



Aid to the
Church in Need

ACN CANADA

One Million Children Praying the Rosary

Organizer Toolkit & 20-Minute Preparation Plan

For teachers, catechists, priests, schools & parishes · October 7, 2026 · ACN Canada

What this is

On October 7, 2026 — the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary — children across the globe will pray the Rosary together for peace and unity. Inspired by St. Padre Pio's words, "When a million children pray the Rosary, the world will change," the initiative began in Caracas, Venezuela in 2005 and is now in its 21st year.

How the time works: spend about 20 minutes preparing your group, then pray the Rosary together, in part or in full, depending on the children present and their ages and familiarity with praying. The Rosary itself usually takes another 20-25 minutes. This event can also serve as an introduction to praying the Rosary. Each organizer is called upon to use their judgment for their own group.

Before the day — quick checklist

- ☐ Register your group on the landing page (adds you to the worldwide map).
 - ☐ Make sure there is one rosary per child — or plan to make them with the help of our Craft your own rosary video tutorial.
 - ☐ If you plan to take photos or videos, collect a signed photo-video release form for every minor (see Safeguarding below).
 - ☐ Print or open the materials of your choice (see *What's in the toolkit*)
 - ☐ Decide which set of Mysteries you will pray* (Joyful, Sorrowful, Glorious or Luminous).
- *In 2026, we will meditate on the Glorious Mysteries.*
- ☐ Pick your moment on October 7 (or anytime during the week if the 7th isn't possible).

Part 1 — The 20-minute preparation

A simple, minute-by-minute way to prepare your group before praying. Adapt as needed based on the participants' ages, the size of the group, and their prayer habits. It is important that the experience be, first and foremost, a joyful and meditative time.

Time	What to do
0–3 min	Welcome & why we pray. Explain that today children all over the world are praying the same prayer for peace. Share St. Padre Pio's words — even though they are young, they can do something great for the world.
3–8 min	Teach how to pray the Rosary. Show the beads and the flow: Sign of the Cross, Apostles' Creed, Our Father, Hail Marys, Glory Be. Pray one Hail Mary together so everyone knows the rhythm.
8–12 min	Hand out (or make) the rosaries. Give one to each child; show how to hold it and move bead by bead.
12–16 min	Present today's Mysteries. Name the set you chose and tell each Gospel scene in one sentence so the children can picture it while they pray.
16–20 min	Set the intention & assign roles. Offer the prayer for peace and for children who are suffering. Choose who will lead each prayer or announce each Mystery. Quiet the room and make the Sign of the Cross to begin.

Part 2 — Pray the Rosary together (in part or in full)

After the preparation, pray the complete Rosary (five decades). This usually takes about 20–25 minutes on its own, prayed calmly. Structure:

1. Opening: Sign of the Cross, the Apostles' Creed, one Our Father, three Hail Marys, one Glory Be.

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2. For each of the five decades: announce the Mystery and begin a decade: pray one Our Father, ten Hail Marys (while meditating on the Mystery), one Glory Be, and the Fatima Prayer
 3. Finish: thank the children and take time as a group for pictures and videos (with signed consent only), to colour the Mysteries or do another craft or drawing, or simply spend time together. If sharing your own photos, don't forget to use #1MillionChildrenPraying.

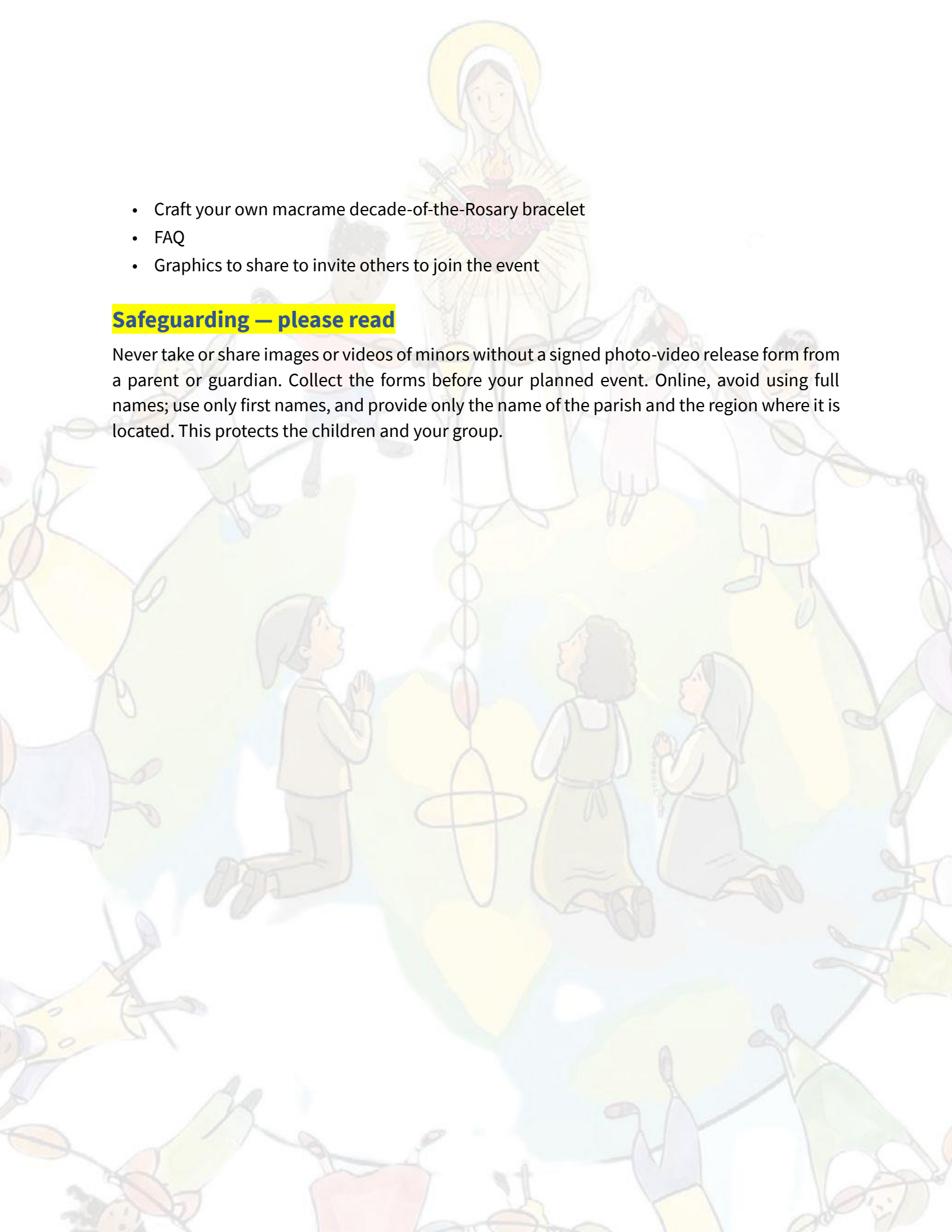
To help youth follow along and pray, prepare them well beforehand, pray slowly and calmly, show the Mystery image for each decade (see *Illustrated booklet of all the Mysteries – for 2026. The Glorious Mysteries begin on pages 40-41*), and pause briefly between decades if needed. The most important thing is that they pray with their hearts.

Tips by age

- Ages 4–7: prepare them well and keep them engaged — use the colouring pages, let them hold or make a simple rosary, pray slowly, and show the Mystery image for each decade. Pause briefly between decades if needed or pray one decade
- Ages 8–11: give each child a small role (lead a Hail Mary, hold the poster, announce a Mystery).
- Ages 12+ / youth groups: add a one-minute reflection on what peace means today, then pray the full Rosary.

What's in the toolkit (PDF resources)

- At-a-Glance Guide for Organizers
- Print-ready poster
- Leaflet – Why We Pray the Rosary
- Photo-Video Release Form
- Children's Rosary – Practical Guide for Forming Groups
- Flyer: How to Pray the Rosary + Mysteries (two pages)
- Longer illustrated booklet of all the Mysteries (52 pages)
- Comic strip colouring pages (Mysteries)
- Craft your own rosary (video tutorial)

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- A faint, stylized illustration serves as the background. At the top center is a figure of the Virgin Mary with a halo, holding a red heart pierced by a sword. Below her, a group of people are gathered. In the foreground, three children are kneeling in prayer: a boy on the left, a girl in the middle, and another girl on the right. They are surrounded by other people, some standing and some kneeling, all holding hands in a large circle. The scene is set outdoors with a green field and a blue sky. The overall style is simple and illustrative, with soft colors and clear outlines.
- Craft your own macrame decade-of-the-Rosary bracelet
 - FAQ
 - Graphics to share to invite others to join the event

Safeguarding — please read

Never take or share images or videos of minors without a signed photo-video release form from a parent or guardian. Collect the forms before your planned event. Online, avoid using full names; use only first names, and provide only the name of the parish and the region where it is located. This protects the children and your group.