

# 'Rosary year' inspires book

Bonita Lawhead/CNS

SPOKANE, Wash. — Sister Patricia Proctor's name may be on the front of a new book titled *101 Inspirational Stories of the Rosary*, but it's very much a book "by the people, for the people," she said.

It's also a book by the Blessed Mother, according to Sister Patricia, a cloistered Poor Clare nun in Spokane.

The idea came to her last November, about two weeks after Pope John Paul II proclaimed a "year of the rosary" from October 2002 to October 2003.

"It was really the Blessed Mother's idea," she told the *Inland Register*, newspaper of the Spokane Diocese. "I was just her patsy."

Even though she sees relatively few people in the course of her day, Sister Patricia has a circle of friends around the globe. Her monastery has a Web site — <http://www.calledbyjoy.com> — and she sends out a "Daily Peace Card," an e-mail message that goes to about 12,000 subscribers.

She used the peace card to call for inspirational stories connected to the rosary for a book. Stories began arriving, the book took shape and the nuns formed their own company, Franciscan Monastery Publishing, to publish it.

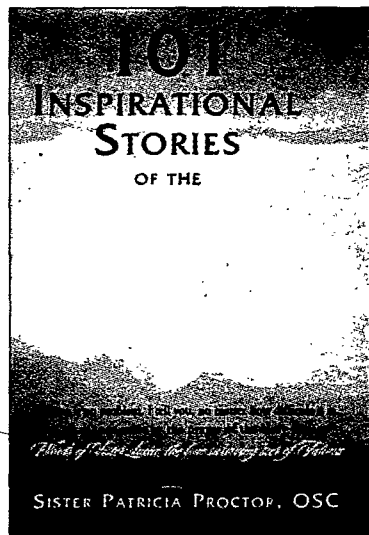
Volunteers, including some in different parts of the country, helped Sister Patricia with compiling and editing the material; they worked together via e-mail.

Sister Patricia said she was "bowed over" by the stories. Each one was a blessing, she added. On the book's Web site, <http://rosary101.com>, a blurb from the book's back cover says the stories — there are actually 124 — "give witness to the rosary's power to heal, convert, protect and aid." The stories came from 32 states and eight foreign countries.

One story is from a woman who was driving down the highway and fell asleep at the wheel. She "awoke only after the car had plowed through a cement guard rail," she writes. The car was totaled but she survived and her rosary beads were left unscathed hanging from the rearview mirror.

Another story is from a man named Don Ruff, who was on a bombing mission during World War II. He was sitting next to the nine 500-pound bombs on board praying the rosary when they exploded, killing 10 airmen instantly. Ruff was the only survivor.

The book also explains how to pray the rosary and describes the mysteries. The book includes a his-



## Book Review

tory of the rosary, written by Holy Cross Father Richard Gribble, as well as instructions for making a rosary.

The book also has an index and an introduction by Bishop William S. Skylstad of Spokane, vice president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops.

The first printing of the book was 5,000 copies, and word is already spreading about it, according to Sister Patricia. It is listed in the latest catalog of the Catholic Book Publishers Association. The nuns' publishing company is a member of the association. Letters about it have gone out to Catholic booksellers across the country.

Sister Patricia also planned to leave her cloister to give a presentation at a Spokane Catholic supplies store May 2.

By compiling the book, she said, she hopes to spread devotion to the rosary.

"It's a book for all ages that builds up our faith," she told the *Inland Catholic*. She also sees the book as a tool for conversion. "Each story has Mary's touch, and the essence is help is there when it's called for," she added.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** *101 Inspirational Stories of the Rosary*, published by Franciscan Monastery Publishing, costs \$12.95. It is available from some Catholic bookstores, as well as the book's Web site <http://rosary101.com>.

## CATHOLIC BEST SELLERS

Catholic News Service

The following books are among the top selections from the Catholic Book Publishers Association's Catholic Bestsellers List for May 2003.

### HARDCOVER

1. *Lord, Have Mercy*. Scott Hahn (Doubleday)
2. *Catechism of the Catholic Church*
3. *Go In Peace*. John Paul II (Loyola)

### PAPERBACK

1. *Catechism of the Catholic Church*
2. *Return of the Prodigal Son*. Henri J.M. Nouwen (Crossroad)
3. *Spiritual Perspectives on America's Role as Superpower*. Skylight Paths editors (Skylight Paths)

### CHILDREN & YOUNG PEOPLE

1. *Did Adam & Eve Have Belly Buttons?* Matthew Pinto (Ascension Press)
2. *What You Will See Inside a Mosque*. Aisha Karen Khan (Skylight Paths)
3. *Just Like Mary*. Gortler & Piscitelli (Our Sunday Visitor)

### SPANISH LANGUAGE

1. *Juntos Para Toda la Vida*. Joseph M. Champlin (Liguori)
2. *Catecismo de la Iglesia Católica*
3. *Manual Para el Católico de Hoy*. A Redemptorist Pastoral Publication (Liguori)

\*Doubleday & Our Sunday Visitor, publisher

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