

Franciscan Crown Rosary

The Franciscan Order has always shown a deep devotion to Mary. Among the traditions in our Franciscan heritage is the story of the Franciscan Crown Rosary. As with all devotions to Our Lady, this one invites us to celebrate God's power at work in the life of Mary...

In the 1400's, a young man with an enthusiastic devotion to Mary joined the Franciscan Order. One day, while he was praying, our Lady spoke to him. She invited him to reflect on her joys, reciting Our Fathers and Hail Marys as he did so. He shared this devotion with others. Thus the Franciscan Crown Rosary had its origin around 1422. It is recited in this manner:

Begin at the first decade with one Our Father and ten Hail Marys. Follow this pattern for seven decades. At the end of the seventh decade, say two Hail Marys in honour of Our Lady's life on earth. Follow this with an Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory Be for the intentions of the Holy Father. Amen.

The joys of Our Lady are used for the decades.

- 1) *The Annunciation—Mary's call to trust God.*
- 2) *The Visitation—Mary ministers to Elizabeth.*
- 3) *The Nativity—Mary gives birth to Jesus.*
- 4) *The visit of the Magi—the Gentiles come to Jesus.*
- 5) *Finding Jesus in the temple—fear and concern that end in discovery*
- 6) *The Resurrection— death gives way to new life.*
- 7) *The Assumption/Coronation— consequences of a life of service.*

St. Francis loved Mary. The Franciscan Order began in the little chapel consecrated to St. Mary of the Angels. His followers have written top-notch books on Mary. They have helped develop the theology of Mary. Duns Scotus helped develop the theology of her Immaculate Conception. St. Lawrence of Brindisi (Capuchin) is known as the Marian Doctor for his many writings on Mary. Her "littleness" is a quality dear to Franciscans. She is the advocate of our Franciscan Family. Her human example of faithfulness calls us to be faithful.

The Secular Franciscans should express their ardent love for her by imitating her complete self-giving and by praying earnestly and confidently.

Article 9, OFS Rule

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