

The Stigmata of St. Francis of Assisi

(September 17)

Excerpt from the *Little Flowers of St. Francis*



On the day before the festival of the most Holy Cross of the month of September, while St. Francis was secretly praying in his cell, the angel of God appeared unto him, and said unto him in God's name: "I exhort thee and admonish thee that thou prepare and dispose thyself, humbly and with all patience, to receive that which God willet to give thee, and to work in thee". St. Francis made answer: "I am ready to bear patiently everything that my Lord willet to do unto me"; and, when he had said this, the angel departed. The next day came, to wit the day of the most Holy Cross, and St. Francis, betimes in the morning, or ever it was day, betook himself to prayer before the entrance of his cell, and turning his face towards the East, prayed after this manner: "O my Lord Jesus Christ, two graces do I beseech Thee to grant me before I die: the first, that, during my lifetime, I may feel in my soul and in my body, so far as may be possible, that pain which Thou, sweet Lord, didst suffer in the hour of Thy most bitter passion; the second is that I may feel in my heart, so far as may be possible, that exceeding love, whereby Thou, Son of God, wast enkindled to willingly bear such passion for us sinners". And, when he had continued a long time in this prayer, he knew that God would hear him, and that, as far as was possible for a mere creature, so far would it be granted to him to feel the aforesaid things.

Then a Seraph, with six wings resplendent and ablaze; flying swiftly, drew near unto St. Francis, so that he was able to discern Him clearly, and he perceived that He bore the likeness to a crucified Man; and His wings were so disposed that two wings extended above His head, two were spread out to fly, and the other two covered all His body. In the said seraphic vision, Christ, who appeared to St. Francis, spake unto him certain high and secret things, the which St. Francis was never willing to reveal to any one during his life; but, after his death, he revealed it, even as is set forth below; and the words were these: "Knowest thou," said Christ, "that which I have done unto thee? I have given thee the stigmata, which are the tokens of My Passion, so that thou mayest be My standard-bearer. And even as I, on the day of My death, descended into Limbo, and, in virtue of these My stigmata, drew out thence all the souls which I found there; so to thee do I grant that, every year on the day of thy death, thou shalt go to purgatory, and in virtue of thy stigmata, shalt draw out thence all the souls of thy three Orders, to wit minors, sisters and continents, and also those others who have borne great devotion unto thee, and shalt lead them unto the glory of paradise, to the end that thou mayest be conformed to Me in death as thou art in life."

Now when, after long and secret converse, this marvellous vision vanished away, it left an exceeding ardour and flame of Divine love in the heart of St. Francis, and in his flesh a marvellous image and imprint of the Passion of Christ. For anon, in the hands and in the feet of St. Francis the marks of nails began to appear after the same fashion as he had just seen in the body of Jesus Christ crucified, the which had appeared unto him in the form of a seraph; and even so were his hands and his feet pierced through the midst with nails, the heads whereof were in the palms of the hands and in the soles of the feet, outside the flesh; and the points came out through the back of the hands and of the feet, where they showed bent back and clinched on such wise that, under the clinching and the bend, which all stood out above the flesh, it would have been easy to put a finger of the hand, as in a ring; and the heads of the nails were round and black. In like manner, in his right side appeared the likeness of a lance wound, open, red and bloody; the which oftentimes thereafter spouted blood from the holy breast of St. Francis, and covered his habit and breeches with blood.

September 17, 2023



*Saint Joseph's
Traditional Roman Catholic Chapel
Traditional Latin Mass*

*29968 County 22
Harmony, Minnesota 55939*

Sunday, September 17

Confessions 12:30 pm
Holy Mass 1:00 pm

16th Sunday After Pentecost

(Stigmata of St. Francis)

Sunday, September 24

Confessions 12:30 pm
Holy Mass 1:00 pm

17th Sunday After Pentecost

(Our Lady of Ransom)

CONTACTS:

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MASS INTENTIONS may be submitted to Father for a stipend of \$25.00. If you wish a specific date, please submit well in advance. Mass Intention envelopes are available in the vestibule.

MEAL VOLUNTEERS: There is a new sign up sheet in the vestibule for the month of September to help provide Father with a meal-to-go after Mass. *Thank You* to all those who have been assisting with this Corporal Work of Mercy to feed the hungry; and supporting your parish priest.

PILGRIMAGE TO THE HOLY LAND for May of 2024 is being coordinated by Fr. Benedict Hughes. Please see flyer in the vestibule and contact Fr. Benedict if interested.

NOVENA PRAYER TO SAINT JOSEPH to be prayed after the Holy Rosary. The prayer will be in the pews.

ST. JOSEPH'S ANNUAL FALL FESTIVAL will take place on Saturday, September 30th. Mark your calendars for a day of wholesome fun and entertainment! For more information please see flyer in the vestibule.

EMBER DAYS (Sept. 20, 22, 23) – This coming Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday are the Ember Days. Wednesday and Saturday are days of fast and partial abstinence. Friday is a day of full abstinence and a fast day. Everyone over 21 and under 59 years of age are bound to observe the law of fast, which consists of one full meal. Two other meatless meals, sufficient to maintain strength may be taken, according to one's needs; but together should not equal another full meal. Eating between meals is not permitted, but liquids, including milk and fruit juices are allowed. Everyone over the age of seven is bound to observe the law of abstinence, which means meat may be taken only once a day at the principal meal.

BANNS OF MATRIMONY are announced for the second time for Patrick Rinkleff and Sydney Alexander. If anyone is aware of an impediment to this marriage, please notify Father.

FATIMA CONFERENCE – OCTOBER 11-15, 2023: A gathering of Traditional Catholics from around the country at historic Mount St. Michael for five days of Latin Masses, spiritual exercises, inspiring lectures and sermons. For more information please see the flyer in the back of the vestibule.

FINANCIAL AWARENESS: FROM THE PARISH BOARD:

For some time the chapel has been struggling at a deficit. Please give generously if you can afford to.

Average Weekly Operating Costs: \$590

Average Weekly Collection (year-to-date): \$682

Last Four Collections: **8/20** \$3,841 **8/27** \$750 **9/3** \$657 **9/10** \$685