

Ave Maria
411V.E-1276
24

Hail, Mary, full of grace: the Lord is with thee: Blessed art thou among women, and
blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus: Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us, sinners,
now and at the hour of our death. Amen.

Before I began this series of Morning Prayers devoted to the 15 mysteries of the Rosary, I mentioned additions, "trimmings", that have often gone along with the use of this prayer-form. There've been so many different elements that have gone into the formation of the Rosary as we know it now that I think it's appropriate enough to end the series with a related prayer, a litany of intercession to the Virgin Mary. Litanies of praise, or of the joys of Mary, or of events in the lives of Jesus & Mary: such phrases, in chains of 50 or 100 or 150, each attached to the end of an "Ave" — it was such series of 50 points that were called 'a rose garden', "Rosarium", applying the rose, as a symbol of joy, to Mary. The name became pre-empted, and later transferred to the formula of 50 Hail Marys that we know as the Rosary. An invocation to Mary to intercede for us as we contemplate the mysteries of Christ — that's the end of each 'Hail Mary' "Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us." Mary has many traditional titles, many of them linked together in the 'Litany of Our Lady' that used to be, perhaps, more familiar than it is now, often recited together with the Rosary at devotional services in church. And it's ^{in music} a version of Mary's litanies that I want to leave you with — a prayer by a modern French composer, in intercession and in praise to Mary, the Litanies to the Black Virgin. Francis Poulenc wrote this a time of religious crisis in his own life, in 1936 — let us now join this prayer: OR

ARGO-E-228
23

(record sleeve)

MUSIC under/up to end