

The Franciscan Crown

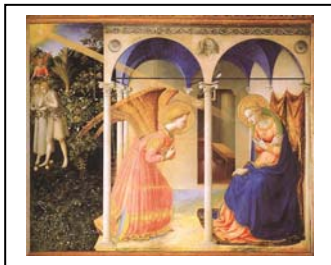
Praying with Mary and Francis



All. In the Name of the Father, + and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

L.: O Lord, come to our aid.

R: O God, make haste to help us.



The First Joy of Mary: The Annunciation

L. Do not fear, Mary, for you have favour with God. Behold, you will conceive and bear a son, and shall name him Jesus. *Luke 1:30-31*

One Our Father, Ten Hail Mary's and One Glory Be.

L. Almighty Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, you have revealed the beauty of your power by exalting the lowly virgin of Nazareth and making her the mother of our Saviour. May the prayers of this woman bring Jesus to the waiting world and fill the void of completion with the presence of her child, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. **R.** Amen.

All. Holy Virgin Mary, there is none like unto Thee born in the world among women, Daughter and Handmaid of the Most High, the Highest King, the heavenly Father, Mother of Our Most Holy Lord Jesus Christ, Spouse of the Holy Spirit: pray on our behalf with St. Michael the Archangel and all the Virtues of Heaven and all the Saints before Thy Most Holy Beloved Son, the Lord and Master. *(St Francis' Marian Antiphon in the Office of the Passion)*

The Second Joy of Mary: The Visitation

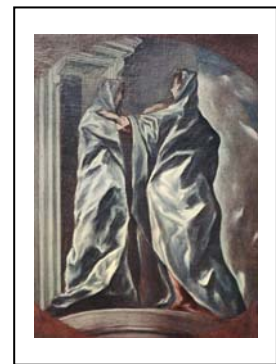
L. The infant leapt in her womb, and Elizabeth cried out in a loud voice, "Most blessed are you among women and blessed is the fruit of your womb.

Luke 1:41-42

One Our Father, Ten Hail Mary's and One Glory Be.

L. Eternal Father, you inspired the Virgin Mary, mother of your Son, to visit Elizabeth and assist her in her need. Keep us open to the working of your Spirit, and with Mary may we praise you forever. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **R.** Amen.

All. Holy Virgin Mary, there is none like unto Thee born in the world among women, Daughter and Handmaid of the Most High, the Highest King, the heavenly Father, Mother of Our Most Holy Lord Jesus Christ, Spouse of the Holy Spirit: pray on our behalf with St. Michael the Archangel and all the Virtues of Heaven and all the Saints before Thy Most Holy Beloved Son, the Lord and Master. *(St Francis' Marian Antiphon in the Office of the Passion)*





The Third Joy of Mary: The Birth of Christ

L. Mary gave birth to her first born son. She wrapped him in swaddling clothes and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them in the inn. *Luke 2:4, 7*

One Our Father, Ten Hail Mary's and One Glory Be.

L. Father, source of light in every age, the virgin conceived and bore your Son who is called Wonderful God, Prince of Peace. May her prayer, the gift of a mother's love, be your people's joy through all ages. **R.** Amen.

All. Holy Virgin Mary, there is none like unto Thee born in the world among women, Daughter and Handmaid of the Most High, the Highest King, the heavenly Father, Mother of Our Most Holy Lord Jesus Christ,

Spouse of the Holy Spirit: pray on our behalf with St. Michael the Archangel and all the Virtues of Heaven and all the Saints before Thy Most Holy Beloved Son, the Lord and Master. *(St Francis' Marian Antiphon in the Office of the Passion)*

The Fourth Joy of Mary: The Adoration of the Magi

L. The Magi found the mother with child. They prostrated themselves and did him homage, offering gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh. *Matthew 2:1-2, 11*

One Our Father, Ten Hail Mary's and One Glory Be.

L. Father of light, unchanging God, you revealed your Son to the nations by the guidance of a star. Your light is strong; your love is near. Lead us to your glory in heaven by the light of faith. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **R.** Amen.

All. Holy Virgin Mary, there is none like unto Thee born in the world among women, Daughter and Handmaid of the Most High, the Highest King, the heavenly Father, Mother of Our Most Holy Lord Jesus Christ, Spouse of the Holy Spirit: pray on our behalf with St. Michael the Archangel and all the Virtues of Heaven and all the Saints before Thy Most Holy Beloved Son, the Lord and Master. *(St Francis' Marian Antiphon in the Office of the Passion)*



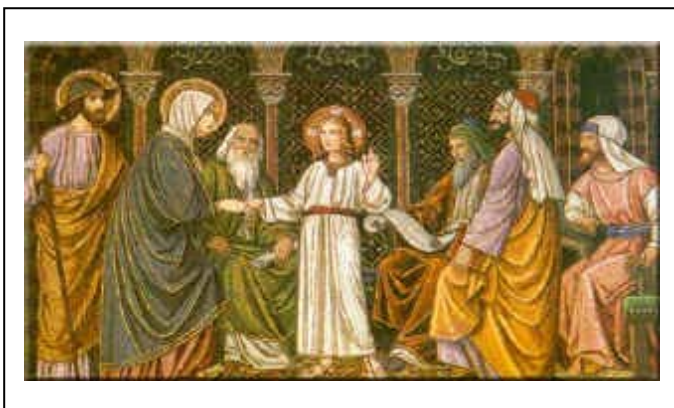
The Fifth Joy of Mary: Finding the Child Jesus in the Temple

L. After three days they found the boy in the Temple. And he said to them, 'Did you not know that I would be found in my father's house?'

Luke 2:41, 43, 46-49

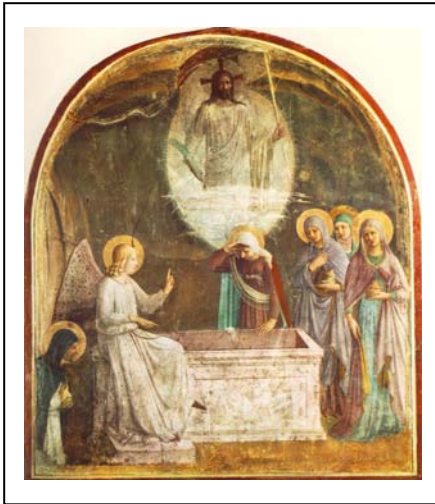
One Our Father, Ten Hail Mary's and One Glory Be.

L. Father in heaven, creator of all, teach us the



sanctity of human love, show us the value of family life. Help us to live as the holy family, united in respect and love. Bring us to the joy and peace of your eternal home. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **R.** Amen.

All. Holy Virgin Mary, there is none like unto Thee born in the world among women, Daughter and Handmaid of the Most High, the Highest King, the heavenly Father, Mother of Our Most Holy Lord Jesus Christ, Spouse of the Holy Spirit: pray on our behalf with St. Michael the Archangel and all the Virtues of Heaven and all the Saints before Thy Most Holy Beloved Son, the Lord and Master. *(St Francis' Marian Antiphon in the Office of the Passion)*



The Sixth Joy of Mary: Meeting Christ after the Resurrection

L. Then there appeared to them tongues as of fire, and they were all filled with the Holy Spirit. *Acts 2:1-4*

One Our Father, Ten Hail Mary's and One Glory Be.

L. God our Father, by raising Christ your Son you conquered the power of death and opened for us the way to eternal life. Raise us up and renew our lives by the Spirit that is within us. Grant this through Christ our Lord. **R.** Amen.

All. Holy Virgin Mary, there is none like unto Thee born in the world among women, Daughter and Handmaid of the Most High, the Highest King, the heavenly Father, Mother of Our Most Holy Lord Jesus Christ, Spouse of the Holy Spirit: pray on our behalf

with St. Michael the Archangel and all the Virtues of Heaven and all the Saints before Thy Most Holy Beloved Son, the Lord and Master. *(St Francis' Marian Antiphon in the Office of the Passion)*

The Seventh Joy of Mary: The Assumption and Coronation

L. A great sign appeared in the sky; a woman clothed with the sun, with the moon under her feet and on her head a crown of twelve stars.

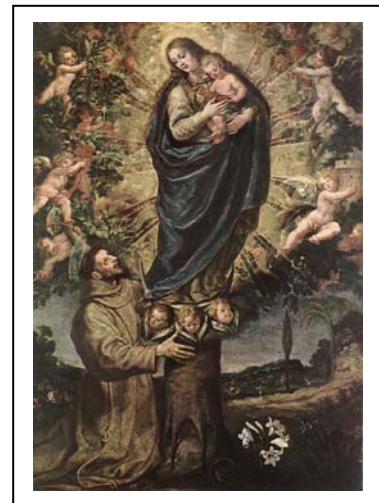
Rev. 11:19; 12: 1

One Our Father, Ten Hail Mary's and One Glory Be.

L. All-powerful and ever-living God, you raised Mary, mother of your Son, body, and soul to the glory of heaven. May we see heaven as our final goal and come to share her glory. We ask this through Christ our Lord. **R.** Amen.

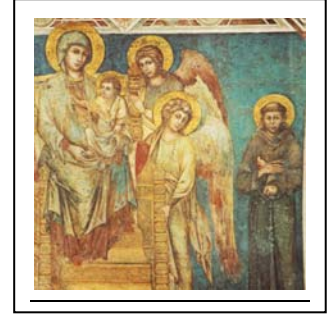
All. Holy Virgin Mary, there is none like unto Thee born in the world among women, Daughter and Handmaid of the Most High, the Highest King, the heavenly Father, Mother of Our Most Holy Lord Jesus Christ, Spouse of the Holy Spirit: pray on our behalf with St.

Michael the Archangel and all the Virtues of Heaven and all the Saints before Thy Most Holy Beloved Son, the Lord and Master. *(St Francis' Marian Antiphon in the Office of the Passion)*



Conclusion.

Two Hail Mary's. *To make seventy-two in all, the number of Our Lady's years on earth.*



L. Hail Lady, Holy Queen, Holy Mary Theotokos, who are the Virgin made church and the one chosen by the Most Holy Father of Heaven,
R. whom He consecrated with His Most Holy Beloved Son and with the Holy Spirit, the Paraclete;

L. in whom there was and is all fullness of grace and every good.

R. Hail His Palace; Hail His Tabernacle;

L. Hail His Home. Hail His Vestment;

R. Hail His Handmaid; Hail His Mother

L. and hail all you holy virtues, which through the grace and illumination of the Holy Spirit are infused into the hearts of the faithful,

R. so that from those unfaithful you make them faithful to God.

(St Francis' Salutation to the Blessed Virgin Mary)

L. For the intentions of the Pope.

One Our Father, One Hail Mary and One Glory Be.

L. Let us bless the Lord God, living and true;

R. let us always return unto Him praise, glory,

L. honour, blessing and all good things.

R. Amen.

L. Amen.

All . Let it be. Let it be. *(St Francis' Conclusion to the Office of Passion)*

Origin

The Franciscan Crown, or the Seraphic Rosary, dates to the early part of the 15th century. At that time a young man who found spiritual joy in weaving a crown of wild flowers for a beautiful statue of Mary decided to enter the Franciscan Order. After entering the community, however, he was saddened when he no longer found the time to gather flowers for his personal devotion. One evening, while feeling tempted to abandon his vocation, he received a vision of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Virgin Mother encouraged the young novice to persevere by reminding him of the joyfulness of the Franciscan spirit. She also instructed him to meditate daily on seven joyful events from her own life as a new form of the rosary. Instead of a crown of flowers, the novice would now weave a crown of prayers. Before long, many other Franciscans began to pray the Crown and soon it spread to the entire Order, becoming officially established in 1422.

In addition to developing this Marian devotion, the Franciscans are credited with adding the final words to the Hail Mary, Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death.

There are many ways of saying this Franciscan Crown. The version presented above has been adapted for the YDS Catholic Community.

www.ofm.org.hk © 2003