

**The purpose of this folder is to help the men understand why Catholics have a devotion to Mary and to encourage them in this devotion.**

## **Pointers for Folder 7**

The focus of this folder is to talk about the three reasons for the Catholic devotion to Mary.

A question about how the man feels about his mother may give the facilitator some direction in talking of Mary as our mother who is interested in each of us. A man who has a loving, helpful, forgiving mother will not have a hard time understanding Mary's role in the life of a Catholic and of any Christian for that matter. A man who has not had such a relationship will have more difficulty in grasping the role of Mary in our lives. Stress should be the fact that Mary is the perfect example of the way a disciple of Jesus walks the talk. She believed. She accepted the responsibility God gave her. She reached out to help her cousin Elizabeth. She followed Jesus to the cross and she accepted the role of being mother to all the disciples of Jesus.

The first part of the Hail Mary echoes the words addressed to Mary by the angel Gabriel. The last section, Holy Mary etc. was added some time in the early middle ages. The Rosary swept Europe only some five hundred years ago.

It will not be necessary to spend a great deal of time explaining how to say the Rosary or the content of the twenty mysteries. Give the man a booklet with that information however, stress that there is no magic in the mere repetition of the words over and over again. The reflection and the mysteries and the sentiments they evoke in our hearts are the key to this prayer.

A good number of the men will have been bombarded by misinformation about devotion to Mary. Some of the questions they have or the ideas they have heard from others are answered in the text. The facilitator should be able to give a good explanation of others as found in booklets such as "Questions Frequently Raised by our Christian Brothers and Sisters" which offers sound and clear explanations of most of the points raised by people who misunderstand devotion to Mary.

End by SAYING the HAIL MARY with the man.