

THE WANDERING CROSS

FRANCISCAN
VOCATION MINISTRY



National Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order

Five Franciscan Martyrs Region



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PRAYERS FOR AN INCREASE IN HOLINESS AND VOCATIONS TO THE SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER

The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few, so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for His harvest. (Matt. 9: 37-38)

Article 45 of the OFS General Constitutions

1. The promotion of vocations to the Order is a duty of all the brothers and sisters and is a sign of the vitality of the fraternities them-selves. The brothers and sisters, convinced of the validity of the Franciscan way of life, should pray that God may give the grace of the Francis-can vocation to new members.
2. Although nothing can substitute for the witness of each member and of the fraternity, the councils must adopt appropriate means to promote the Secular Franciscan vocation.

PETITION PRAYER: May God hear and answer our prayers for an abundant increase in holiness and vocations to our Order that together we may *rebuild His house*, proclaim the Good News for the salvation of souls and the glory of our Most High and Glorious God.

The Wandering Cross Ministry

'The Painting', a History: the Cross showing St. Francis taking Jesus down from the cross was painted by Bartolome Esteban Murillo (Born: 31 December 1617; Seville, Spain, Died: 03 April 1682; Seville, Spain), in the Baroque style. The original is in the Museum of Fine Arts of Seville, Spain. Wherever the Cross is visiting, may the household, no



matter large or small, pray these prayers or those of your choice, for one month for Vocations to the Secular Franciscan Order.

FOR ALL FRANCISCAN ORDERS†
FRANCISCAN FAMILY CHAPLET for VOCATIONS

(Author: Nicholas H. Kovacs, OFS)

How to pray the Franciscan Family Chaplet

> The Apostle's Creed on the San Damiano Cross (or Tau)

I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and earth; and in Jesus Christ, His only Son Our Lord, Who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died, and was buried. He descended into Hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into Heaven, and sits at the right hand of God, the Father almighty; from thence He shall come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Catholic Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body and life everlasting. Amen.

> "Hail Mary" 3 times.

First Decade: "St. Francis of Assisi, through your intercession, I pray that the First Order increases in vocations and that its members continue to grow in holiness."

> "Our Father."

> "My God and my all!" 10 times

Second Decade: "St. Francis of Assisi, through your intercession, I pray that the Second Order increases in vocations and that its members continue to grow in holiness."

> "Our Father."

> "My God and my all!" 10 times

Third Decade: "St. Francis of Assisi, through your intercession, I pray that the Third Order, both Regular and Secular, increases in vocations and that its members continue to grow in holiness."

> "Our Father."

> "My God and my all!" 10 times

CONCLUSION: > "We adore You, O Lord Jesus Christ, because by Your holy Cross, You have redeemed the world."

> "Glory Be" 3 times for the intentions of the Pope †

NOTE: This booklet is compiled in order to assist a fraternity in gathering Vocations to serve the Lord in His vineyard of life. The local Secular Franciscan Fraternity is the God-given life's blood of the Secular Franciscan Order. As the hand and feet of Jesus, and inspired by the Holy Spirit, it is our 'servant attitude' that brings forth the desire to pray for Vocations to the Franciscan Order—not just our Order, but all the Orders who serve the people of God, the Church, and all the brothers and sisters.

It is not necessary that you use the prayers that are printed in this booklet, but it is necessary that you pray for Vocations. Enjoy your 'servant vocation prayer time' during this month or the time period you have been offered. Peace and all good, Karen



Most High, glorious God,
enlighten the darkness of my heart and give me
true faith, certain hope, and perfect charity,
sense and knowledge, Lord, that I may carry out
Your holy and true command. Amen.

be heard and may God grant us the grace to lead good and faithful lives. Saint Francis of Assisi, pray for us. Amen
 Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory be... (Pray for nine days)
 Saint Francis of Assisi, Pray for us. Amen.

PRAYER for IMITATING ST. FRANCIS

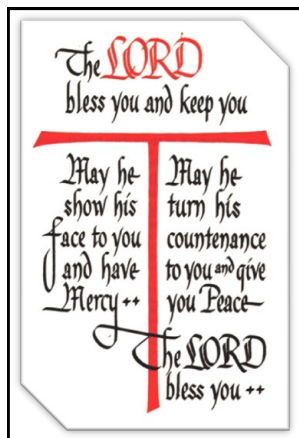
Collect from St. Francis' Feast Day, October 4th

O God, who increase Thy Church with the merits of blessed Francis by the heavenly birth of this Thy newborn: grant unto us, that through imitating him we may despise earthly goods and always rejoice in the participation in Thy heavenly gifts. We ask this through Our Lord Jesus Christ, who with the Father and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns, God forever and ever. Amen.



PRAY for the INTENTIONS of the POPE

Our Father....
 Hail Mary....
 Glory be....



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NATIONAL PRAYER FOR VOCATION TO THE SECULAR FRANCISCAN ORDER

O, Good and Gracious God, God of mercy, compassion, generosity, and love, as we live our lives today in the model of St. Francis, choosing daily to live the Gospel life, help us to help others hear your call.

Help us to help others to recognize their vocation as a Secular Franciscan that You have already planted in their heart. Help us, so that together we all may work to bring the gospel to life. Amen.By Marian R. Crosby, OFS, 2010



PRAYER TO THE FIVE FRANCISCAN MARTYRS

O Lord Jesus Christ, reward the apostolic zeal of Friar Pedro de Corpa and his four companion friars, Blas, Miguel, Antonio, and Francisco, who labored for the spiritual well-being of the natives of Georgia and gave their lives in witness to the Christian faith. Through their merits and intercession graciously grant the favor I humbly ask of You, so that, for the glory of Your Name, their heroic sacrifice may be officially recognized by the Church. Amen. (Permissu Ordinarii Dioec. Savannahensis)



ST. FRANCIS' VOCATION PRAYER BEFORE THE CRUCIFIX

Most High, glorious God,
 enlighten the darkness of my heart and give me true faith, certain hope, and perfect charity, sense and knowledge, Lord, that I may carry out Your holy and true command. Amen.

BLESSING of SAINT FRANCIS

Whoever shall observe these things may he be filled in heaven with the blessing of the most high Father, and may he be filled on earth with the blessing of His beloved Son, together with the Holy Spirit, the Consoler, and all the powers of heaven



and all the saints. And I, brother Francis, your worthless servant, as far as I am able, approve this most holy blessing both internally and externally, Amen.

FOR THE LOVE OF MARY

Mirror of a Franciscan Vocation

FIRST JOY— THE ANNUNCIATION MEDITATION

Mary, just before she conceived Christ, was preparing her soul for union with God, although unaware of what form this union would take. A brief conversation with an angel, and she found herself one with God in a unique and ineffable way. Before Communion we too prepare the Portiuncula of our heart for this entry; afterward, though the material accidents conceal the fact, our Lord is no less really present in us than He was in His Immaculate Mother.



PRAYER

Dearest Lady, more than mirror of the Divine Son, the very tabernacle of His dwelling, obtain for us through your loving prayers such cooperation with grace that all those called to the Franciscan Order also may conceive within our souls your ever-living Son.

SECOND JOY — THE VISITATION, MEDITATION

Framed between two lovely songs, the Magnificat and the Benedictus, the birth of John the Baptist set aglow, as a flame lights a candle, the thought of a Redeemer in each citizen of the hill country who came to the precursor's Christening. Before and after this holy nativity, the gentle presence of Mary blessed the home of Zechariah as we too bless the places to which we bring the Christ united to us in the Eucharist and pledged to remain in our heart as long as grace continues there.



PRAYER

Our Lady of Service, for whom no duty was too small, help us to see that love transforms every action, and that without it what is praised by others as success is dry and fruitless for eternity. Saint Francis, servant of all, teach all those called to

Franciscan vocation, like you, may achieve the Vision of God.

SEVENTH JOY — THE ASSUMPTION AND CORONATION MEDITATION

"Where I am, you also shall be." The love of Christ for his Mother, body and soul, made him long for her entrance into eternity. In the greatest of her festivals, he welcomed her to Heaven. Mary's assumption is a dazzling transfiguration of that union Christ affects in us all through the Eucharist; her coronation is the symbol of the "greater things" in store for us according to the exhortation of our Holy Father Saint Francis.



PRAYER

Dear Mother, intercede for all those God is calling to live the Franciscan way of life, may our response be whole-hearted and may we grow in holiness every day of our life.

ANTIPHON FROM THE OFFICE OF THE PASSION

Holy Virgin Mary, There is no one like you born in the world among women, Daughter and Handmaid of the most high, sovereign King, the heavenly Father, Mother of our most holy Lord Jesus Christ, Spouse of the Holy Spirit. Pray for us with St. Michael the Archangel and with all the powers of the heavens and with all the Saints together with your most holy beloved Son, Lord and Teacher.



NOVENA TO ST. FRANCIS

O Beloved for all God's creatures led you to the heights of heavenly perfection and turned many hearts to follow God's will. Now in our day, in our ministry to a world grown cold and in need of peace and healing, intercede for us. We come before the Lord with our special request for an increase in holiness and vocations to the Franciscan Order.



O Blessed Saint of God, from your throne among the hosts of heaven, present our petitions before our faithful Lord. May your prayers on our behalf

exile ends, show all those called to the Franciscan Order the Fruit of your womb, Jesus our Lord.

FIFTH JOY THE FINDING OF JESUS IN THE TEMPLE, MEDITATION

None knows so well as our dear Mother, sorrowful in this faint reflection of the three-day separation after Calvary, how heavy a burden life can be when Christ is absent. Just as he embraced Mary tenderly when she discovered Him in the Temple, so does He greet each of us who find Him anew in the Eucharist; as He went down to Nazareth with her, so does He accompany us wherever our Franciscan work for Him may lead.



PRAYER

Now that you have found your Son beyond any possibility of loss, in the Temple of Paradise, pray for all those called to be Franciscans and are still on pilgrimage. Dear Mother, may each finding of Christ in the Eucharist along the stations of our journey be a foreshadowing of perpetual union with Him in Heaven.

SIXTH JOY — THE RESURRECTION, MEDITATION

Joyful beyond any words, the meeting of Mary and her Son on the morning of His resurrection represents, in heightened splendor, what happens in every Communion. With no language but tenderness, the risen Christ gives Himself to the soul who receives Him in the Mass, Calvary all over again and climaxed as that was by the glory of a more perfect union than a world without suffering could ever have known.



PRAYER

O Queen of Heaven, rejoice—and help us to rejoice, when after each night we kneel in the radiance of a new Easter as our Lord comes to us in Holy Communion. We too must be worthy to bear Him, who has risen as He said, but we can be so only through your aid, channel of every grace. Saint Francis wounded on La Verna, pray that those God is calls to a

your Order, to copy Mary in her humility.

THIRD JOY — THE NATIVITY AND VISIT OF THE MAGI, MEDITATION

Outside the city of self, in the darkness of trust in God, the Blessed Virgin bore her Child. Although His incarnate life was now separate from her body, the Word remained within her like a King on his throne. So does He reign with-in each of us, possessing and possessed, when as a result of His birth in that first House of Bread, Bethlehem, He comes to us in the Eucharist. Each of us becomes, morning after morning, a Greccio, a home for the infant God.



PRAYER

Who can teach us as well as you, dear Mother, how to receive the body and blood, soul and divinity of Jesus? Walk beside all those called to the Franciscan Order as we approach the altar and deepen in us all virtues, that we may bear a closer resemblance to Him who is Eucharistically born in our hearts.

FOURTH JOY — THE PRESENTATION OF JESUS IN THE TEMPLE AND THE PURIFICATION OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, MEDITATION

Just as Mary's eager desire to share her Son led to the Visitation and to the adoration of the shepherds, so did she, brighter than any star, draw these Magi to the feet of their Redeemer. After their arrival, with joy she gave hire to each in turn, even as she does to us who receive Him in Holy Communion. The gold of abandonment, the myrrh of Franciscan penitence, and the frankincense of complete love are little to return for such a Gift.



PRAYER

Sweetest Mother, every morning as we pray, place your Son within our soul as you placed Him in the arms of that first Wise Man to enter the poor cave of Bethlehem. Even before this early