

COMPANION



Imprimi Potest:

Joseph Henchey, C.S.S.
Superior Provincial

Nihil Obstat:

Thomas F. Devine, S.T.L., Ph.D.

Imprimatur:

Joseph F. Maguire, D.D.
Bishop of Springfield

Date:

April 10, 1987

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PREFACE	3
INVOLVEMENT	4
RELIGIOUS LIFE	5
TO BE A BROTHER	6
TO BE A PRIEST	7
SPIRITUAL DIRECTION	9
SPIRITUAL READING	9
ASSOCIATES	10
VOCATION ASSOCIATES	11
SAYINGS OF THE FOUNDER	13
PRAYER FOR VOCATIONS	14
LITURGY OF THE HOURS	16
INDEX OF PRAYERS AND DEVOTIONS	18
LIFE OF THE FOUNDER	116

PREFACE

On All Saints' Day of the recent Holy Year, 1975, the late Pope Paul VI enrolled Fr. Bertoni's name among the members of the Church called "Blessed", which is the next-to-the-last step in the long process of canonization. In his homily that day during the Eucharistic celebration commemorating this happy event in the life of the entire Church, the Holy Father stated:

"Gaspar Bertoni, a priest of the Diocese of Verona (Italy), the Founder of the Stigmatine Congregation, formed in the school of St. Ignatius, poured himself out in behalf of his contemporaries, by striving to heal the wounds left in society by a terrible war of that time . . . His own life was a continual immolation, having suffered the extreme purification of persistent illnesses . . . This great apostle of youth, even in our own time, points out the path to follow toward a sure future for society . . ."

INVOLVEMENT

One who aspires to the Religious Life cannot live in a shell. The rich young man who kept all the commandments was told he had to "follow" Jesus. Jesus was an activist who took the middle road. He took part in the Synagogue service (Mt.9:35), He spoke out against injustice and drove the money changers from the Temple (Mt.21;12). His first miracle was at a wedding feast at Cana when He helped out a young couple who had run out of wine. Jesus was involved in life, in His church, in His community.

Those who apply for entrance as Lay Associates or Vocation Associates, will have to show that they have been involved in their parish and community.

This will be proved by a letter of recommendation from one's pastor; a required document in the admission process.

Now is the time to pray for discernment in your life. How can you best serve the Lord in your parish? What are the needs in your community? Perhaps a visit with your pastor can help you discover ways to serve the Good Lord in His brothers and sisters. No servant is greater than his master. As Jesus found ways to teach, encourage, enlighten, console, heal, feed and pray for those He lived with, so must we.

RELIGIOUS LIFE

"From the very infancy of the Church there have existed men and women who strove to follow Christ more freely and imitate Him more nearly by the practice of the evangelical counsels (Poverty, Chastity, Obedience).

Each in his own way, these souls have led a life dedicated to God. Under the influence of the Holy Spirit many of them pursued a solitary life, or founded religious families to which the Church willingly gave the welcome approval of her authority." (Decree on the Appropriate Renewal of Religious Life)

The supreme law of all religious life is to follow Christ as proposed in the Gospels. Each religious group has its own character and purpose, as it was founded in a special time and place to respond to the needs of the Church for that time and place. But the response of founders to those needs in the light of the Gospel BECOMES UNIVERSAL AND TIMELESS. And so, even today, religious who belong to a community founded centuries ago, can still find in the ideals and inspiration of their founder attitudes that encourage even the modern religious to come closer to the Lord and provide even greater service to the church.

One of the chief characteristics and main goals of religious life is to foster and support community life. In the Acts of the Apostles (4:32) we read of the early disciples living a life in common, sharing all they had coming together frequently for prayer and sharing. Even today, that ideal setting is sought after by men and women who enter the religious life. It is in fact one of the main reasons for entering a religious community.

TO BE A BROTHER

What is a Brother?

Often times we tend to see a Brother in terms of what he does, rather than who he is. Perhaps that is because it is also true in ordinary life, as in the spiritual life, that it is "by their fruits you will know them". And "fruits" easily becomes translated into "works". More importantly... what a Brother does really has its foundation in the loving commitment he made to Jesus Christ in the order he entered.

So it really is more important to focus in on WHO is this man we call a Brother.

A BROTHER is a man, a christian, a religious.

First of all, those aspiring to be Brothers must be well-rounded, psychologically mature individuals who know life and are not afraid to live it. As a man, a Brother has many interests and avocations. He may have developed talents in one or another profession or trade, and acquired various hobbies. The human development of the man must be full and complete prior to profession of vows in a religious institute.

As a Christian, a Brother shares in the priesthood of Christ with all the fullness of that important dimension. Through this common priesthood, with his sisters and brothers in Christ, the Religious Brother can be a Eucharistic Minister, Lector, Administrator etc. allowing the fullness of Christ's presence to guide his actions and his life.

Religious Vows bring to this christian life a new dimension of public profession, a witness of a consecrated life of service. A

Brother is a valued contributor to the Stigmatine Community, an equal partner in the Stigmatine vocation.

Much has been written about St. Francis of Assisi, who desired to remain all his life a Brother, ministering to all who joined him; serving, counselling, praying for his newly formed religious community. He found the very special and unique vocation of religious life completely fulfilling. St. Francis was one of the few "stigmatists" acknowledged by the Church. His great love for the Five Wounds of Christ found tangeable outlet in his own body. It was in the Church of the Stigmata of St. Francis that the early Stigmatine Fathers and Brothers first met. So we have a special identity with St. Francis, and our Brothers can find his life of selfless service and dedication to the community a special guide on the road to sanctity.

Our Brothers are a valued and valuable part of the Stigmatine Story and spiritual tradition.

TO BE A PRIEST

"While priests are uniting themselves with the act of Christ the Priest, they are offering their whole selves every day to God. While being nourished by the Body of Christ, their hearts are sharing in the love of Him who gives Himself as food for His faithful ones." (Decree on the Ministry and Life of Priests, Ch.3) By sacred ordination and by the mission they receive from their bishops, priests are promoted to the service of Christ, the Teacher, the Priest, and the King. They share in his ministry of unceasingly building up the church on earth into the People of God, the Body of Christ, and the Temple of the Holy Spirit." (Preface, Decree on Ministry and Life of Priests)

In the Church there are many ministries. Each of them is important, but none so special as that of the ministerial priesthood. The Eucharist is the center of the Christian life. It is the priest united with Jesus the Eternal Priest, who makes present on the altar the Body of Jesus given as food for us. It is the priest, sharing in the merciful heart of Christ, who speaks the words of absolution in the Sacrament of Penance.

The priest evolved in many cultures as the center of the community of faith. The man who guided the faithful on their journey home to God. He was pastor of the flock, often times the only educated person in the village. In the middle ages many priests had secular power, ruling towns and governing in matters of life and death.

Today we experience the ministerial priesthood more as enablers. Servants of the people of God they challenge them by their prophetic role; teach of the things of God in their pastoral role; celebrate Eucharist in their priestly role; provide example in their lives as they live united to Christ the Leader. The priest today may not have the last word in all matters, but he does have the Word of Life to offer all seekers in the dark world of the present day.

To be a priest is to share in the holy work of Christ the One and Eternal Priest. In the words spoken at ordination, the priest is to become what he handles . . . Jesus Christ.

SPIRITUAL DIRECTION

Your life is a gift of God to you. What you do with your life is your gift to God. Sometimes it is a scary thought "What to do with my life? How to make it a 'good gift' to God?" The fortunate few are able to find a spiritual director a friend and counselor who can help them, guide them on their journey. Making their total lives "Something Beautiful for God", to use the words of Mother Theresa of Calcutta.

If you can find a priest to talk openly and honestly about what is happening in your life, then you have found a treasure. If you can find a priest who has had training in spiritual direction, and who is willing to spend time with you, then you have found the pearl of great price. The biographies of great saints all speak of the importance of spiritual direction, an outside guide who can lead past the ego, through the mine-fields and pitfalls of this world's wisdom, to the plan of God for each of us. Begin with your parish priest. Search carefully and diligently, You may find this great blessing closer than you thought.

SPIRITUAL READING

The majority of christians must be content with finding spiritual direction through reading. The Sacred Scriptures, the lives of the saints, books on spirituality...all these can become valuable and indispensable ways to discern God's will for us. Especially the Scriptures.

In the Word of God we find power and light. A two-edged sword to cut to the heart of the issue. A beacon in the dark world around us to lead us on the path to life. Every saint has

taken the Scriptures to heart. In their writings the thoughts and words of Jesus are intertwined with their own. They seem to have become one with the Lord . . . one mind, one heart, one voice. And so for each of us, the daily reading and even memorizing of the Sacred Scriptures should be a most desirable goal.

To make time for spiritual reading must rank among the top priorities of our daily lives. Find a good book to go along with the reading of Sacred Scripture. Ask your pastor to recommend one. Perhaps a life of a saint or a book on the spiritual life.

ASSOCIATES

LAY ASSOCIATES

VOCATION ASSOCIATES

An ASSOCIATE is one who is joined to another in some way. STIGMATINE ASSOCIATES are of two kinds: Vocation Associates who are joined to the Stigmatine Community by their interest in becoming priests or brothers. And Lay Associates who are men and women desiring to join themselves in a closer way to the Stigmatine Fathers and Brothers by their lives of prayer and good works.

LAY ASSOCIATES

The Stigmatine Congregation is happy to include all those who desire associateship in their apostolic life and labors, and in turn expect that all those who have expressed this desire to be joined to the Congregation will carry out the obligations and duties of Associateship as defined by its lawful superiors. Both classes of Associates will be required to develop a strong

and sound spiritual life based on the principles of our Blessed Founder, Gaspar Bertoni. This will include frequent Mass, daily prayer and meditation, spiritual reading, spiritual direction and confession. Included will be their daily offering of prayers and sufferings for the growth of the Congregation and the success of its apostolic endeavors, especially in the Mission field. Their good works will be varied and fruitful as they are joined to their prayers and offered daily for the salvation of souls according to the Divine Will. As ASSOCIATES they will share in the benefits of all the members of the Congregation of the Sacred Stigmata, as they are remembered daily at all Masses offered, and are included in a vital way in the prayer life of all professed members of the Congregation.

VOCATION ASSOCIATES

A "Vocation Associate" is a person unable to join the community at the present time, but who expresses a desire to belong to the Congregation of the Sacred Stigmata. Contact is maintained with the Associate by the Director of Vocations or the Director of Formation through periodic conferences, visits to the House of Formation, letters etc. A Vocation Associate may occasionally be invited to spend a brief period of time at the House of Formation.

CONDITIONS

1. An interest in discerning a vocation to the Stigmatine Fathers and Brothers.
2. Presently not able to make a commitment to the Formation Program (due to military commitment, job, family, debt, etc.)
3. Willingness of person to make a strong effort to keep in contact with the formation personnel and attend programs offered.

4. Submits all documents necessary for admission to full time formation program to Director of Vocations. (Recent copy of Baptism, Confirmation, Transcripts of grades, Letter of Recommendation from Pastor, photograph, medical report, Psychological eval. and completed questionnaire).
5. Evidence of having a spiritual director and prayer life to support his interest in priesthood/religious life.
6. Involvement in some form of parish ministry (Eucharistic Minister, Lector, Usher, CCD Teacher etc.)
7. Willingness to explore taking courses which would be preparatory for entrance to pre-theology or theology.
8. Maintenance of a healthy regimen and diet so as to be able to provide evidence of good health prior to entrance.
9. Daily readings from "COMPANION" booklet provided, containing prayers, life of the Founder etc.
10. Pledge to remain faithful to the Vocation Associate Program. (Pledge in the form of a certificate signed by associate and Vocation Director).

**SOME SAYINGS FROM THE FOUNDER
BLESSED GASPAR BERTONI**

“If you cannot be present bodily in our little house, be there spiritually ‘in the hollow places of the wall’ (Cant. II, 14), in the wounds of our most lovable and humbe Savior, where I leave you, embracing you with all my heart.”

“Often read the Gospels and mull over the sayings and deeds of Christ... apply them to yourself wherever you stand in need. Shape yourself according to that model that the saints used... trace your design using the Prototype, that is on the life of Christ, our Lord, the author and fulfillment of our Faith.”

“You should trust in the heart of Christ our Lord, who loves you with a love greater than a mother’s; ‘for you have been bought at a great price.’ Therefore, glorify him in your soul, and bear him also in your body. ‘The Lord rules me, and nothing is lacking to me.’ What a good shepherd he is! Allow yourself to be ruled, guided and fed totally under his care, as a wise and docile sheep.”

“The world doesn’t recognize the glory to which Christ is risen, it doesn’t see what it means to live in God that is to say near to the Father. That is why St. Paul said in Colossians 3:3ff that your life is hidden together with Christ in God.”

“Very few allow God to make of them what He wants to. They should put themselves into His hands and let His grace work in them. Consider a rough tree. It would never think of becoming a statue. But yielding to the chisel of the sculptor, it becomes what is in the mind of the artist. Thus many unfulfilled christians could be saint-masterpieces if they would allow the grace of God to work its will on them. Instead they resist and spoil the design of God for them.”

(Bartoli Bk IV)

Gaspar Bertoni
Beatified
November 1, 1975
Prayer For Vocations

Heavenly Father, bless your Church with an abundance of holy and zealous priests, deacons, brothers and sisters. Give those you have called to the married state and those you have chosen to live as single persons in the world, the special graces that their lives require. Form us all in the likeness of your Son so that in him, with him and through him we may love you more deeply and serve you more faithfully, always and everywhere. With Mary we ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Vocations Committee—
Supreme Council, Knights of Columbus



Christ Of The Five Wounds

LITURGY OF THE HOURS

In the following pages, a variety of prayers and devotions that have been used over the years by the members of the Congregation of the Sacred Stigmata, are offered for your use. The Church has asked that laypeople become acquainted with the Liturgy of the Hours (Divine Office) and especially attempt to join with members of the Church throughout the world in saying Morning Prayers and Evening Prayers. Where possible, therefore, we encourage our Associates to purchase these volumes and to make their morning and evening prayers the Liturgy of the Hours as do our priests and brothers.





The Stigmatine Seal

INDEX*
PART 1
DAILY DEVOTIONS
In the Morning

Sign of the Cross	23
Angelus	23
Regina Coeli	24
General offering of the day	25
Prayer of Founder to BVM	25
Act of Faith	26
Act of Hope	
Act of Love	1
Prayer for the Cannonization of The Founder	27
Meditation	27

At Noon

Prayer before the examination of conscience	29
Examination of conscience	
Resolution	
Act of contrition	
Blessing before meals	30
Grace after meals	

Towards Evening

Apostles' Creed	30
Mysteries of the Rosary	31
Hail Holy Queen	32
For Military Chaplains	33
For relatives and benefactors	33

Night Prayers

For the intentions of the Superior	
General and our Provincial	34
Prayer of Sacred Stigmata	
Prayer to our Holy Patrons	
Vespers	35

WEEKLY DEVOTIONS

Prayer to the most Sacred	
Heart of Jesus	35
Prayers in honor of the Sacred Stigmata	
of our Lord Jesus Christ	
(Jesus, risen from death)	35
Prayers to the Glorious Wounds of our	
Lord Jesus Christ	37
Way of the Cross	38

MONTHLY DEVOTIONS

Act of consecration	54
Prayer for a good death	55
Prayers to the Blessed Trinity (12th of the month)	56
Prayer for the canonization of our Blessed Founder	57

ANNUAL DEVOTIONS

ANNUAL RETREAT	58
Prayer before the examination on the Stigmatine spirit	58
Examination on the Stigmatine spirit	59
FEAST OF THE SACRED STIGMATA OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST	67
Christe Jesu (English)	70
SALVETE CHRISTI VULNERA	71
Chaplet in honor of the Espousal of Mary and Joseph	74
Prayer of St. Bernard	76
Prayer to the blessed Virgin	76
Prayer to St. Joseph (To you, O blessed Joseph)	77

Prayer to St. Joseph (We greet you, O glorious St. Joseph)	78
Eja Festivis (English)	79
Virgini Sponso (English)	80
O Deo Natum (English)	80

PART II

Lord's prayer	82
Hail Mary	
Glory be to the Father	
Prayer to the guardian angel	
Thanksgiving	83
Visit to the Blessed Sacrament	84
Spiritual Communion	85
Prayer before taking leave of the Blessed Sacrament	85
For the Holy Father	86
For the Bishop	86
For the missions	86
Prayer for the missions	86
Prayer to promote the canonization of our Founder	87
Prayer to Holy Spirit	87
Prayer to Christ Crucified	88
Anima Christi	89
Prayer attributed to Pope Clement XI	89
Act of consecration of the human race to the Sacred Heart of Jesus	90

A Student's prayer	91
A prayer to St. Michael	92
A brother's prayer	92
Prayer to Saint Gerard Majella	93
Prayer for Ones Family	93
Prayer to St. Thomas Aquinas	94
Prayer to St. John Berchmans	94
Prayer to St. Stanislaus	95
Prayer to St. Aloysius	95
Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary	96
Litany of Saint Joseph	100
Litany of the Sacred Heart of Jesus	101
Litany of the Precious Blood	103
Veni, Sancte Spiritus	105
Veni Creator Spiritus	106
O Salutaris Hostia	108
Pange Lingua	108
Tantum Ergo	110
Divine Praises	111
Magnificat	112
Te Deum	112
Miserere	115

DAILY DEVOTIONS
IN THE MORNING

In the name of the Father, and the Son, and of the Holy Spirit.
Amen

The Angelus

- V. The Angel of the Lord declared unto Mary.
R. And she conceived of the Holy Spirit.
Hail Mary
- V. Behold the handmaid of the Lord.
R. Be it done unto me according to Your Word.
Hail Mary
- V. And the Word was made flesh.
R. And dwelled among us.
Hail Mary
- V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God. .
R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us Pray

Pour forth, we beseech You, O Lord, Your grace into our hearts, that we to whom the Incarnation of Christ, Your Son, was made known by the message of an Angel, may, by His passion and cross, be brought to the glory of the Resurrection, through the same Christ our Lord.
Amen.

The Regina Coeli

- V. Queen of Heaven rejoice, alleluia.
R. For He Whom you did merit to bear, alleluia.
V. Has risen, as He said, alleluia.
R. Pray for us to God, alleluia.
V. Rejoice and be glad, O Virgin Mary, alleluia.
R. Because the Lord is truly risen, alleluia.

Let us Pray

O God, Who by the Resurrection of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, have vouchsafed to make glad the whole world, grant, we beseech You, that through the intercession of the Virgin Mary, His Mother, we may lay hold of the joys of eternal life, through the same Christ our Lord.

Amen



Morning Prayer

General Offering of the Day

O my God! I adore You and thank You for the new day You grant me. I offer You all my thoughts, words, actions and sufferings of today, in union with whatever my Redeemer Jesus Christ did and suffered, for the intentions of His most loving heart, for Your honor and glory, in thanksgiving for Your favors, in reparation of my offenses, in supplication for the grace of final perseverance, for the conversion of sinners and infidels, and for the relief of the poor souls in purgatory. I intend to gain today all the indulgences I can.

I recommend to You the Catholic Church, our Holy Father, the Pope, the Bishop of this diocese, my dear Congregation, my relatives and benefactors.

I protest my unwillingness to commit any willful sin, and promise to struggle valiantly against my predominant passion, and to do my utmost to love You, and to win others to Your love, so that, should death come to me today, I might present myself unblemished in Your sight. *Amen.*

Prayer of the Founder to the Blessed Virgin Mary

I greet you, O my Mother; give me your blessing; bless me and all who are dear to me. Vouchsafe to offer to God all I have to do and suffer today, in union with your merits, as well as those of your Blessed Son. I offer you and consecrate to your service, all my being and whatever belongs to me placing everything under your protection. Obtain for me, my dear Lady, purity of soul and body, and grant that I may not do anything today displeasing to God; I entreat you through your Immaculate Conception and your perfect Virginitv.

Act of Faith

O my God, I firmly believe that Thou art one God in three Divine Persons, Father, Son and Holy Spirit; I believe that Thy Divine Son became man and died for our sins, and that He will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe these and all the truths which the holy Catholic Church teaches, because Thou hast revealed them who canst neither deceive nor be deceived.

Act of Hope

O my God, relying on Thy infinite goodness and promises, I hope to obtain pardon of my sins, the help of Thy grace, and life everlasting, through the merits of Jesus Christ, my Lord and Redeemer.

Act of Love

O my God, I love Thee above all things with my whole heart and soul, because Thou art all good and worthy of all love. I love my neighbor as myself for the love of Thee. I forgive all who have injured me, and ask pardon of all whom I have injured.

For the Canonization of our Blessed Founder:

Hail Mary

Glory be to the Father

Pray for us, O Holy Mary and Saint Joseph:

That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us Pray

Almightly and everlasting God, who joined in chaste wedlock the most blessed Mary, Mother of Your Son, and Saint Joseph, the just man, grant that, through their intercession, we may share in spiritual nuptials with Christ: Who lives and reigns with You forever and ever.

Amen.

Lauds of the Day. *(In common, when possible)*

Meditation Preparation

O my God, I believe You are present in my soul. I bow down humbly before You in profound adoration.

I believe in You, O Lord, because You are infallible truth.

I hope in You because You are infinite mercy.

I love You above all things because You are my greatest good.

I thank You for Your mercy, so many times shown me, and ask pardon for all my sins.

Enlighten my understanding, O Lord, and inflame my will, that I might reap abundant fruit from this meditation for Your greater glory and the profit of my soul.

Holy Virgin Mary, St. Joseph, my Guardian Angel, my heavenly patrons, assist me by your powerful protection.

Come, Holy Spirit, fill the hearts of Your faithful people and kindle in them the fire of Your divine love.

V. Send forth Your Spirit, and they shall be created: (Alleluia)

R. And You shall renew the face of the earth. (Alleluia)

Let us Pray

O God, Who did teach the hearts of Your faithful people by sending them the light of Your Holy Spirit, grant us by the same Spirit to have a right judgement in all things, and evermore to rejoice in His holy comfort. Through Christ our Lord. *Amen*

(Confer Part II for other preparatory prayers)

Thanksgiving

I thank You, O my God, for the light You have vouchsafed to grant me in this meditation. I offer You my resolutions and ask You to bless them so that I may keep them. I ask You for this favor through the merits of Jesus Christ, my Savior. Holy Virgin Mary and St. Joseph, my Guardian Angel, my heavenly patrons, obtain for me the grace of perseverance.

AT NOON
Examination of Conscience
Preparatory Prayer

Here I am in Your presence, O my God. I adore You with my whole heart, and thank You for the favors You have heaped upon me. I am sincerely sorry for not having duly corresponded with them, chiefly with those of my religious vocation. I promise to amend my life in the future; but, since without Your help I am unable to do anything, give me light that I may know the faults I have committed and strength to detest them sincerely.

Examen
Resolution

In the presence of God, Who is infinite holiness, let us repent our failings and make our resolution, keeping before us above all the object of our particular examen.

Act of Contuition

O my God, I am heartily sorry for having offended Thee, and I detest all my sins, because they offend Thee, my God, Who art all good and deserving of all my love. I firmly resolve, with the help of Thy grace, to sin no more and to avoid the near occasions of sin.

Blessing Before Meals

In the name of the Father, and the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. *Amen.*

Bless us, O Lord, and these Your gifts, which we are about to receive from your bounty, through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Grace After Meals

We give You thanks, almighty God, for all Your benefits; You Who live and reign forever and ever. *Amen.*

May the souls of the faithful departed through the mercy of God rest in peace. *Amen.*

TOWARD EVENING

The Apostles' Creed

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 arose again from the dead; He ascended into Heaven, sits at the right hand of God, the Father Almighty; 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.*

Our Father; 3 Hail Marys; Glory be to the Father.

Mysteries of the Rosary

The Five Joyful Mysteries

1. The Annunciation
2. The Visitation
3. The Birth of Our Lord
4. The Presentation of Our Lord in the Temple
5. The finding of Our Lord in the Temple

The Five Sorrowful Mysteries

1. The Agony of Our Lord in the Garden
2. The Scourging at the Pillar
3. The Crowning with Thorns
4. The Carrying of the Cross
5. The Crucifixion and Death of Our Lord

The Five Glorious Mysteries

1. The Resurrection of Our Lord
2. The Ascension of Our Lord into Heaven
3. The Descent of the Holy Spirit upon the Apostles
4. The Assumption of Our Blessed Mother into Heaven
5. The Coronation of Our Blessed Mother in Heaven

Hail Holy Queen

Hail Holy Queen, Mother of mercy, hail, our life, our sweetness and our hope! To thee do we cry, poor banished children of Eve! To thee do we send up our sighs mourning and weeping in this vale of tears! Turn then, most gracious advocate, thine eyes of mercy toward us; and after this, our exile, show unto us the blessed fruit of thy womb, Jesus! O clement, O loving, O sweet Virgin Mary!

V. Pray for us, O Holy Mother of God:

R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us Pray

O God, Whose only-begotten Son, by His life, death and resurrection, has purchased for us the rewards of eternal life; grant, we beseech You, that, meditating on these mysteries of the most holy rosary of the Blessed Virgin Mary, we may imitate what they contain and obtain what they promise.

Through the same Christ our Lord.

Amen.

(After the recitation of the Rosary, it is customary to add the Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Cfr. Part II page 84)

(when the occasion calls for them the Litanies of the Sacred Heart (page 88) or Precious Blood (page 90) or Saint Joseph (page 86) may be recited in place of the Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary. Cfr. Part II)

Prayers for Military Chaplains

The faithful who devoutly recite *Our Father*, *Hail Mary* and *Glory be*, five times, in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus, in order to obtain the preservation of military chaplains in purity and holiness of life, may gain: An indulgence of 300 days.

Prayer for our deceased confreres, relatives and benefactors

Out of the depths I cry to You, O Lord; Lord hear my voice!
Let Your ears be attentive to my voice in supplication.
If You, O Lord, mark iniquities, Lord, who can stand?
But with You is forgiveness, that You may be revered.

I trust in the Lord; my soul trusts in His word.
My soul waits for the Lord more than sentinels wait for the dawn.

More than sentinels wait for the dawn, *let Israel wait for the Lord,

For with the Lord is kindness* and with Him is plenteous redemption;
And He will redeem Israel from all their iniquities.

Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord.
And let perpetual light shine upon them.

May they rest in peace.
Amen.

Night Prayers
For the intentions of the Superior General
and our Provincial

O God, our refuge and our strength, look mercifully upon us who ask your blessing upon our Superior General and our Provincial. By the intercession of the glorious and immaculate Virginia Mary Mother of God and Saint Joseph her Spouse, may they be protected from all harm, and given the joy that comes from serving You the only true reward for our labors. Glory to the Father . . . *Amen.*

Prayer to the Sacred Stigmata

O Jesus, our Redeemer, You wished to preserve in Your glorious Body the marks of Your five Wounds, so that they, together with the remembrance of Your passion, could afford a proof of Your resurrection and of Your victory over death and hell. These marks are a witness of Your continued mediation between heaven and earth, a comfort for the just, and cause of greater shame for the wicked on the day of the last judgment. Grant us, we beseech You, that we may ever be loyal to our vocation. Bearing Your Sacred Stigmata always impressed upon our minds and hearts, may we be able to draw from them abundant fruits of grace and virtue, for our advantage, and for those souls whom You have entrusted to our apostolate. *Amen.*

Prayer to our Holy Patrons

O most holy Mary and Saint Joseph, our patrons, we recommend to you ourselves and our beloved Congregation. Keep and increase in its members the spirit of humility, mortification, sacrifice and fraternal charity such as our Blessed Founder left unto us. Obtain for the superiors the

light of divine wisdom, and for the subjects a perfect submission, such as was practiced unto you by the Son of God, made man.

Grant, O holy patrons, that the little flock may grow both in merit and number, so that it may be able to reap always more fruit in the vineyard of the Lord, to the satisfaction of the great thirst of the Sacred Heart of Jesus for souls, and the spreading of His kingdom over all the world. *Amen.*

Vespers

(Should be recited in common as the evening prayer.)

WEEKLY DEVOTIONS

Prayer to the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus

O most Holy Heart of Jesus, shower Your blessings in abundant measure upon Your holy Church, upon the Supreme Pontiff, the bishop of this diocese, and upon all the clergy; to the just grant preserverance; convert sinners; enlighten unbelievers; assist the dying; deliver the holy souls in purgatory; and extend over all hearts the sweet empire of Your love.

Amen.

Prayers in honor of the Sacred Stigmata of Our Lord Jesus Christ

Jesus, risen from death, Who chose to preserve in Your glorious Body the Sacred Stigmata, as a means to heal the unbelief of Your apostles, grant, we beseech You, that confirmed as they were in the belief of Your resurrection and of all other truths of the Gospel we also may be able to preach them efficaciously to our brethen.

Glory be to the Father.

Jesus, Conqueror of sin and death, Who ascending into heaven chose to preserve Your Sacred Stigmata, as a trophy of Your victory, grant we beseech You, that walking in the steps

bathed by Your Divine Blood, we, together with all our living brethren, may be able to share one day in Your triumph in heaven.

Glory be to the Father.

Jesus, Mediator between God and man, Who chose to sit at the right hand of Your Father bearing Your Sacred Stigmata, in order to increase in us confidence in Your power of intercession, grant, we beseech You, that reviving in us ever more this confidence, we may be able to instill it into our needy brethren also.

Glory be to the Father

Jesus, Redeemer of the human race, Who by Your Sacred Stigmata chose to render everlasting the remembrance of that excess of love, which led You to die for man, grant we beseech You, that redeemed by Your precious Blood, we, together with all our brethren, may join our voices with those of the blessed in eternally singing Your goodness.

Glory be to the Father

Jesus, Judge of the living and the dead, Who shall come in the day of the last judgment bearing Your Sacred Stigmata, to the great shame of the wicked, grant, we beseech You, that we, together with our sinful brethren, may now commit ourselves into the arms of Your infinite mercy, so that we may not fall then into the hands of Your severe justice.

Glory be to the Father

V. Behold, O God our protector:

R. And look on the face of Your Christ.

Let us Pray

O God, who did appoint Your only-begotten Son to be the Redeemer of the world, and by Him, vanquishing death, did mercifully restore us to life, grant that, recalling these benefits, we may merit to cleave to You with continual charity and receive the fruit of that same Redemption. Through the same. Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Prayer to the Glorious Wounds of Our Lord Jesus Christ

We adore You, O most amiable redeemer, Jesus Christ, Who, led on by Your infinite love for us, did not hesitate to give Yourself over into the hands of Your enemies and suffer the torments of the cross, through which Your hands and feet were pierced and Your wounded side opened.

For thus showing Your merciful goodness toward us, poor sinners, we express our gratitude, and we rejoice with You, Who even in heaven wished to preserve in Your glorious body those sacred Wounds, the price of Redemption and a pledge of victory, which, as Saint Bernard says: "You kept glory for Yourself, grace for us and confusion for Your enemies."

Those Wounds are indeed the shining proof of Your victory over sin, death and hell; they are the inexhaustible source of divine grace, which for us is the fount of consolation in adversity and strength in temptation; and they will be the eternal dismay of the wicked who crucified You and abused Your grace and mercy.

We beseech You, O Lord, to grant all of us who devoutly adore

Your glorious Wounds, an increase of grace and divine strength that we may, with lasting patience and ardent zeal, labor here on earth for our own sanctification and for the conversion of all poor sinners, that in heaven we may unite our hymn of praise to that of the heavenly court, rendering to You, O immaculate Lamb, benediction, honor, glory and power forever. *Amen.*

THE WAY OF THE CROSS

Act of Contrition

O most loving Jesus, prostrate at Thy feet, I beg pardon, with all my heart, for my sins, which I detest as an offense against Thy infinite goodness. I propose to die rather than offend Thee again. I wish to love Thee above all things even unto death. To recompense Thy divine justice for the debts my sins have contracted, I offer Thee this holy exercise, in honor of Thy dolorous way to Calvary, intending to acquire the indulgences attached to it, and to apply them as suffrages for deceased relatives and benefactors (*or specify some particular intention*).

Most holy Virgin, bless me as consecrated to you, and assist me in the daily Via Crucis of the life, which is destined to lead me to a greater glory in heaven. *Amen.*

Stabat Mater Dolorosa
Juxta Crucem lacrimosa
Dum pendebat Filius.

At the Cross her station keeping,
Stood the mournful Mother weeping,
Close to Jesus to the last.

FIRST STATION
Jesus is condemned to death.

- V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee;
R. Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

Meditation

Jesus hears with joy the impious sentence of death, for He had long ardently desired to be baptized with this baptism of blood.

Well do I know that to be a saint I must die to everything, so as to live only for God; but instead, despite your example, Divine Master, how many times have I complained at privations, how many times have I sought to avoid the little sacrifices You demanded of my heart, my spirit, my body!

Prayer

Forgive me, O Lord, and help me to overcome the weakness of my corrupt nature; give me that spirit of mortification and generosity so necessary if I would consecrate myself without reserve to your divine service.

Our Father . . . Hail Mary . . .

V. Have mercy on us, O Lord.

R. Have mercy on us.

Cuius animam gementem
Contristatam et dolentem
Pertransivit gladius.

Through her heart, His sorrow sharing,
All His bitter anguish bearing,
Lo! the piercing sword had passed.

SECOND STATION
Jesus carries His cross.

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee;

R. Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

Meditation

Consider your Divine Redeemer as He embraces His cross. He takes it lovingly and gives it to us as a sacred treasure.

Let us hasten to embrace it. We will find it everywhere; in our work, in our recreation, in the house and outside it, on our shoulders and in our hearts. Happy we, if we know how to carry it with resignation and love, thus imitating our Divine Model.

Prayer

O most loving Jesus, my heart yearns to be crucified with You; I desire to see other souls consecrated to You marching forth under Your glorious banner. Increase, O Lord, the number of souls who love the folly of the Cross, in which lies the Salvation of the world.

Our Father . . . Hail Mary . . .

V. Have mercy on us, O Lord.

R. Have mercy on us.

O quam tristis et afficta
Fuit illa benedicta
Mater unigeniti.

O how sad and sore distressed
Was that Mother, highly blessed,
Of the sole-begotten One.

THIRD STATION

Jesus falls the first time.

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee;

R. Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

Meditation

Jesus generously begins the terrible road to Calvary, but the heavy weight of the cross makes Him fall to the ground. Consider how the guards shower blows and kicks upon Jesus, Who accepts these indignities with patience and silence. What a reproach for us who murmur and complain so much about the little trials and privations, the little sufferings that come our way.

Prayer

O good Jesus, I detest my pride and impatience with suffering. Through the merits of Your dolorous fall, help me to support patiently the daily crosses of my life, and to be ready to accept any greater trials You may have in store for me.

Our Father . . . Hail Mary . . .

V. Have mercy on us, O Lord.

R. Have mercy on us.

Quae moerebat et dolebat,
Pia Mater, dum videbat
Nati peonas inclyti.

Woe-begone, with heart's prostration,
Mother meek, the bitter Passion
Saw she of her glorious Son.

FOURTH STATION

Jesus meets His Holy Mother.

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee;
R. Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

Meditation

Who can imagine the grief of Jesus and Mary as they meet on the road to Calvary! O, how much Mary suffered with Jesus, for Jesus and for us, all during her life.

Our Divine Redeemer, with His Blessed Mother sharing His sorrows, teaches us to unite our sufferings with His and those of His Mother, so as to make them more meritorious for ourselves, and more efficacious for the conversion of sinners.

Prayers

O Jesus, through that indescribable spasm of sorrow and filial love You felt as You met Your Mother on the terrible road to Calvary, grant that all priests, all missionaries, all the members of my beloved Congregation, may ever increase in love of You and Your Blessed Mother, that we may find in her every sweetness of maternal love, every light of wise counsel, every comfort of strong patronage and a sure refuge in all our troubles.

Our Father . . . Hail Mary . . .

V. Have mercy on us, O Lord.

R. Have mercy on us.

Quis est homo qui non fleret
Matrem Christi si videret
In tanto supplicio.

Who on Christ's dear Mother
gazing,
In her trouble so amazing,
Born of woman, would not weep?

FIFTH STATION

Simon of Cyrene helps Jesus to carry His Cross.

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee;

R. Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

Meditation

Our Divine Savior is no longer able to bear the weight of the Cross; and His enemies, fearful lest He die under the burden, force Simon of Cyrene to help Him.

Just what are the daily crosses imposed on us by common life when compared to the cross of Jesus? And how much more precious and meritorious they would be if we accepted them willingly for the love of God, instead of complaining about them! Let us humble ourselves and resolve to lighten our Lord's burden by embracing willingly whatever God sends us.

Prayer

O most loving Jesus, I thank You for the occasions You have given me to suffer for You and gain heavenly merit for myself. Help me to understand the immense value of suffering. Sustain me with Your grace, so that after having borne patiently for Your love the trials of this life, I may some day possess the eternal joys of heaven.

Our Father . . . Hail Mary . . .

V. Have mercy on us, O Lord.

R. Have mercy on us.

Quis non posset contristari
Christi Matrem contemplari
Dolentem cum Filio?

Who on Christ's dear Mother thinking,
Such a cup of sorrow drinking,
Would not share her sorrow deep.

SIXTH STATION
Veronica wipes the face of Jesus

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee;
R. Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

Meditation

Consider how Veronica, braving the insults of the guards, draws near to wipe the august face of the Savior. Jesus rewards her by leaving the imprint of His sacred Face on the cloth. The passion of Jesus continues even today on the Calvary of His love—the Eucharist, profaned by sacrilegious and impure mouths, forgotten by so many Christians who do not know the gift of God.

Prayer

O good Jesus, I wish to be the companion of Your solitude, to make up for the many outrages You suffer every day. Imprint, I beg of You, Your sacred image on my heart, that it may burn with love of You alone.

Our Father . . . Hail Mary . . .

V. Have mercy on us, O Lord.

R. Have mercy on us.

Pro peccatis suae gentis
Vidit Jesum in tormentis
Et flagellis subditum.

For His people's sins rejected,
Saw her Jesus unprotected,
Saw with thorns, with scourges
rent:

SEVENTH STATION
Jesus falls the second time.

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee;

R. Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

Meditation

Contemplate Jesus falling a second time under the weight of the cross, a weight much too heavy for His shoulders.

I understand the mystery of this second fall. The religious life has its trials and combats; often, notwithstanding my good intentions, I fall into misery, so often deplored and detested. But I know too that Jesus guides my footsteps as a mother does those of her child. I know too that my desire to better myself forms a golden chain that binds me to His most Sacred Heart.

Prayer

O Divine Master, teach me to profit from my very mistakes, to know myself and the weakness of my corrupt nature, to console myself with the hope that You will never forget the souls consecrated to You.

Our Father . . . Hail Mary . . .

V. Have mercy on us, O Lord.

R. Have mercy on us.

Vidit suum dulcem natum

Moriendo desolatum

Dum emisit spiritum

Saw her Son from judgment taken,

Her Beloved in death forsaken,

Till His Spirit forth He sent.

EIGHTH STATION
Jesus consoles the women of Jerusalem.

- V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee;
R. Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

Meditation

For the pious women whose compassion was aroused as He staggered under His Cross, Jesus had but one message: "Weep not over Me, but weep for yourselves and your children! . . . for if in the green wood they do these things, what shall be done in the dry?"

Prayer

O my God, my sins have multiplied beyond number, and the instances of my ingratitude surpass in number the sands of the sea. And though I know myself to be worthy only of eternal fire, my heart remains without feeling and I am not able to shed a tear of repentance.

O sweet Jesus, through that love which led You to suffer so much for my salvation, help me to weep for my sins; create in me a clean heart, and fill it with Your Holy Spirit, so that with a humble and contrite heart I may repair my past and make a complete immolation of myself for You.

Our Father . . . Hail Mary . . .

V. Have mercy on us, O Lord.

R. Have mercy on us.

Eja, Mater, fons amoris,
Me sentire vim doloris
Fac, ut tecum lugeam

Fount of love and holy sorrow,
Mother! may my spirit borrow
Somewhat of thy woe profound;

NINTH STATION
Jesus falls the third time.

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee;

R. Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

Meditation

The third and worst fall opens up a new lap on the way to Calvary, a new outburst of brutal wrath against the innocent Divine Victim.

It is for you, O tepid soul, that Jesus suffers this third fall; for you that He bears this burden. But you cannot rouse yourself from the mortal torpor in which you are immersed. Yet the Lord loves you so much! Is not the very fact that He has called you to His holy house, a sign of the singular love He bears you, and at the same time a crown and pledge of innumerable graces?

Prayer

O my good Jesus, behold me repentant at Your feet; have mercy on my poor soul; do not permit the little spark of love that still glows to be extinguished. You who raised the dead of old, give new vigor to my spirit, extend Your hand and I shall be cured.

Our Father . . . Hail Mary . . .

V. Have mercy on us, O Lord.

R. Have mercy on us.

Fac ut ardeat cor meum
In amando Christum Deum
Ut sibi complacem.

Unto Christ, with pure emotion,
Raise my contrite heart's devotion,
Love to read in every wound.

TENTH STATION
Jesus is stripped of His garments.

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee;
R. Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

Meditation

Jesus is stripped of His garments in the sight of the huge mob, to His great shame and confusion; His sacred and immaculate body is livid and bruised. Thus He expiates the sins of impurity of the world.

The prodigy of a religious vocation is this, that a man in corrupted and vitiated flesh leads the life of an angel. We must not forget then, that we are to give our body not idleness but work, not softness but humiliation; obedience and not liberty, poverty and not riches, chastity and not pleasures.

Prayer

Make me worthy, O Lord, of my vocation. Help me to keep my soul pure through Christian mortification, that I may not be lost on the great day of final judgment.

Our Father . . . Hail Mary . . .

V. Have mercy on us, O Lord.

R. Have mercy on us.

Sancta Mater, istud agas,
Crucifixi fige plagas
Cordi meo valide.

Those five wounds on Jesus smitten,
Mother! in my heart be written,
Deep as in thine own they be;

ELEVENTH STATION
Jesus is nailed to the cross.

- V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee;
R. Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

Meditation

Behold the meek Lamb of God, Who without a word of lament lays Himself upon the cross. The blows of the hammer echo loudly as the crowd slowly becomes silent. With His Body wracked by spasms of pain, the innocent Victim offers Himself as a perfect holocaust to His heavenly Father.

Happy am I if I can say with the Apostle: "With Christ I am nailed to the Cross; and I live, now not I; but Christ liveth in me, for I bear the wounds of Christ crucified in my heart."

Prayer

O Jesus, through the merits of Your crucifixion, accept the offering I make of myself: my senses, my heart, my liberty; so that from now on I may live only for you, who immolated Yourself for me. O holy Cross of my Jesus, be my treasure during life, my comfort at death, my crown for eternity.

Our Father . . . Hail Mary . . .

V. Have mercy on us, O Lord.

R. Have mercy on us.

Tui Nati vulnerati
Tam dignati pro me pati
Poenas mecum divide.

Thou, thy Savior's Cross who bearest,
Thou, thy Son's rebuke who sharest,
Let me share them both with thee;

TWELFTH STATION

Jesus dies on the cross.

- V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee;
R. Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

Meditation

With a loud cry after having recommended His soul to His heavenly Father, Jesus bows His head and dies. The great drama is finished. The Son of God, torn, humiliated, bloodless, hangs on the cross for my sins and those of the entire world. Draw near, O Christian soul, to the dead Jesus; kiss His feet; contemplate His wounds, proofs of His love, trophies of His victories.

Prayer

O sacred wounds of my Jesus, living fountains of love, purple roses of incomparable beauty, mystic caverns opened by sorrow and love, I adore you from the depths of my soul. O Lord, I beg You, imprint on my heart the marks of Your bleeding wounds, that some day I may be worthy to participate in the splendor of Your glorious wounds.

Our Father . . . Hail Mary . . .

V. Have mercy on us, O Lord.

R. Have mercy on us.

Fac me tecum pie flere
Crucifixo condolere
Donec ego vixero.

In the Passion of my Maker,
Be my sinful soul partaker,
Weep till death and weep with thee;

THIRTEENTH STATION
Jesus is taken down from the cross.

- V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee;
R. Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

Meditation

The Blessed Mother, her heart broken by sorrow, takes in her arms the body of Jesus, so disfigured by sufferings and death. Reflect, O my soul, that we will reap in eternity what we sow in time. The Blessed Mother lived in anguish and tears, but had her reward in the joy of her Son's Resurrection, and in the glory of her own assumption and coronation in heaven. When will I learn that my love for God and for souls must likewise pass through the crucible of sufferings?

Prayer

O most sorrowful Virgin, ask of your Jesus and my Jesus, that I may have generosity and perfect obedience in everything, that I may die completely to myself, and that I may not live except by the life of my Redeemer.

Our Father . . . Hail Mary . . .

V. Have mercy on us, O Lord.

R. Have mercy on us.

*Juxta crucem tecum stare
Et me tibi sociare
In planctu desidero.*

*Mine with thee be that sad station,
There to watch the great salvation,
Wrought upon the stoning tree.*

FOURTEENTH STATION
Jesus is laid in the sepulcher.

V. We adore Thee, O Christ, and we bless Thee;

R. Because by Thy holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world.

Meditation

In the quiet of the evening, a little group of faithful souls accompanies the body of Jesus to the sepulcher. The humiliation of the grave is the last act of the infinite love of Jesus for me, but it is also a great lesson.

A true Christian is one who leads such a hidden and interior life, that he enjoys being overlooked even by his own confreres.

Prayer

O good Jesus, through the merits of Your passion and death, grant all of us the grace to lead a hidden life, as our humble Father and Founder set us the example. Grant that in all our work, avoiding all desire for praise or human and personal satisfaction, governed by obedience in all things, we may forget and hide ourselves entirely, that Your glory may be the greater, and the reward of our future resurrection the more secure and consoling.

Our Father . . . Hail Mary . . .

V. Have mercy on us, O Lord.

R. Have mercy on us.

Quando corpus morietur
Fac ut animae donetur
Paradisi gloria. Amen.

When to dust my dust returneth,
Grant a soul that to Thee yeareth,
In Thy paradise a place. Amen.

Say an Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory be to the Father, according to the intentions of the Holy Father, in order to gain the indulgences.

- V. Grant, Lord Jesus Christ, that we who devoutly worship
Thy five most precious Wounds,
R. May keep them deeply impressed upon our hearts both in
our life and in our deeds.
V. Pray for us, O Virgin most sorrowful:
R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us Pray

O God, who by the passion of Thine only-begotten Son, and by the shedding of His precious Blood through His five Wounds, didst restore human nature when it was lost by sin; grant us, we beseech Thee, that we who venerate on earth the Wounds suffered by Him, may be found worthy to obtain in heaven the fruits of that same Most Precious Blood.

O Lord Jesus Christ, we beseech Thee that now and at the hour of our death the blessed Virgin, Thy Mother, whose most sacred soul the sword pierced in the hour of Thy passion, may intercede for us at the throne of Thy mercy. Through Thee, Jesus Christ, Savior of the world, who with the Father and Holy Ghost livest and reignest world without end. Amen.

MONTHLY DEVOTIONS

Act of Consecration

O God, hidden in this great mystery of Your love, with lively faith prostrate before Your throne, we render You the homage of our hearts, we renew the promises which bind us to You, we offer You our humble supplications. O gentle Jesus, take under Your special protection our Congregation; keep and increase in its members the spirit of humility and mortification as our Blessed Founder instilled into them. Make its enterprises for Your glory successful; bless its works for the salvation of the souls redeemed with Your precious Blood. Pour forth the abundance of Your grace over the missions and other priestly functions; over the studies and occupations of the professed students and brothers, the probation of the novices, and postulants, the training of the aspirants; over all our houses, schools and boarding colleges.

Prayer for a good death

O God, Who while condemning all once to die, have yet concealed from them the moment and the hour of their death; grant that, spending all the days of my life in justice and holiness, I may be made worthy to depart out of this world in Your holy love.

O Lord God, from now on I accept most willingly from Your hands whatever manner of death it will be Your pleasure to send me, with all its accompanying pain and anguish, as a penalty for my sins.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, I give you my heart and my soul.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, assist me in my last agony.

Jesus, Mary and Joseph, may I breathe forth my soul in peace with you.



FLEUREE CROSS

THE TWELFTH OF THE MONTH
Prayers to the Blessed Trinity to obtain the
glorification of our Blessed Founder

Eternal God the Father, Who wish all to be brought to You by the light of the truths taught by Your Son become Man, we beg of You to glorify here on earth also, You Blessed Servant, Father Gaspar Bertoni, who, filled with most lively faith, never desisted from teaching and defending it both by word and deed.

Glory be to the Father

Eternal God the Son, Who have chosen to save souls by the ignominies and sorrows of Your Passion, we beg of You to glorify on earth also Your Servant, Father Gaspar Bertoni, who in his career as a zealous apostle never desisted from combatting sin, in order to keep united to You Your loving souls, and to win over to You those who had strayed away.

Glory be to the Father

Eternal God the Holy Spirit, Who strongly and sweetly work in souls by the gifts of Your charity, we beg of You to glorify in this world also Your Servant, Father Gaspar Bertoni, who thoroughly inflamed with Your love, spared nothing in order to enkindle it in the hearts of all men.

Glory be to the Father

Prayers for the canonization our Blessed Founder

O Most Sacred Heart of Jesus, so generous in distributing graces upon all who trust in You, with a most lively faith we implore You to hasten the beatification of Your loyal son and servant, Fr. Gaspar Bertoni, through whose intercession we ask Your graces.

Glory be to the Father

O Most Loving Heart of Jesus, Whose delight is to be in the minds and hearts of all and to satisfy the hopes of those who reciprocate Your love, with our hearts inflamed by love of You, we implore You to grant all the graces necessary for the canonization of Your loyal son and servant, Fr. Gaspar Bertoni, through whose intercession we ask Your graces.

Glory be to the Father

O Most Meek Heart of Jesus, You Who taught us that trial and tribulation are a sure way of salvation, we offer You our own sorrows and sufferings from this vale of tears that they might be instrumental in effecting the canonization of Your loyal son and servant, Fr. Gaspar Bertoni, through whose intercession we ask Your graces.

Glory be to the Father

ANNUAL DEVOTIONS

Annual Retreat

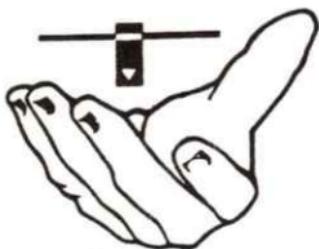
It is recommended that all Associates attempt to make a retreat once a year. Arrangements may be made at any retreat center, and at the Espousal Center, 554 Lexington St., Waltham, MA 02154.

Examination on the Stigmatic Spirit

(A section of the examination will be read every day during the spiritual exercises)

Preparatory Prayer

Here I am in your presence, O my God. I adore you profoundly and with all my heart thank You for the favors You have granted me. I am sincerely sorry for not having duly corresponded with them. I promise to do better in the future, to accept willingly for your love and with Your help all the sacrifices of associateship in the Congregation of the Sacred Stigmata which I embraced of my own free will. Since I am unable to do anything without Your help, give me the grace to recognize my obligations, to know my failings, to detest my faults and to be faithful unto death to all my duties.



ANNUAL RETREAT: MONDAY
Monthly Day of Recollection:
January—June—November

Search for Spiritual Perfection

Do I always keep in mind the essential end of my Baptismal Promises: my own sanctification? Can I truly say that it constitutes my predominant interest — that which conditions and directs all others?

In my occupations — study, work, apostolic ministry — do I cultivate before all else a right intention? Am I convinced that in God's sight the only thing that counts is the love and the supernatural spirit I put into my every action, and not the position I hold or what I accomplish? Do I know how to recall these fundamental principles in certain difficult cases: for example, if I am assigned to a position I dislike, or to an office of little importance, or if I am the victim of misunderstanding, or have experienced a failure, etc.?

How do I react to deceitful temptations that threaten the supernatural spirit? Do I sometimes allow myself to be ensnared, beset or deceived by false ambition, undue interest in money and love of ease and comfort? Do I consider these allurements as real enemies of progress in perfection and accordingly combat them sincerely? Or do I accept them as normal factors in today's way of life, and perhaps, even, unwittingly, cultivate them?

Can I say that I esteem and cultivate fervor? That I really tend to perfection? Have I, instead, allowed a kind of tepidity to creep into my spiritual life? In this event have fatigue, bad habits, discouragement or perhaps even some fall from grace

been the cause of this lukewarmness? Am I convinced that, with God's grace, I can always start anew, and can achieve that degree of holiness which God has destined for me from all eternity?

What is my state of mind as I make this retreat? Do I take into account the grace God gives me and strive to correspond to it with all my strength? Am I determined to avoid all waste of time and every inordinate distraction so as to dedicate myself exclusively to the work of my sanctification?

Act of Sorrow
ANNUAL RETREAT: TUESDAY
Monthly Day of Recollection:
February—July—December



Life of Piety

What place do I give prayer in my life? Do I consider it as my most important and necessary occupation — the one that gives supernatural meaning and value to all the others? How do I defend my prayer from dissipation, misguided activity and natural sloth?

In particular: At Mass, do I participate personally and intimately in the sacrifice of Jesus? Do I strive to make the Divine Office, which is of its nature a public prayer of praise to God, a personal prayer of my own as well. Do I recite it with attention and devotion in the most convenient place, and, if possible, at the times assigned by the rubrics? Do I go to confession regularly? What can I say about my meditation, examination of conscience, spiritual reading? Am I convinced that the fervor of my interior life depends on my faithfulness to mental prayer?

In vocal prayer, do I have regard for exterior dignity so that such prayer serves for edification? Whenever I am impeded from taking part in a common devotional exercise, do I make it up at another time?

What concern do I have for habitual union with God, recalling the words of Christ: “It is necessary to pray always”? Do I esteem and practice recollection? What care do I have for the sense of God’s presence and for keeping myself in loving contact with Him? Do I turn swiftly to prayer in difficult times of temptation, trial and discouragement? Do I strive to make prayer the core of my day?

Act of Sorrow

ANNUAL RETREAT: WEDNESDAY

Day of Recollection: March — August

Stigmatine Spirit

What is my concern for and valuation of the special demands of the christian vocation? Am I persuaded that the Scriptures, my prayer life and meditation are fundamental means for my spiritual progress, and great helps for a truly intense apostolic activity? What course of action do I follow when there is difficulty reconciling the demands of christian living and my work? In particular: How do I esteem the Stigmatine Congregation and what effort do I make in keeping close to it?

As a Stigmatine Associate do I strive to use my time well, not wasting it in idle and useless activities? What place does study have in my daily program? Am I persuaded that no matter what might be the nature of the apostolic ministry in which I am engaged, it requires preparation and cultural updating? Do I aim for perfection in fulfilling my office and work, or am I satisfied with mediocrity? At the same time, do I cultivate the spirit of perfect adaptability which makes us "parati ad omnia", ready to go anywhere for the glory of God and the good of souls?

Act of Sorrow

ANNUAL RETREAT: THURSDAY

Day of Recollection: April — September

Virtues of religion

Poverty: Do I esteem christian poverty and strive with all my power to guard it zealously? How do I practice dependence even in trifling matters? Am I faithful in keeping my accounts in order? Do I seek to restrict myself to what is necessary or useful avoiding what is superfluous? Do I keep in my possession books, clothing and other articles not actually necessary? Have I allowed myself to become habituated to certain demands regarding food, drink, travel, etc, which are not in conformity with christian poverty?

Chastity: Do I live my attachment to the love of God and souls with joyful fidelity? Do I guard my chastity as is befitting one who has embraced a christian state of life? How do I observe the safeguards recommended. Do I show prudence when I leave the house or remain outside of it? Do I avoid all excessive familiarities? Do I avoid whatever has even the appearance of evil? Am I sincere in manifesting to my spiritual father what eventually may prove to be for me a danger or an occasion of sin?

Obedience: Do I generously offer to God the sacrifice of my will in obedience to the Church? Am I convinced that obedience is not only essential to the life of the Church but to my own personal progress as well? Is my obedience animated by the spirit of faith? Am I well disposed to all the Holy Father says? If I encounter difficulties, do I have recourse to my spiritual father with right intention, disposed to accept his decision? Do I show confidence in my superiors, giving them an account of my life and activities? Do I consider myself a servant of the community?



Act of Sorrow

ANNUAL RETREAT: FRIDAY

Day of Recollection: May — October

Fraternal and apostolic charity

Do I see in my neighbor a child of God the Father, and is my conduct towards him the same as it would be toward Christ Himself? what is my usual attitude toward my confreres? How do I love them? How do I react towards minor conflicts which arise in community life?

How painstaking are my attempts to foster good harmony and genuine fraternal union in my community? Am I a source of union and collaboration? Do I appreciate the value of kindness and courtesy in my manners, not merely requiring it of others, but practicing it myself? When circumstances require it, do I pardon others, in imitation of Christ, or do I keep rancor in my heart, and show in my whole demeanor a deliberate coldness which is equivalent to denial of pardon? As a truly apostolic missionary, do I cultivate zeal for the salvation of souls? Do I expend my energies generously in the work of the apostolate? Do I cultivate a supernatural spirit in exercising my ministry? Do I show dependence on superiors and on those placed in charge of various works, even at the sacrifice of my own personal ideas? Do I consider my personal sanctification as the first and most effective means in the apostolate? Is charity really the characteristic of my vocation?

**FEAST OF THE SACRED STIGMATA OF
OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST**

**Prayers In honor of the Sacred Stigmata of
Our Lord Jesus Christ**

First Chaplet

O Lord Jesus Christ, we adore the sacred wound of Your left foot. We give You thanks for having suffered such bitter pain for love of us. By the merits of this sacred wound, we beseech You to grant us the forgiveness of our sins.

Glory be to the Father

O Lord Jesus Christ, we adore the sacred wound of Your right foot. We give You thanks for having suffered such bitter pain for love of us. By the merits of this sacred wound we beseech You to grant us the abundance of Your holy grace.

Glory be to the Father

O Lord Jesus Christ, we adore the sacred wound of Your left hand. We give You thanks for having suffered such bitter pain for love of us. By the merits of this sacred wound we beseech You to grant us an ever more generous correspondence to the demands of our vocation.

Glory be to the Father

O Lord Jesus Christ, we adore the sacred wound of Your right hand. We give You thanks for having suffered such bitter pain for us. By the merits of this sacred wound we beseech You to grant us a lively charity toward our brothers.

Glory be to the Father

O Lord Jesus Christ, we adore the sacred wound of Your heart. We thank You for having chosen to suffer for us even after Your death this additional offense which You endured with infinite love.

Glory be to the father



Dearest Lord Jesus crucified, bending low before You, we adore the sacred wound of Your right foot, and we beg of You the grace that countless flowers of holiness may blossom among the clergy and those who are consecrated to You, especially in our Congregation.

Glory be to the Father

Dearest Lord Jesus crucified, bending low before You, we adore the sacred wound of Your left foot and implore You to deliver the holy souls in Purgatory, and especially those of our confreres, relatives, friends and benefactors.

Glory be the Father

Dearest Lord Jesus crucified, bending low before You, we adore the sacred wound in Your heart, and we beseech You to hear graciously the prayers we offer You today for the sanctification and well-being of our Congregation.

Glory be to the Father

V. Grant, O Lord Jesus Christ, that we who devoutly worship Your five most precious wounds.

R. May keep them deeply impressed upon our hearts both in our life and in our deeds.

Let us Pray

O God, who by the Passion of Your only-begotten Son, and by the shedding of His precious Blood through His five wounds, did restore human nature when it was lost by sin; grant us, we beseech You, that we who venerate on earth the wounds suffered by Him, may be found worthy to obtain in Heaven the fruits of that same most precious Blood. Through the same Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Chiste Jesu

O Christ, my Jesus, truly God,
Thus hanging from a guilty Wood
Innocently for our Sin!

Here let Thy Grace to me begin;
Do not, though sinful I have been,
Refuse to let me love Thee.

Prostrate at Thy redeeming Tree,
To bleeding Feet so dear to me
I press my lips to soothe them.

Good Jesus, O! Do not condemn,
But from Thy Cross of requiem
My poor heart with Thine impale.

Thy Hands with awesome wounds to nail!
Thy Heart enpurpled to unveil! -
O! How deep and vast this Sign.

Beyond all loves, my love for Thine
Outpouring Blood to run with mine
Quench my thirst, my heart's desire.

Please cleanse me, Thou, my Lord on fire,
For Thine I am, whole and entire;
Tearful prayers to Thee ascend.

May Thy unconquered Hands defend
And shelter me, Christ my true friend:
Thy weak son from danger keep.

O! Jesus, born Thy Limbs to steep
And pierced flesh of Thine, heart-deep,
In Thy scarlet Blood unbound.

O! Grant that on my heart be found
Thy Name inscribed and, fasten'd round,
Chains to last forever.

Amen.

Salvete Christi Vulnera

Hail, holy Wounds of Jesus, hail,
Sweet pledges of the saving Rood,
Whence flow the streams that never fail,
The purple streams of His dear Blood.

Brighter than brightest stars ye show,
Than sweetest rose your scent more rare,
No Indian gem may match your glow,
No honey's taste with yours compare.

Portals ye are to that dear home
Wherein our wearied souls may hide,
Whereto no angry foe can come,
The Heart of Jesus crucified.

What countless stripes our Jesus bore,
All naked left in Pilate's hall!
From His torn flesh how red a shower
Did round His sacred person fall!

His beauteous brow, oh, shame and grief,
By the sharp thorny crown is riven;
Through hands and feet, without relief,
The cruel nails are rudely driven.

But when for our poor sakes He died,
A willing Priest by love subdued,
The soldier's lance transfixed His side,
Forth flowed the Water and the Blood.

In full atonement of our guilt,
Careless of self, the Savior trod,
E'en till His Heart's best Blood was spilt,
The wine-press of the wrath of God,
Come, bathe you in the healing flood,
All ye who mourn, by sin oppressed;
Your only hope is Jesus' Blood,
His Sacred Heart your only rest.

All praise to Him, the Eternal Son,
At God's right hand enthroned above,
Whose Blood our full redemption won,
Whose Spirit seals the gift of love. *Amen.*

Salve Latus Salvatoris

Hail! Savior from Whose Side did flow
A love whose strength we cannot know:
Crimson'd water, full of Grace.

Within that Wound my life I place,
Allow me to behold Thy face,
Be the refuge of my need.

Hail pierced Side — my sinful deed —
Which yet in mercy did concede
Endless waves of Heav'nly aid.

Of Thy shed Blood my life is made;
The souls of men it would pervade;
Heart unveil'd — to all is free.

Oh! How complete this taste of Thee,
Oh! Jesus Christ, my Lord, to me,
heart and spirit partaking.

By Thy love, I, *self* forsaking,
All thirst for other objects slaking,
Life for love to Thee confide.

Within that Wound let me reside,
And place my human heart inside;
Never let me stray from Thee,

That thus I may be warmed by Thee,
In peace I may be soothed by Thee;
Grant Thy love my soul may keep.

Oh! Jesus, born Thy Limbs to steep
And pierced flesh of Thine, heart-deep,
In Thy scarlet Blood unbound.

Oh! Grant that on my heart be found
Thy Name inscribed, and , fasten'd round,
Chains to last forever. *Amen.*

FEAST OF THE ESPOUSAL OF MARY AND JOSEPH

Chaplet

My Lord Jesus Christ, giver of peace and lover of charity, we beseech You by the virginal Espousal of Your Blessed Mother Mary and Saint Joseph, to grant to Your servants true union with Your divine will.

Glory be to the Father

My Lord Jesus Christ, our help and our defense, by the virginal espousal of Your Blessed Mother Mary and Saint Joseph, we beseech You to grant that the hearts and bodies of Your servants may please You with their holy demeanor.

Glory be to the Father

My Lord Jesus Christ, Who resist the proud and grant Your Grace to the humble, we beseech You to grant us that true humility which the holy Spouses Mary and Joseph exemplified for us in their lives, so that we may attract the gifts of Your grace by our humility.

Glory be to the Father

My Lord Jesus Christ, Who promised Your kingdom to the poor, we beseech You by the example of evangelical poverty and toilsome work left us by the holy Spouses Mary and Joseph, to defend us propitiously against the desires of the flesh and the temptations of the world that we may merit Your heavenly kingdom.

Glory be to the Father

My Lord Jesus Christ, Who were obedient to the holy Spouses, Mary and Joseph, and have left us, in them, perfect models of obedience to Your divine will, help us to love and fulfill with true humility Your desires, so that in You, with You and through You we may gain eternal glory.

Glory be to the Father

O holy Spouses, Mary and Joseph, our models and patrons, we beseech you to grant us the grace to reproduce in our lives all the virtues which adorned Your holy home.

Prayer

O Jesus, Who became man for our salvation and entrusted Yourself to the faithful keeping of Your mother, the Virgin Mary, and her Spouse, Saint Joseph, we also entrust ourselves and our Congregation to their safekeeping. O Mary and Joseph, models and patrons of communities, we draw near to your shrine to find comfort in meditating upon your sublime example, and to ask for your protection. With Jesus, be near us in joy and sorrow, at work and rest, and assist us at the hour of death. Grant us this grace, that every house will be holy, as was yours, and a school of virtue for its members, a refuge of

holiness and an open door leading to heaven, where Jesus awaits us, Who with the Father and the Holy Spirit, lives and reigns forever. Amen.

Prayer of Saint Bernard

Remember, O most gracious Virgin Mary, that never was it know that any one who fled to your protection, implored your help or sought your intercession, was left unaided. Inspired with this confidence, I fly unto you, O Virgin of virgins and Mother; to you do I come, before you I stand, sinful and sorrowful; O Mother of the World Incamate, despise not my petitions, but in your mercy hear and answer me. *Amen.*

Prayer to the Blessed Virgin

Most holy Virgin, mother of God and my mother Mary, look upon me at your feet, a poor sinner, your son, who commends himself to you and puts his trust in you. I am mindful of having done nothing to merit even the favor of your gracious look but I know that, having seen your Son Jesus die to save sinners, you have a great desire to help them to salvation. Look, therefore, on my wretchedness and have pity on me, O mother of mercy. By your intercession obtain from Jesus the pardon of my sins, the strength to resist all temptations and the grace of salvation. Mother, I place myself in your hands; I commend myself to you with complete confidence. Give me to Jesus now and forever more. *Amen.*

Prayer to Saint Joseph

To you, O blessed Joseph, do we have recourse in our tribulation, and, having implored the help of your thrice holy Spouse, we confidently invoke your patronage also. By that charity wherewith you were united to the Immaculate Virgin Mother of God, and by that fatherly affection with which you embraced the child Jesus, we beseech you and we humbly pray, that you look graciously upon the inheritance which Jesus Christ has purchased by His Blood, and assist us in our needs by your power and strength.

Most watchful guardian of the Holy Family, protect the chosen people of Jesus Christ; keep far from us, most loving father, all blight of error and corruption: mercifully assist us from heaven, most mighty defender, in this our conflict with the powers of darkness; and, even as of old you rescued the child Jesus from the supreme peril of His life, so now defend God's holy Church from the snares of the enemy and from all adversity; keep us one and all under your continual protection, that we may be supported by your example and your assistance, may be enabled to lead a holy life, die a happy death and come at last to the possession of everlasting blessedness in heaven. *Amen.*

Prayer to Saint Joseph

We greet you, O glorious St. Joseph, most pure spouse of the Virgin Mary and guardian of the child Jesus. We venerate your profound humility, your unshaken faith and your zeal in sacrificing yourself with simplicity to the service and defense of Christ's infancy. We recognize in you the most perfect model of devotion to Mary, Mother of our Savior. We pray you, together with your most pure spouse Mary, to protect our Congregation by your holiness and virtues. We recommend to your care, in a special way, our novices and aspirants. Increase their number, defend and protect them, so that from their youth they may be imbued with a genuine religious spirit. May our Congregation thus increase in the number of its members, but most of all may it grow and flourish through their holiness. *Amen.*



Eja Festivis

Hail to our Patrons! Happy songs we tender
As we observe the day of their chaste Wedding;
Anew the faithful enjoy the holy splendor
Shining about them.

How beautiful thou art, O Virgin Mary!
The Trinity has covered thee with graces'
The lavish Godhead splendidly adorns thee
As thou art married.

O Blessed Joseph! To thee also we sing,
Thy virtue raises thee to highest summits;
Thy sanctity is a mirror reflecting
Thy saintly Mary.

Jesus was happy to be known as your Son;
How much He loved you, Parents of such virtue!
From your beloved arms to the world His Mission
Already is started.

O Blessed Couple! Light of earth and Heaven!
Continue to inspire us with your blessing,
While the renown of your names we may leaven
By our devotion.

Eternal praise be to the mighty Godhead,
Who, by the gift of Mary and Saint Joseph,
To our poor lives have, by their merits, added
Gifts of divine peace.

Amen.

Virgini Sponso

Virgin entrusted to a pure and just Man!
Joseph forechosen for the love of Mary!
Early we ask you, as we start the day's span,
Accept our pleading.

When the first seed of his new order was sown,
Our holy Founder chose you as our Patrons,
And as he labored to restore your Son's Throne,
Enthroned you with Him.

Joseph and Mary, joined in holy union,
Brought to our earth the redolence of Heaven;
Jesus, from childhood, in this blest communion
rightfully enters.

O parents of the Shepherd! May our small flock
Flourish and grow strong under your pure banner;
Pray, be our refuge and our strength — a firm rock
Of ages uncounted.

Eternal praise be to the mighty Godhead Who, by the gift of
Mary and Saint Joseph,
To our poor lives have, by their merits, added
Gifts of divine peace.

Amen.

O Deo Natum

Oh! Word begotten of the Father on earth;
Oh! Of Thy people powerful Redeemer;
Grant us, we pray Thee, by Thy Grace a rebirth
King of the Heavens.

A quick'ning Spirit O'er-shadowed the land;
Enlivening rain from the Heavens was sent;
A sweet Flame of Love from the almighty Hand
Enters in Mary.

Only of Thee will Mary be the Mother,
Chaste as the lily, nature's greatest treasure;
In her chaste womb, unknown to any other,
Thou art engendered.

A thoughtful veil around the gracious maiden
Safeguards her name from ignorance and malice;
While Joseph with her guardianship is laden -
Blessed involvement.

Eternal praise be to the mighty Godhead
Who, by the gift of Mary and Saint Joseph,
To our poor lives have, by their merits, added
Gifts of divine peace.

Amen.

PART II.

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be Thy name; Thy kingdom come; Thy will do done on earth, as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation but deliver us from evil. *Amen.*

The Hail Mary

Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou among women, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb, Jesus. Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us sinners, now, and at the hour of our death. *Amen.*

Glory be to the Father

Glory to the Father, to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit. As it was in the beginning, it now and will be forever, Amen.

Angel of God

Angel of God, my guardian dear. To whom God to love commits me here. Ever this day be at my side, to, to guard, to rule and guide. *Amen.*

Thanksgiving

We give You thanks, Almighty God, for all Your benefits: Who live and reign forever and ever. *Amen.*

O God, for those who love You, all things work together for good. Instill in our hearts an unwavering love for You, so that the desires that spring up in us as a result of Your inspiration may ever remain unchanged in spite of every temptation.

(Rom Missal)



Visit to the Blessed Sacrament

O my lord Jesus Christ, Who for the love You bear mankind, remain night and day in this Sacrament, all full of tenderness and love, expecting, inviting and receiving all those who come to visit You; I believe that You are present in the Sacrament of the altar; I adore You from the depths of my own nothingness and thank You for all the favors You have bestowed upon me; especially for having given me Yourself in this Sacrament, and Your holy Mother Mary as my advocate; and for having called me to visit You in this church. I pay my homage this day to Your most loving Heart and this I intend to do for three intentions: first, in thanksgiving for this great gift; secondly, in reparation for all the insults You have received from Your enemies in this Sacrament; thirdly, by this visit I intend to adore You in all places upon the earth, where You are least adored and most neglected in Your Sacrament.

My Jesus, I love You with my whole heart. I repent of having in the past so many times displeased Your infinite goodness. I promise with the help of Your grace never more to offend You in the future; and at this moment, wretched as I am, I consecrate myself wholly to You. I give to You and utterly renounce my entire will, all my affections, all my desires, and all that I possess.

From this day forth do with me and with all that is mine whatever is pleasing in Your sight. I ask and desire only Your holy love, final perseverance and the perfect fulfillment of

Your will. I commend to You the souls in purgatory, especially those who were most devoted to this Blessed Sacrament and to Blessed Mary; I commend to You in like manner all poor sinners.

Finally, my dear Savior, I unite all my affections with those of Your most loving Heart, and thus united I offer them to Your Eternal Father and I pray Him in Your name graciously to accept and answer them for love of You.

Spiritual Communion

My Jesus, I believe that You are present in the Blessed Sacrament. I love You above all things and I desire You in my soul. Since I cannot receive You now sacramentally, come at least spiritually into my heart. As though You were already here, I embrace You and unite myself wholly to You; permit not that I should ever be separated from You.

Prayer before taking leave of the Blessed Sacrament

O Jesus in the Blessed Sacrament, Whose delights are to be with the children of men, the time has come for me to leave You, but not without having previously given You my heartfelt thanks for all Your favors, with which You have blessed me during this day, and not without having expressed my intention that every beat of my heart may be an act of prayer, adoration and love for You.

O Jesus, give me Your blessing; bless also my superiors, associates, my relatives, benefactors, my friends and enemies. Shield me this night from all my spiritual enemies. I commit my soul into Your hands; keep it during life and for all eternity. Into Your hands I commend my spirit.

For the Holy Father

Let us pray for our Holy Father _____
May the Lord preserve him and give him life and make him
blessed on earth, and not deliver him up to the will of his
enemies.

For the Bishop

Let us pray for our Bishop _____
May he stand firm and shepherd his flock by Your strength, O
Lord, in the majesty of Your name.

For the Missions

O God, You desire that all men should be saved and come to
the knowledge of Your truth. Send laborers into Your harvest
and grant that they may spread the Word with all boldness so
that Your Gospel may everywhere be heard and glorified, and
all nations may know You, the one true God, and Him whom
You have sent, Jesus Christ, Your Son, our Lord; who lives and
rules with You in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God forever
and ever. *Amen.*

Prayer for the Missions

Most loving Lord Jesus Christ, Who redeemed the world by the
shedding of Your most Precious Blood, turn Your eyes in
mercy upon our poor humanity, which still lies, for the most
part, sunk in the darkness of error and in the shadow of death,
and grant that the light of Your truth may shine gloriously
upon all mankind. Multiply, O Lord, the apostles of Your
Gospel, give them new fervor, and bless with Your grace their

zeal and labors and make them fruitful; that, by means of them, all unbelievers may know You and be converted to You, their Creator and Redeemer. Call back to Your fold all who have gone astray, and restore to the bosom of Your one, true Church all who are in rebellion against her. Hasten, dear Savior, the happy day when Your Kingdom shall truly come upon the earth; draw all men to Your loving Heart so that all may be partakers of the unspeakable blessings of Your Redemption in the everlasting bliss of heaven. *Amen.*

Prayer to promote the Cause of Canonization of Our Founder

O most Holy Trinity, vouchsafe to glorify our Founder with the honors to which You raise through the Church, Your most select servants. Do this for Your honor and glory, for the enhancement of our Congregation, and for an increase of devotion among the people.

O Blessed Virgin Mary and Saint Joseph, under whose protection he placed us, obtain from God this favor for us, together with the grace to become worthy children of such a father, and heirs of his spirit. *Amen.*

Prayer to the Holy Spirit

Holy Spirit, in these days of doubt, confusion and uncertainty, come into our hearts with your light, your strength and your consolation.

Come with the light of truth and teach us the will of God in our daily living, especially now when God's basic laws are challenged or ignored.

Come with your strength that purifies our heart and our desires and guards us against the danger of pride, and self conceit.

Bring your consolation so that with a heart attuned to your holy love we may live in peace and harmony in our families and give to our communities the spirit of cooperation, tolerance and understanding.

O God, you have instructed the faithful with the light of the Holy Spirit. Grant that through this same Holy Spirit we may be truly wise and enjoy His consolation always. Amen.

May the almighty and merciful Lord grant unto us joy and peace, amendment of life, an opportunity for true penance, the grace and consolation of the Holy Spirit, and perseverance in good works. *Amen.*

Prayer to Christ Crucified

Behold, O kind and most sweet Jesus, I cast myself upon my knees in Your sight, and with the most fervent desire of my soul I pray and beseech You that You would impress upon my heart lively sentiments of faith, hope, and charity, with true repentance for my sins and a firm desire of amendment, while with deep affection and grief of soul, I ponder within myself and mentally contemplate Your five most precious wounds, having before my eyes that which David spoke in prophecy of You, O good Jesus: They have pierced my hands and feet, they have numbered all my bones.

Anima Christi

Soul of Christ, be my sanctification.
Body of Christ, be my salvation.
Blood of Christ, fill all my veins.
Water from Christ's side, wash out my stains.
Passion of Christ, my comfort be.
O good Jesus, listen to me.
In Your wounds I fain would hide,
Never to be parted from Your side.
Guard me should the foe assail me.
Call me when my life shall fail me.
Bid me come to You above,
With Your saints to sing Your love,
World without end. *Amen*

Prayer attributed to Pope Clement XI

I believe Lord, but may I believe more firmly; I hope, but may I hope more securely; I love, but may I love more ardently; I grieve, but may I grieve more vehemently.
I adore You as my first beginning; I desire You as my last end; I praise You as my everlasting benefactor; I invoke You as my merciful defender.

Direct me by Your wisdom, avert from me Your justice, console me with Your mercy, protect me with Your power.
I offer to You, O Lord, my plans, may they be Yours; my deeds, may they be through You; my sufferings, may they be for You.
I desire what You desire, because You desire it, however, You desire it, as long as You desire it.
I pray, O Lord, that You brighten my mind, inflame my will, cleanse my heart, sanctify my soul.
May I repent of past sins, repel future temptations, correct

vicious tendencies, cultivate virtuous ideals.

Grant to me, good Lord, that I may love You, hate myself, do good to my neighbor, despise the world.

May I strive to obey my superiors, support my inferiors, aid my friends, spare my enemies.

May I conquer ease by self denial, avarice by liberality, wrath by meekness, indifference by fervor.

Make me prudent in counsel, steadfast in danger, patient in adversity, humble in prosperity.

Grant Lord, that I be attentive in prayer, moderate at meals, sedulous at work, firm in purpose.

May I achieve innocence within, modesty without, exemplary converse, and an ordered life.

May I watch carefully the demands of my nature, cherishing grace, fulfilling the law, furthering my salvation.

May I learn of You how slight what is of earth, how great what is divine, how brief are things temporal, how everlasting what is eternal.

Grant that I may prepare for death, fear judgement, avoid hell, obtain paradise. Through Christ our Lord. *Amen*

Act of Consecration of the human race to the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

O most sweet Jesus, Redeemer of the human race, look down upon us humbly prostrate before Your altar. We are Yours, and Yours we wish to be; but, to be more surely united with You, behold each one of us freely consecrates himself today to Your most Sacred Heart. Many indeed have never known You; many too, despising Your precepts, have rejected You. Have mercy on them all, most merciful Jesus, and draw them to Your Sacred Heart. May You be King, O Lord, not only of the faithful who have never forsaken You, but also of the prodigal

children who have abandoned You; grant that they may quickly return to their Father's house lest they die of wretchedness and hunger. May You be King of those who are deceived by erroneous opinions, or whom discord keeps aloof, and call them back to the harbor of truth and unity of faith, so that soon there may be but one flock and one Shepherd. Grant, O Lord, to Your Church assurance of freedom and immunity from harm; give peace and order to all nations, and make the earth resound from pole to pole with one cry: Praise be to the divine Heart that wrought our salvation; to It be glory and honor forever. *Amen.*

A Student's Prayer

Go before us, O Lord, we beseech Thee, in all our doings with Thy gracious inspiration, and further us with Thy continual help, that every prayer and work of ours may begin from Thee, and by Thee be duly ended. Through Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

An indulgence of 300 days (S.P. Ap., Dec. 14, 1934).



AIGUISEE CROSS

A Prayer to St. Michael

Saint Michael the Archangel, defend us in battle, be our protection against the wickedness and snares of the devil; may God rebuke him, we humbly pray; and do thou, O Prince of the heavenly host, by the power of God, thrust into hell Satan and all evil spirits who wander through the world for the ruin of souls. *Amen.*

A Brother's Prayer

O God, the creator of all things, You have imposed on all men the obligation of work. may the example and prayer of blessed Joseph help us to accomplish the tasks you have commanded us to perform, so that we may attain the reward You have promised. Through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*
(*Roman Missal, Feast of St. Joseph the Worker*)



Prayer to Saint Gerard Majella

O most amiable St. Gerard, who, transformed by charity into a living image of Jesus Christ, so that no other riches were desired by you but the nudity and poverty of the cross; no honors were sought by you but its ignominies; and no pleasures were experienced by you save the pains and sorrows of Calvary: pray, we beseech you, that we may, after your example, resolve once and for all, to crucify our flesh with its passions and evil tendencies, so that by faithfully following in the footsteps of our Divine Master, we may fulfill His Divine will, fully confident that if we imitate Him in this life we will see Him in the next and rejoice and reign with Him for ever and ever. *Amen.*

V. Pray for us, St. Gerard:

R. That we may be worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us Pray

O God, Who wished to draw unto Yourself St. Gerard from his youth, and to conform him to the likeness of Your crucified Son, grant, we beseech You, that following his example we might be transformed into that same likeness. Through Christ our Lord. *Amen*

Prayer for One's Family

Pour forth, I pray You, Lord, the abundance of Your graces and blessings on my beloved parents, brothers, sisters and relatives. Keep them far removed from any misfortune. Bless their works and keep them always in Your friendship. Grant them health, comfort and every grace of soul and body in return for the good they have done for me.

Give peace and concord to my family; grant that in joy and love we may, from now on, taste the happiness of heaven where we shall be united forever. *Amen.*

Prayer to Saint Thomas Aquinas

O God, Who for the defense of the Church and Catholic truths raised up the angelic doctor, St. Thomas, renowned throughout the world for his intellectual genius and his holiness of life, grant that we may imitate his example of wisdom and virtue and thereby come always closer to You who are infinite in all perfections.

O St. Thomas, doctor and teacher of eternal truths, angelic patron of Catholic Schools, obtain from the Lord for us the grace to attain holiness and learning by following in your footsteps. We shall thus be true disciples of Him who said: "I am the light of the world." May your example be a source of light to us, and your books a guide. May your zeal for truth be our comfort in doing good along the road of life which will lead us to the eternal Giver of light and wisdom and will enable us to enjoy with you the eternal glory of heaven.

Amen.

Prayer to Saint John Berchmans

In the hour of your death, dear St. John, you wished to hold clasped in your hands the crucifix, rosary, and book of rules, saying that these three things had always been most dear to you and that with them in your hands you willingly died. Obtain for me, I pray you, that my reverence for the law of the Gospel, my love for Jesus crucified, and my devotion to Blessed Mary may be such that I too, full of trust, might be able to repeat at that last moment: these three things have always

been dear to me in life; with them in my heart, I willingly die.

V. Pray for us, St. John:

R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us Pray

Grant, we beseech You, O Lord God, unto Your faithful servants, to copy the pattern of innocence and faithfulness in Your service wherewith the angelic youth John did consecrate to You the very flower of his years. Through Christ our Lord.

Amen

Prayer to Saint Stanislaus

Most beloved Stanislaus, protect me from all sin and grant me that horror of it which you yourself experienced. I ask this favor of you through the love borne you by Jesus Christ, Whom you embraced in the form of a child, and Whom you received in Communion at the hands of an angel, and through the love of Mary who visited you many times. Obtain for me purity of heart and strength against temptations. Impress on my heart those words of yours: "I am not destined for the things of this world, but for those of eternity. For eternity alone, therefore, I wish to live."

Prayer to Saint Aloysius

O Blessed Aloysius, adorned with angelic graces, I recommend especially to you the chastity of my soul and body, praying you by your angelic purity to plead for me with Jesus Christ, the Immaculate Lamb, and His most holy Mother, the Virgin of virgins, that they would vouchsafe not to let me be defiled with

any stain of impurity, but when you see me in temptation, or in danger of falling, then remove far from my heart all bad thoughts and unclean desires, and awaken in me the memory of eternity to come and Jesus crucified; impress deeply in my heart a sense of the holy fear of God; and thus, kindling in me the fire of divine love, enable me so to follow your footsteps here on earth that, in heaven with you, I may be made worthy to enjoy the vision of our God forever. *Amen*

V. Pray for us, St. Aloysius:

R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us Pray

O God, the giver of all heavenly gifts, Who in the angelic youth Aloysius, joined wondrous innocence with equal penance, be entreated by his merits and his prayers, and grant unto us who have not followed him in his innocence the grace to imitate him in his penance. Through Christ our Lord. *Amen*

Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Lord, have mercy on us

Christ, have mercy on us

Lord have mercy on us

Christ, hear us

Christ, graciously hear us

God, Father in heaven, . . . have mercy on us

God, Son, Redeemer of the world, . . . have mercy on us

God, Holy Spirit, . . . have mercy on us

Holy Trinity, one God, . . . have mercy on us

Holy Mary, pray for us
Holy Mother of God,
Holy Virgin of virgins,
Mother of Christ,
Mother of divine grace,
Mother most pure,
Mother most chaste,
Mother inviolate,
Mother undefiled,
Mother most amiable,
Mother most admirable,
Mother of good counsel,
Mother of our Creator,
Mother of our Savior,
Virgin most prudent,
Virgin most venerable,
Virgin most renowned,
Virgin most powerful,
Virgin most merciful,
Virgin most faithful,
Mirror of justice,
Seat of wisdom,
Cause of our joy,
Spiritual vessel,
Vessel of honor,
Singular vessel of devotion,
Mystical rose,
Tower of David,
Tower of ivory,
House of gold,
Ark of the Covenant,
Gate of heaven,
Morning Star,

Health of the sick,
Refuge of sinners,
Comforter of the afflicted,
Help of Christians,
Queen of angels,
Queen of patriarchs,
Queen of prophets,
Queen of apostles,
Queen of martyrs,
Queen of confessors,
Queen of virgins,
Queen of all saints,
Queen conceived without original sin,
Queen assumed into heaven,
Queen of the most holy rosary,
Queen of peace,
Lamb of God, Who take away the sins of the world, spare us, O
Lord.
Lamb of God, Who take away the sins of the world, graciously
hear us, O Lord.
Lamb of God, Who take away the sins of the world, have mercy
on us.

V. Pray for us, O holy Mother of God:

R. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

Let us Pray

Grant, we beseech You, O Lord God, unto us Your servants that we may rejoice in continual health of mind and body; and, by the glorious intercession of blessed Mary ever Virgin, may be delivered from present sadness and enjoy eternal happiness. Through Christ our Lord. *Amen*



Litany of Saint Joseph

Lord, have mercy on us
Christ, have mercy on us
Lord, have mercy on us
Christ, hear us
Christ, graciously hear us
God, Father in heaven, . . . have mercy on us
God, Son, Redeemer of the world, . . . have mercy on us
God, Holy Spirit, . . . have mercy on us
Holy Trinity, one God, . . . have mercy on us
Holy Mary, pray for us
Saint Joseph,
Illustrious son of David,
Splendor of patriarchs,
Spouse of the mother of God,
Chaste guardian of the Virgin,
Foster-father of the Son of God,
Watchful defender of Christ,
Head of the Holy Family,
Joseph, all just,
Joseph, all pure,
Joseph, all prudent,
Joseph, all courageous,
Joseph, all obedient,
Joseph, all faithful,
Model of patience,
Lover of poverty,
Model of laborers,
Glory of family life,
Protector of virgins,
Mainstay of families,
Solace of the afflicted,

Hope of the sick,
Patron of the dying,
Terror of demons,
Protector of holy Church,
Lamb of God, Who take away the sins of the world, spare us, O
Lord.

Lamb of God, Who take away the sins of the world, graciously
hear us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, Who take away the sins of the world, have mercy
on us.

V. God made him master of His household:

R. And ruler of all His possessions.

Let us Pray

God, Who in Your indescribable providence singled out Saint Joseph as the spouse of Your holy Mother, grant, we pray, that we may merit to have him for our intercessor in heaven, whom we venerate as our defender here on earth. We ask this of You who live and reign forever and ever. *Amen*

Litany of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

Lord, have mercy on us

Christ, have mercy on us

Lord, have mercy on us

Christ, hear us

Christ, graciously hear us

God, Father in heaven, . . . have mercy on us

God, Son, Redeemer of the world, . . . have mercy on us

God, Holy Spirit, ... have mercy on us
Holy Trinity, one God, ... have mercy on us
Heart of Jesus, Son of the eternal Father, ... have mercy on us
Heart of Jesus, formed by the Holy Spirit in the womb of the
Virgin Mother, ...
Heart of Jesus, substantially united to the Word of God, ...
Heart of Jesus, infinite in majesty,
Heart of Jesus, sacred temple of God, ...
Heart of Jesus, tabernacle of the Most High, ...
Heart of Jesus, house of God and gate of heaven, ...
Heart of Jesus, aflame with love for men, ...
Heart of Jesus, abode of justice and love, ...
Heart of Jesus, full of goodness and love, ...
Heart of Jesus, endless source of all virtues, ...
Heart of Jesus, worthy of all praise, ...
Heart of Jesus, King and center of all hearts. ...
Heart of Jesus, in whom are all the treasures of wisdom and
knowledge, ...
Heart of Jesus, in whom dwells the fulness of divinity, ...
Heart of Jesus, in whom the Father was well pleased, ...
Heart of Jesus, of whose fulness we have all received, ...
Heart of Jesus, desire of the everlasting hills, ...
Heart of Jesus, patient and merciful, ...
Heart of Jesus, enriching all who call upon You, ...
Heart of Jesus, fountain of life and holiness, ...
Heart of Jesus, atonement for our sins, ...
Heart of Jesus, loaded down with opprobrium, ...
Heart of Jesus, bruised for our offenses, ...
Heart of Jesus, obedient unto death, ...
Heart of Jesus, pierced with a lance, ...
Heart of Jesus, source of all consolation, ...
Heart of Jesus, our life and resurrection, ...
Heart of Jesus, our peace and reconciliation, ...

Heart of Jesus, victim for sin, ...
Heart of Jesus, salvation of those who trust in You, ...
Heart of Jesus, hope of those who die in You, ...
Heart of Jesus, delight of all the saints, ...

Lamb of God, Who take away the sins of the world, spare us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, Who take away the sins of the world, graciously hear us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, Who take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

V. Jesus, meek and humble of heart:
R. Let our hearts resemble Yours.

Let us Pray

Almighty, everlasting God, look upon the heart of Your dearly beloved Son, and upon the praise and satisfaction He offers You in the name of sinners and for those who seek Your mercy. Be appeased, and grant us pardon in the name of Jesus Christ, Your Son, Who lives and reigns with You forever and ever.

Amen

Litany of the Precious Blood

Lord, have mercy on us
Christ, have mercy on us
Lord, have mercy on us
Christ, hear us
Christ, graciously hear us

God, Father in heaven, . . . have mercy on us
God, Son, Redeemer of the World, . . . have mercy on us
God, Holy Spirit, . . . have mercy on us
Holy Trinity, one God, . . . have mercy on us
Blood of Christ, the only-begotten Son of the eternal Father, . . .
save us
Blood of Christ, Word of God made flesh, . . .
Blood of Christ, of the New and everlasting Covenant, . . .
Blood of Christ, trickling to the earth in the agony in the
garden, . . .
Blood of Christ, pouring from your body in the scourging, . . .
Blood of Christ, flowing from your head in the crowning with
thorns, . . .
Blood of Christ, shed on the cross, . . .
Blood of Christ, the price of our salvation,
Blood of Christ, without which there is no remission of sins, . . .
Blood of Christ, drink and cleansing of souls in the
Eucharist, . . .
Blood of Christ, flood of mercy, . . .
Blood of Christ, triumphant over demons, . . .
Blood of Christ, strength of martyrs, . . .
Blood of Christ, inspiration of confessors, . . .
Blood of Christ, seed of virgins, . . .
Blood of Christ, help of those in peril, . . .
Blood of Christ, support in our trials, . . .
Blood of Christ, solace in our sorrows, . . .
Blood of Christ, hope of the repentant, . . .
Blood of Christ, comfort of the dying, . . .
Blood of Christ, peace and delight of our hearts, . . .
Blood of Christ, pledge of everlasting life, . . .
Blood of Christ, deliverance of the souls in purgatory, . . .
Blood of Christ, worthy of all honor and glory, . . .

Lamb of God, Who take away the sins of the world, spare us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, Who take away the sins of the world, graciously hear us, O Lord.

Lamb of God, Who take away the sins of the world, have mercy on us.

V. You have redeemed us, Lord, by Your Blood:

R. You have made us to reign with our God.

Let us Pray

Almighty everlasting God, Who appointed Your only-begotten Son as Redeemer of the world, and chose to be appeased by His Blood; help us, we beg You, so to reverence this price of our salvation, that we may be protected by its power from the evils of this life, and enjoy its lasting rewards in the life to come through Christ our Lord. *Amen*

Veni, Sancte Spiritus

Come, Holy Spirit,
And send from on high
The ray of Your light.

Come, Father of the poor,
Come, giver of gifts,
Come, light of hearts.

Veni Creator Spiritus

Come, Holy Ghost, Creator blest,
And in our souls take up your rest;
Come with your grace and heavenly aid
To fill the hearts which you have made.

O Comforter, to You we cry,
You, heavenly gift of God Most High,
You fount of life and fire of love,
And sweet anointing from above.

You in your sevenfold gifts are known;
You, finger of God's hand we own;
You, promise of the Father, You
Who do the tongue with power imbue.

Kindle our senses from above,
And make our hearts overflow with love;
With patience firm and virtue high
The weakness of our flesh supply.

Far from us drive the foe we dread,
And grant us Your peace instead;
So shall we not, with you for guide,
Turn from the path of life aside.

Oh, may your grace on us bestow
The Father and the Son to know;
And You, through endless times confessed,
Of both the eternal Spirit blest.

Most excellent consoler,
Sweet host of the soul,
Sweet place of refreshment.

In labor, You give rest,
In heat, cool shade,
In sorrow, comfort.

O most blessed light,
Fill the inmost hearts
Of those who believe in You.

Without Your grace
There is nothing in man,
Nothing that is not hurtful.

Cleanse what is impure,
Water what is parched,
Heal what is diseased.

Bend what is stiffened,
Warm what has grown cold,
Straighthen what is crooked.

Give to the faithful
Who trust in You, Your
Sacred, sevenfold gift.

Grant reward of virtue,
Grant final salvation,
Grant eternal joy.

Now to the Father and the Son,
Who rose from death, be glory given,
With You, O holy Comforter,
Henceforth by all in earth and heaven. *Amen*

O Salutaris Hostia

O saving Victim, opening wide,
The gate of heaven to man below,
Our foes press on from every side,
Your aid supply, your strength bestow.

To your great name be endless praise,
Immortal Godhead, One in Three;
O grant us endless length of days
In our true native land to see. *Amen*

Pange Lingua

Sing, my tongue, the Savior's glory,
Of His flesh the mystery sing;
Of the Blood all price exceeding,
Shed by our Immortal King,
Destined, for the world's redemption,
From a noble womb to spring.

Of a pure and spotless virgin
Born for us on earth below,
He, as man, with man conversing,
Stayed, the seed of truth to sow;
Then He closed in solemn order
Wondrously His life of woe.

On the night of that Last Supper
Seated with His chosen band,
He, the paschal victim eating,
First fulfills the Law's command:
Then as food to all His Brethren
Gives Himself with His own hand.

Word made flesh, the bread of nature
By His word to flesh He turns;
Wine into His blood He changes:
What though sense no change discerns?
Only be the heart in earnest,
Faith her lesson quickly learns.

Tantum Ergo

Down in adoration falling,
Lo! the saved host we hail;
Lo! o'er ancient forms departing,
Newer rites of grace prevail;
Faith for all defects supplying,
Where the feeble senses fail.

To the everlasting Father,
And the Son who reigns on high,
With the Spirit blest proceeding
Forth from Each eternally,
Be salvation, honor, blessing,
Might, and endless majesty. *Amen*

V. You have given them the bread of heaven (*P.T. alleluia*)
R. Which has all delight within it.

Let us Pray

God, who left us in this wondrous sacrament a memorial of Your passion, help us, we beg You, so to reverence the sacred mysteries of Your Body and Blood, that we may always experience the effects of Your redemption: Who live and reign forever and ever. *Amen*

The Divine Praises

Blessed be God.

Blessed be his holy name.

Blessed be Jesus Christ, true God and true Man.

Blessed be the name of Jesus.

Blessed be His most Sacred Heart.

Blessed be His most Precious Blood.

Blessed be Jesus in the most Holy Sacrament of the Altar.

Blessed be the Holy Spirit the Paraclete.

Blessed be the great Mother of God, Mary most holy.

Blessed be her holy and Immaculate Conception.

Blessed be her glorious Assumption.

Blessed be the name of Mary, Virgin and Mother.

Blessed be Saint Joseph, her most chaste spouse.

Blessed be God in His angels and in His saints.

Magnificat

My soul magnifies the Lord,
And my spirit rejoices in God my savior,
Because He has regarded the lowliness of His handmaid, for
behold, henceforth all generations shall call me blessed,
Because He who is mighty has done great things for me, and
holy is His name;
And His mercy is from generation to generation toward those
who fear Him.
He has shown might with His arm; He has scattered the proud
in the conceit of their heart.
He has put down the mighty from their thrones and has
exalted the lowly.
The hungry He has filled with good things and the rich He has
sent empty away.
As He promised our fathers toward Abraham and His
descendants forever.
Glory be to the Father and to the Son and to the Holy Spirit
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world
without end. *Amen*

Te Deum

We praise You, O God;* We acclaim You Lord and Master.
Everlasting Father,* all the world bows down before You.
All the Angels sing Your praise,* the hosts of heaven and all
the angelic Powers;

All the Cherubim and Seraphim* call out to You in unending chorus:

Holy,

Holy,

Holy* is the Lord God of Angel hosts!

The heavens and the earth are filled, Lord,* with Your majesty



and glory.

Your praises are sung* by the renowned Apostles;
By all the prophets,* who themselves deserve our praise;
By that mighty white-robed army* who shed their blood for
Christ.

And to the ends of the earth* the holy Church proclaims her
faith in You:

Father,* Whose majesty is boundless;

Your only Son,* Who is true God, and Who is to be adored;
The Holy Spirit,* sent to be our Advocate.

O Christ,* the King of glory!

You alone* are the Father's eternal Son.

When You were to become man so as to save mankind,* You
did not shrink back from the chaste Virgin's womb.

When You triumphantly destroyed death's sting,* You opened
up to believers the kingdom of heaven.

You are now enthroned at God's right hand,* in the Father's
glory.

We believe* that You will come for judgement.

We therefore implore You to grant Your servants grace and
aid* for You shed Your precious blood for their redemption.

Admit them all to the ranks of Your Saints* in everlasting glory.

Be the Savior of Your faithful people, Lord;* grant them Your
blessing, for they belong to You.

Be their Shepherd, Lord,* uphold and exalt them forever and
ever.

Day by day we praise You,* daily we acclaim You.

We will confess and glorify Your holy Name,* now and for all
eternity.

In Your great mercy, Lord, throughout this day* keep us free
from sin by Your protection.

Have mercy on us, we humbly pray;* Lord, have mercy on us.

May Your mercy, Lord, Your loving kindness, always remain

with us;* for we have placed our confidence in You.
In You alone, Lord, I have hoped;* may I not be disappointed.

Miserere

Have mercy on me, O God, in Your goodness;* in the greatness of Your compassion wipe out my offense.

Thoroughly wash me from guilt* and of my sin cleanse me.
For I acknowledge my offense,* and my sin is before me always:

“Against You only have I sinned,* and done what is evil in Your sight,”

That You may be justified in Your sentence,* vindicated when You condemn.

Indeed, in guilt was I born* and in sin my mother conceived me;

Behold, You are pleased with sincerity of heart,* and in my inmost being You teach me wisdom.

Cleanse me of sin with hyssop, that I may be purified;* wash me, and I shall be whiter than snow.

Let me hear the sounds of joy and gladness;* the bones You have crushed shall rejoice.

Turn away Your face from my sins,* and blot out all my guilt.
A clean heart create for me, O God,* and a steadfast spirit renew within me.

Cast me not out from Your presence,* and Your holy spirit take not from me.

Give me back the joy of Your salvation,* and a willing spirit sustain in me.

I will teach transgressors Your ways,* and sinners shall return to You.

Free me from blood guilt, O God, my saving God;* then my tongue shall revel in Your justice.

O Lord, open my lips,* and my mouth shall proclaim Your praise.

For You are not pleased with sacrifices;* should I offer a holocaust, You would not accept it.

My sacrifice, O God, is a contrite spirit;* a heart contrite and humbled, O God, You will not spurn.

Be bountiful, O Lord, to Sion in Your kindness* by rebuilding the walls of Jerusalem;

Then shall You be pleased with due sacrifices, burnt offerings and holocausts;* then shall they offer up bullocks on Your altar.

Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit
As it was in the beginning, is now and ever shall be, world
without end. *Amen*

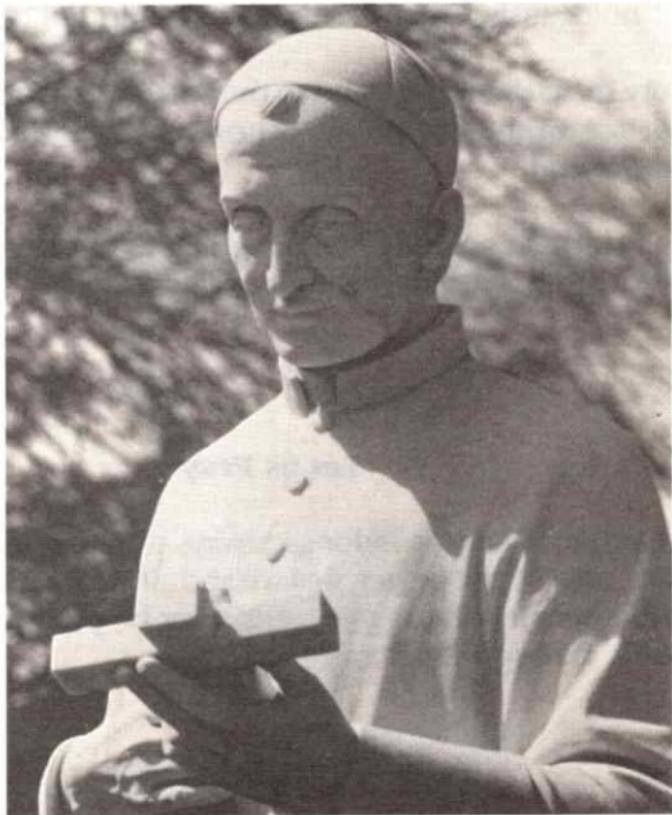
V. O Lord, do not judge us according to our sins;

R, Nor attribute to us the guilt of our iniquities.

Let us Pray

O God, to whom it belongs always to show mercy and to spare, receive our prayer, that we and all Your servants, bound by the penalty of our misdeeds, may be pardoned by Your mercy. Through Christ our Lord. *Amen*

**Blessed
Gaspar Bertoni
1777-1853**



Into every era of history, certain persons are born who are ready to deal with their time. They are ready to jump into the mainstream of the circumstances that surround them and do something to bring about a positive change. Such people are the doers in life, the ones who are not afraid to fight for their convictions, who believe so strongly in their goals that they seek to overcome all odds to achieve them. Gaspar Bertoni, Founder of the Stigmatine Community, was this kind of person.

He was born in 1777 in Verona, Italy. The world was going through a time of explosive change. The American revolution was gaining momentum in scattered sections of the North American coast. In Europe the spirit of revolt was fermenting in France. The Italy of Gaspar Bertoni's time was being plagued by internal strife. Unrest and upheaval divided not only the country itself, but the clergy within its Church, as well.

This spirit of revolution, hot and furious when it began, gradually turned into a healthy climate of change. Rigid laws and long-standing traditions were tested by people desiring freedom and self-respect. The time was right for a man like Gaspar Bertoni to meet the challenges of the conditions that surrounded him. He was a man of mission; a man not afraid of change or failure.

Even though Gaspar Bertoni was born over two hundred years ago, he thought and acted very much like a person of today. Almost from the beginning of his life, he knew where he was going and made sure he got there. Gaspar was both a man of his time and ahead of his time. It is said that when he entered a room or walked along a crowded street, people noticed him immediately. They were instantly aware of his presence. Yet there was nothing spectacular about his stature or extraordinary about his face. He was in fact a rather frail and average looking man. So it was not anything concerning his physical appearance

that attracted a second look. From what we must surmise, it was an inner goodness that reached out and touched people. To find out why this was so, it is necessary to look into the man himself, into his thoughts and into the way he chose to live his life. From the time he was a small boy, Gaspar Bertoni cared about what was taking place around him. He was not content to simply accept what he saw and heard and felt. He sought reasons. He wanted to learn why existing conditions had come to be and what made them evolve into their present form. This need for complete investigation remained strong throughout his life.

During his life, he was able to stand up under tremendous pressure, often facing formidable odds. He was in poor health and almost constant pain since early childhood, yet he never allowed his suffering to stop him from achieving what he saw as important. He squarely faced pain and poor health, accepted them and lived with them.

Gaspar came to terms with himself at a very young age. Almost as soon as he was able to think, he knew that he was going to be a priest. His vocation was one that he never doubted, which he embraced and was determined to carry out in a way that would do the most good for the greatest number of people. In order to do this, Father Bertoni developed a strict discipline and order within himself that was to last and serve him throughout his entire life. There was no room for self-doubt, indecision or procrastination in his day-to-day life. There were situations that had to be overcome and he employed every bit of his strength to accomplish this. Profound thought followed by direct action were the tools he employed to meet his goals. His piety and faith were extremely strong, but equally uncomplicated. More than once in his personal diary he noted that he communicated with God as "one friend talking to another." To strengthen his conviction concerning the great

power within oneself, he often recalled and was comforted by Saint Thomas of Aquinas' belief "that whoever has food in the house should not go outside looking for it. Such a man would go hungry."

Seeing how much needed to be done, and painfully aware of his inability to do it alone, Gaspar Bertoni sought the help of others who shared his dream. He soon discovered that he had a special talent for attracting young men with true vocations for the priesthood. The responsibility of training these men was one that offered a tremendous challenge. Far too many times he had encountered the indifferent attitudes dictated by tradition. It seemed to him as if young men were poured into some impersonal mold, hardened into cement-like finality by centuries of dogmatic convention. When young men emerged from this mold, they were stereotypes; only performing what was required of them and never giving of their true selves. Father Bertoni vowed that this would never happen to men entrusting to his training. They would be instructed in human as well as spiritual needs. They would be encouraged to think, in a time when thinkers were not popular.

Early in his ministry, he founded a school in which he sought to provide the highest quality education, when education for the masses was almost nonexistent. Again, through his profound concern for other's needs, he built an institution that was one of the earliest models of scholastic excellence. By not compromising his ideals, by not being content to merely meet civil requirements and by going beyond what was necessary, Gaspar Bertoni was able to give young people a foundation on which to build meaningful lives.

He recognized the vital importance of seeking vocations in the young and guiding their development to maturity. Gaspar Bertoni strongly felt the hope of the Church was the young men recruited to minister its people. His own uncomplicated

faith was contagious. His eloquent, yet very human preaching converted many to the cause. People could understand what Father Bertoni said and they were able to relate to his message. That so many responded to him, is the best proof of his unique power of communication.

But the main and unrelenting dream throughout Father Bertoni's lifetime was the formation of a select congregation, having its own very special mission. The group very much in the manner of a modern task force, would be dispatched to the source of diocesan need; correct the situation and then move on. It was a dream that his unflagging determination made come true. Bishops, who were having difficulties within their sees, came to know and depend on this new form of help. Because this concept was far ahead of its time, there were many who doubted its worth. But opposition was something Gaspar Bertoni could handle. He met it with his own self-confidence. He was convinced that his congregation would work; and he made it work.

Possibly the happiest day of his life was November 4, 1816. On this date Father Bertoni formed the nucleus of his congregation. Later these men were popularly referred to as Stigmatines. From this small, initial group of carefully chosen priests and brothers, a community developed that was to spread to all parts of the world.

It was always the contagious spirit of its founder that kept the community going. Kindness and courtesy were shown to all who came to see him, regardless of their social status. Father Bertoni's only interest was how they thought, how they solved problems and how they functioned in ordinary day-to-day life. By keeping his own life so simple, uncluttered by meaningless activity and earthly greed, Gaspar Bertoni was able to give freely of himself to others.

In the confessional he was very much in demand, a fact that

gives us still another important insight into his character. Nobles, Church leaders, as well as the ordinary men, women and children of Verona sought him out as confessor. This was because he offered much more than an ear for sins. Father Bertoni gave wise counsel, encouraged individual thinking and instilled self-confidence in the penitent. Surely, this was a man cast in no mold but his own. By his example, the clergy of his time and place was revitalized. There was a resurgence of faith. Many doubters became believers and many believers found a deeper and more meaningful relationship with God. Gaspar Bertoni's center of spiritual gravitation was his genuine sense of complete acceptance of the will of God. Gradually, as this sense of total acceptance matured, he found himself developing a deep sense of hope. A hope that translated itself into action and a community of men which would continue to serve God, long after Gaspar Bertoni returned to his Creator.

These then, are some of the things we know about Gaspar Bertoni. They might help explain why his presence was immediately felt wherever and whenever he encountered people. They are the reasons why this man stood apart from his contemporaries. When considered, these reasons are not complicated or difficult to understand. They are the realization of the good inherent in all people. But unlike most other people, Gaspar Bertoni stood for something. He risked taking the chances offered by his time and place. And through self-discipline, education, perseverance and faith, he stood up to the widespread forces of indifference and doubt. By seizing these chances Gaspar Bertoni inspired a community based on his own constitution, whose work for the glory of God and the good of all His people continues to this day.

This booklet has been compiled for the use of Stigmatine Associates. It represents a great deal of work and dedicated effort by members of the Stigmatine Provincial Formation Commission, and I would like to offer them my deep gratitude for their patience and dedication.

Donald F. Saulnier, CSS
Director of Formation
April, 1987