

The Sacred Art of Praying for the Dead during Easter

Greetings everyone:

We at times run into a contradiction dwelling in our hearts during the Easter Season, as the Valenzuela Family did with the loss of their family's matriarch, Maria Valenzuela, just before Easter. You are suffering the sacred silence of grief within your hearts while the rest of the world is shouting at the top of their lungs, "Alleluia!" for the Resurrection of Jesus Christ!

How does one survive this mixture of profound grief and raucous joy? May I suggest prayer, especially the prayer form found in the book: Marrying the Rosary to the Divine Mercy Chaplet by Shane Kapler.

I find it to be very helpful.

Here's a simple outline:

1. Opening Prayers

- Begin as you usually would for the Rosary: Apostles' Creed, Our Father, three Hail Marys, and a Glory Be.

2. The Combined Decade (Repeat for all 5 mysteries)

- **Rosary Decade:** Announce the Rosary mystery, pray one Our Father, ten Hail Marys, one Glory Be, and the Fatima Prayer ("O my Jesus...").
- **Divine Mercy Decade:** Pray one "Eternal Father" on the large bead and ten "For the sake of His sorrowful Passion" prayers on the small beads.

3. Closing Prayers

- **Trisagion:** Finish the Chaplet portion by reciting the "Holy God, Holy Mighty One, Holy Immortal One..." prayer three times.
- **Hail Holy Queen:** Conclude the Rosary portion as usual.

What I would suggest is in the prayer within the Divine Mercy Chaplet portion of this prayer, especially within the prayer... "For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on us and on the whole world", is that you *use the name of the person* for whom you are praying *instead of "us"* in the prayer. For example, if you are praying for Maria Valenzuela, you say... "For the sake of His sorrowful Passion, have mercy on Maria and on the whole world".

This would bring Maria to encounter the greatest gift of all, God's Mercy, which is the true joy of Easter.

May you all have the grace to know this joy for yourselves and all your loved ones this Easter Season.

Please consider acquiring Marrying the Rosary to the Divine Mercy Chaplet by Shane Kapler.

It's truly a wonderful book. It has helped me to grow in appreciation of the Rosary and the Divine Mercy Chaplet.

See you in prayer.

Fr. Andy Sensenig OMI



Matthew 5:4

Blessed are those who mourn,

for they will be comforted.

