MARRYING THE ROSARY
TO THE
DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET

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Shane Kapler

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This book is dedicated to:
My daily prayer partners, my children,
Lily and Brennan
and
Annie Mitchell Egan,
whose enthusiasm inspired me to put these thoughts on paper

Foreword



For more than 800 years, the Rosary has been used by the Church as a spiritual weapon and way of crowning Our Lady with heavenly roses. The Rosary has overcome the enemies of Christ, saved entire nations, stopped wars, and helped many lost souls find their way back to the practice of the faith and the Sacraments.

In the early 20th century, when Jesus revealed the Chaplet of the Divine Mercy to Saint Faustina, he desired that ordinary rosary beads be used as the material component for a new form of devotion to his mercy. This moment, in a certain sense, marks the "engagement" of the Rosary to the Chaplet. Every-

one knows that marriages take time, planning, and preparation. This marriage, in particular, has been long in the making. It is truly a marriage made in heaven.

In the 13th century, when Our Lady gave the Rosary to Saint Dominic, the Founder of the Dominicans never would have imagined that centuries later the world would be in such moral decline that heaven would wed to the blessed battle beads of St. Dominic a new form of devotion to God's mercy. The revelations of Jesus to Saint Faustina would give the Rosary the added power of not only being a spiritual weapon and a heavenly crown of roses, but also an instrument of mercy for a hurting world. Jesus knows that Divine Mercy is exactly what our world needs today.

In this devotional marriage, then, Saint Faustina Kowalska serves as the bride's maid and Saint John Paul II the best man. Both of these great saints prayed the Rosary every day and were apostles of the Divine Mercy message and devotion. I am quite certain they would both be very pleased to witness the marriage of the Rosary to the Chaplet as presented in this book.

The method of prayer presented by Shane Kapler in this book has the potential to produce an abundance of fruit in the spiritual lives of those who use it. After all, all marriages are called to fruitfulness. By using this method of prayer, people will be able to meditate on the saving mysteries of Jesus and, at the same time, make an urgent appeal to God's mercy for our-

selves and the whole world. What better union could there be? What incredible fruit will come from this form of devotion!

Saint Dominic, pray for us! Saint Faustina, pray for us! Saint John Paul II, pray for us!

Fr. Donald Calloway, MIC, STL
Author of *Champions of the Rosary: The History and Heroes of a Spiritual Weapon*

THE JOYFUL MYSTERIES

Joy in the Shadow of the Cross



The Annunciation, Henry Osawa Tanner, 1898

The Annunciation

(Luke 1:26-38)

Mary recognized herself as the Lord's handmaid (*doulē* in Greek, "slave"). St. Paul applied the term, in its masculine form, to Jesus, who "though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a thing to be grasped, but emptied himself, taking the form of a slave (*doulou*), being born in the likeness of men (Phil. 2:6-7). The "slavery" borne by Jesus and Mary was not one of exterior coercion, but love. They loved the Father so intensely that their deepest human desire was to be united to him. That love impelled them to embrace the divine will that the Son would become man to give his life upon the Cross (Heb. 10:5-7).

It was through the *eternal Spirit* that Jesus offered himself to the Father (Heb. 9:14). It was the same Spirit who "over-shadowed" Mary and empowered her to give her "yes," to the Incarnation. She participated in the "yes" of the Son. Just as Jesus's "not my will, but thine, be done" in Gethsemane led to

his arms being stretched out on Calvary, so Mary's "let it be to me according to your word" caused her body and soul to be stretched as Christ grew within her.

Mary was able to make this complete gift herself because she had been prepared for it since her conception. Gabriel addressed her as *Kecharitomene*, the one who has been, and is now, completely filled with God's grace. Jesus was the Lamb slain from the foundation of the world (Rev. 13:8), and by the merits of his sorrowful Passion, Mary was preserved free from the stain of original sin. In God's tremendous mercy she was saved by Christ in the most complete manner possible.

Decade of the Rosary: Our Father, ten Hail Marys, Glory Be, Fatima Prayer

Pray: Dear Jesus, standing with your mother at the foot of your Cross and filled with your Spirit, we pray…

Chaplet Intercession: Father, remove any barriers we have erected to the operation of grace in our lives. Let your Holy Spirit overshadow us and form Christ in the womb of our hearts. Give us the grace to embrace your will with every fiber of our being.

Decade of the Chaplet: "Eternal Father…," ten "For the sake…"