



The Marian

A Newsletter Published
By St. Anthony's Guild

Dear Friends of Our Blessed Mother,

On August 15th, The Franciscan Friars will be celebrating The Feast of the Assumption. The Assumption of Mary is important for many reasons — for the glorification of God, the completion of His redemptive work, the theology of the Incarnation, to name a few. But what does it mean for our personal faith journeys other than inspiring further devotion to the Mother of God? The Assumption offers us additional assurance that we too, who have been baptized into Christ's death and shared in His Body through the Eucharist, also will experience a resurrection of our bodies. Christ wasn't the exception for the human race in this sense, He points the way forward to a greater, more glorious future in which we are all invited to share. This is reinforced by the truth that Mary has already followed Him into Heaven. On these special and significant Marian Feast Days, The Franciscan Friars of Holy Name Province will be praying for you, as always, We hope you enjoy celebrating the feast wherever you may be and enjoy honoring the Blessed Mother.

Many Blessings and Prayers,

Fr. David Convertino, OFM

Executive Director, St. Anthony's Guild

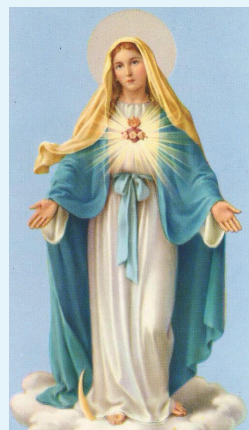
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A Marian Fact

Mary, the mother of Jesus Christ is known by many titles in Christianity:

Blessed Virgin Mary (sometimes abbreviated BVM) **Queen of Heaven**, **Theotokos** (Mother of God) and **Our Lady** (Notre-Dame in French; Madonna in Italian).



Through The Lens of a Friar

Fr. Michael Carnevale, OFM



Fr. Michael is presently living at Holy Name Friary on 96th Street in NYC. Previously, he was assigned to St. Francis of Assisi Church in NYC where he was in charge of the Franciscan Breadline until a few years ago. On any given day, you would have seen Fr. Michael celebrating Mass, hearing confessions or just talking to the people that pass through his life at St. Francis Church. Here is his story:

"I was born in Hoboken, NJ and my family attended St. Anne's Parish, which was ministered to by the religious order of Capuchin Franciscan Friars. They were just fantastic and influenced me to apply to St. Bonaventure University in Olean, NY, which is where I came to know the Franciscan Friars of Holy Name Province. At St. Bonaventure University I was taught by the Friars, and we students had the great privilege of living with the Friars. Through this experience, I got to see their great love for people and how each day they were there for each one of us. I personally worked in the Friar dining room and saw how they interacted with

each other, and their brotherly concern and love for one another. I decided that if I was accepted, I would love to follow in the footsteps of these men who certainly were mirrors of St. Francis of Assisi."

"I was professed as a Franciscan Friar in 1963 and ordained a priest in 1966. After ordination, I was assigned to St. Catherine's Parish in Clarksville, VA. From there I came to St. Francis of Assisi in NYC where I have been assigned three times and where I am presently assigned. After the first six years at St. Francis, I was asked to go to St. Mary's in Pompton Lakes, NJ and remained there for 11 years, I returned to St. Mary's after working at St. Anthony's Shrine, in Boston, MA, and Holy Angels Parish, in Little Falls, NJ."

"I have always loved parish ministry and being able to minister to families from birth to death, to share in their joys and sorrows, and to be able to be part of their families. But there were years that I ministered in California, Boston and New York to individuals with HIV, and I must say, they were the most rewarding. To bring God's love to young men and women hungry for His presence and acceptance in their lives was a real gift to me."

"All of these ministries, especially while I was in Virginia working with the poor, then ministering to people with HIV / AIDS, have been made possible through your prayers and generosity. I was not only able to sacramentally feed our sisters and brothers, but to bring food to their homes and to be able to help them financially with their medication. I will never forget your generosity and have prayed for you every day since. God bless you all, and thank you."

Little Known Facts About the Assumption of Mary

As we approach the great Feast of the Assumption of Mary on August 15, there are some interesting facts about the Assumption. According to Scripture and Church tradition, only three human beings have been taken up directly to Heaven. They are Enoch, Elijah, from the Old testament and the Blessed Virgin Mary, from the New Testament. Enoch was taken by God and Elijah was whisked into Heaven by a chariot of fire. Mary participated more than any other in Christ's reconciliation of humanity with God. Here are some interesting facts:



- Mary's death is dated 3-15 years after the Ascension.
- St. Juvenal relates that Mary died in the presence of all of the Apostles but when her tomb in the Kedron Valley was opened, it was found to be empty. No one has ever claimed to possess first-class relics of the Blessed Virgin Mary.
- A document from the 4th century is the earliest printed reference to Mary's Assumption into Heaven.
- The Feast of the Assumption was universally celebrated in the Church by the sixth century.
- The feast was originally celebrated in the East, where it is known as the Feast of the Dormition, a word which means "the falling asleep." In Jerusalem, you can visit the Church of the Dormition of Mary on Mount Zion.
- In 1950, Pope Pius XII proclaimed the dogma of the Assumption of Mary, universally held as part of our tradition.

A Daily Reflection from Coffee With Anthony

Why do people pray to you when they have lost something? One of our novices decided religious life was not for him and he left the Friary, taking my psalter, which is a bound volume containing the Book of Psalms and other devotional material, with him. In those days books and paper were scarce and my prayer book was filled with notes I used to prepare for preaching, so I prayed that the book would soon be returned. Shortly after that, the novice returned, book in hand. I was, of course, relieved to have my book and notes, but even more delighted to join my Franciscan brothers in welcoming the young man's return to our community.

As to finding objects, I just keep company with the person who is searching, joining my prayers to theirs. God does the rest. God has granted many of those requests, occasionally surprising the petitioner with something better.

Why do pictures and statues show you holding a book? As a scholar, teacher and preacher, I spent much of my time with the Bible, studying and praying. After all, scripture is one way we hear God's voice. As the years went on, I found that very often a Gospel story I had read many times surprised me with a new insight. In my day, many people did not know how to read, so I urged them to listen to preachers in order to learn scripture: "Take to yourself this book that you may drive out your barrenness with its riches, your neediness with its abundance." Try reading a short passage from scripture as part of your daily prayer. You might start with a Gospel passage, perhaps the reading of the day or the upcoming Sunday readings or you might choose one of the many stories when Jesus healed someone. Put yourself in the scene, consider what stirs your heart.

Feast of the Assumption Breakfast

Baked Blueberry & Pecan Crusted French Toast

On the morning of Feast Day for the Assumption, why not serve some delicious Baked Blueberry & Pecan Crusted French Toast. It can be made the night before and be put into the oven after Mass. It serves as a delicious breakfast on this feast day or any of the feasts of Our Lady as the color of blue (blueberries in this recipe) symbolizes Mary.

Ingredients:

- 12 slices of day-old French bread
- 5 eggs
- 2 1/2 cups milk
- 1 cup packed brown sugar, divided
- 1 teaspoon vanilla extract
- 1/2 teaspoon ground nutmeg
- 1/2 teaspoon cinnamon
- 1 cup chopped pecans
- 1/4 cup butter or margarine, melted
- 2 cups fresh or frozen blueberries



Directions:

Arrange bread in a greased 13" x 9" x 2" baking dish. In a bowl, combine the eggs, milk, 3/4 cup brown sugar, vanilla and nutmeg. Pour over the bread. Cover and refrigerate for 8 hours or overnight. Remove from the refrigerator 30 minutes before baking.

TIP: Flip the bread over before adding the toppings and baking to avoid the bottom of the bread being soggy. Sprinkle the pecans over the egg mixture. Combine the butter and remaining sugar; drizzle over the top. Bake uncovered, at 400 degrees F for 25 minutes. Sprinkle with the blueberries. Bake 10 minutes longer or until a knife inserted near the center comes out.

