

FMA FOCUS

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

Missions in Guatemala - Honduras - El Salvador, Central America

VIRTUE: POVERTY

How does the Christian living in the world show a belief in Christian poverty? Spiritual detachment is the key. We must have our priorities straight so that God comes first. We must be prepared to risk all to be faithful to the Gospel. Today's world is full of temptations and ways to have instant gratification. Money is a means to an end, an end of pleasure and mortal happiness. But it is a shallow and short-lived happiness. Often those with little have more happiness than those with much. If we worship money and riches during our lives we are missing out on true love and happiness. Remember the apostles or some of our great saints who put God front and center. Money and riches should not be the reason for any basic Christian choice, instead it should be to follow God's will for us. If we understand poverty as a virtue, and not a failure or difficulty, we can move toward truly living a life in the footsteps of Christ. ■



The obligation to share the faith— To evangelize

“We pray that every baptized person may be engaged in evangelization, available to the mission, by being witnesses of a life that has the flavor of the Gospel.” Pope Francis

Few of us are called to be missionaries anywhere except in our own slice of the world. Where we are, where we work, where we play, where we live and where we worship, these are the places where our love of our faith must be evident and engaging. As Catholic Christians we must demonstrate the Christian life in such a way that others are attracted, encouraged, and inspired by our example. There are some simple ways to achieve this. First, and this may seem to be understood, by participating during Mass. The times shuttered in our own homes have made some of us shy at Church. Even more important than participating, be truly present. Show those who are also

attending that your phone, or your watch, or even the bulletin will not take your attention from the priest and the readers and the true reason you are at Mass. Some summer Masses are outside, depending on the facility. This adds another dimension of distraction, God's great natural beauty, but acknowledge it after the recessional. Invite a neighbor or family member who, for whatever reason, isn't going to Mass to join you Sunday. It will give you a time to be present also with that person and to welcome them back. In a recent address Pope Francis reminded us what a powerful force we can be when it comes to guiding others to the faith.

"If Christ moves you, if you do things because Christ is guiding you, others will notice it easily. And your testimony of life will inspire admiration, and admiration inspires others to ask themselves, 'How is it possible for this person to be this way?' or 'What is the source of the love with which this person treats everyone — the kindness and good humor?'"

Another way to fortify your own faith and learn more about evangelization is to look no further than the lives of some of our beloved saints, including St. Juan Diego, St. Thérèse of the Child Jesus — also known as St. Thérèse of Lisieux and the Little Flower, St. Ignatius of Loyola, and of course St. Francis of Assisi. These men and women of God

took to heart the baptismal promise of spreading the Good News, and their stories can fortify our own faith and show us how distinct their paths were.

Understanding our role and responsibility regarding evangelizing is second nature when we truly believe, and we spend time and energy strengthening our own relationship with our Lord. This can always be achieved through prayer, contemplative and present prayer. And often when we pray, we forget to hear God's response.

You would share a recipe, a good book, a television show, or podcast — why not think about ways you can share the faith with others, especially in these summer days. ■

Did You Know...

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:

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Humility and the Spirit of God (St. Francis)

“The way to Christ is first through humility, second through humility, and third through humility. If humility doesn’t precede, accompany, and follow every good work we do, if it is not before us to focus on, it is not beside us to lean upon, and behind us to fence us in, pride will wrench from our hands any good deed the very moment we do it.”

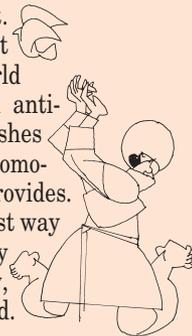
St. Augustine

In the Admonitions of Our Holy Father, Francis preserved as a collection of his words of advice – we can feel the gentle friar’s wisdom. Like all his writings, and indeed his life, the text is imbued with humility, and the belief that humility is indeed strength. Humility is the true evaluation of ourselves with all our limitations. If we are truly humble, we will admit our shortcomings, but we will also recognize our God-given qualities and abilities. As we grow in self-knowledge and humility, we should desire to serve God and others in ways best suited for our talents. Humility urges us to do good for others.

St. Francis reminds his followers and even us today to know where the true credit for our successes and blessings should be placed: at the feet of our Lord and God. We should not give way to pride when God accomplishes some good through us, recognizing it is due to Him, not us, that it has been done. St. Francis calls this person “puffed up” and says we should be aware of our own inclination to

take credit for that which is due our Lord. For we are nothing without God. And it is good for us to remember that. But a good grade on a test, a good review or even a successful relationship at times seems like a good time to pat ourselves on the back. And in fact, we should take some pride in knowing we are a part of that success but without God, and without His plan for us, all our good intentions and successes would be nothing.

We also are reminded of the relationship between patience and humility. And that it is not enough to be humble when we are content. During difficult times we must also be patient that the Lord has a plan. “How much interior patience and humility a servant of God may have cannot be known so long as he is contented. But when the time comes that those who ought to please him go against him, as much patience and humility as he then shows, so much has he and no more.” (Admonitions, 13) These beautiful and everlasting words from St. Francis are more relevant today in our fast-paced world where patience is deemed antiquated and humility clashes with our concepts of self-promotion that the internet provides. But they are, in fact, the best way to live, and a peaceful way to coexist with our family, friends and the entire world.



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. 4224, Mount Vernon, NY 10551-0598

CELEBRATION FOR THE GREAT SAINTS

Wednesday the 29th of June, this year, is the Feast of the Two Great Apostles, Sts. Peter and Paul. The readings for this day reflect the power of faith for both men and their devotion to our Lord even when times are bleak.

The First reading from Acts tells the beautiful story of how Peter's faith saved him. He had been taken into custody and put in prison. Four guards and four soldiers were making sure he was detained. Meanwhile those outside were praying to God for Peter's release.

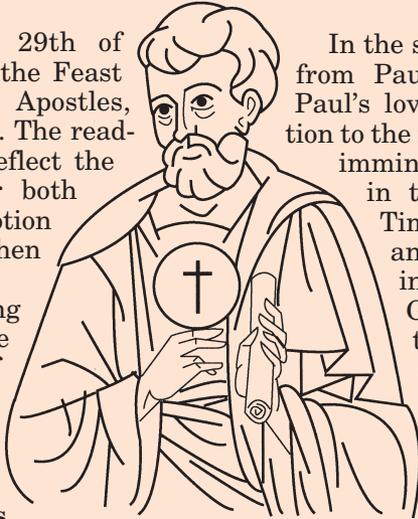
"Suddenly the angel of the Lord stood by him and a light shone in the cell.

He tapped Peter on the side and awakened him, saying, "Get up quickly."

The chains fell from his wrists. The angel said to him, "Put on your belt and your sandals." He did so. Then he said to him, "Put on your cloak and follow me."

So he followed him out (Acts 12:7-9).

Peter did follow the angel but was uncertain if he was in a vision. Still, he followed, and obeyed what he believed to be a messenger from God. Once the gate leading out of the city opened and they continued to walk the Angel left Peter. He continued to Mary's house and was saved. This allowed Peter to continue his ministry, spreading the Word of God.



In the second reading, a letter from Paul to Timothy details Paul's love of Christ and devotion to the faith even in the face of imminent martyrdom. Paul

in the first chapter calls Timothy "my dear child" and reminds him to "stir into a flame the gift of God that you have through the imposition of my hands." The reading is just the beginning of this important letter which holds other truths. In chapter two Paul asks Timothy

to be true to God in word and deed.

"Be sure to turn from youthful desires and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord with purity of heart. Avoid foolish and ignorant debates, for you know that they breed quarrels. A slave of the Lord should not quarrel, but should be gentle with everyone, able to teach, tolerant, correcting opponents with kindness." (2 Tm 2:22-24)

Good advice today as well. We show our love for God and work to evangelize by loving others, not condemning, criticizing, or ridiculing them.

St. Peter and St. Paul may have had their differences but they both had unwavering faith and belief in our Lord and that His Word would lead to everlasting life. And both were willing to devote their lives to continuing the work done by Christ. Before Mass make sure to read the two readings in full to prepare. ■

Do you think we are a lot like the new Christians?

The early Christians lived in a society where they were forbidden to practice their religion. Many were jailed or killed for practicing their faith or trying to share it with others. We live in a society where our faith and beliefs are often ridiculed. Early Christians suffered the temptations that came with being outcasts, poor, living from hand to mouth. We suffer the temptations that come with an affluent society which caters to more materialistic and short-term desires and goals. While it is hard for us to compare our lives with those of the early Christians, the results of our being a contradiction in society are the same. The simplest and most important guiding words from our Lord, ***“Love one another as I love you,”*** are not sentiments many live by today. Today it is more important to be correct, to be steadfast in your opinion regardless of its source. Even those who claim to be on the side of good often trade everlasting life for a time in the sun here on earth. Our faith should be more than a slogan or a placard. We have the ability and the rights and protections under the law the early Christians did not. We can practice openly, believe what we know to be right and live according to our Creed. That sets us apart from the early Christians. We have beautiful churches and Catholic schools where the Word of God is infused in every

lesson and every gathering. Early Christians did not have that. They worshiped under the dark of night, in caves, on the run. Always knowing each celebration could be their last. The early apostles had many friends turn on them. Today when we stand up for our faith, we might leave some people behind. But they are never forgotten. We are always ready to welcome them back once they have opened their eyes and ears to the Lord's Good News.

As Catholics we can be spiritual counter-culturalists living with our eyes on the Lord but our feet on the ground. That is very similar to the early Christians. The apostles proclaimed the Word that challenges and transformed the way the culture was in ancient times, the hierarchy, the inclusion, and exclusion of certain peoples. They taught, as we do today, that everyone is a child of God, and everyone is worthy of love and everlasting life. That is not something that was welcome to some back then and is still a tough sell today.

We continue to build upon the shoulders of the first apostles and disciples of Christ, who often gave up their lives. We owe it to our spiritual forefathers to continue to present to the world the true message of Christ and our true purpose as Christians. ■

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 4223, Mount Vernon, NY 10551-0598**

Our help to a good confession (St. Anthony)

Everybody knows that the practice of frequent confession which used to be so popular has fallen into disuse. Whether we go frequently or not, we pray, especially to St. Anthony for the revival of this pious, holy practice in the Church. In a homily celebrating the 750th anniversary of the death of St. Anthony in 1982, Saint Pope John Paul II linked the famed preaching of Anthony to his other apostolate of the confessional. According to lore St. Anthony was so devoted to the sacrament he often stayed in the confessional from sunup to sundown without realizing it. St. Anthony's preaching brought the Word of God to so many who would not have otherwise received it and that meant many also learned to confess their sins. In *Butler's Lives of the Saints*, it reads that "wherever he went crowds flocked to hear him; hardened criminals, careless folks, and heretics alike were converted and brought to confession."

While we don't have St. Anthony to remind us in person the true benefits and necessity of Reconciliation, we only must turn to Pope Francis to hear words of wisdom.

"The Sacrament of Reconciliation is a Sacrament of healing. When I go to confession, it is in order to be healed, to heal my soul, to heal my heart and to be healed of some wrongdoing," describes Pope Francis. (General Audience, Feb.19, 2014)

So, what is keeping the faithful from going to confession? Sometimes, it is fear, fear of the unknown or a fear or a belief that we have gone beyond what God would forgive. And that according to Pope

Francis is never the case.

"God never ever tires of forgiving us! We tire, we do not want to ask, we grow weary of asking for forgiveness. He never tires of forgiving, but at times we get tired of asking for forgiveness." (Angelus, March 17, 2013)

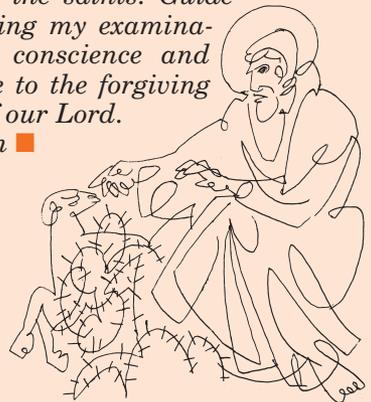
It is here that we can call on St. Anthony to reassure and guide us. He is the patron of lost things. We are "lost" when we do not avail ourselves of all the grace God has in our paths. Parishes make it easy for us, they have evening or early morning hours and specific days highlighted in the bulletin.

If we spend time this summer reading the life of St. Anthony and praying for his help to guide us to the confessional, we can start with this prayer:

Good St. Anthony

I admit my weaknesses to you, my instability, and my many needs. How difficult it is for me to pray with faith and trust I should have. Please come to my aid now and secure for me the help I require to be more frequent, fervent and faithful in my prayers to God, our blessed Lady and all the saints. Guide me during my examination of conscience and lead me to the forgiving arms of our Lord.

Amen ■



Director's Letter

Fr. Robert, O.F.M.

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Dear Friend of the Franciscans,

Two liturgical seasons, Easter and Ordinary Time are a part of the month of June. At the beginning of June priests will still be wearing the white vestments of Easter representing light, joy, and purity. Easter readings are filled with the Joy of the resurrection. The remainder of the month falls in Ordinary time and the vestments are green, symbolizing hope, and the renewal of spring growth. These sentiments, joy, and hope may not be easy as we continue to battle the difficulties of the last few years. But God is asking us to move forward. To see that like the liturgical calendar there is joy and hope to be found.

Connected to these virtues is the one discussed in this issue, poverty. It is through poverty, through a less distracted life, we can get to the hope and joy God offers. St. Francis gave up his wealth to live in poverty and minister to the faithful. But his lack of material goods was only part of the vow. He also was determined to live simply, truthfully and peacefully. And that meant sharing. Through poverty, communal bonds are strengthened as are spiritual bonds. When we share, we realize our lives are filled with riches, enough to offer to those in need. And giving, sharing and sustaining others fills us with joy. Remember, "It is in giving that we receive."

Enjoy the beautiful month of June,

Fr. Robert, OFM

Fr. Robert, O.F.M.

A HOME OF LOVE

By Astrid Assay – Valley of the Angels

Valley of the Angels is a home full of love, service and fraternity, in which day after day you get to share with different children. For me, Astrid, having known Valley of the Angels has been one of the greatest blessings in my life.

Thanks to this place I have been able to be a more independent girl, since it made me a very responsible person. It also showed me that I can be brave, because getting away from family is a very difficult and painful challenge; I also became a dedicated person, because I have to give the best of myself. Helpful, is another adjective that was given to me after living in Valley, as Jesus was when he came to earth to save everyone of us from our sins. This place has a good educational system, which helps many children. The spiritual part is highly encouraged, since it is a religious school and they teach us a lot about God. There is even a phrase deep inside my head that I heard from the first day I entered this place and the second director of this orphanage, “Father Miguel” said it: Know, LOVE AND SERVE GOD.

People from Valley are always caring about each member of the institution, and I can see that they watch over the

workers as well as the children who live here. They are in charge of giving us the best because as they tell us – the main thing here is us. I know that there are quite a few, but nevertheless they make sure that we do not lack anything, surely their work is difficult and I know that they knock on many doors to get what we have. I am grateful for the work they do, for giving us dedication, love, time and for giving us the opportunity to be here and change the lives of so many boys, girls and young women because there are many of us who make this place our home.

I am grateful for each benefactor for their noble help and generosity, there are many that I do not know but I am sure that they are aware of us and willing to Support. I would like to say thanks for being present and making this place continue with the doors open, thank you for believing in the legacy of PAPA ROCCO, the angel who gave all his love to this noble cause and even though he did not possess anything material, he had everything, he had “FAITH.” I am fully grateful because without their help this place would not exist.

Writing this I realize that I am a very lucky person and that for this I am too grateful, for the opportunity to be part of this great family. I have learned a lot intellectually, spiritually and morally. My life was impacted from the moment I first put a foot in here, I know it is difficult because the family is always missed but

nevertheless we risk it all for a new adventure. I never imagined that it would be so good and thanks to this I am today a very different person. I have learned so much from this place and from the people who inhabit it, and I am now determined and ready to face any adversity.

I know that words fall short to express the great gratitude that is inside my heart, thanks to your great work and effort to take care of us, support us and give us the best, I know that you have created: **Angels flying!** ■



THE FACES OF THE BLESSED MOTHER AND CHRIST ON A CONSECRATED HOST

Fr. Guy, O.F.M.

This miraculous event happened about 10 years ago in my parish in San Pedro Puxtla, El Salvador, Central America. We celebrated the Feast of Corpus Christi (the presence of Our Lord in a consecrated host or unleavened bread). It was on a Thursday—40 days after Easter. I had celebrated the feast day with a Mass and a procession in my parish church.

The following Sunday I went to say Mass in a new church that I had built in Guaymango—a town in my parish. I celebrated the same feast day of Corpus Christi in the same way as I had in San Pedro.

In Guaymango, after the solemn Mass, we had a procession with the Blessed Sacrament. In the procession I carried the monstrance. A monstrance is a metal reliquary coated with gold or silver and having within it a thin flat glass container, wherein is placed the consecrated host—the Body and Blood of Christ (holy communion).

While I was walking in the procession with the monstrance containing the Blessed Sacrament, I noticed the face of the Blessed Mother, and within her face was a profile of the face of Christ!!! I didn't say anything until the procession was over. Shortly after the procession, I took a picture of the sacred host that

was in the metal reliquary. Many people saw the host and were just as astonished as I was. I told Father Tim, a very close friend of mine, what I saw. He told me that all that had happened was something special for me, and that I should consume the host. I did consume the host, but I kept the picture of that special host with the faces of our Blessed Mother and Jesus.

I still have the picture and I respect it very much. I think, as Father Tim suggested, it was a special message for me and maybe for others too—that the Blessed Mother is also with Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament.

All honor and glory to God the Father, and to Our Lord Jesus, and to his Blessed Mother who is also our spiritual mother. And honor and glory to the Holy Spirit too! ■



Words Worth Noting



Actions speak louder than words; let your words teach and your actions speak.
St. Anthony of Padua

God does not create poverty. We do, because we do not share.
St. Teresa of Calcutta

Great saints have great defects, just as tall trees cast long shadows.
St. Cyprian

The best mirror is an old friend.
German Proverb

The smallest, the weakest, the poorest soften us: they have the "right" to take our heart and soul.
Pope Francis

For those with faith no evidence is necessary, for those without it, no evidence will suffice.
St. Thomas Aquinas

The traveler sees what he sees, the tourist sees what he came to see.
G.K. Chesterton

Nothing that you have not given away will ever truly be yours.
C.S. Lewis

Compassion and tolerance are not signs of weakness but a sign of strength.
Dalai Lama

Our Readers gladly write...

Dear Father,

God bless you all and the work you do to feed and care for all in the Missions. Thank you for the special birthday greetings you sent. Please accept this donation and my prayers.

In Christ,
E.T.B.
Cleveland, Oh

Dear Father,

Thanks so much for your prayers. I was never so scared!! I was tense as a “cement block” during the procedure. Thanks be to God and your prayers and intercession to Saint Anthony. The procedure was a success. I still have some discomfort but came through.

Gratefully,
M.D.G.
Hollywood, CA

Dear Father,

My thanks to St. Jude for all he has done for me in the past as well as lately. I prayed the Novena for nine days for my business to pick up. It has been terrible for many years. And things are getting better. Please accept this small monetary gift and keep me in your prayers.

Sincerely,
P.M.
Sedalia, MO



Dear Father Robert,

I have great admiration for the Franciscan Mission Associates. Your letter to me reflect integrity and character and warmth with your prayerful and comforting statements. Enclosed you will find my normal monthly check, in the amount of \$25.00. Also enclosed is \$50.00 – and this is my explanation: I found this recently and hoped I could find its owner, to no avail. So, God’s graces inspiration is to send it to your organization for whatever purpose you deem worthwhile. (Perhaps you can say a prayer for its owner.) God’s loving care of you and of all your dear ones always! Thank you deeply for your prayers for my daughter. With deep respect and love.

D.G.
Pittsburgh, PA

Active listening – Try it with the Lord



The Lord speaks to us through inspiration and perspiration. He may send us great thoughts (inspiration), but He also expects us to take His message from the context of our work and our daily lives (perspiration). Active listening is a technique to draw out the other person to speak clearly what's on his or her mind. Active listening has been described as making a conscious effort to hear, understand, and retain information that's being relayed to you. This is not something we usually associate with prayer. Unfortunately, many of us pray as if trying to rush to the end of a chore. We say the rote prayers and rush through, sometimes with another thought, plan or idea percolating through our heads. But that is where we might try to employ some active listening. In a conversation with a friend, do we rush in when there is a breath? Do we only wait until our turn without responding to the actual conversation or question? Sometimes we do, and we regret it, and we miss the main point, or the main concern. This active listening, this purposeful silence is critical when we pray. Paul's letter to the Philippians was written when he was in prison and likely going to be put to death. He had nothing but silence and fear. Even with that he told the faithful he was listening to God and that

gave him peace and they should do the same. "Have no anxiety at all, but in everything,



by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God." (Phil 4:6-7) With God we must be silenced and listen but we must also think wisely as we examine the events of our lives. Pope Benedict XVI told followers in Rome in an address during his Papacy that it is in the silence we will hear our Lord. "God speaks in silence, but you need to know how to listen." (General Audience, August 10, 2011) And how do we listen? We clear our minds and hands of distractions. Perhaps, because we are so attuned to our phones and devices, we pick up a rosary and recite the rosary, alone or with the community after Mass. After the rosary when we are contemplating, we sit in silence, surrounded by others who are also communing with our Lord. He is there. He is, of course, everywhere and will always be.

Work up to the full rosary this summer. Begin by going off for a 10 minute daily spiritual retreat and do some active listening to the Lord. God is waiting for you. ■

Learn more by visiting online www.franciscanmissionassoc.org
or follow us on Facebook
www.facebook.com/FranciscanMissionAssoc

Nothing is impossible with God (St. Jude)

One of the reasons for St. Jude's continued popularity today is because everything seems impossible. In our difficult society, still battling Covid 19 and other powerful forces, constantly making decisions that impact our lives and yet we seem to have no input. It's frustrating and frightening. Freedom seems to mean people can assault our sense and sensibility on television, on our small screens and phones, with outrageous material that once would have been avoided by all decent citizens of every faith, so we turn to the Saint of the Impossible and ask him to help us live through these impossible times. Not a lot is written about St. Jude, but we do know he was one of the twelve apostles. He is usually pictured with a book or pen because of his epistle in the New Testament. He also often has a club indicating his martyrs' death and the flame above his head denoting inspiration and assistance of the Holy Spirit. Many have had their desperate pleas answered by faithful devotion to St. Jude.

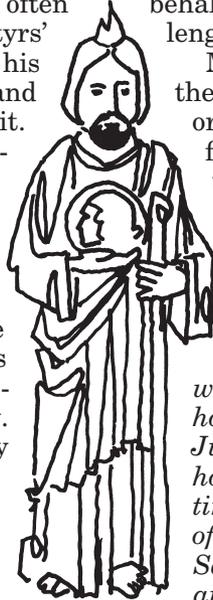
Although St. Jude is not mentioned much in the Bible and only had one quote attributed to him in the Gospel of John (14:22), this quiet apostle is extremely popular among Catholics today. St. Jude's popularity probably stems from his patronage of lost causes. An experience St. Jude had while in the city of Edessa is said to be the reason why St. Jude is associat-

ed with lost causes. Ancient church history attributes Jude's association with lost causes to his healing of Abgar V. of Edessa. Abgar was afflicted with an incurable and painful disease. Abgar wrote to Jesus asking for a visit. Jesus responded that he would send one of his apostles. After Jesus' Ascension into heaven St. Jude visited Abgar while ministering to new Christians near the city of Edessa. The sick ruler was healed with one touch of St. Jude's hands.

After St. Jude's death many flocked to his burial site in Rome and reported powerful intercessions on their behalf, confirming his place as the saint of lost causes.

The world is often a seemingly impossible place. We can pray to St. Jude for his intercession on our behalf as we navigate our challenges.

Many people choose to carry the image of St. Jude on a medal or as a pendant on a necklace for comfort and call on him in their time of need and healing. In addition, they recite the below prayer or pray a novena to St. Jude.



Prayer to St. Jude
Blessed Apostle, St. Jude, we call upon you for help in hope and utmost confidence. St. Jude renowned help of the hopeless, come to our aid in this time of distress. St. Jude cousin of our Lord, obtain from our Savior the favors we now need and seek. ■

The Shrines of the Summertime

For most Catholics on vacation, finding a nearby parish for Sunday Mass is fairly easy.

While traveling this summer why not take a well-earned detour to a local Catholic Shrine? Start with your own pastor and a shrine in your own backyard. Many parishes already have a schedule of pilgrimage options and special events that local faithful often attend. A quick internet search leads you to so many. Some shrines like the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C. or the nearby Saint John Paul II shrine host more than a million pilgrims and visitors each year. Many shrines will give you an opportunity to go to a different Mass other than your own home parish or join a rosary prayer circle or go to confession.

Shrine visits and pilgrimage journeys are educational and spiritually fulfilling. First of all, they enrich our faith life and history, providing pilgrims with an in-person experience, likely to be shared with others.

Shrines also let us travel back in time, to an era when faith was tested by very tough standards and living conditions were much starker than today. Children are often moved to silence, with no prompting, and to ask very basic questions just walking the ground where martyrs gave their lives.

Shrines also involve homes where holy persons may have lived or where they developed their ministries. These hands-on experiences for children allow them to see them-

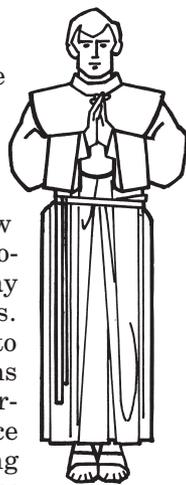
selves as saints one day, perhaps. It brings the idea of sainthood closer to home for them.

Others simply draw great numbers of people who come to pray for specific reasons. Perhaps they want to present their concerns about health or personal need in a place where others bring similar spiritual issues.

Missionary Franciscans, Jesuits and Dominicans are some of the great men and women who brought Catholicism to this New World in the 15th, 16th, 17th and 18th centuries. With the echo of Jesus' command to evangelize "all nations" ringing in their hearts, they endured hardship and often little cooperation from governments and commercial sponsors of their journey.

Today, some 500 years after those missionaries arrived, and yes, where Catholic laymen like Pierre Toussaint left individual faith experience wherever they went, there are Catholic shrines in nearly every part of the USA, including Alaska and Hawaii.

Shrines offer an opportunity to bring our intentions to God's ever inviting arms. Shrines are holy ground and reminders to us all that "home" is really not in this world. That we are all on pilgrimage, until that day when God calls us home to himself. ■



Special Novena Schedule Summer 2022

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 16-24Feast of St. Dymphna (May 15)
- May 26-June 3 and June 4-12Novena of the Holy Spirit
- June 5-21Feast of St. Anthony (June 13)
- June 16-24Feast of the Sacred Heart
- June 22-June 30St. Anthony for a safe summer
- July 18-July 26Feast of St. Anne
- August 2-10 and August 11-19St. Anthony (in Padua)
- August 7-15Assumption of Our Lady
- Sept. 2-10 and Sept. 11-19St. 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. 4221, Mount Vernon, NY 10551-0598**



Support Our Work by Donating Online

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.

<https://franciscanmissionassoc.org/support-our-work/>