

FMA

FOCUS



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

Missions in Guatemala - Honduras - El Salvador, Central America



Virtue: Awareness

Life's distractions often make being truly aware a challenge. But we must work toward it to find fulfillment. In professional life being aware can mean a promotion; in personal life it can mean a chance at a loving relationship with another person. And if one is spiritually aware the rewards are boundless and truly transforming. Persons blessed with awareness realize God's presence and power, and their own place in life as well as their connection with the rest of creation. Being aware of God's presence can make decision-making joyful and less stressful. If you live your life knowing God is with you and is guiding you, life falls into place. That understanding, that God never leaves our sides, makes difficult times bearable. ■



The Mercy of the Sacred Heart

Jesus, our master and Lord is fully and wholly a man just as truly as He is God. This is not an easy concept to understand. But in June, one way we focus on Jesus's humanity is to dedicate time to the devotion of The Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. The Sacred Heart is depicted in art as bound with thorns and often glowing or radiating. According to art historians, that portrayal aims to illustrate Jesus's pain and suffering that he underwent to create the path for his follower's salvation. His human heart is a symbol of his abiding love for all those He has redeemed. As man our Savior understands human weakness and malice, and yet in His unchanging love has a special place in His heart for sinners, the weak, and those whom the world deems worthless and of no account. One group that

too often the world believes worthless is refugees. Literal lost souls who, often, are fleeing living conditions most cannot understand. Pope Benedict XVI, in an address in 2005, spoke eloquently on the need to include those forced out of their own homes.

Recalling this great bishop, (Blessed Giovanni Battista Scalabrini, bishop and patron of immigrants) my thoughts go to those who are far from their homeland and often also from their families; I hope that they will always meet receptive friends and hearts on their path who are capable of supporting them in the difficulties of every day.

Christ's predilection for the lost, strayed and stolen is exemplified in the parable of the Good Shepherd. In that reading the shepherd is not satisfied to have "most" of the flock. No he must leave ninety-nine in the desert to search for that one lost sheep. Those in need of compassion, and especially the poor, hold a place close to the heart of our current Pope, Francis. When we uphold our responsibility to act as Christ and reach out to those poor and marginalized, we are drawing closer to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. This not only deepens our own spiritual life but

it makes more rich the spiritual life of our whole community.

Justice will never be fully attained unless people see in the poor person, who is asking for help in order to survive, not an annoyance or a burden, but an opportunity for showing kindness and a chance for greater enrichment. (John Paul II)

Let us remember this year, and especially this month, that Jesus's love for humanity was never wavering and we should work, in our human condition, to best share that love with others. This year The Solemnity of the Sacred Heart Mass will be celebrated June 8. ■

REMEMBRANCE

You can continue to carry on your own good work for the missions and the people they serve by remembering them in your will. To do so, simply make a bequest of whatever you wish to: FRANCISCAN MISSION ASSOCIATES, Mount Vernon, NY 10551. If you wish additional information about how to do this, please feel free to contact:

**Franciscan Mission Associates
PO Box 598, Dept 4182
Mount Vernon, NY 10551-0598**



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Please address all correspondence to Father Robert, O.F.M., at P.O. Box 598, Mount Vernon, N.Y. 10551. Please send changes of address six weeks in advance; if possible include your mailing label, and give both old and new address.

MAKING TODAY COUNT WITH CONSCIOUS ACTS OF DISCIPLINE

If you've ever watched a fisherman cast or a water skier practice or a baseball player run for home, you've seen the results of discipline at work. Somehow we don't mind disciplining ourselves for success in sports or work or a hobby. Why can't we do it for God as well. This idea of spiritual discipline and penance is especially hard to remember when we are on vacation in the summer months, so it is the best time to practice it. Here are some dos and some don'ts.

Do pick up after yourself, even if you are traveling. Make the workload lighter for those who usually clean up. Stack the dishwasher instead of using paper plates, make the load easier on the earth too. How about a "don't?" Don't be the first to grab those warm brownies out of the oven, or that delicious ice cream. Give everyone a chance to get some dessert first. These small sacrifices are simple and succeed in strengthening your own spiritual well-being, and others too because they will see you putting them first.

Another way to practice discipline is to practice focus. It is summer and often those warm lazy days make us daydream and lose some focus on the present. With God who sees all time as one, there is no past or future only an everlasting now. However good it may have been in the past or what joys and pleasures you can remember physical or a spiritual, it does no good to dwell

on the past. To be most like God which is our destiny and our aim, is to live, as He does, in the everlasting now. The present is what counts, what we do with it and how we live it. So how do we make the most of the present? We use our discipline and our clear-eyed thoughts to focus and be grateful for what we have now, in the present, without looking for some far off payday. If we don't we risk not hearing God's voice as he guides us. Lastly one of the best ways to focus, and to bring clarity and centering into your life is to begin each day with a prayer asking for the gift of the day with the knowledge and wisdom to use the day with God in mind. When we put God first, in both our day and our life, we will be focused on today and the present and will be able to become the best disciples and versions of ourselves. ■



Visit us on the web
franciscanmissionassoc.org

Modeling St. Anthony's Courtesy

Imagine if you will, that someone asks for your help hundreds of times a day, over and over. Of course if you are a parent you know this well. So do nurses, teachers, and many others whose lives are dedicated to service. Yes, in all my walks it seems to me the grace of God is in courtesy and kindness. According to the dictionary, courtesy is described as “the showing of politeness in attitude and behavior toward others, or a considerate act or expression.”

There are so many ways we can extend our courtesy to grow spiritually. One way is at Mass. During the summer months the pews will have plenty of room. With vacations and college students gone for the summer there are usually fewer people at the service. But more legroom means fewer ushers, fewer altar servers and fewer lectors. If you are sticking around for the summer why not go to the parish and offer your services for one of these positions. They certainly need help and that would ease the pressure. That is one way to show courtesy and kindness. And when the cold weather rolls around don't just put away your newly formed courtesy. Unlike summer the pews become much more crowded during the Advent and Christmas season. Perhaps the lectors and servers are back but the legroom in the aisles and the pews has shrunk. Resist the urge

to, even silently, object to the “new-comers” who are populating the pews. If they are exposed to courtesy and kindness from those who are mainstays they may want to continue to come to Mass even when the decorations are long put away.



The exquisite courtesy of God, Himself, in binding Himself to our free choice is reflected in St. Anthony. What saint was ever busier than Good St. Anthony in tending to the needs of those devoted to him, interceding, in heaven for the humble, often humdrum favors of those asking for his aid. St. Anthony is a perfect example of courtesy and kindness in that he is so often our “go to” saint when we need anything. It is no surprise that one of his first jobs at the Abbey was hospitality. He was, according to all reports, a giving and kind man. Remember he came from a wealthy family but gave that up to follow the Lord. A quick prayer to this beloved saint, whether it is for a lost item or a wayward soul is never ignored and is instead treated with the greatest respect. Let us model ourselves after St. Anthony and be a beacon of courtesy. ■

DONATING ONLINE IS SIMPLE

Each day families in the poorest and most dangerous nations see hope and light because of your donations. And now you can offer your financial support online. The link below will direct you to our website. You can read about our work and see how a small sacrifice from you can make life-changing differences for so many.

http://www.franciscanmissionassoc.org/enrollments_supporter.cfm

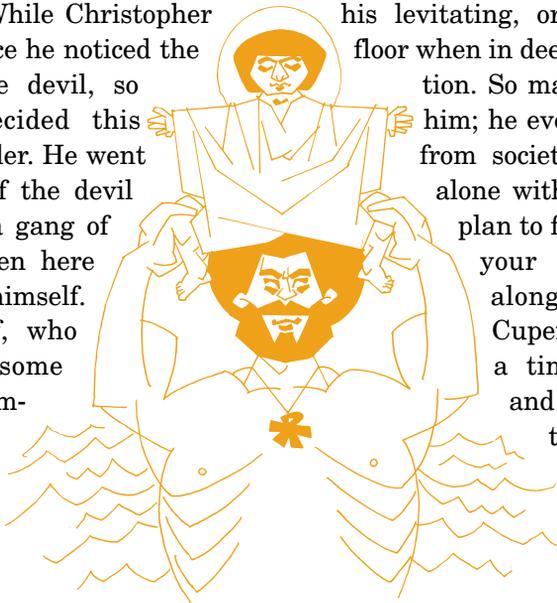
TRAVELING WITH SOME SUMMER SAINTS

Like no other season of the year, summer gives us an inkling of the climate of heaven. The warm days that stretch on forever. The bodies of water, pools – lakes – oceans - filled with people enjoying a bit of respite.

If you are planning to travel this summer and would like to take a few Saints with you here are two who might just be good company, first and foremost, how about St. Christopher. This patron saint of travel, often pictured with the Christ child on his shoulder, is a good companion and a saint to invoke no matter where you travel. According to folklore, Christopher was an enormous man – some stories say over seven feet. According to legend he also had a warrior attitude and was determined to serve the greatest king of all. This journey led him to a strong and famous king. While Christopher was in his service he noticed the king feared the devil, so Christopher decided this was to be his ruler. He went out in search of the devil and landed in a gang of thieves. But even here God revealed himself. The head thief, who according to some stories called himself “the devil” seemed afraid of a cross. Ah,

Christopher then realized the most powerful of all – Jesus and learned all he could about our Lord. His feast day is in July also so he is a Summer Saint.

Another summer saint to take along this year is St. Joseph of Cupertino, patron of aviators and flying. St. Joseph was born in Cupertino Italy. Joseph had a difficult youth and young adulthood, not at all sure of himself and not accomplished in many things, though very devoted to our Lord. Joseph first joined the Capuchins but was dismissed shortly after. After an unhappy spell at home, Joseph was accepted as a servant at the Franciscan monastery, where he eventually was able to enter the order. Things began to change for Joseph as the Holy Spirit began to work miracles. Those around Joseph talked of his levitating, or rising from the floor when in deep prayer or adulation. So many tried to get to him; he eventually withdrew from society which left him alone with the Lord. If you plan to fly this summer on your vacation, bring along St. Joseph of Cupertino. Summer is a time for recreation and relaxation and if traveling, don't go alone, bring along some Saints. ■



Persistence in one's work St. Monica

St. Monica, also known as Monica of Hippo was a very important influence in the life of her son, St. Augustine, a highly revered saint in his own right. And it is for this relationship she is well known. But St. Monica, whose summer feast day falls on August 27, is also known for her persistence in her work to spread the word of God and to gather the errant sinner. She spent her life praying for the conversion of both her husband and her son. And did not rest until she had fulfilled that goal.

According to her biographies, St. Monica was born in the early 300s, of Christian parents in North Africa but was married to a pagan named Patritius. The pair had three children, Augustine, Navigus and Perpetua. Both Patritius and his mother who came to live with the couple, were of bad temper. While not Christian, and in opposition to her almsgiving and prayer habits, it is said that Patritius allowed his wife to have her faith, even relenting and allowing Augustine to be baptized when he fell ill as a baby. For her sake she never gave up on her husband, despite her unhappy marriage and his disinterest in the

Word of The Lord. She dedicated her life to both his and her son's conversion. And it worked! Just before his death Patritius converted to Christianity. Monica's work was still not done. Now she had to turn her sights on her wayward son. In the intervening years Augustine had become a father, allied himself to a different religion and tried in vain to get away from his mother. He was not spiritually ready to embrace the truth. Despite his many, many bad turns, St. Monica never gave up on her son. She followed him all over Italy and finally caught up with him. There she became a big part of his life and was relentless in her efforts to open his eyes. Finally after more than a dozen years, it also worked. After six months of intense discussion and intervention by St. Ambrose, Augustine was baptized in 387, fulfilling a lifelong dream of his mother's. And it was time because she died soon after and was buried and remained a relatively unknown saint for years. St. Monica is the patron of among other issues, difficult marriages, victims of abuse and conversion of relatives. ■

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

To be remembered at Mass on your birthday please send the filled in form below at any time to Franciscan Mission Associates.

My name is _____

My Birthday is: Month and Day _____

My address is _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Franciscan Mission Associates, Dept. 4185, 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 of the Franciscans,

The beauty of summer is upon us. The warmer weather, the vacations and the many ways we celebrate what for some, is the best season. This issue of FOCUS directs a spotlight on awareness, a tough word for some in this busy world. For Christians our awareness isn't just about ourselves, or our surroundings, although it is a large part. We are also aware of the reality of Christ and His impact on our lives and our future.

Being fully aware of Christ and His ultimate sacrifice can redirect our lives when they go astray. It humbles us to realize we are part of such an important community. This privilege comes with responsibility. In summer sometimes we take a "vacation" from Sunday Mass, we indulge in ways that perhaps do not reflect awareness. God never turns from us, He never forgets us, He is always aware of our needs and our mercy toward others and ourselves.

Summer months are filled with sunshine and sometimes relaxed schedules but let's maintain our awareness of our baptismal responsibilities and this will insure we devote time to God.

May God bless you,

Fr. Robert, OFM

Fr. Robert, O.F.M.

SAVING LIVES AND REDUCING SUFFERING

The Association AGAPE of El Salvador Responds to a Common Disorder
by Fr. Jack, O.F.M.

It has been three years since AGAPE inaugurated its new clinic on campus in Sonzacate, Sonsonate which would begin to service the special needs of those with renal deficiencies. And how it has grown since that day. Chief among recipients would be AGAPE's founding Franciscan, Fr. Flavian, who journeyed twice a week for almost a year to the capital in the wee hours of the morning to begin his three-hour ordeal. The trip alone was an hour up to the capital and an hour back to AGAPE in Sonzacate. Fr. Flavian with the consensus of his personal physician, (a specialist in kidney transplants), and the medical staff at AGAPE, saw the need in the local area for offering treatment to those with renal problems so they did not have to travel so long at such a cost.

What was surprising about creating a facility to treat this disease was the fact that numerous patients near and far began to take notice and soon the number of recipients has grown such that we now have 12 machines operating twice a day or more, and we need to expand. Who would have thought that this service would provide opportunities for countless individuals with kidney problems or that there were so many people in need of such care? Once again, AGAPE has come to the aid of those suffering with this problem offering affordable and tender loving care. There are patients from multiple regions of El Salvador and a few who'll make the journey from Guatemala. Clearly there are

a few who desperately need dialysis but cannot afford the minimum fee of \$90. Others struggle with the under market cost of such treatment of \$125, but nevertheless find a way to make payment in order to live another day, another week, another month, or another year with the hopes of a transplant possibility.

Besides the idea of expanding our own Hemodialysis Clinic at AGAPE in Sonzacate, there is a plan to set up another facility in the eastern part of the country in the town of Zacatecoluca. This would offer many of the patients that travel from eastern corners of the country to the capital another option, much closer and definitely more affordable.

Thanks to donors like yourselves, thousands of poor and needy men and women, young and old, here in El Salvador through the works and programs of AGAPE, have benefitted enormously from your generous and selfless giving. Your gift has the power to transform lives. May the Lord continue to bless you as you reach out in loving support of the "littlest and humblest" of our brothers and sisters in Christ. ■





Another full day in our Hemodialysis clinic; there are patients from Guatemala (Ceferina), from La Libertad, El Salvador, from the capital (San Salvador), from Ahuachapán, El Salvador, from Izalco, El Salvador and from Sonsonate.



Here, of course, is our own Fr. Flavian, O.F.M., founder and president of the Association AGAPE de El Salvador receiving his treatment. He alternates two treatments one week and three the following week.



Half way through their treatments, AGAPE provides a snack for each patient. Some have traveled a fairly long distance to begin dialysis and are in need of nourishment.

TUCKING IN GOD'S LITTLE ANGELS

A Valley of Angels volunteer writes about being moved by a nighttime ritual

By Miss Amanda

Growing up, one of my favorite things about my day was bedtime. I never particularly liked having to go to bed, but I loved the act of being tucked in to bed. Every night as a child, my parents would come into my room, get me settled under the covers of my bed, turn off the light, pray with me, kiss me on the forehead, give me hugs and wish me sweet dreams. On nights that my parents would return home late from dinner or an evening out with friends I'd secretly stay awake and wait for them to softly kiss me on the cheek and whisper how much they loved me in my ear. These small acts before bed are some of my favorite memories of my childhood.

Being tucked into bed by my parents as a child is something that I cherish to this day. It has helped form the foundation of my being. For me, being tucked in at night is one of the greatest gifts a parent can give their child, it is how I learned how to love in little ways, how I knew that not only that I was deeply loved by my parents, but that I was unconditionally loved by God, and what I knew, that I would want to pass on to my future children.

So, on mission, I found myself living in Guatemala, at a boarding school for poor, abused, and marginalized children, in an apartment just 50 feet away from the boys dorm rooms. These 25 adorable little boys quickly became like my children. They are the reason I want to wake up in the morning, they

are the reason I constantly have a smile on my face, and they are the reason I yearned to love in the way my parents love me.

One night, while watching the boys getting ready for bed I decided to go into their rooms to simply say goodnight. That quick trip turned into bedtime stories, prayers, carrying boys to their beds, tucking them under the covers, and hugs and kisses goodnight.

The next day, one of the little boys came up to me asking if I'd come over that night to tuck them into bed. There was no way I could refuse. That night as I was leaving their dorm, another boy whispered to me *que sueñes con los angelitos*—dream with the angels. From then on, I knew that I needed to make it a priority to tuck these beautiful boys into bed at night.

This life giving tradition that my parents dedicated their nights to me while I was a child was a tradition that I now get to share with the boys of Valley of the Angels. So at night, I help the boys get ready to go to sleep, we snuggle together on the floor talking about the best parts of our day, I help them into their beds, kiss them on the forehead, give them a hug, tuck them under their covers, and whisper into their ears, *que sueñes con los angelitos*. This is the way that I show them unconditional love and let them know that I love them and God loves them, just as my parents did for me. ■



Words Worth Noting



It's not what you look at that matters, it is what you see.

Henry David Thoreau

A man may die, nations may rise and fall, but an idea lives on.

John F. Kennedy

A positive attitude may not solve all your problems, but it will annoy enough people to make it worth the effort.

Herm Albright

Do not wait for leaders; do it alone, person to person.

St. Teresa of Calcutta

Courage is what it takes to stand up and speak, courage is also what it takes to sit down and listen.

Winston Churchill

It's not until you become a mother that your judgement slowly turns to compassion and understanding.

Erma Bombeck

A prison made of pearls and gold is still a prison.

Philippine proverb

There is no saint without a past and no sinner without a future.

Pope Francis

The summer night is like the perfection of thought.

Wallace Stevens

Our Readers gladly write...



Father Robert,

I believe in miracles! When times were not so good, I opted for a Mac and Cheese dinner. Knowing that “little” box probably would not fill (4) hungry children. Using a ladle to serve equal portions, I began putting the dinner on plates. As I served each one, I couldn’t believe the amount still remaining in the pan. It seems to grow with each scoop; all were full (there was even a portion for me). I will never forget that meal.

My thoughts and prayers, and all that’s good,

G.N.
Mountain Iron, MN

Dear Father,

Just a note to express sincere thanks for the birthday greetings. Appreciate very much your kindness and thoughtfulness.

Thanks
N.J.B.
Westport, MA

Dear Father,

Thank you for the beautiful St. Dymphna statue. It is so well made. And was so well packed. What a blessing!

Sincerely,
I.E.
Madison, WI

Dear Father,

My universal thanks and praise go to St. Francis, St. Peregrine, and St. Anthony for God’s blessings received in this recovery from two cancers. Prayers for a cancer cure! Please apply this offering wherever needed as your help and work is well appreciated. With prayers and God’s love.

C.P.
Bedford, TX

Dear Father,

Attached find a note to be published to give my thanks for favorable results for a test for hypertension. Also, to thank St. Jude, St. Peregrine and St. Dymphna, for helping my grandson, with his many illnesses. We continue to request prayers against other diseases including cancer, Parkinson’s and diabetes. I am including an offering for your needs. Please pray for my family.

Sincere love in Christ,
A.R.
Hutchinson, KS

TRUST IN GOD.

Many of us turn to God in times of emergency and special danger, during an illness or a relationship strain. This is good and commendable, and our Lord will always be there. Yet, too many think at other times that they can manage very well for themselves. Our trust in God should be complete and entire in the ordinary routine of life as well as in its critical moments. Think of how, as a child, you turned to your parents when you needed something. Now as an adult, often you see the reasons your decisions and life choices keep you on the right path are not simply your doing. The guidance you received from your parents took root and helped shape you into the person you are. Often people see their parents in themselves, but in a critical sense. Try this summer in the down time, to connect with your parents, and realize they had a hand in what is good and bad in your life. As an adult, also try to turn back to them, now that they are in need and see how you can be of help. These acts of Mercy allow you to live your faith in an intimate and important way.

Your relationship with God can also be strengthened this summer. Like with parents or aging relatives, remember now it might be your time

to give back. Try to fit in an extra Mass a week.

Many parishes have an early Mass that allows you to go and still get to work on time. And really focus during that quiet time. Make an effort to listen to God and to be aware of His love for you. Or if you are off with your children in the summer, bring them to Mass as well. Show them the gratitude you feel for the goodness our Lord has shared with you in your life. By your example and honest and strong faith, you are helping to shape the generations to come. When you invite your children into your prayer and spiritual life you are helping them onto the right path. And when you reach out to the Lord in gratitude, not just in need, you are illustrating relationships with God are not one-way streets, or just for emergencies. God is always present and close to each of us in ways we cannot imagine. How good and useful it is to cultivate a steady awareness of God's presence and deepen our trust to His constant unceasing care of us. ■



VOCATIONS

Please pray for the young people at home and in the missions who are ready and eager to dedicate their lives to God and the spiritual welfare of His people.

Often all they really need is the special courage to hear God's call and to answer him. Please join us in daily prayer for God's grace in providing devoted brothers, sisters, priests and religious for Christ's work in today's world.

For further information please write Franciscan Mission Associates
P.O. Box 598, Dept. 4184, Mount Vernon, NY 10551-0598

PATIENCE IN PRAYER

Because “prayer changes us,” above all, we can appreciate the need for patience in its exercise. Remember first learning your prayers, the patience of both your teachers and your parents, and the patience you showed yourself. Learning the beautiful words and sentiments. Listening to yourself over and over repeat and repeat. Back then when prayers were new we listened to the words and really heard them. Now sometimes we are on autopilot so let’s take a minute and look at the words to one of our well-worn prayers, the Our Father.

*Our Father who Art in Heaven,
Hallowed be thy name.*

*Thy kingdom come, Thy will be
done, on Earth as it is in Heaven.*

When we say the Our Father, how many of us really mean “Thy will be done?” We are saying to God we know His path for us and that we agree with His will. Too often, in our imperfect human understanding, we fight it to do as we wish. This causes us to turn away from God and to listen instead to worldly desires that will not bring us salvation. In this part of the beautiful Our Father prayer we are also realizing His kingdom will come and when it does we can be ready by following His will and heeding His word.

*Give us this day our daily bread
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass
against us.*

When we look into these words we understand our daily bread has a few meanings. First what we need to survive, literally something to eat. We are asking Our Lord to, with our own

handiwork, of course, help us find enough sustenance. But we also associate daily bread with The Eucharist. Forgiving sins and hurts or trespasses, of others is vital to our spiritual life. To forgive others is to remind ourselves we too are forgiven by our Lord for our sins if we are repentant.

*Lead us not into temptation but
deliver us from evil.*

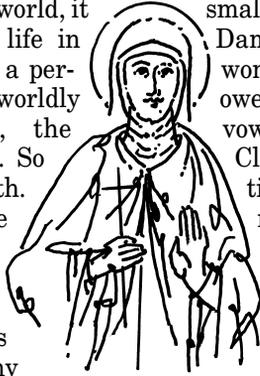
While God may not lead us into temptation, we know if we turn away from his path of truth we may find ourselves succumbing to its allure. So here we are asking for God to help lead us away from temptation and with His love and mercy keep us from the evil that lurks in both our hearts and the greater world.

When practicing common or special prayers we must remember always that God’s ways are not ours, and God is not some genie to run our petty errands, a servant at our beck and call. Fidelity in prayer gradually gives us, “the mind of Christ.” And always mentions implicitly, at least, the explicit petition of the Lord’s own prayer, “Thy will be done.” Prayer is an expression of life which is always patient. ■



HOW POVERTY OF THE POCKET MEANS RICHNESS OF THE SOUL

In today's wealth obsessed world, it is so difficult to imagine a life in which money has no hold on a person. That abandonment of worldly riches however is, often, the straightest path to salvation. So many saints knew that truth. One, St. Clare of Assisi, whose feast day is August 11 was such a person. She was born into an aristocratic family in Assisi in the 12th century. It is said her father was a wealthy representative of an ancient Roman family. Even as a child she knew our Lord and dedicated herself to prayer. At 18 she first heard the preaching of St. Francis during a Lenten service at the church of San Giorgio. She was transfixed and knew this was her path. Imagine an 18-year-old girl was willing to give up her luxurious lifestyle and dedicate herself to God. Soon after she followed St. Francis and his community to a gathering place and according to legend, in front of an altar exchanged her fine clothes for a sackcloth dress. St. Francis then cut off her hair and she made a vow of poverty and chastity. St. Clare's family was not pleased and at one point tried to drag her out of the chapel, but St. Francis told them her decision was made. After a short while with the Benedictine nuns, St. Clare was installed as an abbess in a



small but growing community in San Damiano. There other wealthy women, including St. Clare's widowed mother and sister Agnes took vows of poverty. During this time St. Clare had to push back on authorities who questioned her development of a Rule for the order, the first created by a woman. The Rule, for the Order of Poor Ladies, as they were called then, stipulated that the Sister's first calling was to poverty so they must be allowed to beg for any financial support. They also could own no property, either individually or as a community, and imposed responsibility on each member. It was approved only just before her death. After her death the order was renamed the Order of Saint Clare by Pope Urban IV in 1263. Even though St. Clare had no financial support and created a physically hard life for herself, her strength was legendary. The most colorful story is that of her saving Assisi from attack by the emperor's troops by simply walking towards them with both hands extended holding the Blessed Sacrament. She knelt and prayed before them and they, as the story is told, simply left. St. Clare's life and dedication to St. Francis allowed her to be spiritually rich in ways money could never have done. ■

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 4183, Mount Vernon, NY 10551-0598**

Special Novena Schedule Summer 2018

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 summer months the Special Novena schedule is:

May 7-15 and May 16-24	Feast of St. Dymphna (May 15)
May 31 - June 8	Feast of the Sacred Heart
June 2-10 and June 11-19	Novena of the Holy Spirit
June 5-13 and June 13-21	Feast of St. Anthony (June 13)
June 22-30	St. Anthony for a safe summer
July 18-26	Feast of St. Anne
August 2-10 and August 11-19	St. Anthony (in Padua)
August 7-15	Assumption of Our Lady
Sept. 2-10 and Sept. 11-19	St. Jude Novena

Holy Mass is offered each day for all Franciscan Mission Associates benefactors and for the special intentions they request. Kindly forward your petitions for the Novenas scheduled to:

Father Robert, O.F.M., Franciscan Mission Associates
PO Box 598, Dept. 4181, Mount Vernon, NY 10551-0598

JOIN US ON PILGRIMAGE

MAY 2019

12-Day Pilgrimage to the Marian Shrines

Fatima - El Camino de Santiago - Avila - Zaragoza

Lourdes - Montserrat - Barcelona

MAY 14-24, 2020

11-Day Pilgrimage to Austria, Germany, Switzerland

Vienna - Melk Abbey - Salzburg - Garmisch - Lucerne

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