

# Life of the Spirit

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## THE ROSARY

[The following verses were evidently displayed in a church together with a rosary that visitors could borrow. They are found in a common-place book belonging to the family of Raynes of Acle (Norfolk), and written about 1480. It is now in the Bodleian Tanner MS. No. 407, p. 94.—G.A.]

**M**AN in the churche not idyll thow stande  
but take thy bedys in thy hande  
And yf thow haue here none of thyne  
I pray the take these for the tyme  
And seye a sauter with glad chere  
in worchepp of oure lady dere  
Well sche aqwyte thy mede

and to her sone thyn erden<sup>1</sup> bede  
And thow schalte haue for on sawtere  
of pardon xxiiijti<sup>2</sup> yeere  
xj skore dayes and xiiijne<sup>3</sup>  
of ij papys graunted be dene  
In releessyng of thyn synne  
Whanne thyn soule schall flame & brenne  
And therfore pray with herte and mynde  
and make the qwen of heuen thyn frende  
That you may go stande in her grace  
that sche be thy shyld whenne you schalt pace  
And whanne thow wylt no lenger stonde  
leve the bedys ther thow hem fonde.

1 'abode' or more probably 'errand'.

2 Four and Twenty.

3 Thirteen.