter *Rosarium Virginis Mariae* recommended praying a new set of mysteries called the Luminous Mysteries. The Luminous Mysteries filled in the chronological gap from the Fifth Joyful Mystery with Jesus as a boy of twelve to the First Sorrowful Mystery when Jesus begins His Passion in the Garden of Gethsemane. The Luminous Mysteries complement the Joyful, Sorrowful, and Glorious Mysteries.

For some, the addition of the Luminous Mysteries may cause concern because of the departure from tradition. Rather we should be renewed and energized by the addition of these new Luminous Mysteries, looking forward to a revitalization of the praying of the Most Holy Rosary. Over the years, I have had many requests to update the Seven Scriptural Rosaries in *From Genesis to Revelation* with meditations for the Luminous Mysteries.

In 2004, *The Psalter of Jesus and Mary* included Luminous Mysteries along with Book 4: The Psalms in *From Genesis to Revelation*. The Joyful, Sorrowful, and Glorious scriptural mysteries remained the same 150 Psalms, as presented in Book 4. To unveil the new Luminous Mysteries in light of Scripture, I selected meditations from Proverbs, the wise words of Solomon.

Next, in 2009, *Pearls of Peace* included Luminous Mysteries along with Book 6: SS Peter and Paul in *From Genesis to Revelation*. Pope Emeritus Benedict XVI declared a Jubilee Year of St. Paul from June 2008 through June 2009. It was during that jubilee year that I completed the selections for the Luminous Mysteries. The Our Father scripture meditations focused on praying for peace. Additionally, each Our Father meditation

recalled the holy places where Jesus lived, preached, taught, and died. The Hail Mary verses remained the same selections from the epistles of St. Paul. New St. Paul reflections were selected for the Luminous Mysteries. Keeping with the theme of Jesus' life on earth, this prayer book was illustrated with photography from the Holy Land.

Now in 2017, this book, *Priest, Prophet, and King*, includes Luminous Mysteries along with Book 5: Blessed Words of Jesus and Mary, Book 3: Prophets; and Book 7: St. John and the book of Revelation in *From Genesis to Revelation*. The Our Father meditations focus on Jesus' priestly, prophetic, and kingly roles. All new meditations for the Luminous Mysteries follow the theme of the Hail Mary verses as established in *From Genesis to Revelation*.

In closing, I would like to extend a special thank you to Father Michael Duesterhaus, Diocese of Arlington, for his wise counsel. Without his efforts to keep me focused and thinking about the "things above," these prayer books would never have been possible.

Also, thank you to the Russian Icon Museum in Boston, MA. They were most gracious in allowing us to illustrate the mysteries with icons from their permanent collection. Please pray that the rosaries prayed through this book bring about the conversion of Russia and peace on earth.

November 21, 2017

Feast of the Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary,

Christine Haapala

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