

Dear Patti,

ULRA at the TOWARDS ADVENT Festival – St. Philomena comes to Westminster Cathedral!

On Saturday, 28th November 2015, the ULRA took a stall at the Annual 'Towards Advent' Festival of Catholic Culture. The event has been running at Westminster Cathedral Hall for some years now, and last year was the first time that the ULRA attended. There was such an interest in the Living Rosary last year that it was decided to take a stall again this year. Once again, there was a lot of interest in the Living Rosary stall, where Anne, the UK representative for ULRA, gave out many sacramentals, lots of prayer cards and literature about the Apostolate of Our Lady and St. Philomena.



The event was inaugurated by Cardinal Vincent Nichols of the Westminster Archdiocese, and it began with hymns from the choir of St James' School, Twickenham. The hall was full of thirty different Catholic organizations promoting their various Apostolates and it was a good atmosphere.

During the day, there were also talks and workshops on Gregorian Chant, the life of the Franciscan Friars, and the urgent needs of Christians in the Middle East and elsewhere.

I think, it is the only Festival of its kind in England and happens once a year, just before Advent. Catholic Apostolates display their work there, many of them, like us, travelling a distance to be there. It took us two hours to get there from Colchester and 3 hours to get home at the end of it, but it was worth it to be able to publicly display the Living Rosary. We were pleased to have our stall next to the Sons of Divine Providence and to have help from Kevin Rowles to get set up.

The numbers were down a bit this year; perhaps due to demonstrations against bombing Syria and also fear of terrorist attacks in the city. But, the people who did come were enthusiastic and our stall was pretty busy all the time. Our prayer cards and leaflets - always so popular - went like hot cakes! The visitors were keen to get as much as they could free and we didn't mind that because we were willing to give freely. No one seemed to want to splash out on anything expensive - unlike last year when people came looking for presents to buy for their loved ones! Still, we gave away a lot of our literature and prayers cards, and told many people about the Living Rosary. I felt a small personal pleasure in being able to persuade a few people, including a teacher and a priest, to take on the **Youth for Purity Crusade** and I hope they will be able to get that going in London.



We met several Living Rosary members who expressed their appreciation for our work. Our stall was very colorful and our poster of St. Philomena attracted many people to our table. We also had, courtesy of Kevin Rowles, the First Class Relic of Blessed Alexandrina de Costa on our table and she, too, attracted people to us.

We enjoyed it, the time went really quickly but we were a bit tired after such a long day, having left home at 6.30 a.m. and getting back at 7.30 p.m.

All in a day's work for Our Lady!

Anne Curran – THE LIVING ROSARY, ENGLAND

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