

The Five-Petaled Rose Ave-Only Meeting Script (FORM A)

Hello! My name is _____ and I will be your host for today/tonight's meeting of the Way of the Rose.

Would someone be willing to read our Group Description?

The Way of the Rose is an open-hearted, inclusive community of beings dedicated to the forgotten Earth wisdom of the rosary...and to the Lady, by any name you like to call Her. We are not affiliated with the Catholic Church or any other religious institution. Nor do we seek to build a new one. We have no dues or fees, no buildings to maintain or capital campaigns. We pass the hat from time to time for our modest needs. There are no priests or levels of mastery. Instead of lineages of power, we value circles of friendship. We support one another in praying for our heart's desire.

Every rosary circle honors the Five Petals of the Wild Rose. Would anyone be willing to read them?

- **FIRST PETAL—WOTR circles are free.** We may pass the hat to cover special expenses, but no contribution will ever be required. WOTR has no dues or fees for membership.
- **SECOND PETAL—WOTR circles are inclusive.** Everyone is welcome at every meeting. We have affinity meetings but these circles are open. Anyone may attend.
- **THIRD PETAL—WOTR circles pray the rosary or a chaplet.** We may adapt these or modify them for the purpose of a meeting, but the focus of our fellowship remains on Our Lady and Her beads.
- **FOURTH PETAL—WOTR circles are places to pray for our heart's desire.** We do not support outside causes—religious, political, humanitarian, or otherwise—that might divert us from our own petitions.
- **FIFTH PETAL—WOTR circles are leaderless.** A member may sponsor a meeting, but there are no teachers, experts, or authorities. Once a meeting format has been established, any member may lead it.

Does anyone have a Message from Our Lady of Woodstock they would like to share? Early messages are included in the book *The Way of the Rose*. All other messages can be found on the website at wayoftherose.org

At this meeting, we recite the earliest form of the rosary, which consisted of the five Latin words **AVE GRATIA PLENA DOMINUS TECUM** ("Hail, full of grace, the Lord is with thee!") repeated continuously as a mantra. A thousand years ago, these words were uttered before a statue of

Our Lady as a gesture of devotion, accompanied by a bow for each repetition. For medieval people, the Lady could be brought forth from these statues to answer petitions and perform miracles. The Ave was a summoning spell.

To preserve the devotional momentum of the original ritual, at our meetings we recite the Ave in a brisk, even rhythm, giving equal emphasis to each syllable.

For today's rosary, we will need FIVE volunteers to lead us in blocks of one hundred Aves for a total of 500. (Note that you can count the fifty Hail Mary beads TWICE on the main loop of a standard rosary to get 100.) Who would like to volunteer?

After we finish saying the rosary, we will invite participants to share their novena petition or their heart's desire. Then we will acknowledge the presence of the Dead among us. Who would volunteer to lead us in the Prayers for the Dead?

Let's begin . . . [500 Aves are said, followed by the Hail Holy Queen.]

Before we begin our petitions, I would like to remind everyone that:

- Everything shared here is confidential.
- We do not offer each other advice or commentary on our petitions but simply bear witness to each other's hearts.
- While we may have many personal petitions in our daily rosary, at our meetings we ask that each participant focus on their current novena petition or heart's desire.

[Petitions are offered.]

We now acknowledge the presence of the Dead—our ancestors, our saints, and anyone on the other side we love. Please state the name of anyone you would like to welcome into our circle today.

[Calling in the Dead]

It is now time for Prayers for the Dead.

[Ten Aves are recited slowly by a volunteer. This is followed by the Memorare.]

Thank you everyone. This concludes our meeting. Does anyone have any news or miracles to share?

The Five-Petaled Rose / Ave-Only Meeting Script (FORM B)

Hello! My name is _____ and I will be your host for today/tonight's meeting of the Way of the Rose.

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At this meeting, we pray the rosary in its original form. Until the late Middle Ages, this meant creating a garland of 150 symbolic “roses” for Our Lady by reciting an Ave Maria for each one. The prayer was repeated continuously, like a mantra, and consisted only of the first half of the

prayer we know today. It was divided into five phrases as follows, one for each petal of the wild rose:

Ave Maria (Hail Mary)

gratia plena (full of grace)

dominus tecum (the Lord is with thee)

benedicta tu in mulieribus (blessed art thou among women)

et benedictus fructus ventris tui (and blessed is the fruit of the womb)

For today's rosary, we will need FIVE volunteers to lead us in blocks of 30 Aves each for a total of 150. You don't need a special rosary for this. Just count the Hail Mary beads for THREE decades, skipping the Our Fathers. Who would like to volunteer?

After we finish saying the rosary, we will invite participants to share their novena petition or their heart's desire. Then we will acknowledge the presence of the Dead among us. Who would volunteer to lead us in the Prayers for the Dead?

Let's begin . . . [150 Aves are said, followed by the Hail Holy Queen.]

Before we begin our petitions, I would like to remind everyone that:

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[Petitions are offered.]

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[Calling in the Dead]

It is now time for Prayers for the Dead.

[Ten Aves are recited slowly by a volunteer. This is followed by the Memorare.]

Thank you everyone. This concludes our meeting. Does anyone have any news or miracles to share?