

10 things to consider when organizing and preparing for a Family Rosary Crusade in your parish.

First and foremost, begin with lots of prayer and ask for Our Lady's help and things will fall into place. HAVE FAITH AND TRUST– it's amazing how it all comes together:

- 1) Lay this whole plan out to your parish priest. Let him know you appreciate his support in this. It is another way for people to learn about and love Christ and His Blessed Mother. ALSO let him know... (and this is BIG) that except for saying mass and possibly exposing our Lord in the Monstrance for 7 hours and final Benediction, you expect nothing from him. You and other laity members will do everything. You are just asking for his support. Priests today are busy, busy, busy and will panic if you mention one more thing for them to do. Reassure him of you being responsible!!!!
- 2) I start advertising for the Crusade about three weeks before we actually are scheduled. We have our Family Rosary Crusade every third Friday in May (Mary's month). This would be nice if it could be universal. October is also a great time to have one which is 'Mary of the Rosary' Month.
- 3) Print out a quick blurb in the local paper in 'Religious' section and your diocesan paper, as well as your own bulletin (bulletin insert idea provided in another document included in this folder).
- 4) Ask you parish receptionist for the names of pastors and addresses of surrounding parishes and write them a brief letter (included in this folder as an example) and invite them. I write any parishes within an hours drive (or there about) from our church and give them a copy of our bulletin insert so they may also include the message in theirs without any hassle.
- 5) I give a quick talk after communion on the Sunday before to let people know. If your priest allows this, stress 'after communion' as you do not want to take away from his homily (plus it is not liturgically correct for laity to speak at this time).
- 6) I ask for volunteers and approach new families in the parish (or groups such as Altar and Rosary Societies, Knight of Columbus etc...), and people I know are solid warriors who will help promote it. You will need three families or groups each hour or a total of 21. We start with mass at 5:15 (gives people a little time to get out of work) and then start the first hour of the Rosary at 6:00pm. I've included information that I use for a two page/tri-fold brochure that we use and follow the actual night of the Crusade.
- 7) Start each hour with the meditations found in the folder (make enough copies of this for people to follow, as there are responses for them). Then begin each Rosary with the Apostles Creed, our Father, Three Hail Mary's, and one Glory Be (led by you or an hour leader) from the pulpit. After this the first family begins with the Mystery and says all 5 mysteries. The second family begins at the end of 5 complete mysteries. Do not say the Apostles Creed etc... over again. In order to get three complete Rosaries in, you will need to move right along.
- 8) We conclude every hour with a Marian Hymn (played on the violin by a friend of mine), and then a few quiet moments of silent prayer before we start the next hour's meditations (again see other document attached).

- 9) We supply snacks, coffee, etc... in our community room (furnished by volunteers. I ask those who are leading the Rosary, if they'd like to put something on the table to pass). These refreshments are for those prayer warriors who would like to stay for more than one hour and may need some 'rejuvenation'.
- 10) Conclude at 12:50am with Benediction and for those who wish from the last hour to join in fellowship afterward to finish any 'goodies' that are left.