



You will recognize to the left the flag of Crozet, which is also the coat of arms for the city. I shared this image with the Bishop, and he suggested that a suitable name for our parish might be Our Lady of the Rosary. He wanted to get your feedback before deciding.

Whatever the origins of the flag for Claudius Crozet, the flag can be interpreted religiously. The blue field of the flag allows a strong Marian connotation, since blue is the traditional color of the Blessed Virgin. The strip of white is called a bend *dexter*. The rightward angle of the bend has the inference of greatness. The color white has always been associated with the purity of Mary, immaculate without stain of sin.

The Rose also has a Marian connection. One of the titles of the Blessed Mother is Mystic Rose, the fairest of the flowers of all God's creation. "Mary is the most beautiful flower ever seen in the spiritual world. It is by the power of God's grace that from this barren and desolate earth there ever sprung up at all flowers of holiness and glory; and Mary is the Queen of them all. She is the Queen of spiritual flowers; and therefore, is called the Rose, for the rose is called of all flowers the most beautiful. But, moreover, she is the Mystical or Hidden Rose, for mystical means hidden." (Saint John Henry Cardinal Newman).

The three roses may be interpreted as Mary's unique relationship with each of the persons of the Blessed Trinity. The fact that there is a chain of roses is the connection with the Rosary. The name rosary is associated with a chain of flowers, and spiritually praying the prayers of the rosary was seen as presenting the Virgin Mary a garland of flowers as a child would present flowers to their mother. The name rosary also led rosaries to be formed from the dried petals of roses which would release their oils when the hands of believers fingered the beads. This allowed the prayers of the faithful to literally be a fragrant offering to the Lord.

Finally, there is no other church in the Diocese of Richmond that has the title, Our Lady of the Rosary. This letter will be posted on Flocknote, our parish webpage and our Facebook page, and we ask you to take a quick online poll and post your comments.

In Christ, Msgr. Tim Keeney