

FMA FOCUS

SEP 2020/ VOL 54, NO 1

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

Missions in Guatemala - Honduras - El Salvador, Central America



Virtue: Wisdom

Seeking the virtue of Wisdom is asking to know Jesus better and guide one's life that way. Where does Wisdom come from? The answer is in the book of Wisdom (Wisdom 7.7) "Prayer brought it, to God I prayed, and the spirit of wisdom came upon me." Wisdom is God – knowledge to know God as God knows God, that is wisdom. Pope Francis has written extensively on Wisdom and how it connects us to our Lord. "The Wisdom the Holy Spirit grants us the grace of being able to see things through God's eyes. We have the Holy Spirit inside us, in our heart; we can listen to it, or we can choose not to listen to it." But wise followers of Christ will open their eyes, ears and hearts to the Holy Spirit and will grow closer to God. ■

Understanding God's gifts... even when they come with suffering



Part of a great problem for Catholics of any generation is being willing to understand and accept changes, especially in the way we worship, as God's will. This year alone this nation and the entire globe raised questions and sought answers that would reduce the effect of a worldwide pandemic. For many faithful the Covid-19 pandemic meant no public Masses, no receiving the Holy Eucharist. Those who were planning to join our faith were put on hold and school children did not get to receive their sacraments with their classmates. Most of all the comfort of coming together

daily or weekly was no longer an option. So many of us yearn for the community of Mass, the sharing of the sacraments we often take for granted, not after this year though. We will be more empathetic of our brothers and sisters in countries where practicing their faith can be dangerous.

Would you believe God actually gave some of us a gift during this horrendous time? He did. It was difficult for some to see but it was there. God's gift was the gift of time – for many – they were allowed time to think through their lives and be grateful. All those months many were able to think about their path in life. Was it leading toward Jesus or away from him? For those given time, it is hoped it wasn't squandered. Those who were home safe were able to pray for those who were not given this gift. Those who worked the front lines, nurses, doctors, mail deliverers, bus drivers, grocery workers and so many in our country who kept the world turning, even in the midst of the crisis. And for those to whom this economic downturn hit them particularly

hard. How grateful we can be that we have our faith, that we have hope and comfort from our Lord.

So what do we do with this new-found gratitude? Well we have many options. First, we can give of ourselves more perhaps than we did before the world turned upside down. We can reach out to the relative or friend to whom we have become estranged and forgive, show the mercy our Lord surely shows us on a daily basis. And we can pray, really pray, and strengthen our bonds with Jesus Christ. ■

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:

**Father Robert, O.F.M.,
Franciscan Mission Associates
PO Box 598, Dept 1202,
Mount Vernon, NY 10551-0598**



FMA Focus, official organ of Franciscan Mission Associates, is published quarterly in February, June, September and November.

FMA Focus is a member of the Catholic Press Association, the Association of Fundraising Professionals, Alliance of Nonprofit Mailers, and of the Association of National Advertisers.

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.



The Stigmata – God’s Strange Gift

Near the end of this life, in the summer of 1224, St. Francis went to the mountain to pray. He went away from his followers as our Lord did at Gethsemane and there he was blessed with the stigmata (Greek word for marks) the marks of the nails in his hands and his feet and the lance in his side. He became a walking crucifix with scars in his hands and feet and a red wound in his side that often shed blood. Franciscans celebrate this great event with a special feast on September 17. Often these words are used as the opening prayer for the Mass.

“Lord Jesus Christ, who reproduced in the flesh of the most blessed Francis, the sacred marks of your own sufferings, so that in a world grown cold, our hearts might be filled with burning love of you, graciously enable us by his merits and prayers to bear the cross without faltering and to bring forth worthy fruits of penitence: You who are God, living and reigning with God the Father, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, for ever and ever. Amen.”

The wounds were only an external sign of interior grace and understanding and wisdom which Francis had

been given. While all would wish to be given God’s special favor, can you imagine what kind of great changes this gift made in his life? As with all God’s other gifts, Francis accepted this willingly.



Not many if any of us reading this ever experience an actual stigmata. But we do have wounds that define us and bring us closer to Christ. Especially after this difficult year and the continuing repercussions. Some wounds are visible, disabilities, scars from injuries or accidents. These we work with physical therapists and other medical professionals to mitigate and recover from. It is the wounds that are invisible to others that we can’t always treat or recover from. Often it is because they are ignored, denied or too difficult to bear. It is with these scars, these wounds and pains that we need to turn to our Lord in prayer. His suffering was for our benefit. He died for us. He will be with us to ease our earthly agonies and to give us rest. ■

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 Fr. Robert, O.F.M. at
Franciscan Mission Associates, P.O. Box 598, Dept. 1204, Mount Vernon, NY 10551-0598

THE BEAUTY OF ST. FRANCIS'S ODE TO SIMPLICITY

On October 4, we celebrate another birthday for St. Francis of Assisi (1182-1226). Celebrations around the world will pain St. Francis unless they are celebrations of his Savior, our Lord and not himself. Ever humble and simple, Francis' Creed was the spirit of holy poverty; his humility was expressed in these words "whatever each one is in the eye of God, that he is and no more." We all know the story of St. Francis, born rich but casting off his inheritance and devoting his life to God. Living a life of reverence to our Lord, compassion for our brothers and humility was the goal of St. Francis in the 13th century. The rules for his order were developed to strip away the shiny and useless objects and focus on the essential. These past few months that is exactly what we have had to do. No more restaurants, no movie theaters, no bookstores or even visiting each other without a computer screen. At one point even toilet paper was hard to come by. What did we learn? Hopefully we learned that there is a finite amount of material goods we need. Do we really need that designer dress or the tenth pair of sneakers? No. We discovered when we lived everyday inside our homes, we did not. How much we were mirroring the simple but beautiful lifestyle of St. Francis, "let them not desire rich clothes in this world, that they may possess a garment in the kingdom of heaven."

Francis was not always like that. In his youth he was a dandy, a man-about-town, wanting the best of the best. As the son of a rich merchant he had more than what he needed. And he realized this was not the life he wanted. So he voluntarily gave it all up. Many of us, during the difficult months this year, did not voluntarily give up our lifestyle. It was forced upon us. But we too can come to a similar conclusion. Life is not what we have, but it is instead what we do with what we have. So many people gave of themselves, doctors, nurses, teachers, government officials. Even those with restaurants gave – the food they could not serve was donated, served to the poor or sold to help others. St. Francis would be proud of the way many on this planet honored his memory and looked out for others. So this year on his birthday when we pray, let us be grateful for his example that for many carried them through a dark time. ■



Can I ask God for that

Have you ever thought it strange that we should have a devotion to a Saint of Impossible Causes? It seems to encourage us to ask God for the impossible. But, perhaps that is what God wants. To let us know that “nothing is impossible” with God, if we pray, earnestly, faithfully, and accept God’s will. “For I know well the plans I have in mind for you—oracle of the LORD—plans for your welfare and not for woe, so as to give you a future of hope.” (Jeremiah 29:11) St. Jude, who’s feast day is in October, is pictured at the Last Supper as still confused, still puzzled (as were the other apostles) about Christ’s true mission. St. Jude was one of the twelve apostles and is the patron saint of desperate or lost causes and situations. Interestingly the Chicago police department and a Brazilian soccer team have also adopted St. Jude as their patron, and a research hospital in Tennessee also goes by the name St. Jude. Each organization chose the name when they felt they needed to support what some believed to be a lost cause. But those who invoke St. Jude are usually those who are not going to give up easily. They are those who are close to Christ who trust He will listen when they call out.

During times of crisis, including the most recent ones, it is good to know St. Jude will hear our prayers and be an intercessor on our behalf. A popular novena to St. Jude includes this recitation.

“Apostle and Martyr, great in

virtue and rich in miracles, near kinsman of Jesus Christ, faithful intercessor for all who invoke thee, special patron in time of need; to thee I have recourse from the depth of my heart, and humbly beg thee, to whom God hath given such great power, to come to my assistance; help me now in my urgent need and grant my earnest petition. I will never forget thy graces and the favors thou dost obtain for me and I will do my utmost to spread devotion to thee. Amen.”

We can pray to St. Jude that with him we accept the word of Christ. While awaiting the coming of the Holy Spirit whom He promised to send to ease our pain and afflictions and bathe us in the light of His mercy and justice. ■



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

Listening to God's Voice in Prayer

All through the various lives of the saints we have instances of them listening to God's voice. Today and in the past at the great Shrines of Lourdes and Fatima, we hear of children who have listened to a beautiful lady who turned out to be Mary. What distinguished them? Not holiness, no, nothing except innocence and the willingness to listen to Mary's voice. We should be ready to listen to God's voice in prayer. When we suffer, the loss of a job, the loss of a promotion, and worst of all the loss of a loved one, we often are tempted to say "God is not listening." Even though in our hearts we know God is always listening. "And if we know that He hears us in regard to whatever we ask, we know that what we have asked Him for is ours." (Jn. 1:5)



number of times people refer to their phone is more than 200. That is more than 200 times a day, just on your phone. So when we pray, especially in times of strife or stress, do it in solitude, or quiet, without distractions. Silence is something that makes many people uncomfortable. But it is the best way to communicate with God. Choose a familiar prayer at first, the Our Father, The Memorare, or the Act of Contrition. Take time during the day to say each prayer and listen afterward to your own thoughts. Really hear every word. Make it your first action in the morning and last action at night. Bookend your day with the Lord. You will find you come to thirst for the interaction. Find time during the week to say a decade or two of the rosary. Contemplative time is needed in our busy lives and while it tends to unnerve, at first, we think there are so many more important items to check off our lists, in truth, there are not. What, honestly, is more important than your spiritual health and life?

It is a habit we can pick up by doing. That famous phrase of Samuel's in the Bible is our prayer. "Speak, Lord, for your servant is listening." Try to listen in prayer at least once a day. ■

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. 1205,

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 of the Franciscans,

God is with you, God loves you, and God will give you rest.

These simple words comfort both ourselves and others as we continue to recover from what has been a very dark time in our lives. The world has been turned upside down, the churches were shut and the faithful have persevered. There were so many news stories about pastors going into the streets to preach - to spread the Word of God, just like Jesus did in his age. So many hungered for the Eucharist. So many school children missed friends and sacramental milestones.

This new world is different and will continue to change. Hope is dimmed but it is not lost because we have faith, we have our beautiful, and cherished relationship with our Lord. He has not forgotten us and we cannot forget Him. Nor can we lose sight of those who are living on the edge of this pandemic. The spiritual and corporal works of mercy are needed now across the globe. Even with social distancing we can perform a variety of these works and ease pain and loneliness. Food banks are in need of donations, and those in nursing homes are accepting cards, even if they can't accept visitors. And of course, our prayers can comfort the afflicted in our backyard and in far off places. Those who *truly* believe never *truly* lose hope.

Remember God is always with you, God will forever love you, and He will ultimately give you rest.

You are in our prayers always, please remember us, and especially those we serve in yours.

Fr. Robert, OFM
Fr. Robert, O.F.M.

LOVE KNOWS NO “TIME OUT”

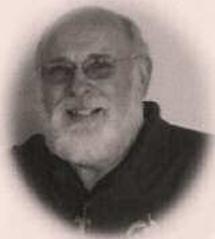
Fr. Jack, O.F.M.

St. John, in chapter 15 of his Gospel, speaks of Jesus as the true vine and us as the branches. Further on, in verse 13, Jesus says: “A man can have no greater love than to lay down his life for his friends.”

The labor of love which is carried out day by day (even in the midst of a pandemic like COVID-19) demonstrates the dedication and conviction of those of us in AGAPE to bring to life these Gospel words. Although our “laying down our life” may not be a physical martyrdom, the spirit of sacrifice weighs heavily upon those who subject themselves in the service of medical treatment and assistance in our clinical areas, the hospitality shown in our food service department, the minimal needs that are satisfied in our own local store and the ever present attention given to communities that seek additional goods which can be provided from the overflow within our distribution center.

We know that certain conditions and restrictions are governing this trying moment in our history, nevertheless, the purpose of AGAPE is to never cease in its obligation to the poor and needy as it maintains its faithful and transparent devotion to the purpose for which it was established and that is of course, to bring God’s love and life to the disadvantaged. Although our number of employees has been reduced to a skeleton crew needed to sustain significant wellbeing among our brothers and sisters dependent upon our presence, we have complied, and continue to comply, with governmental ordinances to help curb the growth and spread of this virus by staying at home and working virtually through WhatsApp or Teams on Microsoft.

AGAPE has become, as it has always been even in good times, a reliable and



steady resource especially now in moments of uncertainty. AGAPE is the sanctuary of calmness on the sea of turbulent times and a comfort of God’s mercy by providing hope and love to the sick, the hungry, the down-trodden and weary. AGAPE is the stalwart ship of intrepid degrees of goodness and relief in the storm of unforeseen perils. As the song says: *“We will run and not grow weary for the Lord is by my side and we will fly like the Eagle, we will rise again.”*

Local and national government agencies have called upon AGAPE (not to mention numerous individual groups) to participate in the distribution of aid to much large and strategically centered places scattered throughout the country. While the sick continue to pass through our gates, truckloads of supplies daily leave the AGAPE compound for many of these strategic destinations. We have aided a Foundation of Elderly folk, also an organization called FONAES which is an environmental agency that is supplying basic goods to critical areas in need and AGAPE has donated numerous goods through its sister Food Bank to another distribution center.

So, while many people are trying to stay healthy by avoiding social contact and staying home as the government has demanded, when it comes to Loving to the point of “laying down one’s life,” AGAPE knows no “Time Out.” ■





LABORS OF LOVE DURING A WORLDWIDE CRISIS

Fr. Angelo, O.F.M.

(March 2020)

I am writing this just to say: “Hello,” in this critical moment of our history, where all humanity is being tested for its deeds. Over here (Honduras) all friars are okay. In the parish up to now we do not have yet a single case of Covid-19 and I am asking the Good Lord to keep it away, since it is so destructive. However, the country as you might have heard, we do have a good number and it is expected to increase, daily. All three mayors have closed down many parts of our society:

- all entrance and outwards of the towns and villages have been closed. There is surveillance 24hours a day.
- all church and civil activities have been stopped.
- life is literary at a standstill.

What is the parish doing at the moment you might ask?

Firstly, at this moment, since the parish does not have a church’s radio or TV, the parish is publishing a local weekly bulletin with the name, “In praying together we are united.” Usually, it has a biblical text and explanation, prayers, activities and announcements. In this way, I keep in touch with parishioners and at the same

time, they will keep united with the parish. Also, it has another end, to encourage the people to pray and persevere in this crisis. The people like the bulletin and more are asking for it. The parish makes this through the photocopy machine. At the moment the photocopy which is small, is working very hard. I hope that it will stand the pressure of work, since I never thought of using it for such an end.

Secondly, the local ministry of health has asked the parish to lend our Hall, which can take about 200 beds. I told them that if they need it, it will be at their disposal. We hope that they will never have to use it. This is the time to unite and help each other as much as we can. I spent two days emptying everything inside, chairs – more than 900 – a sound system, everything.

Thirdly, I am using the communication tool “WhatsApp” to keep in touch at least with the Celebrations of the Word. Sometimes they have problems or difficulties and the parish use it to help them keep going through life. Technology is a blessing at this moment.

My greetings to everybody and as I ask for your blessing, I pray for all. ■

Words Worth Noting



There is nothing small in the service of God.

St. Francis De Sales

Pray, hope and don't worry. Worry is useless. God is merciful and will hear your prayer.

Saint Pio of Pietrelcina

We become what we love, and who we love shapes what we become.

Clare of Assisi

My barn having burned down, I can now see the moon.

Mizuta Masahide

You may have to fight a battle more than once to win it.

Margaret Thatcher

Grief and resilience live together.

Michelle Obama

He who opens a school door, closes a prison.

Victor Hugo

Start where you are. Use what you have. Do what you can.

Arthur Ashe

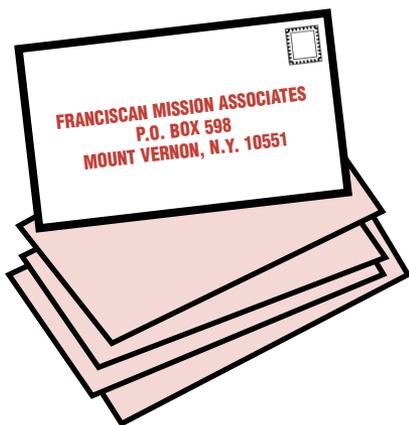
If you think education is expensive, try ignorance.

Andy McIntyre

An investment in knowledge always pays the best interest.

Benjamin Franklin

Our Readers gladly write...



Fr. Robert,

Thank you so much for the wonderful message on my birthday. It was a kind gesture, knowing how busy you must be. Please accept this donation at this time of great need both in this country and around the globe. I rely on the Franciscan Mission Associates for spiritual sustenance, but I know others rely on you for true physical sustenance. For all your work I am so grateful.

God bless you all,
R. D.
Rochester, NY

Dear Fr. Robert,

Please publish my thanks to St. Anthony for blessings received regarding employment for my daughter. Our prayers are answered. God bless.

Sincerely,
M.E.M.
Bridgeport, OH

Dear Father Robert,

Please accept this donation and my sincere appreciation for all you do. Know that you are all in my prayers always. God has a way of letting us know when and where we are needed and I know that right now I am where He needs me to be. Sending our best to all of you and the many, many that you serve.

God bless,
P.B.
Washington, D.C.

Dear Fr. 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 recognition. You bless me by sending me a letter. It is my hope I can continue to support your endeavors and enjoy our relationship.

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

Dear Fr. Robert,

During this difficult time I hope you are all well. Know the Franciscan Mission Associates are in my prayers, as are the students and elderly you serve. I can't imagine how this is affecting the poorest of the poor, so please accept my donation and put it where it will do the most good. May God bless you and all the critical work you all do.

Sincerely,
E.D.B.
Albany, NY

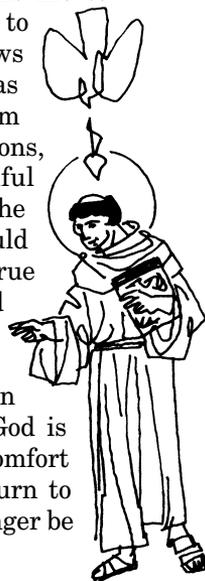
St. Anthony Help Me Find the Way

Often life is not as we expect. Relationships, jobs, and sometimes even the actual roads we are traveling turn out to be filled with surprises. Because of our Faith, we know those surprises are really God's hand moving us or placing us in situations we might not have chosen for ourselves. We also know Jesus, and protectors like St. Anthony, will be there in those challenging times to support and guide us.

St. Anthony experienced this in his own life. He thought he was destined for mission work when poor health forced him to give up his life-long dream. Imagine the heartbreak. What he came to realize though, is that God was revealing a true path, and awakening in St. Anthony his true gift, to spread the Word of God. Each time he absorbed another lesson from the Scripture, or saw a new perspective on the life of our Lord, he moved one step closer to sainthood. We often think of our saints as heroes, martyrs, so many times and that is the life St. Anthony initially sought. But as is often the way, God had another plan for him. Anthony grew in his faith in obscurity, never asking for the spotlight but accepting it once his brilliance and dedication was discovered.

While we tend to pray to St. Anthony when an item is lost, how about broadening that and looking for his guidance when WE are lost. How often did we pray to St. Anthony during the last year of suffering? So many times we are lost in our own grief or sadness or distraction. We wonder why has God abandoned us – as Jesus wondered aloud on the cross. We feel our own crosses weighing down on us and often turn inward instead of looking to those whose lives truly are ones of suffering. St. Anthony truly trusted in God. He devoted his life to Scripture reading and to sharing the Good News and hope of our faith, as like this example from one of his many sermons, “Likewise the faithful man, enlightened by the rays of the sun, should give forth sparks of true preaching and of good works, to set his neighbor on fire.”

Anthony knew even in our darkest time God is there, with us, to comfort and guide us. If we turn to our Lord we will no longer be lost. ■



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 1203, Mount Vernon, NY 10551-0598**

Spiritual Communion - God's gift in a time of crisis

Each day we are called to strengthen our faith, to work with our fellow Christians to become closer to our Lord and truly live his Word. This task became so much more difficult as churches shuttered their doors and we were no longer allowed to worship with a community and even worse, receive the Eucharist on a daily or weekly basis. It was during this dark time many people became familiar with Spiritual Communion. For some it was the first hearing of this practice which is designed to make the faithful feel united to Christ when sacramental Communion is not an option. When churches were not open and we were homebound, the faithful had television Mass, which is a blessing. Unified as a family on the couch, we can praise God and show our gratitude for all he has given us, even in a time of deep sorrow. But one thing we can't do is receive Holy Communion. The act of receiving the sacrament is one that embodies the hope we have as Catholics and without it often our hope is dimmed. But becoming familiar with the Spiritual Communion is our way of inviting our Lord into our hearts when we are not able to physically get to a church. There are four steps to be taken for a Spiritual Communion. First, make an act of faith, use a traditional prayer or develop your own to define for our Lord your belief



that He is present in the Eucharist. Second, offer an act of love. Thank the Lord in prayer for his love and express your love for Him. Third, express your desire to receive Him by voicing your wish to receive Him in your heart. And lastly, with a humble and contrite mind and soul invite Christ into your heart. This prayer is a common one used for a Spiritual Communion.

My Jesus, I believe that you are present in the Most Holy Sacrament. I love you above all things, and I desire to receive You in my soul. Since I cannot at this moment receive You sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. I embrace you as if you were already there and unite myself wholly to You. Never permit me to be separated from you. Amen.

And with this gift of Spiritual Communion we never have to be separated from God. Even when global or local challenges make receiving the Eucharist difficult or even impossible. ■

Visit us on the web
franciscanmissionassoc.org

CHAPLET TO ST. MICHAEL



Oh how we called on St. Michael the Archangel to “defend us in battle” during the pandemic and at other stressful times in our lives. The prayer to St. Michael, often said after Mass, originated with Pope Leo XIII in 1886. According to historians, Pope Leo had a vision in which the devil did great damage to the church and so the Pope composed this prayer to be said after the low Masses at the time. Another way to call upon St. Michael to protect us is to pray the Chaplet of St. Michael, given to us by Carmelite nun, Antonia d’Astonaco. It was approved by Pope Pius IX in 1851. The Chaplet of Saint Michael begins with an act of contrition. Then there are nine salutations, each recognizing the choirs of angels. The salutations are followed by an Our Father and three Hail Marys. Finally, four Our Father are prayed to honor Saints Michael, Gabriel, Raphael and the Guardian Angel. A prayer to Saint Michael concludes the chaplet. The nine salutations beautifully invoke the choirs of angels. By the intercession of St. Michael and the celestial Choir of Seraphim, may the Lord make us worthy to burn with the fire of perfect charity.

By the intercession of St. Michael and the celestial Choir of Cherubim, may the Lord grant us the grace to leave the ways of sin and run in the paths of Christian perfection.

By the intercession of St. Michael and the celestial Choir of Thrones, may the Lord infuse into our hearts a true and sincere spirit of humility.

By the intercession of St. Michael and the celestial Choir of Dominations, may the Lord give us grace to govern our senses and overcome any unruly passions.

By the intercession of St. Michael and the celestial Choir of Virtues, may the Lord preserve us from evil and falling into temptation.

By the intercession of St. Michael and the celestial Choir of Powers, may the Lord protect our souls against the snares and temptations of the devil.

By the intercession of St. Michael and the celestial Choir of Principalities, may God fill our souls with a true spirit of obedience.

By the intercession of St. Michael and the celestial Choir of Archangels, may the Lord give us perseverance in faith and in all good works in order that we may attain the glory of Heaven.

By the intercession of St. Michael and the celestial Choir of Angels, may the Lord grant us to be protected by them in this mortal life and conducted in the life to come to Heaven.

The chaplet can be prayed daily or anytime. Why not try it this month September 29 on the feast of the Archangels Michael, Gabriel and Rafael. The chaplet can also act as a shield against “the wickedness of the devil” especially during difficult times. ■

Special Novena Schedule Fall 2020

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 27-December 22	Novena to St. Anthony on the nine 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 1201, Mount Vernon, NY 10551-0598**

The Power of Prayer

When you call me,
when you go to pray to me
I will listen to you.
When you look for me, you
will find me.
Yes, when you seek me with
all your heart,
you will find me with you,
says the Lord,
and I will change your lot.

Jeremiah 29:13-14

You are holy, Lord
The only God,
and your deeds are
wonderful...
you are our hope,
you are our faith,
you are our love...
God almighty,
merciful Savior.

St. Francis of Assisi,
The Divine Praises