

# FMA FOCUS

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

Missions in Guatemala - Honduras - El Salvador, Central America



## VIRTUE: KNOWLEDGE

Knowledge of God has a greater meaning than learning about Him from books. It implies entering into His spirit and sharing His life. That is what Christ proclaimed and that is the virtue we should be seeking: to Know the One True God. And how are we to do this? There are simple ways that lead to profound changes. The first is through scripture. Each Mass we attend we hear about the life of Jesus. These scripture readings and the Old Testament stories deepen our understanding of Jesus during his time on earth and after his Resurrection. The second way to know God is to rededicate ourselves to our prayer life. Through communing with God in prayer, and listening to His direction for us, we grow closer to Him and to our true path that will lead to everlasting life. ■

**LEARN  
MORE  
ABOUT GOD  
NOW - A CHRISTIAN  
OBLIGATION**



You've been with people who've suddenly said to you "I didn't know that about you" or about another person. Often whole parts of our lives are hidden from our closest friends and relatives. That can be the problem with our knowledge of God as well. An important reason to grow in our knowledge of God is that it will give us an opportunity to know His Will for us and our true path. Often parishes will have a Mass or collection for vocations. That is a time to both give to support through prayer and financial sacrifice, those who have begun their formation journey. But what about those for whom their vocation still remains a mystery. This is when our knowledge of God has an enormous impact on our own earth-

ly lives. How do we learn what God wants from us? We listen, during Mass or at home when reading Scripture, pause, put down the Bible or close the app for a moment and just listen for God's voice. In reading Scripture or listening, is there something that sparks in us not just an interest but a yearning, or an idea? Are we being called to help the poor, to be better to our own families, to become more self-aware? How can the readings and the Gospel guide us? And when we have this idea, when we further it in our minds, does it give us anxiety or peace? St. Augustine's advice was to "love God and then do what you will." What does this mean? It means when we love God, the way St. Paul describes love, in his first Letter to the Corinthians, we will be on the true path of virtue. St. Paul's love is not base, or simple and is instead mirroring God's love for us.

It bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. Love never ends. (1 Cor. 13: 4-8)

As God's mercy and love extends to us, to know God we also need to extend mercy and love to our neighbors and ourselves. While we listen

for God's voice and direction, we need to realize He is also not going to give us detailed directions. Instead, He instructs us to strengthen our own sense of character through the sacraments, through daily or weekly Mass, and through prayer, and then we, with His guidance, use our Free Will to forge our way through this earthly existence. When we spend time with God in prayer, and dedicate ourselves to knowing Him, our life is filled with the peace a faith filled life can have.



## 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 10551-0598. If you wish additional information about how to do this, please feel free to contact:**

**Franciscan Mission Associates  
P.O. Box 598, Dept. 1213  
Mount Vernon, NY 10551-0598**



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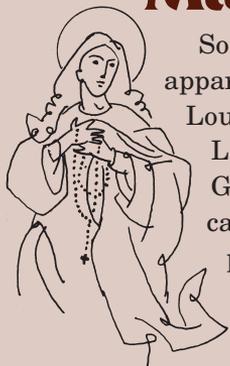


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Please address all correspondence to Father Robert, O.F.M., at P.O. Box 598, Mount Vernon, N.Y. 10551. Please send changes of address six weeks in advance; if possible include your mailing label, and give both old and new address.

# Our Lady of the Rosary: Mary's special prayer



So often when the apparitions of Mary at Lourdes, Fatima, La Salette, Guadalupe, she came to a child or a peasant and filled them with great love of God.

This knowledge

of God which they received, came from prayer and often from the Prayer of the Rosary which can be simple and yet profound. One of the reasons is because it operates as several levels; prayer, mediation, union, peace. The levels one can reach in prayer are all present here. The two prayers used are Biblical (though we don't often think of them that way). The Our Father, written by Jesus, and the Hail Mary, written by the Angel.

Another power of the Rosary is that it engages the entire person. Fingers touch the beads, lips recite the prayers, minds reflect on the mysteries and hearts are open to the truth of our faith. The repetition in the Rosary allows for continued contemplation on the mystery and even on the entirety of Jesus's life. The result is that those who pray the Rosary will identify with our Lord and His Blessed Mother by applying their saving deeds to their own life.

Saint John Paul II declared his love of the rosary in his writings. He reminded all that the Rosary had a special place in his heart. "To recite the Rosary is nothing other than to contemplate with Mary the face of Christ." Saint John Paul II further wrote that her loving looks never left her son, our Lord, from his birth to his death on the cross.

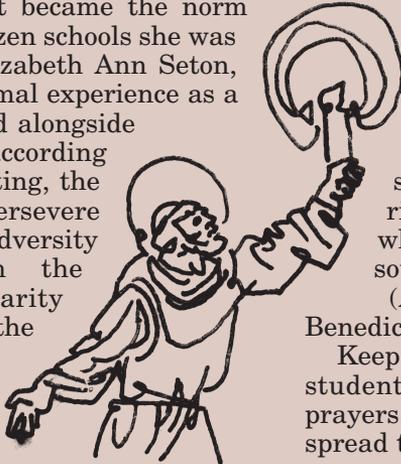
The contemplation of Christ has an incomparable model in Mary. In a unique way the face of the Son belongs to Mary. It was in her womb that Christ was formed, receiving from her a human resemblance, which points to an even greater spiritual closeness. No one has ever devoted himself to the contemplation of the face of Christ as faithfully as Mary. The eyes of her heart already turned to him at the Annunciation, when she conceived him by the power of the Holy Spirit. In the months that followed, she began to sense his presence and to picture his features.

With each recitation of the Hail Mary, we can join her gaze on Jesus and remind ourselves that without Him we are lost. Perhaps during her month of October, dedicated to the Holy Rosary, we can return, again, to saying at least one decade a day for peace. ■

# CATHOLIC SCHOOLS LEAD THE WAY

Another school year is underway. Teachers and students are learning another new normal with the pandemic a recent memory, and still a part of our lives. Throughout the year and a half, when answers were in short supply, our Catholic schools lead the way in keeping their doors open and providing avenues for academic and spiritual growth. During all challenging times in history, Catholic schools have made headway and stayed the course with the help of many heroes and heroines, including St. Elizabeth Ann Seton.

Seton's dedication to Catholic schools was unyielding despite many setbacks and personal tragedies, including the death of her husband. While she forged ahead with her mission, family and friends shunned her, especially the three years after her conversion from the Episcopal faith to Catholicism in 1805. After two failed attempts to open schools, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton was finally successful in 1808 when she opened a school for young girls in Baltimore, Maryland. Her school was a success largely due to its routine that became the norm for the other dozen schools she was to open. St. Elizabeth Ann Seton, who had no formal experience as a teacher, learned alongside the children according to her own writing, the decisions to persevere in the face of adversity and to form the Sisters of Charity are similar to the difficult ones many framers of Catholic schools were



forced to make to follow their often-heartbreaking vocations. Like the Blessed Virgin, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton said “Yes” to God when He asked for something that many would think impossible. She listened as God was calling her to raise her own five children and create this order that had a long lasting spiritual and practical impact on Catholic schools.

While working tirelessly to grow her new school, St. Elizabeth Ann Seton realized it was time to formalize her dedication to Christ. On June 1, of 1809, before Archbishop John Carroll, Seton took vows of poverty, chastity and obedience, and later that month she and four other women formed the Sisters of Charity.

Church leaders today continue St. Elizabeth Ann Seton's call to support Catholic education. When Pope Benedict XVI addressed Catholic educators in 2008, he stressed the critical need for Catholic schools:

Their (Catholic schools) long-term sustainability must be assured.

Indeed, everything possible must be done, in cooperation with the wider community, to ensure that they are accessible to people of all social and economic strata. No child should be denied his or her right to an education in faith, which in turn nurtures the soul of a nation.

(Address of His Holiness Benedict XVI, 2008)

Keep all of our Catholic school students and teachers in your prayers this fall as they continue to spread the Good News. ■

# How did St. Anthony really become a Saint?

As you read about St. Anthony or any of the Saints, did you ever wonder what it was that made them Saints? Each story is different. St. Anthony lived in only a small part of the world. He was a native of Portugal, born in Lisbon in the year 1195. When he was 15 he joined the Canon Regular of St. Augustine and remained a monk for ten years. Filled with missionary ardor, St. Anthony entered the Franciscan Order in which he spent the remaining 11 years of his short life. He died in Italy in 1231 and was canonized within a year. Even with that brevity on earth, St. Anthony remains one of the most beloved Saints of all time. His zeal now transcends time and space and calls us to know God as he knew God. That's really what made Anthony a Saint. Not his preaching, not his fasting, not his studying or his good advice to penitents, but his prayer life, his knowledge of God in prayer, and his acting on that knowledge.

As a Franciscan friar, St. Anthony's time was devoted to prayer, study and preaching. St. Francis selected him to be the first theologian of the Franciscan Order, and he was proclaimed a Doctor of the Church in 1946 by Pope Pius XII. All those hours in prayer, in

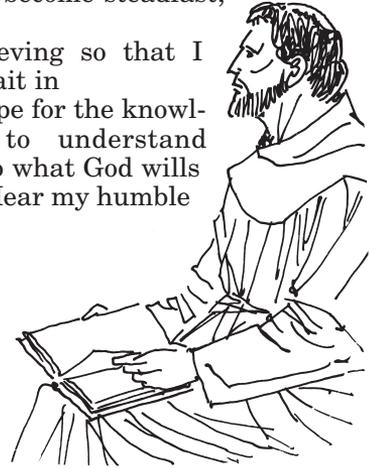
communication with our Lord, made St. Anthony the Saint he was. We, too, can devote ourselves to prayer and to becoming a true student, gaining in spiritual strength and knowledge. Practice this prayer to St. Anthony and ask for his intercession on your behalf.

## Prayer to St. Anthony

Kind and gracious St. Anthony  
Hear my petition  
Bring me the strength and courage  
you gave to  
those who heard you preach and  
teach in your name on earth.

Quiet my heart, still my fears.  
Help me become steadfast,  
strong  
and believing so that I  
can wait in  
joyful hope for the knowl-  
edge to understand  
and do what God wills  
for me. Hear my humble  
plea.

Amen. ■



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## 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. 1215, Mount Vernon, NY 10551-0598

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# The Year of St. Joseph, We too can be workers!

Oh, how we wish for happiness, and contemplative states. Too often though we think, incorrectly, that a wish or even a prayer will do the trick. But that is not the way, not at all how to ensure happiness or a true and clear faith filled life. One Saint who knew that work was always the way when it came to seeking out happiness and contentment was St. Joseph. His life was one of true joy but also work. In 1955 Pope Pius XII named him St. Joseph the Worker because of his example of the true holiness of human labor.

The spirit flows to you and to all men from the heart of the God-man, Savior of the world, but certainly, no worker was ever more completely and profoundly penetrated by it than the foster father of Jesus, who lived with Him in closest intimacy and community of family life and work. (Pope Pius XII)

Joseph is described by Pope Francis in his Apostolic Letter entitled "Patris Corde" (With a Father's Heart) as a beloved father who was out of the spotlight and obedient to God's plan for him. When Joseph was called by God to be a participant in Jesus's mission, he "cooperated... in the great mystery of Redemption."

As the foster father to our Lord, Joseph taught Jesus his trade, as a carpenter. Joseph's work was to build

and provide for his family. Pope Francis writes that those who are working "are cooperating with God himself, and in some way become creators of the world around us."

Pope Francis also said that Joseph teaches us, "the value, the dignity and the joy of what it means to eat bread that is the fruit of one's own labor." This work on earth as a carpenter can also be a way of "participating in the work of salvation, an opportunity to hasten the coming of the Kingdom, to develop our talents and abilities, and to put them at the service of society and fraternal communion."

St. Joseph was certainly a role model for Jesus but he also shows all of us the importance and dignity of work. Share this prayer with your family this fall and honor Jesus's foster father.

## Prayer to St. Joseph

Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer,  
Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary.  
To you God entrusted His only Son;  
in you Mary placed her trust;  
with you Christ became man.  
Blessed Joseph, to us too,  
show yourself a father  
and guide us in the path of life.  
Obtain for us grace, mercy, and  
courage,  
and defend us from every evil.  
Amen. ■



# 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,

Our life is often like a race. We blindly speed through the days, carrying with us some accumulated knowledge of our true path, but really only seeing this world. Here on earth our needs are many; food, entertainment, physical pastimes, intellectual pursuits. They absorb our time and mental strength. We exercise our bodies and minds but often with a short-sighted goal.

This is where we need to pivot and begin and end our days with the true long-term goal of heaven. Imagine how different we would act if we didn't just see with our eyes but instead, used our faith as a guide, our love of God and the knowledge of His love for us. Each interaction, whether at the coffee shop, on the train, or even in our own homes, would be infused with the patience, mercy and care He affords us each day. What if our role models were the saints, and the Holy Family, instead of the person who is prominent in our social media feed? Knowledge of God discussed in this newsletter is far more than learning scripture. It is truly giving ourselves to Him and trusting fully in Him.

Saint John XXIII gave us these words to live by –

Lord, I need only one thing in this world, to know myself and to love you. Give me your love and your grace, with these I am rich enough and desire nothing more.

We are so blessed to be loved by God, we need to show our humble gratitude by extending our own simple love to all God's creatures, especially ourselves.

May you feel God's love and grace now and forever,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Fr. Robert, OFM". The signature is written in dark ink on a white background.

Fr. Robert, O.F.M.

# EARLY TO BED AND EARLY TO RISE – A DAY IN THE LIFE OF FR. JACK

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

It's early morning, around 4:30, when I arouse from my fairly comfortable bed in my tiny room in our friary, attached to the parish church in Jutiapa, Guatemala. I would be leaving within the hour for a parish visit to one of our mountain villages to celebrate the finale of their community feast. No time for breakfast, perhaps just a cup of coffee and "pan dulce!" On this trip there would be no need for horses or mules to get me to church on time. The journey would take a couple of hours since the roads are not paved and due to the recent rains, different parts would require easy going. No worries, the jeep, a Toyota Land Cruiser, should get me through anything. Perhaps the only "scary" part would be the narrow, twisting steep, incline of about 30 percent, hoping there would be no other traffic deciding to come down the mountain. Sometimes you see individuals walking along the side of the road and if you toot they automatically crisscross in front of you causing you to hit the brakes and drop to a lower gear.

Once within a closer distance of the village, there are many more people and you are met by those in charge of the religious festivities; they are usually members of the Legion of Mary. This particular village is Ayarza. And, as I said, we will be celebrating the end of

their patron feast, so I will be spending the afternoon, night and most of the next day with them. Their plans for me were: a meeting of the Legion and the recitation of the Catena, with a spiritual talk after: "the Allocutio; a visit to the nearby lake, share a meal with the family of the Legion of Mary President and then spend the night in a room in the parish house next to the church.

The mattress was made of straw, sewn into burlap sacks and a sheet to cover. I had extra clothing with me under the habit so that I could sleep in them.

The next morning in the chilling mountain air, I must confess that I was cold, even with a windbreaker under the habit. But was so humbled to see a little girl, with just a cotton dress and chapped cheeks, so happy to see me with her contagious smile, that I wanted to quickly shed my extra-warmth in order to empathize with her. And so, I marched back to the little parish room and removed the windbreaker from underneath my habit and decided to withstand the cold until the rays of Brother Sun offered the necessary comfort for us all on the mountain.

After some coffee, a little rice and beans, we made preparations for some 20 baptisms, followed by numerous confessions, then Mass for the village, with almost 50 first communions which

exhausted the morning. I was given a chicken soup meal with a stack of tortillas for lunch and then finally made ready for departure back home to the main parish in Jutiapa, with the love and gratitude of the villagers for having spent a couple of days with them in their mountain paradise. ■

*Thank you to all the FMA donors whose financial sacrifices to help the very poor, that the Franciscan Fathers and Brothers serve in Central America. We pray always for you and we love you very much.*



# NEVER A DULL MOMENT IN GUATEMALA FOR OUR BROTHERS

*By Friar Victor, O.F.M*

To our dear FMA benefactors – Fraternal greetings of peace and all good. Last year I celebrated my diaconal ordination in Rome.

I am now stationed at Valley of the Angels in Guatemala.

Here in Guatemala, our fraternity is made up of six people; three solemnly professed brothers and three aspirants: from Nicaragua, Guatemala and El Salvador respectively.

They began their training in our province in October 2019, and are conducting their third year here in “Valle de los Ángeles,” Guatemala. As a part of the training program, they are taking philosophy courses at the Jesuit University, and since November 2019, they have been attending an intensive Italian course at the “European Academy.” They are very enthusiastic young people in love with the Franciscan charism and very available in the occupations and responsibilities here in the Valley of the Angels project.

I would like to share with you some activities that we have carried out as a fraternity. Last year we celebrated the feast of our father, Saint Francis, together with the Franciscan Sisters of the Immaculate Conception, who reside here in Valley and the Poor Franciscan Sisters of Jesus Christ, a Brazilian foundation who have become our friends. After the Eucharistic celebration, we had a fraternal lunch in our convent; we shared some songs and edifying experiences.

We celebrated the birthday of our brother, Friar Nery. Happy birthday Fr. Nery!

For this very special celebration we counted on the participation of some families close to Fr. Nery. It was a celebration that lasted throughout the week, with the visit of some friends and the presentation of gifts.

Then we traveled to Moyuta, a border town, where some of our students’ families reside.

As you know, due to the restrictions of the pandemic, our boarding school students were at home with their families. Every month we provided them with food to help their families.

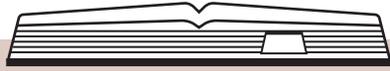
Also, we traveled to El Salvador and visited Fr. Rafael, the president of the foundation and the AGAPE brothers. We had the opportunity to greet Fr. Flavian, who had just returned from the hospital. It is always good to visit the brothers.

I am still in Guatemala, serving as a deacon in the fraternity at daily Mass, and in the church of the Valley on Sundays. I had the opportunity to serve in the Solemn Mass of the Patroness of Guatemala and in some presbyteral ordinations.

I hope all our benefactors are doing very well, we entrust our “Valle de los Angeles” project to your prayers, especially in these times of pandemic. Please say a Hail Mary for our aspirants. ■



# Words Worth Noting



*Love is the vocation that includes all others.*

*St. Therese of Lisieux*

*To be angry is human; to put an end to one's anger is Christian.*

*St. Jerome*

*It is seldom the fault of one when two argue.*

*Swedish proverb*

*Nothing is so strong as gentleness, nothing so gentle as real strength.*

*St. Francis de Sales*

*Not knowing when the dawn will come, I open every door.*

*Emily Dickenson*

*What you teach your own children is what you really believe in.*

*Cathy Warner Weatherford*

*Act as though it were impossible to fail.*

*Ralph Waldo Emerson*

*To understand all, is to forgive all.*

*Evelyn Waugh*

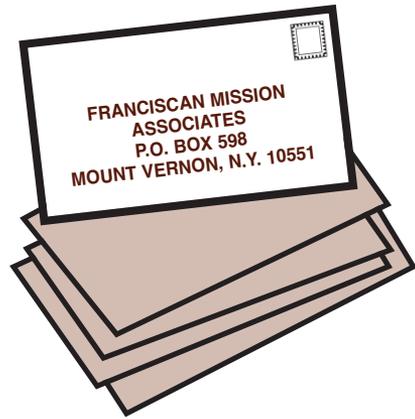
*There is a thin line that separates laughter and pain, comedy and tragedy, humor and hurt.*

*Erma Bomback*

*Don't worry about why problems exist in the world, just respond to people's needs.*

*St. Teresa of Calcutta*

# Our Readers gladly write...



Dear Father,

Enclosed is a donation for "St. Anthony's Bread" and St. Anne. I would like to have the two publications made as promised. Thanks, and God bless you.

Yours,  
C.Mc.  
Port Au Port, NL  
Canada

Dear Father Robert,

I just had to write you to express my gratitude in receiving your "FOCUS" which means so very much to me.

I read it over and over and it gives me the strength to get through so many difficult times in my life. I am 91 years old.

God bless you,  
M.P.  
Elmont, NY

Dear Father,

I want to thank you for my novenas. I received them this week. I am trying to promote devotions to St. Anthony. All of you are in my daily prayers.

In Christ,  
M.S.  
Marietta, GA

Dear Father,

Thank you for the birthday card and your prayers for my birthday, also being remembered at Mass and in your prayers.

It is deeply appreciated. Please remember in your prayers Carmelia, Frank and Kevin and all the people who need jobs.

Thank you,  
A.C.  
Aberdeen, NJ

Dear Father,

This offering is in thanksgiving to St. Anthony for a favor received. The money is to be used for the mission children. I have had severe nausea for the last three and a half years-unbearable. Finally found relief the other day.

R.C.  
Batavia, NY

# Each in his own time (St. Peregrine, and St. Maximilian)

Although they lived in different centuries, these two great saints had one thing in common; they knew God's will for them in a special way. Whether it is like St. Maximilian who gave his life for another in a Nazi prison camp or St. Peregrine who accepted both the pain of his cancer and the miraculous cure as the will of God, each display in his own time the essential ingredient of sainthood willingness to learn and cooperate in God's plan.

## St. Maximilian Kolbe

St. Maximilian, born in Poland in 1894, began his devotion to God at a young age. At ten he was visited by Our Lady who offered him two crowns, one white for chastity and one red for martyrdom. St. Maximilian took both. This thirst for knowledge and proximity to our Lord was the hallmark of St. Maximilian's life. After elementary school, he joined the Franciscan order at the age of 16 and as a student friar he founded the Militia Immaculate Catholic evangelization movement. The goal was to have every soul consecrated to the Immaculate Virgin Mary. St. Maximilian also evangelized through his monthly magazine, the Knight of the Immaculata. His publishing reached more than a million readers during his lifetime. His missionary work was slowed when he contracted tuberculosis and returned to Poland. When the Nazis took Poland, St. Maximilian was sent to the Auschwitz death camp. Knowing it was God's plan for him to continue to spread the Word of God, St. Maximilian continued to preach to those who would listen. His dying act was to give of himself for another man who was condemned to die. St. Maximilian willingly took the man's spot and died two weeks later. Throughout his

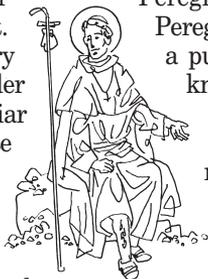
life, St. Maximilian heeded God's plan for him and took on whatever cross God deemed necessary.

## St. Peregrine

Unlike St. Maximilian, St. Peregrine initially did not see or hear the call of our Lord. None of his relatives or friends would have predicted sainthood for him. Born in 1260 in Forli, Italy, Peregrine led a life of selfish and material pursuits. In his teens Peregrine even joined the enemies of the Pope in his hometown and soon became a rebel. The Pope at that time, Pope Martin IV sent a priest, Philip Benizi, to Forli to try to bring peace to the angry crowds. While addressing those rioting, Philip was pulled off the pulpit, beaten with clubs and rocks. And here is where God called out to Peregrine and he finally listened.

Peregrine, as leader of the rebels, landed a punch directly in the face of Philip, knocking him to his knees. The blow did more to Peregrine though, as he was immediately filled with remorse and begged the priest for forgiveness, which was granted with a smile. Peregrine without any hesitation changed his life completely. He began praying at Our Lady's chapel in the Cathedral and in due time had a vision of the Blessed Mother holding in her hands a black habit, worn by the Servites, telling him to go to Siena and join these devout men. Peregrine listened to Mary's words and found his true calling.

Our Lady may not appear to us as she did to Peregrine and Maximilian, but she is calling to us every day and offering herself as an intercessor. Her guidance is available. How do you know what you should do, two ways; prayer and spiritual direction. Prayer first, then God will lead you to the next step. If you have any doubts, always feel free to ask God. ■



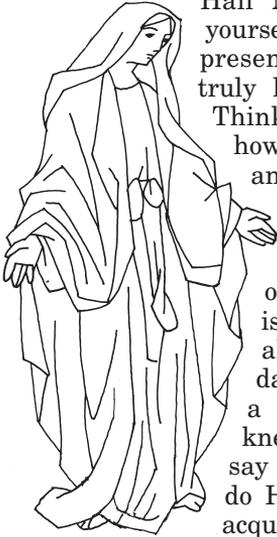
# Meditation: A Practical Plan

In today's world with constant need to look at a screen, many people don't know how to slow down their minds to listen to God and feel His presence in their lives. Meditation can be a partner in prayer. If you want to learn to meditate here are some very simple suggestions. Take some task you perform regularly, like taking out the garbage, doing the dishes, walking the dog or making the bed, and imagine you have different companions by your side with you guiding and listening to you.

Day 1: Mother Mary is at your side.

Begin the day with a Hail Mary, and give yourself the time and presence of mind to truly hear the words.

Think of Mary and how she loved Jesus and how she will always be at our side to intercede on our behalf. Mary is our mother who also had to do daily tasks to run a household. She knew how it felt to say yes to God and do His will. Let her acquiescence be our



guide for the day. Let us also say Yes to our Lord in whatever form His message takes.

*Repeat this: Mary, Mother of God pray for us.*

Day 2: Your patron saint helps.

Take some time to learn about your patron saint if you have not already. He or she also was once on this earth, peeling potatoes, running to the market and washing clothes. They too wondered what God had in store for them. What could He want with a simple soul like me? See how your patron saint listened to God. Pray to your patron saint and ask them for guidance.

*Repeat this: St. \_\_\_ patron of \_\_\_ pray for us.*

Day 3: Jesus, Himself lends a hand.

On day three, imagine Jesus as the Good Shepherd protecting and guiding you. Find some still time during the day to truly listen to Jesus. Read from the Gospels and think on Jesus's life on earth. End the day by giving yourself to the Lord and resting your cross at his feet.

*Repeat this: Jesus I trust in you.*

Invest in yourself and in your relationship with Mary, Jesus and the Saints and you will be on your way. Meditation merely means being with someone for a spiritual time. Try it and see. ■

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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 1214, Mount Vernon, NY 10551-0598

# MARY - MODEL FOR MEN AND WOMEN FOR ALL TIME

Who are the role models for today's youth? Instagram, YouTube or movie stars. People may say that, and children may even think they believe that, but as always, children take their cues from those around them. More often than not it is a mother, a grandmother, a father or an older sibling, who sets the pattern the next generation tries to follow. The more young people learn about our Blessed Mother the more they may be encouraged to follow her lead and live a more spiritual life.

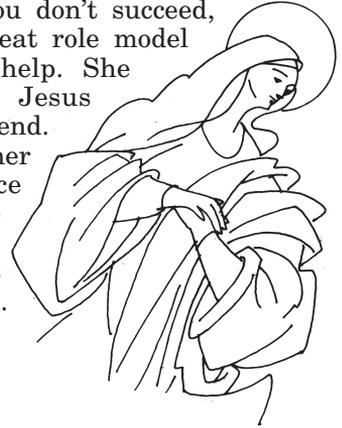
Mary was but a young teen herself when God found her worthy to be the mother of God. When the angel Gabriel spoke to Mary she listened and replied Yes. "Let it be done to me according to God's word" (Luke 1:38). Her fears were allayed by her faith in God and His path for her. She was with Jesus at the beginning, throughout his pastoral days and at the end.

Pope Francis in an address this year encouraged young and old to emulate Mary's true love of God and through Mary's example learn how important it is to keep our hearts pure, to cultivate our interior life

and our prayer. When we do, we will be able to truly care for, "to cherish others, the world, and creation." This short prayer below renews our devotion to our Blessed Mother.

(Mary) You, who know how to cherish things in your heart, care for us, bless our time, and teach us to find time for God and for others. With joy and confidence, we acclaim you: Holy Mother of God! Holy Mother of God! Holy Mother of God!

You can be the best model for the next generation by starting to reform yourself today. One easy way to begin is; each day of the week, work on correcting one fault and practicing one virtue. And if one day you don't succeed, ask the great role model Mary for help. She stood by Jesus until the end. She gave her heart once and forever. She never let Him down.



## 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. 1216,  
Franciscan Mission Associates, PO Box 598, Mount Vernon, NY 10551-0598

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# Special Novena Schedule Fall 2021

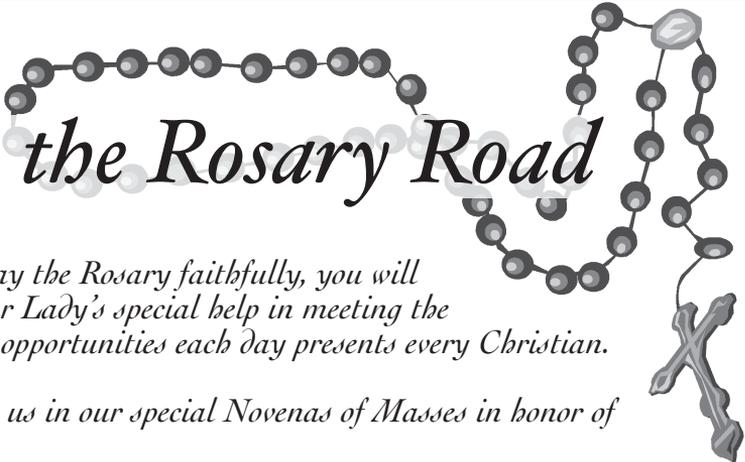
All year round Franciscan Mission Associates conducts a regular schedule of spiritual and devotional exercises in which all benefactors are invited to take part. During the Fall months the Special Novena schedule is:

September 2-10/11-19 .....St. Jude Novena  
September 21-29 .....Feast of St. Michael  
September 26-October 4 .....Feast of St. Francis  
September 29-October 7 .....Feast of the Holy Rosary  
October 7-15 .....Feast of the Holy Rosary  
October 26-December 21 .....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 1211, Mount Vernon, NY 10551-0598**

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## *On the Rosary Road*

*When you pray the Rosary faithfully, you will never lack Our Lady's special help in meeting the obstacles and opportunities each day presents every Christian.*

*So please join us in our special Novenas of Masses in honor of*

Our Lady, Queen of Peace  
September 17-25  
Our Lady of the Rosary  
October 7-15

Your personal petitions will be included in both Novenas.  
So please be sure to send them today to:

Franciscan Mission Associates  
P.O. Box 598, Dept 1212  
Mount Vernon, NY 10551