

# The Making of a *Real* Hero

**W**hat is a hero? For some, a hero is the basketball player who gets the slam-dunk just before the buzzer, or the cyclist who wins the race year after year. But there are other heroes who are sometimes overlooked: the heroes of our Church, our saints.

What are the characteristics of a hero? Many say "sacrifice, determination, hard work, effort great and small, perseverance." St. Paul tells us that we can become heroes by living the life Jesus calls us to live.



**Humble Beginnings:** Patrick Peyton was born into a poor family in County Mayo, Ireland, that prayed the Rosary together every day. At the age of 19, he left his mother and father and traveled to America, where he worked as a janitor at a cathedral in Pennsylvania. Shortly after coming to America, he decided to become a priest.

**Try Prayer:** While studying at the Seminary, Patrick became gravely ill.

Doctors told him he had better try prayer, since they could not do anything else for him. He prayed to the Blessed Mother, and, to the amazement of the doctors, he was cured.

**Call to Promote the Rosary:** To give thanks for curing him, Patrick committed his life to promoting Rosary prayer. When he finished his schooling and was ordained a priest, he wanted to encourage families around the world to pray the Rosary together every day.

**Around the World:** Throughout his life, Father Patrick Peyton held 40 Rosary rallies for some 28 million people around the world, and became known as "The Rosary Priest." He produced radio and television programs to reach families everywhere and to encourage them to pray together. Father Peyton believed "the family that prays together stays together."

Father Peyton certainly found a way to achieve his best, by persevering in bringing the Rosary to people all around the world.

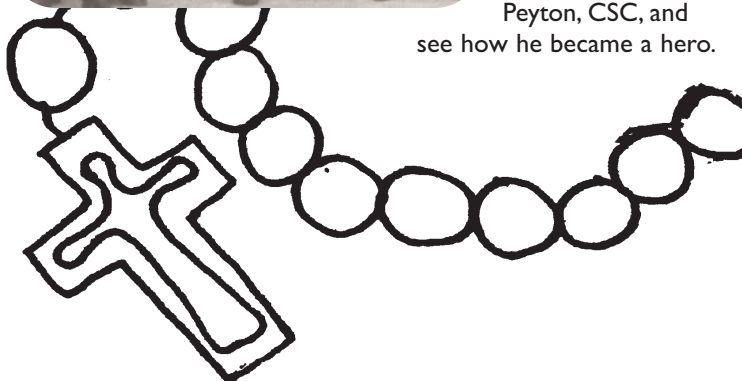


So what kind of a hero do we want to model? What kind of hero do we want to become?

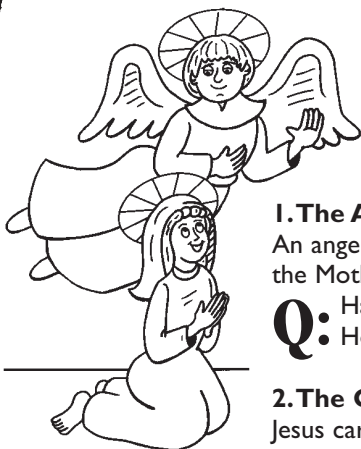
How do we do that? We follow the role model of Our Lord, Jesus Christ. And who else? By looking at the lives of many different saints, we can find one that is a model for our life, one that we can imitate to achieve our personal best.

Let us examine the life of one hero, Servant of God Father Patrick Peyton, CSC, and

see how he became a hero.



# How Can We Become Heroes?



Let's reflect on the lives of Jesus and His Mother Mary, also, to see if we can model our lives after their example ... it's easier than we think. The Rosary provides many "mysteries" that help us reflect on what we can do every day to become heroes.

## 1. The Annunciation—A Joyful Mystery

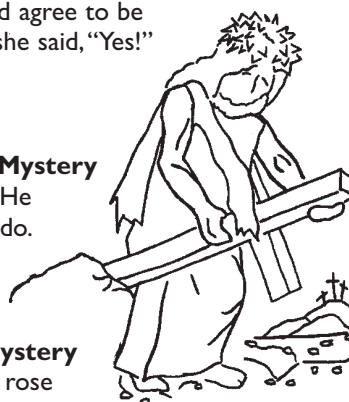
An angel appeared to Mary and asked if she would agree to be the Mother of Jesus. Even though she was afraid, she said, "Yes!"

**Q:** Have I said "yes" to Christ today?  
**Q:** How?

## 2. The Carrying of the Cross—A Sorrowful Mystery

Jesus carried the cross He would die on because He loved us, even though it was not an easy thing to do.

**Q:** What have I done today that I really didn't want to do but I did it for someone I love?



## 3. The Ascension—A Glorious Mystery

Three days after Jesus died, his body rose to Heaven to be at the side of His Father.

**Q:** Jesus is in Heaven and now we are His hands, feet, and mouth on earth. Have I carried on Jesus' work of caring and loving my family and friends?



## 4. The Proclamation of the Kingdom—A Mystery of Light

Jesus went about healing the leper, raising the dead, helping the poor .... He asks us to continue doing this until He comes again.

**Q:** How do I help the poor, the sick, and my family every day in God's name?



We can all be heroes, by working hard, listening to our parents and teachers, to other boys and girls. We try to do the best we can. That doesn't necessarily mean we have to always get A's and B's, but we need to do *our* best ... and most of all God knows if we have tried our hardest. God knows ... whether we emptied the rubbish when asked without grumbling ... whether we did favors for friends without anything in return ... whether we shared what we have with others ... and whether we are joyful even when we want to complain. Did you try to be a Hero to everyone around you today?

To learn more about the Rosary or about Father Peyton, go to [www.hcfm.org](http://www.hcfm.org).  
To order a FREE Rosary poster (limited supplies, call soon) send an email to [mission@hcfm.org](mailto:mission@hcfm.org) or call 800-299-PRAY.

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