Catholic Editorial Policy & Source Reference Library

Complete active internal editorial standard

Version 1.2 · Updated October 17, 2026

> Published in full for transparency. This policy is an internal standard of a lay-led initiative and does not claim Church approval.

Version 1.2 — 17 October 2026

Status: MASTER EDITORIAL STANDARD — ACTIVE. Governing internal reference for all Northwest Arkansas Rosary Rally communications; supersedes version 1.1, which remains archived for historical reference. *Internal editorial guidance for a lay-led initiative. Not an imprimatur or official ecclesiastical approval.*

1. Purpose and scope

Standard: Every Northwest Arkansas Rosary Rally publication must faithfully reflect Sacred Scripture, Sacred Tradition, and the teaching of the Catholic Church, while encouraging devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary as a means of growing closer to her Son, Jesus Christ.

This is the organization's **internal, lay-led editorial policy**. It is not a Church-issued directive, approval, imprimatur, or certification. It governs social captions and graphics, the website, event promotions, devotionals, publicity, videos, photographs, and volunteer communications.

Publication principle: Accuracy, charity, reverence, fidelity to the Catholic faith, and candor about what is known, tentative, or personally believed matter more than reach or engagement.

2. Authoritative reference method

For doctrinal questions, begin with **Sacred Scripture and Sacred Tradition as authentically interpreted by the Magisterium**. Use the Catechism as the first practical doctrinal reference, then applicable conciliar, papal, and dicastery documents. Do not treat all documents, opinions, devotions, or historical traditions as carrying identical doctrinal authority. [R1–R4]

- **Scripture:** Verify the passage, speaker, meaning, context, and translation before quoting. Preferred accessible text: USCCB/NABRE. [R2]
- **Scripture translation standard:** For Scripture study, reading, quotations, social-media graphics, captions, and educational materials, use the New American Bible, Revised Edition (NABRE), as published by the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops at https://bible.usccb.org/. Verify wording and context against the USCCB text before publication. Do not substitute another English translation without an expressly documented editorial exception. When referring to readings proclaimed at Mass, distinguish the separately approved U.S. Lectionary text from the NABRE study Bible text.
- **Catechism:** Consult the relevant paragraphs; for this mission especially 66–67 (private revelations), 963–975 (Mary), 1674–1676 (popular piety), and 971 (Marian devotion). [R1]
- **Church documents:** For Marian or Rosary material, consult Lumen Gentium VIII, Rosarium Virginis Mariae, Marialis Cultus, the Directory on Popular Piety, and current DDF guidance. [R3–R7]
- **Law and local discipline:** Check canon law for organization/Church-name claims and the USCCB plus Diocese of Little Rock for liturgical dates, local disciplines, permissions, and relevant communications policies. [R8–R10]
- **Non-authoritative material:** Saints' quotations, devotional websites, traditional stories, AI summaries, and parish social posts may suggest ideas but do not establish Catholic doctrine. Trace consequential claims back to original sources. Do not force a doctrinal conclusion from a source that does not address the question. If reputable sources appear to conflict, examine the context and status of each; when needed, obtain review from a priest or qualified Catholic theologian.

3. Essential theological guardrails

- **Christ is central.** Jesus Christ alone is the Redeemer and the unique Mediator of salvation. The Rosary contemplates His life and saving work. [R3, R4, R7]
- **Adoration belongs to God alone.** Do not describe Our Lady, saints, statues, or relics as recipients of divine adoration. Mary receives special veneration; her intercession depends wholly on Christ. [R1, R3]
- **Speak of Mary carefully.** Her role is always ordered to Christ. Do not imply that she independently distributes salvation or grants divine grace. Avoid unqualified or misleading claims about disputed titles; consult the 2025 doctrinal note Mater Populi Fidelis for titles such as "Co-redemptrix" and "Mediatrix of All Graces." [R7]

- **Rosary devotion is encouraged, not universally obligatory.** "Pray the Rosary every day" is an invitation, not a claim that failure to do so is automatically sinful. Do not place private devotions on the same level as the Mass and sacraments. [R4–R6]
- **Private revelation is not the deposit of faith.** Fatima may be taught and honored as an approved apparition and devotional message, but do not treat its reported messages as new doctrine or required assent of divine faith. [R1, R11]
- **No automatic spiritual guarantees.** Do not promise salvation, particular miracles, indulgences, or outcomes from participating in a rally, wearing sacramentals, saying certain words, or finishing a specified number of Rosaries.
- **Keep liturgy and devotion distinct.** Describe public Rosary rallies as devotional gatherings, not liturgical services or replacements for Mass. Verify solemnities, feasts, memorials, Sunday precedence, and observance dates. [R6, R9]
- **Pray with charity.** Address non-Catholics, the lapsed, and the curious accurately and respectfully; invitation does not require diminishing Catholic identity. [R12]

4. NWA Rosary Rally voice and approved messaging

- **Identity:** Northwest Arkansas Rosary Rally — a lay-led initiative encouraging peaceful public prayer and unity among Catholics across Northwest Arkansas; everyone is welcome to attend.
- **Primary invitation:** "Pray the Rosary every day." Present as an invitation to devotion.
- **Organizational motto:** "The Prayer Continues."
- **Mission line:** "Uniting Catholics across Northwest Arkansas in prayer."
- **Christ-centered tagline:** "Bringing Northwest Arkansas together in prayer to Jesus through Mary."
- **Fatima-only event theme:** "Prayer. Penance. Praise." Do not portray this as the year-round organizational motto. Explain that praise and thanksgiving are directed to Almighty God/Our Lord Jesus Christ.
- **Useful model sentence:** "With the Blessed Virgin Mary, we contemplate her Son and ask that every mystery lead us more deeply into life with Christ."
- **Avoid:** "adoration of Our Lord and Our Lady"; instead distinguish worship of God and honoring Mary. Avoid making doctrinally mandatory or historically certain claims from pious tradition alone.

5. Truthfulness, photography, and responsible media

- **Documentary accuracy:** Photographs presented as images of a real event must be actual photographs from that event. Cropping, exposure/color correction, resizing, and adding text are acceptable if they do not change what happened.
- **AI illustrations:** May illustrate devotional scenes or imagined future events when clearly presented as artwork. Do not use AI-generated people/crowds to depict the actual 2026 Bentonville rally or pass a reconstruction off as documentary evidence.
- **Source integrity:** Verify historical dates, quotations, saint attributions, event statistics, speakers, religious symbols, liturgical colors, and feast names before publication.

- **Approval and affiliation:** Identify clergy involvement exactly as it occurred (for example, a priest gave a closing blessing) without implying that a lay-led event was clergy-led, parish-sponsored, or diocesan-approved unless confirmed.
- **Privacy and consent:** Respect participants' privacy, particularly children; avoid revealing personal contact details or uploading sensitive parish records. Follow applicable diocesan and platform privacy/copyright requirements; obtain needed permissions for reproduced material.
- **Social-media conduct:** Favor truthful, gracious, charitable witness over provocation or inflated claims. Preserve context in quotations and captions. [R12] Design preferences: use the approved navy/Ozark/antique-gold brand identity; hashtags go in captions, not on graphics. These are internal brand choices, not doctrine.

6. Ecclesiastical authority and event wording

The initiative is **lay-led**. Respect the lawful freedom of lay apostolic action without claiming ecclesiastical authority, official sponsorship, or consent to use the "Catholic" name where applicable unless obtained. Review Canons 215, 216, and 300 before making formal organizational or affiliation claims. [R8]

- Ask whether an event is publicly organized by the rally, formally sponsored by a parish, or conducted with pastoral guidance. Describe those relationships with precision.
- For a larger regional undertaking, seek appropriate guidance from a priest/pastor and consider whether the dean or diocesan chancery should be consulted. The need for specific permissions depends on circumstances.
- Mark locations, clergy participation, calendar dates, and endorsements "proposed" or "pending" until confirmed.
- Specific editorial examples as of 13 October 2026: Oct. 4, 2026 was the traditional date of St. Francis of Assisi, but a Sunday had liturgical precedence; the planned May 15, 2027 Fatima rally is **in honor of** Our Lady of Fatima, whose observance is May 13; the second Bentonville rally is tentatively Saturday Oct. 2, 2027 at noon, pending downtown scheduling.

Standing policy — responsiveness to Church officials: Northwest Arkansas Rosary Rally operates as a lay-led initiative in faithful communion with the Catholic Church. Should a Church official raise concerns regarding our activities, communications, or public representations, we will respond with humility and charity, offer an appropriate apology, and promptly make any required corrections.

7. Editorial classification and workflow

A. Source review (before drafting): Identify the claims being made and whether they are doctrine, historically attested fact, devotional tradition, personal testimony, or organizational information. Record exact citations and URLs.

B. Draft review: Check scriptural fidelity; Christological clarity; Marian terminology; private revelation; feast/calendar correctness; any grace/indulgence claim; charitable tone; rights, privacy and photo integrity; organizational authority.

C. Decision:

- **APPROVE:** supported, clear, non-misleading wording, with appropriate source record.
- **REVISE:** substantively acceptable, but requires improved wording, attribution, or contextual qualification.
- **ESCALATE:** disputed interpretation, novel doctrinal claim, sensitive pastoral judgment, ecclesiastical authorization, or an unresolved matter: consult a priest or qualified reviewer before publishing. **D. Release record:** Keep the final text/image, date, platform, reviewer, sources, and any substantive change from an approved draft. If a public error is discovered, promptly correct it and note what changed.

Human accountability: ChatGPT can research and flag possible issues but does not replace competent Church authority or provide an imprimatur.

8. Pre-publication checklist

- [ ] Scripture quotations, references, and context verified.
- [ ] Claims of Catholic doctrine checked against authoritative Church sources.
- [ ] Jesus Christ clearly retains His unique role; Marian terminology is accurate.
- [ ] Fatima/private revelation and devotional tradition distinguished from binding doctrine.
- [ ] No exaggerated promise of grace, salvation, miracles, or indulgences.
- [ ] Church calendar, observance type, feast dates, and local practices verified.
- [ ] Clergy, parish, diocese, and permissions described accurately.
- [ ] Historical facts, quotations, numbers, photographs, and captions are truthful.
- [ ] Rights, privacy, and applicable policies considered; minors protected.
- [ ] Tone is charitable and welcoming without obscuring Catholic identity.
- [ ] Any unresolved question escalated before publication.

9. Future use and maintenance

Version: 1.2 (MASTER / ACTIVE) | **Established:** 13 October 2026 | **Updated:** 17 October 2026 | **Maintainer:** Northwest Arkansas Rosary Rally (lay-led internal editorial policy).

Keep this as a living document. Review whenever a relevant Vatican/USCCB/diocesan teaching, calendar, law, or internal practice changes. Record the version date and material changes. Decisions about specific future events may become outdated and must be reverified.

Instruction for another ChatGPT conversation: "Find and follow the file NWA_Rosary_Rally_Catholic_Editorial_Policy_v1.2 in my ChatGPT Library before drafting or reviewing content for Northwest Arkansas Rosary Rally. Apply its theological, source, authority, photo-integrity, and pre-publication standards; identify uncertain claims."

Library storage makes this policy retrievable in another chat when requested, but it does not automatically install the document as instructions for every new conversation. Add it to any project/workspace instructions or reattach/reference it when starting relevant work.

10. Official reference library

- **[R1] Catechism of the Catholic Church** — CCC 66–67; 963–975; 1674–1676. https://www.vatican.va/archive/ENG0015/_INDEX.HTM
- **[R2] USCCB Bible** — Scripture translations and readings. https://bible.usccb.org/
- **[R3] Second Vatican Council, Lumen Gentium** — Chapter VIII, especially 60–67. https://www.vatican.va/archive/hist_councils/ii_vatican_council/documents/vat-ii_const_19641121_lumen-gentium_en.html
- **[R4] St. John Paul II, Rosarium Virginis Mariae** — Christ-centered Rosary; mysteries of light (2002). https://www.vatican.va/content/john-paul-ii/en/apost_letters/2002/documents/hf_jp-ii_apl_20021016_rosarium-virginis-mariae.html
- **[R5] St. Paul VI, Marialis Cultus** — Right ordering of Marian devotion (1974). https://www.vatican.va/content/paul-vi/en/apost_exhortations/documents/hf_p-vi_exh_19740202_marialis-cultus.html
- **[R6] Directory on Popular Piety and the Liturgy** — Relationship of devotional practice and liturgy (2001). https://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/ccdds/documents/rc_con_ccdds_doc_20020513_vers-direttorio_en.html
- **[R7] Dicastery for the Doctrine of the Faith, Mater Populi Fidelis** — Marian titles; cooperation and unique mediation of Christ (2025). https://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc_ddf_doc_20251104_mater-populi-fidelis_en.html
- **[R8] Code of Canon Law, Book II** — Canons 215–216, 300 and relevant ecclesiastical association norms. https://www.vatican.va/archive/cod-iuris-canonici/eng/documents/cic_lib2-cann208-329_en.html
- **[R9] USCCB Liturgical Calendar** — US dioceses; check specific year and local observances. https://www.usccb.org/resources/liturgical-calendar-dioceses-united-states-america
- **[R10] Diocese of Little Rock** — Local policies, episcopal guidance, and event questions. https://www.dolr.org/
- **[R11] CDF, The Message of Fatima** — Theological interpretation and private revelation. https://www.vatican.va/roman_curia/congregations/cfaith/documents/rc_con_cfaith_doc_20000626_message-fatima_en.html
- **[R12] Dicastery for Communication, Towards Full Presence** — Pastoral reflection on social-media witness (2023). https://press.vatican.va/content/salastampa/it/bollettino/pubblico/2023/05/29/0404/00890.html

Scope note: All official source links should be rechecked when relevant; their contents, Church discipline, and calendars can change.