



Christian Questions

Think about the Bible like you never have before

Dear Joanna,

Thank you for writing us at Christian Questions. You wanted to know who wrote the "Hail Mary" prayer.

The "Hail Mary" as it is recited today dates from the year 1515. Originally it consisted only of the words the angel Gabriel said to Mary, "Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee." (Luke 1:28) and Mary's cousin Elizabeth's words to her, "Blessed art thou amongst women and blessed is the fruit of thy womb" (Luke 1:42). Pope Gregory the Great (590-604) ordered this primitive "Hail Mary" to be said as the Offertory of the Mass of the Fourth Sunday in Advent, and there we find it as follows: "Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee, blessed art thou amongst women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb." Pope Urban IV in 1263 added the holy name of Jesus after the scriptural sentence. The addition "Holy Mary, pray for us sinners, Amen," was made in 1508, and the Franciscans were accustomed to say, "now and at the hour of our death."

Therefore, the "Hail Mary" prayer is partly taken from Scripture and partly added to by the Catholic Church over a period of more than 900 years by various popes, bishops and religious orders.

The Bible does warn against repetitive prayers that because of that repetition, they lose their meaning and significance to the one praying. Rote prayers become meaningless. Matthew 6:7 (KJV) *But when ye pray, use not vain repetitions, as the heathen do: for they think that they shall be heard for their much speaking.* Over the years we have done many podcasts on the power of prayer, who should pray and how to pray. Please search for "prayer" on our website.

We hope we have answered your question. Be sure to sign up for CQ Rewind. The service is free without obligation and will provide you with scriptural perspective on many questions and topics.

Sincerely,
Christian Questions

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