



A CHILDREN'S ROSARY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

New Book by Life-Long Rosary Maker's Daughter-in-Law Teaches Children to Pray the Rosary

A Children's Rosary Makes Learning the Rosary Simple and Meaningful

DALLAS, TX—Creating beautiful rosaries has been a life's work and passion for author Kathy O'Neil's beloved father-in-law, known by the family as "Granddad." A World War II veteran who flew in 50 missions over the English Channel in the belly turret of B-17 bombers with his last mission just two days before D-day, Granddad is a devoted Catholic who always has the rosary with him and recalls that he wore out his rosary beads on those air missions. Granddad never imagined that his daughter-in-law would be inspired to write a children's book explaining the importance of praying the rosary. Just released, *A Children's Rosary* (Brown Books Kids) by author Kathy O'Neil and illustrated by Cynthia Meadows, gives children and parents a special way to spend time reading and praying together while opening their hearts to Mary's great love.

O'Neil's inspirations for writing the book include her love of prayer and children's books, as well as her father-in-law's devotion to the rosary.

"Granddad, now 93 years old, crafted the most beautiful rosaries and always had one in his pocket," O'Neil said. "Having his support and encouragement by providing input on the book from the beginning has been such a blessing because now that he can no longer physically engage in his passion of making rosaries for others, contributing to the book has brought him great joy."

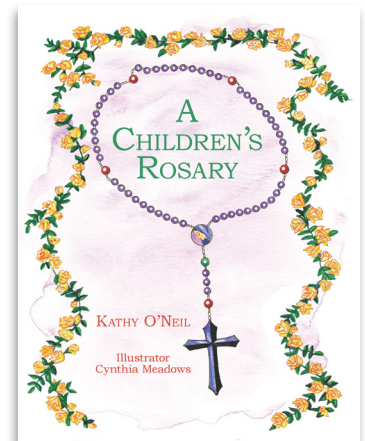
Through vivid illustrations and loving, understandable language, O'Neil takes children step by step into a deeper understanding of the rosary and its mysteries. The book uses color-coding and a prayer map concept to make it easy to follow along.

"Instead of being a beautiful string of beads, the rosary becomes a string of prayers that children can understand and use to build upon as they grow older and deeper in their faith," O'Neil said.

O'Neil feels that it is imperative for children to learn about the rosary when they are young so they can experience its comfort in prayer throughout their lives. She attributes her deep faith to the godly example of humility and a strong work ethic that she learned from her parents. "I was one of five children. Even with five rowdy children, my mother never raised her voice and even found time to volunteer in our church for countless years. Her quiet and humble spirit helped shape my own Catholic faith. My mother and father definitely showed me through their lives that the rosary has eternal purpose.

"I suppose this is our way of continuing the legacy of the rosary's importance to our family by sharing its meaning in a clear, simple, and inviting way to children. I'm overjoyed to think that our family's deep connection to the rosary may help in some small way to introduce other families to the great gift that the rosary is to all of us."

For more information or to order *A Children's Rosary*, please visit www.AChildrensRosary.com.



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Title: *A Children's Rosary* | Author: Kathy O'Neil
Category: Juvenile Nonfiction/Religious/Christian/Devotional & Prayer
ISBN: 978-1-61254-170-9 | \$14.95 | www.AChildrensRosary.com



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ABOUT THE AUTHOR

KATHY O'NEIL

Kathy O'Neil was born in Houston, Texas, and raised along with two sisters and two brothers. Kathy began teaching Sunday school and playing guitar at mass while in high school. Her interest in the rosary began many years ago when the Hail Mary and the Our Father became her go to prayers during times of stress, fear, relaxation, joy—really any time of the day! Her use of the rosary brings peace and joy to her heart. Kathy and her husband have raised four sons together in a busy, noisy, fun- and pet-filled home.



ABOUT THE ILLUSTRATOR

CYNTHIA MEADOWS

Cynthia Meadows, a native Texan, draws and paints on anything she can find due to her passion to decorate and color the world. Whether it is cartoons on the sides of her homework in elementary school, paintings as Christmas gifts, murals or faux finishes on walls, or illustrations and storyboards for advertising agencies, she continually decorates the world. Cynthia's desire to look inside characters is why she loves to illustrate children's books, to create characters, and to give the reader a positive—sometimes humorous—view of life. God, beauty, and imagination are important elements in Cynthia's life and work. She believes this wonderful rosary book will bring readers a more clear understanding of the rosary and the comfort and peace of God.



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Q&A WITH KATHY O'NEIL

Q What is the basic premise of *A Children's Rosary*?

A *A Children's Rosary* brings a beautiful form of prayer, the rosary, down to a child's level of enjoyment and understanding. As we all know, our faith continues to grow and develop throughout our lives. Envision it as a sort of staircase. As children, we are starting at the bottom of the stairs. Even as adults, we may not have climbed very high up the steps. Prayer brings us closer to God. *A Children's Rosary* opens up a new avenue of prayer to children and may help them start climbing up those stairs of faith.

Q What will a child discover while reading this book?

A Jesus loves each and every one of us more than we can even imagine! This book will enable a child to talk to Jesus in a new and exciting way.

Q What age group and occasion is the book designed for?

A The book was originally intended for First Communion age children. The prayers and illustrations are so beautiful that it makes a wonderful First Communion gift. At the beginning, I thought that only children who could read would enjoy the book, but I have discovered that it reaches across many age brackets. It is also the perfect way for parents to introduce the rosary to young pre-K and kindergarten children. I have found that many adults never learned how to pray the rosary, and this book answers their questions in a straightforward manner and brings them closer to God.

Q Is the rosary even relevant in today's society?

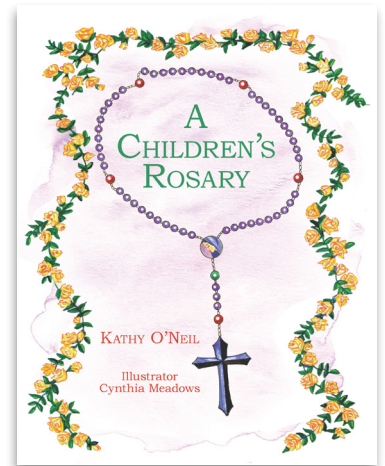
A In one word: Yes! The rosary brings peace to our lives and hope to our hearts. We are surrounded by nonstop action and noise. It is impossible to even watch the evening news without feeling desperate and hopeless. *A Children's Rosary* will help children, and even adults, talk to Mary, Jesus's mother, and find the strength to live life as best they can knowing that God will always be there for them. No exceptions!

Q Why is it important for a child to learn to pray the rosary at a young age?

A We all develop our values at a young age. It is important for our children to see us pray, to pray with us, and to feel comfortable praying alone. The rosary is a wonderful Catholic tradition that touches on all three areas of prayer.

Q Will the book help a child understand the rosary?

A The color coding and prayer map concept will make it easy for a child to follow the prayers. The illustrations by Cynthia Meadows present a different view of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. How often do you see Mary and Joseph





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Q&A WITH KATHY O'NEIL (CONT)

smiling and little Jesus cheery and reaching out his arms? The illustrations are bright and inviting. Even if a child is too young to recite the prayers, the illustrations tell a story which can be discussed. The mysteries are written in simple yet meaningful form. They tell us the story of Jesus's life, and Mary's part in it. Instead of being a beautiful string of beads, the rosary will become a string of prayers. Prayers that helps us to climb those stairs!

Q Can this book be used by those who do not own an actual rosary?

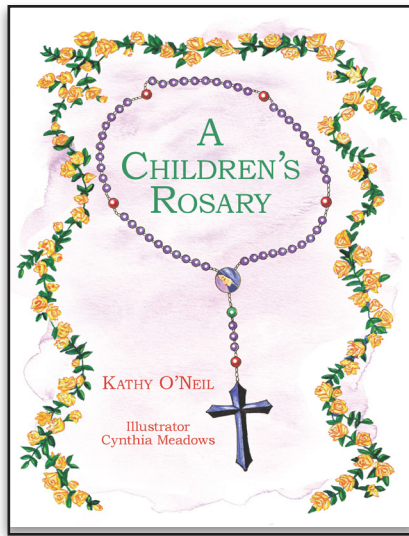
A Yes it can. The illustrations, along with the mysteries on each page, can be followed to pray the entire rosary. However, I do believe that by fingering an actual rosary while reading the book, a child will develop a deeper connection to the rosary and its spiritual meaning.

INTERIOR SAMPLE: THIRD LUMINOUS MYSTERY

JESUS PROCLAIMS THE KINGDOM

Jesus travels all over Galilee and tells everyone about the Kingdom of God.





Title A Children's Rosary
 Author Kathy O'Neil
 ISBN-13 978-1-61254-170-9
 Format Hardcover
 Retail Price \$14.95
 Size 8" X 10" Portrait
 Pages 32
 Carton Quantity 34
 LCCN 2014937197
 BISAC Juvenile Nonfiction/Religious/Christian/Devotional & Prayer
 Publication Date August 15, 2014
 Distribution Ingram, Spring Arbor, Baker & Taylor
 Publisher Brown Books Publishing Group
 Publisher Website www.BrownBooks.com
 Author Website www.AChildrensRosary.com



Overview

- Beautifully illustrated, with easy-to-follow instructions for children of all ages.
- Ideal gift book in celebration of the sacraments especially Holy First Communion or Reconciliation.
- Resource for Catholic religious education instructors.
- *A Children's Rosary* has received NIHIL OBSTAT and IMPRIMATUR designations through the Fort Worth, TX, diocese.

