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The Hopeful Mysteries

I am pleased and honored to introduce, for the people of the Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee, the Hopeful Mysteries of the rosary. This is the result of a great deal of prayer and deliberation among some members of our local church, and now it is a gift for the universal church as well.

The Hopeful Mysteries help us to recall and embrace the salvation that has come to us from the first moments after the Fall of our first parents. Of course, our salvation did not begin with the Annunciation. In fact, Mary's Magnificat (her song of praise which she proclaimed at the Visitation) extols God's work through our ancestors: "God, who is Mighty, . . . has remembered the promise of mercy; the promise He made to our fathers, to Abraham and his children forever". This promise finds its origin in the first hint of salvation in Genesis, when God says to the serpent, "I will put enmity between you and the woman, between her offspring and yours. He will strike at your head while you strike at his heel" (Gen 3:15)

From there, the Hebrew Scriptures offer promise and prophecy as God's plan unfolds in history. The New Testament, especially the Gospels, announce fulfillment and the hope that is ours in Jesus Christ. One of the blessings of the Hopeful Mysteries is that they help us to familiarize ourselves with the entire Bible a little more.

Following the devastating effects of the fall of humanity – which introduced sin and death into creation – God promises deliverance. After the flood, God makes a covenant with Noah. The sacrifice of Abraham is mentioned in the Roman Canon (Eucharistic Prayer I) as a foreshadowing of the self-sacrifice of Christ, the Only Begotten Son of God, for the salvation of the world. The Passover, with the meal of remembrance and the salvation of our ancestors by the sign of the blood of the lamb, is a type of the eternal salvation won for us by the Blood of Christ on the cross. Then, wonderfully, the last Hopeful Mystery is the Immaculate Conception, (which prepared Mary from the first moment of her existence for her vocation at the Annunciation to be the worthy Mother of God's Son, the Savior of the world) occurring about 15 years before the Annunciation. God has prepared Mary to be the worthy Mother of His Son, the Savior of the world.

We already have examples in the Gospel where Jesus connected the Law and the prophets to salvation history. In the Transfiguration, Elijah and Moses appeared alongside Jesus, as a sign that the Law and the prophets are fulfilled in the Paschal mystery of the Son. And in the encounter with the disciples on the road to Emmaus, Jesus opens the Scriptures for them (i.e., what we know as the Old Testament) to show how the Law and the prophets point to the coming of the Lord.

The more I pray these mysteries, the deeper I am drawn into the mystery of salvation. Indeed, praying these mysteries truly imparts hope for all who pray them with an open heart. This hope is very real, and it is ongoing as well. Amid personal sin and trials of all kinds, I live in hope of forgiveness and eternal life.

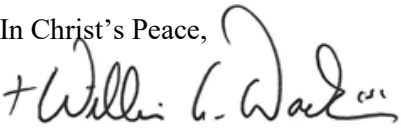
More information will be available in the future, as well as brochures in English and Spanish. If you would like to know more about the Hopeful Mysteries, check out the following links:

- Podcast episode with Dr. Tom Neal and Fr Chris Winkeljohn click [here](#):
- The bilingual pamphlet click [here](#).

I am not assigning these mysteries to a particular day, like the other mysteries of the rosary, but I recommend praying them in place of the others occasionally. Certainly, if you pray more than one rosary a day, you might wish to pray the Hopeful Mysteries after praying the ones assigned for the day.

May God bless you with the gift of hope, knowing that each of us is caught up in God's plan of salvation.

In Christ's Peace,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "William A. Wack, CSC". The signature is written in a cursive style with a cross at the beginning.

Bishop William A. Wack, CSC
Diocese of Pensacola-Tallahassee