

Finch & C^o



ITALIAN SILVER AND SACRED PALM NUT BEADED ROSARY WITH SILVER PENDANT CROSS

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LATE 17TH CENTURY

SIZE: APPROX: 99CMLONG – 39 INS LONG

LITERATURE

THE ROSARY IS ONLY ONE OF SEVERAL ANCIENT WAYS USED TO COUNT PRAYERS. HOWEVER, IN CHRISTIAN PRACTICE IT IS BELIEVED THAT THE SOLITARY AND THOUGHTFUL MANIPULATION OF THE BEADS ENHANCES THE CONTEMPLATIVE STATE OF THE MIND AND THE REPETITIOUS HANDLING OF THE BEADS HELPS THE WORSHIPPER TO CONCENTRATE ON HIS SPIRITUAL NEEDS. METHODS OF SAYING THE ROSARY VARIED AS DID THE NUMBER AND ORDER OF BEADS, BUT EACH OF THE FIVE DECADES ALWAYS REPRESENTS ONE OF THE EVENTS IN THE LIFE OF CHRIST OR THE VIRGIN, THE FIVE JOYFUL, FIVE SORROWFUL AND FIVE GLORIOUS MYSTERIES.