

# FMA

# FOCUS



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Franciscan Mission Associates  
Mt. Vernon, N.Y. 10551

Missions in Guatemala - Honduras - El Salvador, Central America



## Virtue: Faith

Faith, scripture tells us, is confident assurances concerning what we hope for and conviction about things we do not see. The older we get the more faith we have in ourselves, our life choices and in others. We realize how much we don't know about so many things. Faith in our spiritual life is a gift and a responsibility. It is a power given to us by God to see life from His divine perspective. Faith can either develop and grow or wither by neglect. One of the easiest ways to strengthen our faith is to attend Mass at least weekly, or if possible more than that. When we feel the strength of our Faith combined with those in our community it lifts us and sustains us in times of doubt and crisis. ■

## Our Lady's Rosary Today

Pope Francis gives everyone he meets a rosary.

He has said, "Our Lady is always close to her children and ready to help when we pray to her, when we ask for her protection...let us remember she is always ready to serve and never keeps anyone waiting." How lucky we are to have such a source of strength behind us. And how easy it is to hold the beads, made of wood, plastic or glass, and recite the repetitive and restive prayers.

Technology is a great help if you can't get to church to pray the rosary with a community. There are apps that allow for audio versions and step by step instructions on how to pray the rosary. There are also many books for both children and adults that



illustrate the proper order of prayer and the mysteries.

Most scholars agree the rosary is one of the most cherished prayers of our Catholic Church. Throughout history Saints have extolled its virtue. Blessed Pope Pius IX likened it to a shield that can be used to protect. "Give me an army saying the Rosary and I will conquer the world." And St. Padre Pio understood the importance of saying the rosary and its effect on our relationship with our Blessed Mother, "Go to the Madonna. Love her! Always say the Rosary. Say it well. Say it as often as you can! Be souls of prayer. Never tire of praying, it is what is essential!"

The Rosary begins with the Creed, the Our Father, three Hail Marys and the Doxology ("Glory Be"). The rosary then involves the recitation of five decades consisting of the Our Father, 10 Hail Marys and the Doxology. During this recitation, the individual meditates on the mysteries of our Lord's life and the faithful witness of our Blessed Mother.

In praying the rosary we see Christ's life through her eyes, the eyes of a mother, and seek her help in following Him faithfully as she did. The Rosary is a prayer both simple and profound, and so it is suited to every kind of person. In praying the

rosary we place ourselves in each mystery of her life, and see it with her as we plumb its significance for us in our own circumstances. Said regularly with attention and devotion, the rosary increases our faith, lessens the attractions of sins and can lead us step by step to greater holiness of life.

The beauty of the rosary allows the faithful to slow down and truly focus on our Lord and His desire for us to follow Him. Our reminders of Christ's life illuminated by the mysteries, when recited along with the traditional prayers either alone or with a group, reminds us of our Lady's love for us and for her son. ■

## Did You Know?

You can continue to carry on the work of the Missions and the people they serve by remembering them in your estate plans. These legacies of love can be made in many different ways to fit your individual circumstances. Consider making a bequest of whatever you wish to: Franciscan Mission Associates, Mount Vernon, NY 10551-0598. Or, if you wish additional information about making a will, please feel free to contact:

**Father Robert, O.F.M.**  
**Franciscan Mission Associates**  
**PO Box 598, Dept 1172**  
**Mount Vernon, NY 10551-0598**



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# A Sad Farewell after a Lifetime of Service



*It was with great sadness that our community said goodbye to our long time missionary Fr. Donald, 75, who passed into eternal life in April.*

*Fellow Honduran missionary, Fr. Albert, who is based at the parish of Saint Gertrude, described the funeral as “beautiful and full of emotion.” According to Fr. Albert, two Franciscan bishops were present and eight priests. But what really moved all those present, said Fr. Albert, “was that most of the service was taken care of by the very group of blind people Padre Donald use to be in charge of.” This included all of the singing, guitar playing, and also the three readings, which were read in Braille.*

*Fr. Donald, who suffered from visual limitations himself, opened his “Por Nuestros Hermanos” Franciscan Foundation for sensory and physically challenged individuals more than 20 years ago in Honduras. His mission was to provide education, spiritual and physical support to a group of Central American children who might have otherwise been discarded because of their cognitive or physical disabilities. Fr. Donald’s dream began small with just three youngsters but has grown each year and now serves twenty-eight students each year.*

*Fr. Albert said there were many tears for a man who worked tirelessly to give hope to the lives of those less fortunate in his adopted homeland.*



## Helping the Poor - God's work - Corporal and Spiritual works

So often when we hear the “cry of the poor” we do respond. We put money in the basket at church, we donate to our own individual worthy causes and we donate what we don't want to organizations that can use it. When we do, we know we are doing God's work.

The Corporal Works of Mercy are so familiar to us - feed the hungry; give drink to the thirsty; clothe the naked; shelter the homeless; visit the sick; visit imprisoned; and bury the dead. Our material donations including clothing and money help relieve the suffering so often. We can also volunteer time at a particular charity or a prisoner ministry.

The Spiritual Works of Mercy are less hands-on. In a way they include; counseling the doubtful, instructing the ignorant, admonishing the sinner, comforting the sorrowful, forgiving injuries, bearing wrongs patiently and praying for the living and the dead. They illustrate ways, we as Christians, can both evangelize and help a neighbor with a spiritual dilemma.

Now Pope Francis has opened our eyes to another work of mercy, another area where we must act as stewards, something he called the eighth work of both spiritual and corporal mercy and that is the care for our common home. On last year's World Day of Prayer,

Pope Francis declared it was our responsibility to care for our planet.

In his message, the Pope quoted his encyclical *Laudato Si'*:

‘As a spiritual work of mercy, care for our common home calls for a grateful contemplation of God's world which allows us to discover in each thing a teaching which God wishes to hand on to us. As a corporal work of mercy, care for our common home requires simple daily gestures which break with the logic of violence, exploitation and selfishness and makes itself felt in every action that seeks to build a better world’ (*Laudato Si'*).

Pope Francis urges us to hear both the “cry of the poor and the cry of the earth.” He has hope we will follow his lead and show our love and care and mercy to all that God has created for us – offering this prayer that we can recite to remember all the works we need to put into practice.

O God of the poor,  
help us to rescue the abandoned  
and forgotten of this earth,  
who are so precious in your eyes...

God of love, show us our place in this  
world

as channels of your love  
for all the creatures of this earth.

God of mercy, may we receive your  
forgiveness

and convey your mercy throughout  
our common home. ■

# GOD'S GUIDANCE IN FOLLOWING ST. ANTHONY

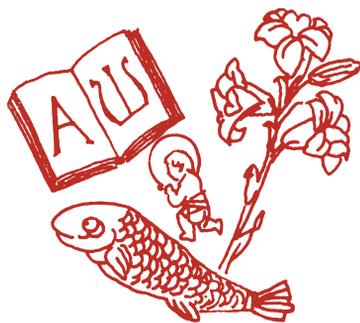
All of us instinctively desire to manage our own lives in the way we may think best, but our human wisdom is fallible. Oh, but we don't see that. How often are we disappointed when we picture a new path, start down it and discover no pot of gold. In fact, often we are halfway down this new road and we turn around realizing we are completely lost. Try as we might, we often don't see the clear true passageway. God always has a better plan for us than any we may decide upon as St. Anthony's experience demonstrates.

We hear his story often but it is an apt one to remember. Anthony was one of St. Francis of Assisi's most famous followers. Anthony's help is invoked many times a day when something is lost – who doesn't remember the little prayer – Dear St. Anthony please come around, something is lost and it can not be found. Everyone remembers that but lets not forget Anthony himself needed help being found when he was beginning his religious journey. Thinking God was calling him to be a martyr and to serve in the missions in Africa, Anthony boarded a ship. But he quickly realized this was his human idea of what his life should be not God's divine path. Anthony became gravely ill and was on a ship returning to Portugal when a storm drove the vessel to Italy instead.

Again we realize someone else was driving this ship. In Italy, Anthony's true talent was revealed and he became known as a brilliant teacher and preacher. So many times St. Anthony

was looking down the wrong side of the divided road. He took the path his human mind told him would be best but God knew better, as He always does. As he aged and became more mature, St. Anthony allowed God to guide him, he saw the missteps and realized he was not in control. And sometimes for us, it is hard to stop our prideful ways and stubborn searches for that pot of gold. We need to realize God's omnipotence is something we can rely on. "It's far off God sends." As the old Irish proverb proclaims.

Difficult as it may seem, often the best course when in troubled waters is to call upon the Lord and ask him to send a guiding star, an intuition, a way... the necessary confidence to continue. Faith in God's constant care and concern for us leads to utter trust in His providential guidance, so ask St. Anthony of Padua for such an increase in your faith.



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FranciscanMissionAssoc](http://www.facebook.com/FranciscanMissionAssoc)

# The Purpose of Life

Many of us learned in catechism days that God made us to know Him, and to serve Him during our earthly life and to be happy with Him forever in heaven. This concept is reinforced in Catholic school or CCD and certainly we hear it in our readings at Sunday and daily Mass. We pray to Him, we revere Him and we fulfill our baptismal responsibility of evangelizing. But how do we insure we do all these activities with the deep knowledge of Christ. Sometimes it is not so easy.

How to know God, who is Himself unknowable, may seem impossible for many of us. The Mystery of it, the reliance on true faith can be difficult. We can't ever truly understand God or the way He knows us. We have to instead become comfortable with our limited humanness. Often we remain satisfied with a childish knowledge of God long after we are mature adults. "Philip, he who sees me, sees the Father" (Jn. 14:9). It is a comfort to realize we don't have to know everything. It doesn't mean we abdicate our responsibilities in this life. We still must practice our faith and offer ourselves to Christ. But our decisions can be made with the knowledge that God knows the path and the way and

will be there to pick us up if we fall. Our Savior says the same message to each of us.

When we want to draw closer to our Lord there are already prescriptions in place. A prayerful reading of the Scriptures and daily reflection on Christ's life and work leads us to know God in Christ, His Son. Reading passages from the New Testament, especially the Gospels, each evening can be a way to communicate with the Lord and get to become reacquainted with the life of Jesus. Hearing about the stories of him in the temple, preaching at a young age or performing his first miracle are ones we are so familiar with. Since we know those, how about looking up some stories of Jesus's interactions with people including John the Baptist, Mary Magdalene and Zaccheus. A tax collector by trade Zaccheus was considered a sinner by many but our Lord and Savior forgives all. These stories emphasize Jesus's compassion for humanity and for those he encountered. Meditating on these passages guides us to greater faith in God's presence and greater knowledge of His goodness through love and service for others. ■

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## HAPPY BIRTHDAY

**Father Robert includes a special remembrance for all Franciscan Mission Associates on their birthday if he knows when it is. To be remembered at his Mass on your birthday please send him the filled in form below at any time.**

My name is \_\_\_\_\_

My Birthday is: Month and Day \_\_\_\_\_

My address is \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Fr. Robert, O.F.M., Dept. 1175,

Franciscan Mission Associates, PO Box 598, Mount Vernon, NY 10551-0598

# Director's Letter

Fr. Robert, O.F.M.

FRANCISCAN FRIARS/P.O. BOX 598/MOUNT VERNON, N.Y. 10551-0598

TEL. AREA CODE: 914 664-5604



Dear Friends,

As we usher in another fall, with its bountiful harvest and brilliant natural beauty, we can take some time to quiet our minds and focus on our faith. Autumn is ideal to take stock of our personal faith and look for ways to strengthen it and our relationship with the Lord. Pope Francis is an unceasing example of faith, from his trips to war torn areas to his reminders that the planet also is our gift from God; he exudes his faith and shows all of humanity its importance.

Recently Pope Francis called on us to cling to our faith even though we witness daily violence and intolerance. "The Church never ceases to say, faced with our defeaters, our closed and fearful herds, 'Stop, the Lord is risen.'"

Our faith is a gift. It is our lifeboat when our own personal world gets rocky, when we are faced with unemployment, sickness and even death. We know God has a plan and we are a part of that wider community raising our voices and hearts to Him. Our faith sustains us, as it sustains our Mission brothers. They witness such poverty and violence but they have in their hearts the joy of God's love and a strong unwavering faith. They are lights in the lives of so many. And we know we are only able to continue our work because of your generous sacrifices. For that we are eternally grateful.

God bless you this fall and always,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Fr. Robert, ofm". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Fr. Robert, O.F.M.

# MIS HIJOS — MY SONS

By Amanda Ceraldi

*Amanda is a full time missionary with Franciscan Mission Service serving at the Valley of the Angels orphanage*

I must have said goodbye to George at least ten times. Every time I saw him I would squeeze him in my arms, kiss him on the forehead, and tell him how proud of him I was. We had just left George's 6th grade promotion ceremony and he was packing his bags to go home. This was the last time I knew I would see him before he left and moved on to a new school next year and I wasn't sure if I could handle it.

George was one of the first students I met when I came to Valley nearly two years ago. When I met him I was convinced that he hated me. He spent a lot of time avoiding me, never talked to me, and would even avoid eye contact with me at all costs. After a few weeks of slowly breaking down the barriers George had built up, he told me that he loved me and that I was his best friend. We've spent the past two years talking together, laughing together, and playing together. George has become one of my best friends. I once asked him why he didn't like me when I first came to Valley. He laughed at me and said that he struggled his whole life with people walking into his life and quickly turning around and leaving him. He was afraid that once again he would be abandoned. George told me that he didn't trust me and couldn't love me until he knew that I wasn't going to leave.

George and the three other boys who recently graduated from Valley were the four kids who I quickly fell in love with when I came to Valley. They were the boys that laughed at my poor Spanish pronunciation and helped me practice to get better, the boys who helped take out my trash, bring my fruits and vegetables to my door, and volunteered to clean my apartment, they were the boys who asked for *clases de consejo*—advice classes, on everything from their education to family struggles, and how to treat

women to life after Valley. These boys taught me how to love and became like my sons.

In the final week before their graduation, and ultimately our last time all together, the four boys joined me and other members of the Valley community in my apartment for a graduation lunch filled with every possible food the boys could dream of. As we sat around the table, Fr. Michael, the director at Valley, began to ask the boys questions about their time at Valley and what their dreams and goals are for the future. That quickly changed into conversations on religion and what God wants for us in our lives.

As I sat around the table listening to my "sons" talk about their hopes and dreams, tears filled my eyes and I've never had such an immense feeling of joy and pride. I watched these boys grow over the last two years. Before my eyes they went from little boys to young men. I may be dreading the days that we are no longer together at Valley, but I know in my heart that these boys are prepared for the world. They are strong and kind, caring, and determined, joyful and loving. These four boys that I love so much will always be in my heart. They became my best friends and my sons. They taught me more than I could have ever imagined and I will forever be grateful for their presence in my life. ■





## AGAPE WINS AWARDS AND CONTINUES TO GROW IN GOD'S LOVE

*Fr. Jack, O.F.M.*

Late last year, Fr. Flavian, O.F.M., was honored once again by the “Centro Española” in San Salvador. The event began with a Mass celebrated at Our Lady of the Sacred Heart Church staffed by the Claretian Fathers from Spain in honor of St. James the Apostle (the Patron Saint of Spain). After Mass, we gathered at the Centro Española for the ensuing act of recognizing six honorees of the Cross of

St. James. Fr. Flavian’s history touched on his 49 years in El Salvador as founder and president of AGAPE during these past 38 years and his work among the orphans prior to AGAPE when he began the SOS Villages (Aldeas Infantiles) in various towns in El Salvador.

To date, after 38 years, AGAPE has impacted every single department of the country and continues to develop the



poorest of the poor by providing health care, education, Christian values, Evangelization, especially via radio and television program and the basic needs for a dignified existence as a Child of God. Our motto has become: With AGAPE, Yes, We Can (do it)!

Not one to rest on his laurels, Fr. Flavian is always looking forward. This year he signed a historic agreement with the Municipality of San Francisco Gotera, that allows for construction of the new AGAPE Center in Morazán. According to the agreement, the City Hall as owner of the land, located in Colonia Santa Clara, grants it in lending to the AGAPE Association of El Salvador, for a period of 50 years.

The new AGAPE Center will bring development opportunities for men and women from Morazán, where various services will be implemented, including professional training workshops.

All at AGAPE thanked the mayor and all her municipal council for the confidence she gives to the AGAPE Association of El Salvador in the execution of this new project, which they hope will be the first of many others with which it is possible to support the population of San Francisco Gotera, Morazán. ■



# Words Worth Noting



*Those whose hearts are pure are temples of the Holy Spirit.*

*Saint Lucy*

*Life is a journey. When we stop, things don't go right.*

*Pope Francis*

*All you need in this life is ignorance and confidence and success is sure.*

*Mark Twain*

*The real problem is not why some pious, humble, believing people suffer, but why some do not.*

*C.S. Lewis*

*Faith means trusting in advance what will only make sense in reverse.*

*Phillip Yancey*

*Never give up for that is just the place and the time that the tide will turn.*

*Harriet Beecher Stowe*

*The secret to staying young is to live honestly, eat slowly, and lie about your age.*

*Lucille Ball*

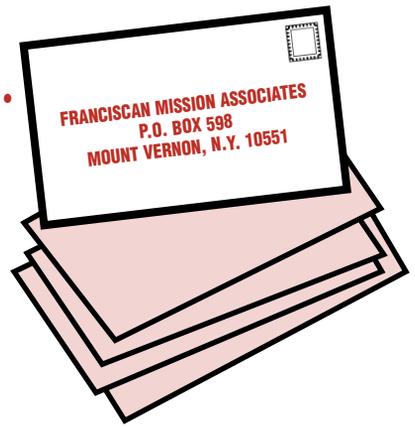
*I'm not afraid of storms, for I am learning to sail my own ship.*

*Mary Louise Alcott*

*The most powerful weapon to conquer the devil is humility. As he does not know at all how to employ it, neither does he know how to defend himself from it.*

*Saint Vincent de Paul*

# Our Readers gladly write...



Dear Father Robert,

I am writing to thank you for the 50 rosary booklets you sent. My children and extended family were very happy to have them. As all were not taken, I am planning on sending them with the rosaries I send each month to our service men and women. All who attended my party had a great time. Thank you again for the gift of the rosary booklets.

Sincerely in Christ,  
R.K.  
Ocala, FL

Dear Father Robert,

Just a short note to thank St. Anthony for finding so many objects. I am most grateful.

Sincerely,  
J.S.  
Homewood, IL

Dear Father Robert,

I feel truly blessed by your encouragement and assurance. Thank you all for your faithful prayers. Enclosed is a donation. It is for St. Anthony's Bread. I was astonished to realize the many good works F.M.A. is doing! I would love to be there and offer hands-on involvement. Be assured I am there in spirit. I think of you all so often and keep your intentions close to my heart. May God continue to bless us so that we may also be blessings to others.

J.R.  
Brookings, OR

Dear Father Robert,

I consider it a privilege to have a close relationship with the Franciscans as they carry out their mission to minister to others in the name of our Lord Jesus. My small donation, in my own mind, was beneath such recognition. You bless me by sending me that letter. It is my hope that I can continue to support your endeavors and enjoy our relationship.

Your brother in Christ,  
A.D.P.  
Staten Island, NY

Dear Father,

Enclosed is a check in thanksgiving to St. Anthony for helping me find the diamond that fell off my wedding ring. Please publish my thanks in your magazine.

A.M.B.  
Mattawa, WA

# MARY'S MANY SORROWS

While many pray to Mary during the month of May, September is also a time to reflect on the life of the Blessed Mother. September 15 is the feast of Our Lady of Sorrows. When we think of the life of Mary we truly remember how much it was filled with anguish. As a girl she is asked by God to become the mother of Jesus. A miracle and sacred responsibility bestowed on one so young. And through her life she suffered as a martyr. The feast in September is dedicated, in fact, to the spiritual martyrdom of Mary and her compassion with the suffering of her son.

There are seven sorrows of Mary, depicted as seven arrows in 17th century art, they are:

1. The prophecy of Simeon, "You yourself shall be pierced with a sword so that the thoughts of many hearts may be laid bare." (Luke 2:35)

2. The flight into Egypt. "Get up, take the child and his mother and flee to Egypt." (Matthew 2:13)

3. Loss of the Child Jesus for three days, "You see that your father and I have been searching for you in sorrow." (Luke 2:48)

4. Mary meets Jesus on his way to Calvary.

5. Crucifixion and Death of Jesus, "Near the cross of Jesus there stood His mother." (John 19:25)

6. The body of Jesus being taken from the Cross.

7. The burial of Jesus.

These heart-wrenching scenes give the faithful a glimpse into the deep suffering of Mary as a mother. Many of us find the concept of standing at

the foot of the cross as your child is lowered into your arms unimaginable. Truly during her life, Mary agonized. In each of these sorrows, though, Mary is steadfast in her belief that despite her suffering and her son's, the Lord's will must be done.

In 1815 Pope Pius VII approved a devotion to the Seven Sorrows. The readings for this feast day include the option of the *Stabat Mater*, a 13th century meditation to Mary that details her suffering during Christ's crucifixion. Its somber words detail Mary's pain but also invoke the hope all Christians hold for our everlasting life and renewal:

O thou Mother! fount of love!  
Touch my spirit from above,  
make my heart with thine accord:

Make me feel as thou hast felt;  
make my soul to glow and melt  
with the love of Christ my Lord.

For, it is with God's love and Mary's intercession that we will all be together with Christ in heaven. ■



# THE HABIT OF PRAYER



Like any art such as swimming, cooking or painting, we become more skilled with experience and practice. So it is with prayer. The way to learn how to pray is by praying. We pray better when it becomes a daily habit. This is easier once we realize that prayer is not a matter of reciting words, though The Lord's Prayer, and other set prayers can be a useful model. Prayer is mainly a matter of recognizing God's constant presence, speaking to Him from the heart as you would a well-loved friend, and even more listening to His response.

Often we mistake prayer with lecture – we talk TO God, we ask for help, we thank Him for his many blessings, but we don't give Him the chance to talk back. We don't listen to God as we should. The world is too loud, too busy and too fast. We need to step back in the fall season and listen.

One of the best ways to listen rather than speak is to find at your parish or one in your community, Eucharistic Adoration. Some of the beautiful prayers used during adoration include the Anima Christi and the Tantum Ergo. Adoration is a time to be silent, alone or with a group, and truly listen for God's whisper. During Adoration we are given the opportunity to be in the presence of the exposed Blessed Sacrament. Many Catholic

schools invite parishioners to sit with students as they meditate for 10 – 15 minutes in Adoration. What an amazing sight to see five and six year olds kneel quietly in awe of the power of the Eucharist.

There are many ways to insure prayer becomes a habit; increasing your participating during Mass. Don't just mouth the words during the traditional prayers, but say them out loud, listen to the words and really take them in.

It's also possible that you may be praying without realizing you are. This may not be in the Church or in your room but as you walk to work, wait in line at the market or relax in a moment at your desk or kitchen table. Some people take their confounding commute each day, for many in big cities it is thirty minutes to an hour; transform it into a time of peace and communing with God. If each day for those sixty minutes, instead of complaining about the other drivers, try reaching out to our Lord or listen to the local Christian music station, we might find the travel not as stressful.

Remember, God waits constantly for your attention and love since He is always close to us, closer than we are to ourselves. God is the only person who never finds us tiresome. ■

Visit us on the web  
[franciscanmissionassoc.org](http://franciscanmissionassoc.org)

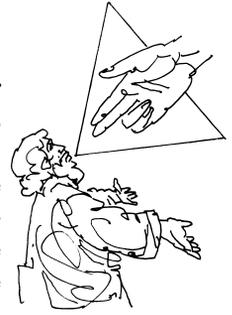
# FATHER FORGIVE THEM

The most startling words we hear from Jesus are usually ones of pardon and forgiveness. As he hung from the Cross, his prayer to His Father about those who had crucified him said “Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do,” (Lk. 23:34). It also was said on our behalf. Often our sins are thoughtless, harmful, hurting not only others but adding to the burden of the Cross.

For teens, it is the offhanded slight that can feel like so much more. When we are young we don’t even realize the hurt we can do. And most don’t even connect their hurts to the pain Christ had. But this is where we as parents and teachers and older adults in their lives can influence them. We must show them that when they inflict pain on themselves and others, they are separating themselves from Christ. They are not valuing the sacrifices He made for them and for all of us. Young people are hungry for a path, a direction. Let’s ease them onto the one that leads to salvation.

Being human however means, making mistakes, committing sin. We know that and we welcome that. Sometimes the faith-filled recognize they are sinners but don’t see the flip side of that

coin. That despite our failings, Christians are never doomed. Throughout his life Jesus forgave sinners, much to the consternation of the Pharisees, “The son of man has authority on earth to forgive sins” (Matthew 9:8).



After his death and resurrection Jesus breathed on his Apostles and passed on this gift of forgiveness, “Receive the Holy Spirit. If you forgive the sins of any, they are forgiven; if you retain the sins of any, they are retained” (John 20:21–23). God will always forgive those who are truly sorry for their sins, even those whose sins directly caused him physical pain.

To be like Jesus, which is our real aim in life, we should take these words to heart. When we are most hurt, most suffering, most angry with others for what they have done to us, we should echo that prayer of Jesus on the Cross. “Father, forgive them.” Our generous thought will bring us closer to Jesus and in the end closer to those who have done us ill. Remember Jesus died for all, not just those who do us good, but those who do us ill as well. ■

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## ST. ANTHONY’S BREAD

Offerings in honor of St. Anthony, either in petition for a favor sought, or in thanksgiving for a favor received, are used to assist the poor. Thus, they have received the name, St. Anthony’s Bread. Such offerings are also used to help educate priests and religious.

Fr. Robert will gladly send you a leaflet explaining the origin and purpose of this devout practice, now centuries old. Please write:

**St. Anthony’s Bread, Franciscan Mission Associates**  
**PO Box 598, Dept 1173, Mount Vernon, NY 10551-0598**

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## Special Novena Schedule Fall 2017

All year round Franciscan Mission Associates conducts a regular schedule of spiritual and devotional exercises in which all benefactors are invited to take part. During the Fall months the Special Novena schedule is:

September 2-10/11-19 .....	St. Jude Novena
September 21-29 .....	Feast of St. Michael
September 26-October 4 .....	Feast of St. Francis (in Assisi)
September 29-October 7 .....	Feast of the Holy Rosary
October 7-October 15 .....	Feast of the Holy Rosary
October 24-December 19 .....	Novena to St. Anthony on the 9 Tuesdays before Christmas

All Franciscan Mission Associates, sponsors, and benefactors are asked to join in prayer for the intentions and petitions of those taking part in the exercises. Please pray also for our Franciscan missionaries, for the people they serve, for an increase in vocations and for all our associates. Holy Mass is offered each day for all benefactors and for the intentions they request. Kindly forward your petitions for the Novenas scheduled to:

**Father Robert, O.F.M., Franciscan Mission Associates  
PO Box 598, Dept 1171, Mount Vernon, NY 10551-0598**

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### Join us on Pilgrimage

HEART OF ITALY,  
INSPIRED BY HER SAINTS  
MAY 8-18, 2018

*Assisi – San Giovanni Rotondo  
Amalfi - Capri - Pompeii - Rome*

-----  
Dear Father, Please send information on Pilgrimage to Italy

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_ EMAIL \_\_\_\_\_

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