The Group Guide

First of all: Thank you for saying yes to this!

You are about to get a whole lot of people praying the rosary in October, and the resulting grace will be abundant! But don't worry, the work on your end is smaller than you think.

For most groups, your people will log their own prayers. Your job is to invite them, give them something to aim for, and make it fun.

Here is everything you need to lead a school, parish, or group through One Million Rosaries.

How a Group Works

1. **You create the group and become the Group Leader.** When you sign up, choose the option to start a new group. You name it, you set the goal, and you get a live tracker of your group's progress.

2. **Your people join with your code.** Everyone who signs up through your group gets counted with your group. You will get a flyer template with a spot for your group's short invitation code on it, so the families who want to join your effort end up in the right place.

3. **Everybody logs their own prayers.*** A participating adult from each family will create an account and log what their family prays. They will receive the *One Million Rosaries Family Guide* which explains how it all works. In their account dashboard they can set an individual goal for their family and see your group's running total progressing towards your goal.

   ***There are some scenarios where it may make sense for a Group Leader to log a Group's rosaries.** For example, if you are a teacher and your class prays the Bite-Sized Rosary everyday (see our *Bite-Sized Rosary Guide* for this method of splitting the rosary into smaller portions over the span of a week) or you pray a school-wide rosary all together once a month. It would be more practical for individual teachers to log their students' rosaries (or tally them for school staff to log) than sending kids home to remind their parents to do so.

   If you are parish staff and your church has a rosary before daily Mass, or a special group rosary planned for an event during the month, you could assign a volunteer to take a headcount during that rosary. You can then log those rosaries on behalf of your parishioners. This can be a good option for those parishioners that want to participate but are low-tech and don't have their own accounts. *(Consider making an announcement that a headcount has been taken and those rosaries counted towards your parish goal for One Million Rosaries to avoid double-counts from parishioners with accounts.)*

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3 Ways Your Group Can Log Their Rosaries

1. **Log in at you.onemillionrosaries.com,** using the email address they signed up with. (That same login works in the free Calm Catholic Kids app, so one account does everything!) Everyone has a Dashboard that has their Rosary Tracker front and center. They can log prayers, set a personal family goal, and see live progress for your group.
2. **Listen & Log on the free Calm Catholic Kids app.** *Available on the Apple App Store and Google Play.* On the app, participants can stream full rosary audio tracks of each set of Mysteries or listen to the Bite-Sized Rosary. (There are also some free audio stories in there too!) Logging rosaries and tracking family and group progress happen right in the Daily Rosary section of the app.
3. **Use the free, printable paper tracker:** This printable is available on every participant's dashboard. They can track on paper and then log their total either on the website or the app periodically. We recommend participants log their progress at least once a week so their rosaries are promptly counted towards your group goal and the million.

If they forget to put in your Group Code when they sign up, they can easily join later right from their dashboard.

Setting Your Goal

You can set a goal or you can just track your group total to see how many rosaries you pray collectively. A goal gives people something to rally around and milestones along the way to celebrate, they can be a great motivation!

How to pick a number that works:

Don't just aim for a number that sounds impressive, set one that your group can actually reach.
Try this: Take your people, multiply by the days you honestly think they will pray, and round down.

A parish with 80 families who sign up, averaging 3 people praying, praying maybe 10 days out of the month: 80 × 3 × 10 = **2,400 rosaries**

A homeschool co-op with 12 families, averaging 5 people, praying 15 days: 12 × 5 × 15 = **900 rosaries**

A school with 200 students praying at morning assembly 3 days a week: 200 × 12 days = **2,400 rosaries**

Round down from whatever you get. It will be exciting and build momentum if you beat it early, and then you can always raise it.

A note on the math: Your group total counts every rosary your members pray, including the ones they pray at home with their families. A family can belong to your parish or school group participating in school or parish Rosaries, and still be their own little praying unit at home. In fact, that is greatly encouraged!

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Prizes and milestones

Kids get pumped about prizes (adults too, let's be honest)! We will be running our own daily prizes for the whole challenge and all of your participating group members will be eligible. But the prizes that will motivate your group the best are the ones you come up with yourselves.

You have two good options:

Option 1: A big prize at the goal. This keeps it simple and makes it easy to explain. This works great for smaller goals.

Option 2: Celebrate Milestones along the way. Something happens at the first 100 / the halfway point / only 100 left etc. This can reenergize momentum throughout the month and is especially helpful for keeping kids motivated and engaged. This works well for larger goals and big groups.

And the best option for your group might be both: Celebrate milestones along the way *and* have a big way to celebrate everyone reaching the final goal together.

Simple Prize Ideas

For a school

- Pajama day, hat day, or crazy sock day
- Extra recess, or an outdoor rosary instead of a class period
- A no-homework pass for the whole class
- The principal or pastor has to do something silly (poll your students for ideas!)
- An ice cream or donut party for the class or grade that logs the most

For a parish

- Cupcakes after every Mass when you hit the goal
- A pizza night for the youth group
- A raffle for a beautiful rosary or rosary-themed gift from your local Catholic bookstore
- The pastor or DRE does something the kids choose

For a homeschool group or co-op

- A park day, a field trip, or a movie afternoon
- Special dessert night at the milestone
- The kids pick the next read-aloud
- A rosary-making afternoon where everybody makes their own

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For individual kids

- A rosary of their own, in their favorite color
- A saint book or a set of holy cards
- A small statue for their room
- Getting to pick dinner

Our partner brands have an amazing assortment of Rosary inspired products for kids and adults that would make wonderful prizes. You can find discount codes for their shops on our website. Visit onemillionrosaries.com and click Meet Our Moms.

Whatever celebration options you choose, put something physical to track your progress where your people will see it. You could use a big paper thermometer in the church foyer, a whiteboard with a running count in the school hallway, or a countertop jar you drop a bead into. Everyone loves to see a tangible sign of their progress.

Three Days to Circle on the Calendar

October 7 // Our Lady of the Rosary: The perfect day to celebrate during this challenge!

October 13 // Anniversary of the Miracle of the Sun at Fatima

October 31 // The Finale: Our last day and the final push to the million!

Getting the Word Out

You will get a few resources to help you spread the word on your Dashboard. You can find Group invitation flyers and a Canva template with logos and social media templates to make it easy.

Great ways to reach your people:

- Bulletin inserts and the bulletin board
- Backpack folders and school newsletters
- Your group email list
- Your group's social media or group chat
- A flyer by the coffee and donuts

The flyers and invitation graphics communicate the basics and the how-to, but personal invitations are what will really connect. If you have a handful of enthusiastic families, ask each of them to invite three others to help build some sign-up momentum.

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Questions You Will Be Asked

When does counting start? October 1st. Nothing logged before then counts toward the million. You can talk about the challenge and get your people signed up any time between now and then. The earlier you start inviting, the faster you can hit the ground running on October 1st!

Do I have to log everybody's prayers? In most cases, each participating family logs their own. See Page 1 for examples of the limited scenarios where logging for your group may make sense.

Can we count a rosary we prayed together at the parish or at school? Yes! Every student, staff, or parishioner who prays together each counts as one. See the note on page 1 about how you might count for a group event like this.

What if somebody forgets to log a day? They can go back and add it easily in their own Dashboard or add it to their next log. If they are a member of your group, it will still be added to the group tally.

Does a family of six log one rosary or six? Six. Every person counts. If six of you pray a rosary together, that is six rosaries.

What about little kids who cannot sit through a whole rosary? Or classrooms that run on a schedule? Check out our Bite-Sized Rosary Guide. The Bite-Sized Rosary is perfect for scenarios like this. It takes about 3 minutes: You pray one mystery and one decade a day and finish a whole rosary over the course of a week. (And for classrooms: it is easily condensed into a 5 day rosary and still runs less than 4 minutes each day.) Each day a daily portion is prayed counts as one rosary.

Can somebody be in more than one group? Yes, a family can be in your parish group and their school's group. Their prayers count towards the group goals for both, while counting towards the million once.

Do people have to have the app? No, they can log their rosaries and track progress on the website. The app is free, and makes it easy to log and pray audio rosaries on the go.

Does it cost anything? No, joining is free, the app is free, all the provided resources & downloads are free.

What if somebody joins halfway through October? They are welcome, and every rosary they pray and log from that point on counts.

What if we do not hit our goal? Then your people prayed a bunch of rosaries in October that they otherwise may not have. This really is the whole point! Affirm your group and still celebrate the number they achieved!

Still have questions? Email us at **team@calmcatholickids.com** and we will be happy to help you get started!

And finally,

Thank you for leading this. Whatever number your group lands on, you got people praying the Rosary and experiencing the tremendous grace of this beautiful devotion.

We will be praying for you and your group!

Sterling Jaquith
Creator of One Million Rosaries and Calm Catholic Kids

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