

St. Dominic – August 8, 2026

The Church has long cherished the tradition that the Rosary was entrusted to St. Dominic by the Blessed Virgin Mary. While some historians debate the precise details, many theologians and Popes have upheld this account.

What is beyond dispute is that St. Dominic was the first to **preach** the Rosary as a meditative form of prayer and the first to witness the spiritual fruit that comes from contemplating its mysteries.

In the 11th through 13th centuries, Europe was shaken by a grave heresy known as **Albigensianism**. This doctrine claimed that only the spiritual was good and that all material reality was evil.

The human body, they taught, was a prison for the soul, and salvation meant escaping the flesh entirely. Such a belief struck at the heart of Christian faith, denying the goodness of creation, the Incarnation of Christ, and the sacramental life.

Dominic Guzman, a Spanish priest, traveled through southern France preaching against this error. Yet his efforts bore little fruit.

In 1208, burdened by the lack of conversions, he withdrew into a forest near Toulouse to pray. For three days he fasted, begging God for the grace needed to confront the heresy that was tearing souls away from the truth.

Ancient accounts tell us that after those days of prayer, three angels appeared in the sky with a ball of fire. When the vision faded, the Virgin Mary spoke to Dominic, instructing him to preach **her Psalter** as the means to overcome the Albigensians.

Mary revealed to Dominic the **mysteries** that should accompany the events from the life of Christ that directly contradicted the Albigensian denial of the Incarnation, the reality of His suffering, and the truth of His glorious Resurrection.

Today, the Church continues to face heresies of many kinds—falsehoods about the human person, about Christ, about morality, about the nature of love and freedom.

St. Dominic stands before us as a model of perseverance, prayer, and fidelity to truth. And the Rosary, the gift entrusted to him by Our Lady, remains a powerful instrument in the ongoing battle between good and evil, truth and deception.

May we take up this prayer with renewed devotion, confident that meditating on the mysteries of Christ's life strengthens our faith, protects our families, and draws down grace upon the Church and the world.