



---- VADE MECUM ----

for the ADP-VV Marian Groups of Prayer



THE MARIAN GROUPS AND A NEW STYLE OF PRAYER

The *adp-vv* Marian Groups of Prayer (“*Alleati dei Piccoli - Volantini Verdi*”), came about through the inspiration of Friar Volantino Verde, founder of the community of the *Little Friars and Little Nuns of Jesus and Mary*¹ (*pfsgm*). Accepting the requests of many people and families who were fascinated by this evangelical lifestyle, he wanted to give the laity the possibility of living, in some measure, the *pfsgm* charism: “to encourage people toward frequent reception the Sacraments, or toward a more intense participation in them”².

To do this, the *adp-vv* periodically gather to pray the Holy Meditated Rosary with the aim of growing and helping others grow in the faith. The heart of this unique style of prayer is the meditation on the mysteries of the Holy Rosary, which is introduced by reading simple *systematic prayer cards*³ containing the Word of God, a brief meditation of “practical theology,” and a passage from the Teachings of the Catholic Church, and then developed through a personal meditation based on the topic of the prayer card. This meditation is aimed not only at understanding how to live the Gospel better as a layperson, but also at helping those who pray this rosary to become more competent and effective evangelizers.

FOUNDATION AND PROCESS OF THE ADP-VV GROUPS

1 The promotion and care of the groups (including those which are long-distance)

The consecrated leaders and the lay leaders of the *adp-vv* Groups of Prayer are assiduously committed to promoting the unique prayer of the Holy Meditated Rosary in their parishes, in their work environments, among friends and family, and among all people who desire to grow in the Faith, which never ceases to bring forth *grace and peace in abundance in the knowledge of God and the One whom He has sent, Jesus Christ* (cf. *2Pet* 1:2). They do this through personal visits as well as through the internet and various means of social communication⁴, through which they are able to take care of those groups of prayer which, scattered around the world and physically distant from the friars and nuns, cannot be visited frequently.

1.2 Promotion of the prayer groups made up of allies who live far away from one another

Thanks to these means of social communication, it is also possible to meet the requests of many lay people who live far from each other but want to found a prayer group together and meet (mainly) through videoconference.

2 First 4 consecutive experiences (in person or online)

Once they have prayed the innovative *adp-vv* sung and meditated Rosary and had a positive and fruitful spiritual experience with the *pfsgm* (by personally participating in prayer with us, either physically or online through the various resources available on the websites – www.poorfriars.net and the *adp-vv* blog), the candidates begin a trial period of at least 4 consecutive experiences with the prayer group (even remotely, as mentioned above) which will be led by the friars and nuns.

3 THE 6 MONTHS OF EXPERIENCE FOR THE ASPIRING SPIRITUAL MEMBERS OF THE ADP-VV

After the candidates have had 4 consecutive experiences of the meditated Rosary, the friars and nuns will email the parish priest of reference and ask for his consent to continue this fruitful experience with the

¹ Approved - *definitively* – by the Catholic Church on May 31, 2019, with an Episcopal Decree from His Excellency Mons. Antonio Staglianò, Bishop of Noto (Italy).

² PFSGM STATUTE, *Charism*, 1,6.

³ Available on:

<http://nuke.poorfriars.net/HomeEnglish/HomeGROUPSofPRAYER/KittoMAKENEWGROUPOFPRAYERADPVV/PrayerCardsshortforthSLCmethodofprayer/tabid/790/Default.aspx> or <https://blogadpvv.wixsite.com/english/rosaryprayercards>

⁴ “The Catholic Church, since it was founded by Christ our Lord to bear salvation to all men and thus is obliged to preach the Gospel, considers it one of its duties to announce the Good News of salvation also with the help of the media of social communication and to instruct men in their proper use.” (VATICAN II, Decr. *Inter Mirifica*, 4 December 1963, n. 3)

prayer group. (This step is not necessary in the case of online prayer groups with remote members.) Once we have his approval, candidates then sign the Simple Registration Form for aspiring Spiritual Members of the *adp-vv* Prayer Groups in order to begin the *6 consecutive months of experience* of the meditated Rosary (based on the message Our Lady of Fatima gave to the little shepherds on May 13, 1917: “*Come here for 6 consecutive months and I will tell you who I am and what I want from you*”⁵). These meetings will either be weekly (level A), every 2 weeks (level B), or monthly (level C), depending on the choice of the applicants; at this point, they will also receive the green Rosary bracelet. As soon as possible, especially in cases where the friars and nuns are able to visit the group personally, the friars and nuns responsible for the prayer groups will also present the bishop of their respective diocese with the written consent of the parish priest of reference, in order to receive his approval as well (even if only by email).

4 OFFICIALIZATION OF THE NEW SPIRITUAL MEMBERS OF THE ADP-VV GROUPS OF PRAYER

At the end of the 6 months of experience (barring a negative evaluation by the friars and nuns responsible for the prayer groups, which is to be communicated in writing by email), the formalization of the new Spiritual Members of the *adp-vv* Prayer Groups automatically takes place:

a) the new prayer group receives the distinctive Pennant and officially becomes an *adp-vv* Group of Prayer
b) the individual aspirant officially becomes a Spiritual Member of the *adp-vv* Prayer Groups, promising to *try* to lovingly observe these three basic points:

1. *Pray the Holy Meditated Rosary* with their prayer group according to their level (A, B, or C).
2. *Participate in Holy Mass at least on Sundays or the Saturday Vigil*, receiving Jesus in the Holy Eucharist at least weekly and going to confession at least once a month with a Catholic priest.
3. *Perform works of Charity, as far as possible*, especially in helping the Little Friars and Little Nuns of Jesus and Mary in their works of Charity and their work of Evangelization!

5 OFFICIALLY AND DEFINITELY JOINING THE ADP-VV ASSOCIATION

Finally, just as the *pfsgm* become perpetually professed after six and a half years, the members of the *adp-vv* Groups – after completing another written application – can be *officially and definitively* entered into the register of the *adp-vv* association for particularly distinguishing themselves in their commitment to the promises made (in point 4). The Association’s Board of Directors may decide to admit an ally to full membership even before the set time, especially if an ally truly excels in works of Charity (cf. *1Tim* 3:13) and an exemplary Christian witness in announcing the crucified and risen Christ⁶.

6 LAY MISSIONARIES (PART-TIME AND FULL-TIME)

Among the Allies of the *adp-vv* Groups, there are also “*adp-vv* Lay Missionaries:” those who decide to give more time to God in their lay calling, living more closely the missionary aspect of the *pfsgm*. Among these, the

- ***Adp-vv full-time Missionaries*** are those who decide to give everything to God as a layperson, physically living alongside our communities of friars and nuns and dedicating all their time and resources to the service of the apostolate and charitable works of the *pfsgm* community.
- ***Adp-vv part-time Missionaries*** are those who decide to give about half of their time to God as a layperson (even if they live further away from our communities of friars and nuns – but no more than about 30 miles), so as to dedicate it to the apostolate and charitable works of the *pfsgm* community.
- ***Long-distance adp-vv Missionaries*** are those who decide to give a good part of their time to God as a layperson, even if they live far away (even outside the country) from the nearest friars and nuns, so as to dedicate part of their free time to the initiatives of the ***full-time*** and ***part-time*** Missionaries in the apostolate and charitable works of the *pfsgm* community.

This is always in communion with the Roman Catholic Church and under the supervision of the consecrated *pfsgm* leaders, who must guarantee the transparency and doctrinal clarity of all of this work.

⁵ On six months as a suitable time of discernment, based on the message that Our Lady gave to the little shepherds of Fatima on May 13, 1917: “*Come here for six months in succession...[and] I will tell you who I am and what I want [from you]*” (LUCIA OF FATIMA, *Fatima in Lucia’s Own Words: Sister Lucia’s Memoirs*, 16th Edition, Edited by Fr. Louis Kondor, Translated by Dominican Nuns of Perpetual Rosary, Secretariado Dos Pastorinhos, Fatima, 2007, p. 175.

⁶ Cfr. ADP-VV STATUTE, *Adesione*, art. 4.