

The Franciscan Tertiary's
Office of the
Paters



Prayer Before Reciting the Office

O LORD, open my mouth to bless Thy holy name; cleanse my heart too, from all vain, perverse, and distracting thoughts; enlighten my understanding, inflame my affections: that I may recite this Office with worthy attention and devotion, and may merit to be heard in the sight of Thy Divine majesty. Through Christ Our Lord. Amen.

Lord, I offer Thee these *Hours* in union with that Divine intention wherewith Thou didst offer praise to God while Thou wert on earth.

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This book was compiled from a manuscript entitled *The Tertiary Office of the Paters* published in 1949 by the *Franciscan Herald Press* (now defunct), and a treatise on reciting the Tertiary Office entitled *AIDS*, from the same publisher. Some minor editing has been done for clarification and correction.

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St. Marys, KS

AIDS

A TREATISE ON THE TERTIARY OFFICE OF THE PATERS FROM THE *FRANCISCAN HERALD PRESS*

An Acknowledgement

Tertiaries have a choice of three *Offices*. They may recite the *Breviary*, the *Little Office of Our Lady*, or *Twelve Our Fathers*, *Hail Marys*, and *Glorias*. As most Tertiaries use the latter, we supply them herein with *AIDS* for its better recitation. Grateful acknowledgement is hereby expressed to the editor of the *Franciscan Herald Press* for permission to reprint these *AIDS* from the *Tertiary Office of the Paters*.

FRANCISCAN TERTIARY OFFICE

Tertiaries who are ecclesiastics, inasmuch as they read the Psalms daily, need do no more under this heading. Laymen who neither recite the canonical prayers nor the prayers in honour of Mary, commonly known as the Little Office of the Blessed Virgin Mary, must say each day twelve "Our Fathers," "Hail Marys" and "Glories" unless prevented from doing so by ill-health.

Nature of Office

We are very familiar with this word "office" in its ordinary sense. It means a duty or an obligation entrusted to some responsible person. In liturgical language, it means the duty or obligation imposed by the Church on certain of her children, to recite daily a set form of prayer prescribed by her. But the Office is not a merely ecclesiastical institution: it is divine. Of old, God imposed a type of Office on the Synagogue, certain prayers to be recited at regular intervals. This means that the Church, through the Office, is simply assuming an obligation imposed by God Himself. The Divine Office, as we know it, is a liturgical prayer which goes back through monastic and

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ecclesiastical institutions to the cradle of Christianity; and, through the mosaic institution, right back to God Himself.

The Church does not indiscriminately impose this obligation on all. We could speak of it as a favour granted by her to some privileged souls. Just as she endows some with divine power to celebrate Mass in her name and for the whole Mystical Body, so, too, she appoints certain of her children as official representatives to bear the praises of mankind to the throne of God in her name, and to return from that throne with graces and blessings for man.

Object of the Office

The principal object of the Office is to give praise to God. He has created everything and done all things for His own glory. We, His creatures, are bound to glorify Him. This was His object in creating us. The life of Christ was spent primarily in glorifying the Father. *“I have glorified Thee on the earth; I have finished the work which Thou gavest Me to do.”* Knowing the inconstancy of man and the irregularity with which many people pray, the Church steps in and makes sure that God will not be forgotten by the world, and that He will get from it the honour which is His due. This is why she commissions some of her members to offer up daily to God a hymn of praise through the Office. It is in practice the incense offered to God by the Church, being the counterpart on earth of that homage given to God by the heavenly multitudes, a homage almost terrifying in description as given by St. John in his *Apocalypse*: *“After these things I heard, as it were, the voice of much people in heaven, saying: Alleluia, Salvation, and glory, and power is to our God. And again they said: Alleluia. And the four and twenty ancients, and the four living creatures fell down and adored God that sitteth upon the throne, saying: Amen; Alleluia. And a voice came out from the throne saying: Give praise to our God, all ye his servants; and you that fear Him, little and great. And I heard, as it were, the voice of a great multitude, and as the voice*

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of many waters, and as the voice of great thunders, saying: Alleluia, for the Lord our God the Almighty hath reigned.”

Although primarily a hymn of praise, a glorifying of God in the name of mankind, other objects of the Office are to render Him thanks for His continuous blessings, to ask His pardon for sin, and to secure for the world the graces which it needs. St. Bonaventure tells us that the purpose of the Office is to unite men with the angles in heaven in their praise and blessing of God; to testify to God an appreciation for all He has done and is doing for us; to conserve and renew devotion and the holy fear of God, which if not fed would be extinguished; to supply for those who cannot pray regularly, or who never pray.

Value of the Office

In the sight of God, all prayer is pleasing and valuable; but none can compare with that of the Office, as it is the official and public prayer of the Church.

We must consider for a moment the difference between public and private prayer. Some think that any prayer said by a group is public, and that all other prayer is private. By no means. Public prayer is the official prayer of the Church, prescribed and imposed by her on certain of her children. Thus, the priest or Tertiary reciting his Office in the privacy of his home, is reciting a public prayer. The Church prescribes both its form and contents, and commands them to offer it in her name.

On the other hand, take the Stations of the Cross, or the Rosary, even when performed by a congregation in church. These are but private prayers, as the Church has not commanded any group to offer them in her name. They are prayers of private devotion: even though they are approved of, and sanctioned by the Church.

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Any public prayer of the Church surpasses all private prayer in value. Why is this? We must remember that the Church is the Mystical Body of Christ, of which He is the Head. He is the representative of the human race in its constant and obligatory duty of praising, thanking, making satisfaction and petition to God. As Head, He gives the Church His own power of adoring and praising God. The Church does this in her liturgy, and she tells us herself that, after the Mass, the Office is the greatest of all her liturgical and public prayers. It is her official voice of praise to God. We know that the Church is the Bride of Christ, and being Christ's Bride will always be heard before the throne of God. The Office is, in reality, the praise of Christ Himself passing through the lips of the Church. After the Mass itself, it is the greatest prayer we have. Actually it is intimately connected with the Mass, drawing therefrom much of its grandeur, its value and its efficaciousness. It is a prolongation, a counterpart of the Mass, being a re-echo of the praise, thanksgiving, reparation and petition given by Christ to God in the Mass. The Mass is Christ's perfect prayer. The Office is the official prayer of Christ's Bride, Christ still praying through, and with, and in it, for the same purposes as He prays the Mass.

Because it is an Office sanctioned by the Church, there is a great difference between twelve Our Fathers, Hail Marys and Glories said as a Tertiary Office and said as private prayers. If two persons, one a Tertiary and the other not, recite these prayers with the same devotion, the results are not the same. The one who is not a Tertiary performs a private work of piety of his own choice and in his own name. The Tertiary recites an official prayer imposed on him by the Church and offered in her name. It is part of the prayer service the Church offers continually to God. It is a substitute for the Divine Office itself.

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Ambassadors

By deputing some to the recitation of an Office, the Church is really appointing them as her ambassadors, to offer to God the homage of the human race and represent it before His throne. We know the position an ambassador holds. He is the official representative of his country, carrying the weight and the authority of his country with him. One word from him before the throne to which he is accredited, carries more weight than the voices of many private individuals.

Similarly, while we recite the Office, God does not look upon us as souls coming before Him with their private interests, but as ambassadors of the Bride of His Son. While we pray thus, through and with Christ, our prayer is most pleasing to God and efficacious for ourselves and for others. This is why the Office surpasses in value and efficacy all private prayers. St. Mary Magdalen of Pazzi says: *“In comparison with the Divine Office, all other prayers amount to nothing.”* St. Alphonsus says: *“The smallest quantity of Office is of greater value than a hundred prayers of private devotion.”*

Marvellous Privilege

The privilege of Tertiaries are many and great, but one of their greatest privileges lies in the fact that the Church, Christ’s Bride and Spouse, delegates them to recite an Office, thereby joining their prayers with her own and with that of Christ, appointing them personal ambassadors before the throne of God.

Alas! How many Tertiaries see in their Office of privilege, God’s Work, as St. Benedict calls it? Some of them consider it a burden, a monotonous repetition of the commonest of all prayers to be recited daily, omitting it for the slightest cause, and usually reciting it when, and only when, a multiplicity of private prayers have been attended to. I do not, even for a moment, insinuate

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that Tertiaries should neglect their private prayers. God forbid! But because of its dignity and excellence, and value, their Office should be the central prayer of their lives, and not merely a prayer added to their private devotions. Remembering that they are ambassadors of the Church, they should never omit it, because, by failing to recite their Office, even though they are not bound under pain of sin to do so, they are not merely omitting an exercise of personal piety, they are failing the Church in a duty. To attend to it only after daily private prayers, is to underestimate the spirit and power of the Church's liturgy.

When reciting the Office, the Tertiary is not praying as an individual, or in his own name, but in the name of the Church. His is no longer a solitary individual prayer: it is a public prayer of the Church, even when recited privately. It renders the Tertiary a kind of priest, a *pontifex* — such is the Latin for priest, meaning bridge-builder, a connecting link between God and man, going up to God with praises of humanity, and returning from the throne of God loaded with gifts for man.

Through his Office, the Tertiary is closely associated with priests and religious who have consecrated their lives to the perpetual praise of God. It helps him to forget himself, to get out of himself with the very will of Christ, which is the glory of God and the salvation of souls. While reciting the Office, he can be sure that he is praying as God wishes him to pray, because the Church has commissioned him to pray thus.

Again, whatever the Tertiary's personal merits may be, his Office is vested with the holiness and the efficacy of the Church. He is saying it in the name of the Church, which means that its effects do not depend merely on his personal merit; the whole Church is behind him. He does not recite an Office alone, but with thousands of priests, clerics, religious and lay-people. It is no longer the thin voice of an individual, but the powerful voice of the Church itself. The Tertiary unites his voice with that of

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the universal Church, thus constituting a marvellous harmony which ascends from every part of the world. It is not the Tertiary who prays; it is the Church who prays through the mouth of the Tertiary. It is even more than this. The Tertiary forms part of that universal choir with Christ at the head. Christ will be his support, supplying for his many deficiencies. Joining his poor and unworthy voice with this great symphony of worship and petition, his feeble breath becomes a part of that which is mighty and divine. Thus, defects which may be found in an individual recitation are, so to speak, merged into the perfect prayer of Christ and of many saintly souls. This, of course, should not lead to a careless and mechanical recitation, but should serve as an inspiration, a help, and an antidote to individual weakness.

Proper Recitation

Because of the great privilege the Church grants them, by allowing them [to] recite an Office, Tertiaries should render themselves worthy of this honour by reciting it daily with the utmost attention and devotion. Since it is a prolongation of Christ's own prayer, it should be offered in union with Him. All those reciting should unite themselves to the perfect worship given to God by the Incarnate Word, in order to give to God through Him, with Him, and in Him, and at the same time to intercede with Christ for the needs of humanity. So intent was that great Tertiary priest, St. John Vianney, on uniting his daily Office in union with Christ, that he invariably recited his breviary at the foot of the Altar, pausing frequently to gaze up at the tabernacle where Jesus was. In a prayer recited before the Office, we ask that we may say it *in union with that divine intention with which Christ praised God on earth*. In that same prayer, we ask God, too, that we may recite it *worthily, attentively and devoutly*. Yes, these are the dispositions with which it should be recited.

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Worthily: When reciting the Office, we are, as it were ushered into the presence of the King of kings, and should act accordingly.

Attentively: During it, we should attend to God's presence, remembering that we are ambassadors before His throne, uniting our voices with those of the very angels and of the whole heavenly court. St. John tells us that the angels and elect in heaven cast themselves down before the Infinite Majesty. "*And they fell down before the throne upon their faces and adored God.*" We, too, should have an inward reverence for the infinite majesty of God, in spirit prostrating ourselves in adoration before Him.

Devoutly: This means that we try to concentrate all the powers of our souls in this sacred work, trying to carry out as perfectly as possible that divine injunction: "*And thou shalt love the Lord thy God with thy whole heart, and with thy whole soul, and with thy whole mind, and with thy whole strength.*" Beware lest that reproach made by God to those people who failed in their duty of honouring Him properly be applied to you: "*This is the people that honoureth me with their lips; but their hearts are far from me.*"

Divisions of Office

The Divine Office proper is divided into *Hours*, of which there are seven. It became divided thus from the traditional times at which portions of it were recited. The divisions are: *Matins* and *Lauds*, recited very early in the morning, with the privilege of anticipating them on the previous night; Prime, Tierce, Sext, None, which were recited at the first, third, sixth and ninth hours of the day; Vespers, and evening prayer, and Compline, a prayer before retiring to rest.

If he so wishes, the Tertiary may divide his Office according to these *Hours*. It would be even well to do so. He would thus

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be in harmony with the spirit of the liturgy and would be interspersing his day's work with an official prayer of the Church. Pope Leo XIII approved the practice of saying five Our Fathers, etc., for *Matins*, and one Our Father etc., for each of the *Hours of Lauds, Prime, Tierce, Sext, None, Vespers* and *Compline*. The same Pope strongly recommended meditation on Our Lord's Passion while reciting the Office.

The Office may be said alternately by a group of Tertiaries in the same manner as the Rosary is recited by a group of people, or the office recited by Religious in choir.

Tertiary Office

The Rule mentions three different Offices which the Tertiary may recite: the Divine Office, or the Breviary; the Little Office of the Blessed Virgin, which is very similar to the Divine Office, and which is not to be confounded with the Little Office of the Immaculate Conception, as the latter would not suffice for the Tertiary Office; and the Office of the twelve Our Fathers, Hail Marys, and Glorys. Clerics who recite the Divine Office are not bound to recitation of the latter; and, in private, they may follow the Breviary of the First Order.

The usual Office recited by the Tertiaries is that of the twelve Our Fathers, etc. This is marvellously adapted to exigencies of modern life, which cannot endure long prayers. We see the wisdom of the Church in fitting the burden to the shoulder, giving an obligation in proportion to the strength of those expected to fulfill it. That is why the Office of Tertiaries is so small, but at the same time being an official prayer of the Church.

Because of its brevity and composition, there is a danger of misunderstanding the value of the Tertiary Office. The Tertiary should remember that, not only is he praising God in union with

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Christ's intentions, but his is also using some of the grandest prayers in the whole liturgy of the Church. The Our Father was composed by Christ Himself. The Hail Mary consists, mainly, of God's own salutation to Mary through the archangel Gabriel. At least, it fell immediately from Gabriel's lips when he came straight from the throne of God, to announce our redemption. It is completed by the salutation of Elizabeth to Mary; and the Church, guided by the Holy Spirit, added the rest. The Glory is a profession of faith in the mystery of the Blessed Trinity, the fundamental dogma of our religion. Through it, the Church gathers up the praises of all creation from the beginning to the end of time, and offers them as a hymn of adoration to the Blessed Trinity.

Hence, despite its brevity, because of its contents and object, the Tertiary Office is really sublime.

God's Minstrels

By means of their Office, Tertiaries become God's minstrels, singers of God's praises with Christ and the Church. Naturally, they should prove themselves worthy minstrels by a faithful daily recitation, never omitting that duty except when prevented by illness or some other just cause. The Rule caters for these exceptions, and, under these circumstances, dispenses Tertiaries from recitation of the Office.

Pope Leo XIII, although already reciting the Divine Office, recited his Tertiary Office daily and that before his morning Mass. In 1884 he wrote: "*Indeed, every day, before we approach the Altar we recite the Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory twelve times. Yes! Yes! The Pope himself recites every day the Seraphic Office of Tertiaries.*"

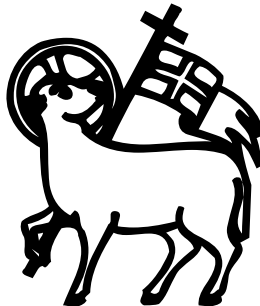
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St. Francis Praying

Would that Tertiaries had a little of that devotion which St. Francis had when reciting his Office! Thomas of Celano tells us that, when Francis was saying his Office, not only did he seem to pray, but his very being became a prayer. What passed between God and himself in that converse and ecstasy of prayer, he never revealed to anybody.

When reciting the Office he would not lean on anything, but prayed in an upright position, devoting all his attention to the sublime work. *“If the body,”* he said, *“which is the prey of worms, is allowed to enjoy its food in quiet, with how much more tranquillity and peace must the soul take its food, which is God Himself!”* When he was nearing his end and was no longer able to read because of his poor health and almost total blindness, he had a cleric read the Office to him daily.

St. Bonaventure says that one may judge whether a religious is a good religious from the manner in which he recites his Office. Of the Tertiary the same may be said. May he say it well, and cry out with David, the Psalmist: *“Let my prayer, O Lord, be directed like incense in thy sight.”*



PART I

TERTIARY OFFICES

PART I — LITURGICAL OFFICE

(Based on the Breviary)

AT MATINS

Normally Matins are a night Hour. Yet, following the practice of those who recite the Breviary or the Little Hours, one may recite Matins the evening previous with the intention of hollowing the night with them.

Come, let us shout with joy to the Lord and acclaim the Rock of our salvation. Let us appear in his sight with hymns of praise and shout to Him in song.

The sea is His, for He made it, and so is the dry land, which His hands have shaped. Come, let us adore Him and fall down and bend our knees before the Lord, who made us. For He is our Lord, but we are the people of his pasture and the sheep of his hands.

Would you may hear His voice this day. (*Ps. 94*)

Five Our Father's, Hail Mary's and Glory's said in union with Jesus suffering the Agony in the Garden.

Let us pray:

O God, who wanted Thy Son to submit to the penalty of the Cross for us, in order to drive forth from us the power of the Enemy: grant that we, Thy servants, may obtain the grace of the Resurrection. Through the same Jesus Christ, Thy Son, who livest and reignest with Thee, in unity with the Holy Ghost, God, world without end.

R. Amen.

LITURGICAL OFFICE

AT LAUDS

The Lauds may be recited together with the Matins on the evening previous. Otherwise early morning on arising is the proper time for them.

Night is on its way and day has drawn near. So let us cast off the works of darkness and put on the armor of light. Let us live decently, like in daylight. (*Rom. 13:11*)

One Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory said in union with *Jesus suffering at Pilate's house.*

Let us pray:

W e beseech Thee, almighty God, look in mercy on Thy family; that with Thy favor it may be guided in body, and with Thy protection, preserved in spirit. Through Our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, who livest and reignest with Thee, in unity with the Holy Ghost, God, world without end.

R. Amen.

AT PRIME

Prime might find a place in the morning before going to work.

✠. To the King of the Ages, the immortal and invisible, who alone is God, be honor and glory, world without end. Amen. (*1Tim. 1:17*)

R. Thanks be to God.

One Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory said in union with *Jesus offering his sacrifice to his Father.*

Let us pray:

Q Lord, God almighty, who hast had us reach the beginning of this day: preserve us today with Thy power, so that this day we shall in no manner give way to sin, but that what we say and think and do may tend and be directed toward promoting Thy

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holy Will. Through Our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, who livest and reignest with Thee, in unity with the Holy Ghost, God, world without end.

R. Amen.

AT TIERCE

Tierce is said in the course of the morning, perhaps at a break in the day's work.

God is love, and whoever abides in love, abides in God and God in him. (*1 John 4:16*)

One Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory said in union with *Jesus being scourged.*

✠. Be my helper, do not abandon me,

R. Nor disregard me, O God my Savior.

Let us pray:

We beseech Thee, O Lord, enlighten our minds with the light of Thy brightness, so that we can see what we should do and be able to do whatever is right. Through Our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, who livest and reignest with Thee, in unity with the Holy Ghost, God, world without end.

R. Amen.

AT SEXT

Sext may be said at noon, perhaps in the rest hour.

Let each of you bear the other's burdens and so you will fulfill the law of Christ. (*Gal. 6:2*)

One Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory said in union with *Jesus being nailed to the cross.*

✠. The Lord is guiding me and nothing shall be wanting to me,

R. He has set me down where there is good pasture.

LITURGICAL OFFICE

Let us pray:

Grant we beseech Thee, O Lord, that Thy people may shun touch with the Devil and keep following Thee as its one God with a pure mind. Through Our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, who livest and reignest with Thee, in unity with the Holy Ghost, God, world without end.

R. Amen.

AT NONE

None may be said when afternoon begins, for example, when going back to work.

You have been bought at a great price. Glorify God and bear him about in your person. (*1 Cor. 6:20*)

One Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory said in union with *Jesus dying on the cross.*

✠. From sins hidden to me cleanse me, O Lord,

R. And keep Thy servant, too from pride.

Let us pray:

Grant we beseech Thee, almighty God, that as we trust in Thy protection, we may also with Thy help overcome all our hardships. Through Our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, who livest and reignest with Thee, in unity with the Holy Ghost, God, world without end

R. Amen.

AT VESPERS

Vespers is said late in the afternoon, for example, after working hours.

The fiery sun now leaves the sky.

Thou, Light Eternal, Unity,

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And Ever Blessed Trinity,
Still light our hearts unendingly.

One Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory said in union with
*Jesus taken down from the cross and offered to his Father
by Mary.*

May Blessed Mary, Virgin Mother of God, and all the Saints
intercede for us with the Lord.

✠. The Lord has wrought marvels for his Saints,
℞. And has heard them when they cry out to Him.

Let us pray:

Defend us, O Lord, we beseech Thee, from all danger of soul
and body; and at the intercession of the glorious and blessed
Mary, Ever Virgin Mother of God, with blessed Joseph, the
blessed Apostles Peter and Paul, our holy Father Francis and all
the Saints, grant us in Thy kindness both safety and peace; so
that, with all error and adversity put to nought, Thy Church may
serve Thee, secure in its liberty. Through Our Lord Jesus Christ,
Thy Son, who livest and reignest with Thee, in unity with the
Holy Ghost, God, world without end.

℞. Amen.

AT COMPLINE

Compline may be added to Vespers or said before retiring.

May the almighty Lord grant us a quiet night and a peaceful
conclusion.

℞. Amen.

One Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory said in union with
Jesus laid away in the tomb.

OFFICE WITH ST. FRANCIS (SUNDAY)

Short Responsory

Into Thy hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

℣. Thou hast redeemed us, O Lord, God of truth.

℟. I commend my spirit.

℣. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Ghost.

℟. Into Thy hands, O Lord, I commend my spirit.

℣. Watch over us, O Lord, like the apple of Thy eye.

℟. Protect us under the shadow of Thy wings.

Let us pray:

Visit, we beseech Thee, O Lord, this dwelling and drive all the snares of the Enemy far from it. May Thy holy Angels dwell in it to preserve us in peace, and may Thy blessing be ever upon us. Through Our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, who livest and reignest with Thee, in unity with the Holy Ghost, God, world without end.

℟. Amen.

† ... † ... †

PART II — OFFICE PRAYED WITH ST. FRANCIS (Based on the Writings of St. Francis)

SUNDAY

Dominant idea of the day's Office: glorifying God by serving Him.

AT MATINS

Invitatory:

1. Almighty, Most High, Holy and Sovereign God, Holy and Just Father, Master of Heaven and earth, for Thy own sake we give Thee thanks...

Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory...

PART II (SUNDAY)

2. because by Thy Will, through Thy only Son, and in the Holy Ghost Thou hast created all things spiritual and bodily.

Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory...

3. We give Thee thanks, because just as Thou didst create us through Thy Son, so didst Thou in that true and holy love with which Thou hast loved us, have Thy Son be born of the glorious and Ever Blessed Virgin, Most Holy Mary...

Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory...

4. and it was Thy Will to ransom us from our captivity with his Cross and his Blood. (*First Rule of the Friars Ch. 23*)*

Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory...

5. Almighty, Most Holy, High and Sovereign God, the greatest good, the universal good, all that is good, Thou who alone art good: may we render Thee all praise, all glory, all acknowledgment, all honor, and all blessing, and may we always refer to Thee whatever is good. (*The Lord's Praises in the Our Father*)

Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory...

AT LAUDS

Most High, Mighty and Good Lord,
Thine is the praise, the glory, the honor and all
benediction.

To Thee alone, Most High do they belong,
And no man is fit even to mention Thy Name.

(Canticle of the Creatures)

Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory...

* *First Rule* refers to the Rule of 1221.

OFFICE WITH ST. FRANCIS (SUNDAY)

AT PRIME

Observe, O man, to what distinction the Lord has raised you in creating you and molding you according to the image of his Beloved Son bodily and according to his likeness spiritually. (*Fifth Admonition*)

Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory...

AT TIERCE

All the creatures under heaven in their way serve, recognize and obey their Creator better than you do. (*Fifth Admonition*)

Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory...

AT SEXT

What we can take credit for, are our infirmities and that we carry the Holy Cross of Our Lord Jesus Christ day by day. (*Fifth Admonition*)

Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory...

AT NONE

Let us have no desire, no intention, no pleasure or delight apart from our Creator, Redeemer and Savior. (*First Rule of the Friars Ch. 23*)

Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory...

AT VESPERS

They are pure of heart who disregard what the world offers, never ceasing to adore and contemplate the true and living Lord God with a clean heart and mind. (*Sixteenth Admonition*)

Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory...

PART II (MONDAY)

AT COMPLINE

O Almighty, Eternal, Just and Merciful God, have us poor wretches for Thy sake do what we know Thou wantest, and have us always want whatever is pleasing to Thee. (*Letter to the General Chapter*)

Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory...

M O N D A Y

Dominant idea of the day's Office: glorifying God by means of charity toward our neighbor.

AT MATINS

Invitatory:

1. Thou art the Holy Lord God, who alone works marvels. Thou art powerful, Thou art full of majesty, Thou art the Most High. Thou art the King of all might, Thou, Holy Father, King of Heaven and earth. Thou art the Lord God, who is threefold and one, and all that is good.

Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory...

2. Thou art what is good, all that is good, the supreme good, true and living Lord God. Thou art charity, love. Thou art wisdom....

Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory...

3. Thou art humility. Thou art patience. Thou art assurance. Thou art restfulness. Thou art joy and gladness. Thou art justice and temperance...

Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory...

OFFICE WITH ST. FRANCIS (MONDAY)

4. Thou art all the wealth one can desire. Thou art beauty. Thou art gentleness. Thou art our protector. Thou art our guardian and defender. Thou art strength. Thou art refreshment...

Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory...

5. Thou art our hope. Thou art our faith. Thou art our great sweetness. Thou art our eternal life, great and marvelous Lord, God of all might, merciful Savior. (*God's Praises to Brother Leo*)

Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory...

AT LAUDS

Be praised, my Lord, for all thy creatures,
In special for his worship Brother Sun,
Who brings the day, and Thou givest light to us
through him.
And beautiful is he, a gleam with mighty splendor,
He brings us understanding of Thee, Most High
(*Canticle of the Sun*)

Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory...

AT PRIME

Let any person who is entrusted to the obedience of others and who is regarded as someone greater, become like someone lesser and like the servant of the rest of the brethren. (*Letter to All the Faithful*)

Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory...

PART II (MONDAY)

AT TIERCE

Since I am the servant of all, I am obliged to serve them all and to communicate to them the fragrant words of my Lord.

(Letter to All the Faithful)

Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory...

AT SEXT

Blessed is the person who does not keep anything back for himself in giving Caesar what is Caesars' and God what is God's. *(Eleventh Admonition)*

Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory...

AT NONE

I entreat all my friars in the charity which is God...not to boast, nor yet to take inner pleasure or be interiorly elated over the good words or deeds or anything good which God says or does or brings about at times in them or through them. *(Rule of the Friars Ch. 17)*

Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory...

AT VESPERS

How happy and blest are they who love the Lord and do what the Lord Himself says in the Gospel. *(Letter to All the Faithful)*

Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory...

OFFICE WITH ST. FRANCIS (TUESDAY)

AT COMPLINE

Do not keep anything of yourselves back for yourselves, so that He may have you altogether as his who has given himself altogether for you. (*Letter to the General Chapter*)

Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory...

T U E S D A Y

Dominant idea of the day's Office: putting ourselves at God's disposal through poverty.

AT MATINS

Invitatory:

1. Thou art worthy, O Lord, our God, to receive praise, glory and honor, and benediction...

Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory...

2. Worthy is the Lamb who has been slain, to receive power and divinity and wisdom and might and honor and glory and benediction....

Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory...

3. Let us bless the Father and the Son and the Holy Ghost. Let us praise Him and extol Him above all things forever...

Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory...

4. Him in his glory may Heaven and earth praise, and every creature in Heaven and on earth and under the earth, and no less the sea with what is in it...

Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory...

PART II (TUESDAY)

5. Holy, holy, holy is the Lord God Almighty, He who is and who was and who is to come... (*The Lord's Praises in the Our Father*)

Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory...

AT LAUDS

Be praised, my Lord, for Sister Moon and the
Stars—

In the heavens Thou make them bright and fair
and precious.

Be praised, my Lord, for Brother Wind,
And for the air, for cloudy, fair, and every kind of
weather,

Through which Thou givest thy creatures
sustenance (*Canticle of the Sun*)

Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory...

AT PRIME

Such is the eminence of the most sublime poverty; it is that which has established you as heirs and kings of the kingdom of Heaven. (*Second Rule of the Friars, Ch. 6*)*

Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory...

AT TIERCE

Clinging to poverty in every way, for the sake of our Lord Jesus Christ crave to have nothing else under Heaven at any time. (*Second Rule of the Friars, Ch. 6*)

Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory...

* *Second Rule* refers to the Rule of 1223.

OFFICE WITH ST. FRANCIS (TUESDAY)

AT SEXT

He is truly poor in spirit, who hates himself and loves those who slap his face. (*Fourteenth Admonition*)

Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory...

AT NONE

Holy Poverty confounds all grasping and hoarding, and the worries of this world as well. (*Salute to the Virtues*)

Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory...

AT VESPERS

The brethren should recall that our Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of the Almighty living God, was poor and shelterless and lived on alms — both He and the Blessed Virgin.
(*First Rule, Ch. 9*)

Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory...

AT COMPLINE

Let us be well on our guard against the guile and craftiness of Satan, who wants man not to keep his mind and heart set on God the Lord; as he prowls about, he aims at ravishing the heart of man with some sham recompense or advantage.
(*First Rule, Ch. 22*)

Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory...

PART II (WEDNESDAY)

W E D N E S D A Y

Dominant idea of the day's Office: prayer as the safeguard of our friendship with God.

AT MATINS

Invitatory:

1. Our Father Most Holy, our Creator, our Redeemer and Savior, our Consoler...

Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory...

2. Hallowed be Thy Name: may we have a clearer knowledge of Thee, so that we may understand the breath of Thy blessings, the length of Thy promises, the height of Thy Majesty and the depth of Thy judgments...

Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory...

3. Thy kingdom come: so that Thou mayest rule in us through grace and have us reach Thy Kingdom...

Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory...

4. Where there is the open sight of Thee, the perfect love of Thee, blissful association with Thee, everlasting enjoyment of Thee...

Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory...

5. May Thy Will be done on earth as it is in Heaven: may we love Thee with all our heart by always thinking of Thee, with all our soul by always craving for Thee, with all our mind by making Thee the aim of all our intentions and seeking Thy honor in everything. (*The Lord's Praises in the Our Father*)

Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory...

OFFICE WITH ST. FRANCIS (WEDNESDAY)

AT LAUDS

Be praised, my Lord, for Sister Water,
Most useful is she, and humble, and precious and
chaste.

Be praised, my Lord for Brother Fire,
By which Thou lightest up the night;
And it is fair and gay, and hardy and
strong. (*Canticle of the Sun*)

Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory...

AT PRIME

Where there is quiet and meditation,
there is neither worry nor dissipation. (*Twenty-
seventh Admonition*)

Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory...

AT TIERCE

Where there is fear of the Lord to guard the
gateway,
there the Enemy can get no hold for an entry.
(*Twenty-seventh Admonition*)

Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory...

AT SEXT

Where there is patience and humility,
there is neither anger nor loss of composure.
(*Twenty-seventh Admonition*)

Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory...

PART II (THURSDAY)

AT NONE

Blessed is the servant that treasures up for Heaven the favors of God extends to him, and that has no desire to disclose them to people in hope of recompense, because the Most High Himself will make His work known to whomever He wishes. (*Twenty-eighth Admonition*)

Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory...

AT VESPERS

The brethren should do their work with fidelity and devotion in such a way that they do not extinguish in themselves the spirit of holy prayer and recollection, to which all other things temporal should minister. (*Second Rule, Ch. 5*)

Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory...

AT COMPLINE

And since we are not fit to mention Thy Name, we humbly entreat that Our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Beloved Son, may render Thee thanks that please Thee, for everything; for He, through whom Thou hast done so much for us, always suffices Thee for everything. (*First Rule, Ch. 23*)

Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory...

OFFICE WITH ST. FRANCIS (THURSDAY)

T H U R S D A Y

Dominant idea of the day's Office: Love of God
shown by devotion to the Holy Eucharist.

AT MATINS

Invitatory:

1. Our Father Most Holy, our Creator, our Redeemer and Savior, our Consoler, make us love Thee with all our strength, by spending all our forces and all our faculties of soul and body in the service of Thy Love and on nothing else...

Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory...

2. May we love our neighbors as ourselves, by getting them all as much as we can to love Thee...

Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory...

3. Give us this day our daily bread — Thy Beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ...

Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory...

4. Give it to us today, so that we may remember, appreciate, and venerate the love He had for us, and all that He said and did and endured for us...

Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory...

5. And forgive us our debts, in Thine unspeakable mercy and in virtue of the sufferings of Thy Beloved Son, Our Lord Jesus Christ. (*The Lord's Praises in the Our Father*)

Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory...

PART II (THURSDAY)

AT LAUDS

Be praised, my Lord, for Sister Mother Earth,
Who sustains and guides us,
And brings forth fruits of many kinds, with
multi-colored flowers and grass.
(Canticle of the Sun)

Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory...

AT PRIME

It is His Father's Will that all of us should be saved through Him and should receive Him with a clean heart and a chaste body. *(Letter to All the Faithful)*

Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory...

AT TIERCE

Let everybody halt in awe, let all the world quake, and let Heaven exult, when Christ, the Son of the living God, is present on the altar. *(Letter to the General Chapter)*

Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory...

AT SEXT

Bring all the reverence and all the respect you ever can bear on the Most Holy Body and Blood of Our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom whatever there is in Heaven and on earth is appeased and reconciled to God Almighty. *(Letter to the General Chapter)*

Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory...

AT NONE

The Lord gave me such faith as regards churches that I prayed and said in simple fashion: We adore Thee, O Lord Jesus

OFFICE WITH ST. FRANCIS (FRIDAY)

Christ, here and in every church all over the world, and we bless Thee, because by Thy Holy Cross Thou hast redeemed the world.
(*Testament*)

Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory...

AT VESPERS

These Most Sacred Mysteries I wish to see respected and venerated above all things, and kept in richly ornamented places.
(*Testament*)

Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory...

AT COMPLINE

Please, O Lord, may the fiery, honeyed force of Thy love lap up my mind from everything under Heaven: so that I may die for love of Thy love, who deigned to die for love of my love.
(*Authentic Prayers*)

Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory...

F R I D A Y

Dominant idea of the day's Office: renunciation
of self after the example of Jesus.

AT MATINS

Invitatory:

1. Clap your hands, all you nations, shout to God with a voice of rejoicing, for the Lord on high is terrible, the great king over all the earth...

Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory...

PART II (FRIDAY)

2. For our Most Holy Father in Heaven, our King, ages ago sent His Beloved Son down from on high; and He has wrought salvation in the midst of the earth...

Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory...

3. Let the heavens rejoice and the earth exult, let the sea be roused and the many things filling it, let the fields be glad with everything in them. Sing a new hymn to Him. All the earth sing to the Lord...

Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory...

4. Bring to the Lord, O you counties of the Gentiles, bring to the Lord glory and honor, bring the Lord glory for his Name...

Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory...

5. Bring your own person to carry His Holy Cross, and to follow His Most Holy Commandments to the very end. Let all the earth be roused at His sight. Proclaim among the nations that the Lord is ruling. (*Vespers Office of the Passion*)

Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory...

AT LAUDS

Be praised, my Lord, for those who grant pardon
for love of Thee,

And endure infirmity and tribulation.

Blessed are they who maintain themselves in
peace,

For from Thee, Most High, they shall have their
crown.

(Canticle of the Sun)

Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory...

OFFICE WITH ST. FRANCIS (FRIDAY)

AT PRIME

It was the Father's Will that His Blessed and Glorious Son should offer Himself as a sacrifice and victim on the altar of the Cross by means of his own Blood, leaving us an example to follow in his footsteps. (*Letter to All the Faithful*)

Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory...

AT TIERCE

It is for us to renounce ourselves and place our person under the yoke of His service and holy obedience as each of us has promised the Lord. (*Letter to All the Faithful*)

Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory...

AT SEXT

Blessed is the servant who always keeps the enemy (of his person) under control and guards himself prudently against him; for, let him do that, and no enemy visible or invisible can do him any harm. (*Tenth Admonition*)

Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory...

AT NONE

Let the time come when those who should oblige the servant of God, do the contrary to him and what degree of patience and humility he has then, that is the degree he has and no more. (*Thirteenth Admonition*)

Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory...

AT VESPERS

Holy Obedience confounds all selfishness of flesh and body, and keeps the body mortified to obey the spirit, and to obey one's fellow man. (*Salute to the Virtues*)

Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory...

PART II (SATURDAY)

AT COMPLINE

The spirit of the Lord applies itself to humility and patience, to unaffected simplicity and true spiritual peace, and always craves to possess above all the fear of God, the Divine wisdom and the Divine love of the Father, Son and Holy Ghost. (*First Rule of the Friars Ch. 17*)

Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory...

S A T U R D A Y

Dominant idea of the day's Office: devotion to Mary.

AT MATINS

Invitatory:

1. Hear me, my brothers, children of the Lord, give ear to my words, incline the ear of your heart, and obey the voice of the Son of God...

Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory...

2. Keep His commandments with all your heart, and comply with His counsels in a perfect spirit. Proclaim it that He is good, and exalt Him in what you do...

Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory...

3. For He has sent you out over the world so that you might testify to His voice by what you say and do, and have everybody learn that there is no one Almighty but He...

Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory...

OFFICE WITH ST. FRANCIS (SATURDAY)

4. Persevere under discipline and holy obedience. What you have promised Him, keep with a good and determined resolution...

Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory...

5. The Lord God acts with you as with sons. (*Letter the General Chapter*)

Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory...

AT LAUDS

Be praised, my Lord, for our Brother the Death of
the Body,

Which no man among the living can escape.

Unhappy they who will die in mortal sin.

Blessed those who shall be found in Thy Most
Holy Pleasure,

For the second death shall do no harm to them
(*Canticle of the Sun*)

Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory...

AT PRIME

Hail, Holy Lady, Most Holy Queen, Mother of God, Mary, a virgin forever, elected by the Most Holy Father in Heaven and consecrated by Him together with his Most Holy Beloved Son and the Spirit, the Paraclete. (*Salute to Mary*)

Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory...

PART II (SATURDAY)

AT TIERCE

O Holy Virgin Mary, there is nobody like Thee born among women on earth. Daughter and handmaiden of the Most High King, pray for us to Thy Most Holy and Beloved Son, Our Lord and Master. (*Office of the Passion*)

Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory...

AT SEXT

The Most High Father announced the coming of this Word of the Father from Heaven, through his archangel St. Gabriel, to the Holy and Glorious Virgin Mary, from whose womb He received the flesh or our human nature and frailty. (*Letter to All the Faithful*)

Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory...

AT NONE

If the Blessed Virgin Mary is honored so much — and rightly so — because She bore Christ in Her Holy Womb, how holy, just and worthy ought not anyone be who takes up Christ in his mouth and heart — Christ who is to live forever, Christ glorified on whom the angles yearn to cast their glance? (*Letter to the General Chapter*)

Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory...

AT VESPERS

We are Our Lord's mothers when we carry Him about in our heart and person by means of love and a clean and sincere conscience, and we give birth to Him by means of our holy actions, which should shine as an example to others. (*Letter to All the Faithful*)

Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory...

THE SERAPHIC OFFICE

AT COMPLINE

Almighty and Eternal God, grant that we may follow the footsteps of Thy Son, Jesus Christ, Our Lord, and by means of Thy soul-saving grace come to Thee, the Most High, who in perfect Trinity and simple Unity live and reign and have all Glory as God of all Might, world without end. Amen. (*Letter to the General Chapter*)

Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory...

† ... † ... †

PART III — THE SERAPHIC OFFICE (Based on the Sequence of St. Francis)

AT MATINS

Five Our Fathers, Hail Marys and Glorys...

∇. O Lord, open my lips,

℞. And my mouth shall declare Thy praise.

∇. O God, come to my assistance,

℞. O Lord, make haste to help me.

∇. Glory be to the Father...

℞. As it was in the beginning....

Invitatory:

Come, let us adore Christ the King, who exalts the humble.

HYMN

New signs of highest sanctity,
Deserving praise exceedingly,
Wondrous and beautiful to see,
In Francis we behold.

PART III

Unto the newly gathered band,
Directed by his guiding hand,
Francis receives the King's command,
The new law to unfold.

Before the world's astonishing view,
Arise the life and order new,
Whose sacred Laws again renew
The Evangelic state.

Antiphon: If we have been united with Him in the likeness of death, we shall be that also in the likeness of resurrection.

✠. He has set me up as a sign,
℟. And has pierced me with His lances.

✠. O Lord, hear my prayer,
℟. And let my cry come unto Thee.

Let us pray:

☉ God, who, to enable us to walk in the ways of Thy Only-Begotten Son, deigned to give us Blessed Francis as a guide and teacher: mercifully grant that we may deserve to share in the heavenly glory of him whose memory we celebrate. Through the same Christ Our Lord.

℟. Amen.

AT LAUDS

Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory...

✠. O God, come to my assistance,
℟. O Lord, make haste to help me.

✠. Glory be to the Father...
℟. As it was in the beginning....

THE SERAPHIC OFFICE

HYMN

The rule monastic he reforms,
Unto the law of Christ conforms,
And all the Apostolic forms
He holds inviolate.

In raiment coarse and rough endued,
A cord his only cincture rude,
Scanty the measure of his food,
His feet withal unshod.

For poverty alone he yearns,
From earthly things he loathing turns
The noble Francis money spurns,
Despising all for God.

Antiphon: You were the seal of resemblance, full of wisdom and perfect beauty.

☩. Pray for us, O Holy Father St. Francis,
℟. That we may be made worthy of the promises of Christ.

☩. O Lord, hear my prayer,
℟. And let my cry come unto Thee.

Let us pray:

☩ God, who through the merits of Our Blessed Father Francis, enlarged Thy Church with a new offspring: grant that, imitating him, we may despise earthly things and ever rejoice in partaking of heavenly gifts. Through Christ Our Lord.

℟. Amen.

☩. Let us bless the Lord.
℟. Thanks be to God.

PART III

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

℟. Amen.

AT PRIME

Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory...

✠. O God, come to my assistance,

℟. O Lord, make haste to help me.

✠. Glory be to the Father...

℟. As it was in the beginning....

HYMN

He seeks a place to weep apart,
And mourns in bitterness of heart
Time precious lost when taking part,
In earthly joys, and vain.

Within a mountain cavern lone
He hides to weep, and lying prone,
He prays with many a sigh and groan
Till calm returns again.

Antiphon: He humbles himself before the Lord, Who also
exalted him, for God resists the proud but to the humble He
gives grace.

✠. Thine arrows are fixed in me,

℟. And Thou hast strengthened Thy hand over me.

✠. O Lord, hear my prayer,

℟. And let my cry come unto Thee.

THE SERAPHIC OFFICE

Let us pray:

We beseech Thee, O Lord, may heavenly grace enlarge Thy Church, which Thou hast been pleased to enlighten with the glorious merits and example of Thy confessor Blessed Francis. Through Christ Our Lord.

R. Amen.

AT TIERCE

Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory...

∇. O God, come to my assistance,

R. O Lord, make haste to help me.

∇. Glory be to the Father...

R. As it was in the beginning....

HYMN

There, in that rocky cave's retreat,
Rapt high in contemplation sweet,
The earth (wise judge!) spurned 'neath his feet,
To Heaven he aspires.

His flesh by penance is subdued,
Transfigured wholly, and renewed;
The Scriptures are his daily food,
Renouncing earth's desires.

Antiphon: Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven. Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted.

∇. My heart and my flesh,

R. Have rejoiced in my God.

PART III

✠. O Lord, hear my prayer,
℟. And let my cry come unto Thee.

Let us pray:

☉ God, who resists the proud and gives grace to the humble:
grant, we beseech Thee, at the intercession of Our Holy
Father St. Francis, that we may not be puffed up with pride, but
may become more pleasing to Thee through humility; so that,
walking in his footsteps, we may obtain the gifts of Thy grace.
Through Christ Our Lord.
℟. Amen.

AT SEXT

Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory...

✠. O God, come to my assistance,
℟. O Lord, make haste to help me.

✠. Glory be to the Father...
℟. As it was in the beginning....

HYMN

Then seraph-like in Heaven's height
The King of Kings appears in sight.
The patriarch, in sore affright,
Beholds the vision dread.
It bears the wounds of Christ, and lo,
While gazing on in speechless woe,
It marks him, and the stigmas show,
Upon his flesh, blood-red.

Antiphon: According to the multitude of the sorrows in my heart, Thy comforts have given joy to my soul.

THE SERAPHIC OFFICE

℣. What do I have in Heaven,

℟. And besides Thee what do I desire on earth?

℣. O Lord, hear my prayer,

℟. And let my cry come unto Thee.

Let us pray:

☉ God, who have given the soul of Our Blessed Father Francis the reward of everlasting bliss: mercifully grant that we, who devoutly commemorate his passing, may happily attain to the reward of the same bliss. Through Christ Our Lord.

℟. Amen.

AT NONE

Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory...

℣. O God, come to my assistance,

℟. O Lord, make haste to help me.

℣. Glory be to the Father...

℟. As it was in the beginning....

HYMN

His body like the Crucified
His signed on hands and feet; his side
Transfixed from right to left and dyed
With crimson streams of blood.

Unto his mind words secret sound,
Things future all in light abound,
Inspired on high the Saint has found
Their sense and understood.

Antiphon: God forbid that I should glory save in the Cross of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

PART III

✠. Lord, with those saving wounds of Thine,
℟. Thy servant Francis Thou didst sign.

✠. O Lord, hear my prayer,
℟. And let my cry come unto Thee.

Let us pray:

☉ God, who hast caused the precious body of Our Blessed Father Francis to be brought from its hiding place to the light: grant, we beseech Thee, that we may escape the night of sin and direct our steps in the way of peace and justice. Through Christ Our Lord.

℟. Amen.

AT VESPERS

Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory...

✠. O God, come to my assistance,
℟. O Lord, make haste to help me.

✠. Glory be to the Father...
℟. As it was in the beginning....

HYMN

Now, in those bleeding wounds, behold,
Black nails appear, within all gold;
Sharp are the points, the pain untold,
Unspeakable the woe.

No instrument of man was brought
To make those wounds, here art did naught,
By nature's hand they were not wrought,
Nor cruel mallet blow.

We pray thee, by the Cross's sign

THE SERAPHIC OFFICE

Marked on thy flesh, whereby 'twas thine
The world, the flesh, the foe malign
To conquer gloriously.

Antiphon: He shone in his days like the morning star in the midst of a cloud, and like the moon in the full. Like the sun when it shines, so did he shine in the temple of God.

☩. Pray for us, O Holy Father Francis,

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

☩. O Lord, hear my prayer,

℟. And let my cry come unto Thee.

Let us pray:

☉ God, who hast glorified the body of Our Blessed Father Francis with the stigmata of Thy Son, and hast wondrously elevated his soul in Heaven, graciously grant that we, who keep his memory, may crucify our flesh and its appetites here below, and thus become worthy to enter our heavenly home. Through the same Christ Our Lord.

℟. Amen.

☩. Let us bless the Lord,

℟. Thanks be to God.

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

℟. Amen.

AT COMPLINE

Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory...

☩. Convert us, O God, our salvation,

℟. And turn Thine anger away from us.

PART III

✠. O God, come to my assistance,
℟. O Lord, make haste to help me.

✠. Glory be to the Father...
℟. As it was in the beginning....

HYMN

Take us, O Francis, to thy care,
Shield us from woe, from every snare,
That we thy great reward may share
In Heaven eternally.

O Father holy, Father sweet,
Devoutly we Thine aid entreat.
May we and all thy brethren meet,
Victorious in the strife.

In virtue's way our footsteps train,
And bring us with the Saints to reign.
So may thy flock of children gain
The joys of endless life.
Amen.

Antiphon: What have I in Heaven, and besides Thee what do I desire on earth? For Thee my flesh and my heart have fainted away. Thou art the God of my heart, and my portion forever.

✠. O Lord, hear my prayer,
℟. And let my cry come unto Thee.

Let us pray:

God, who in many ways have disclosed the wonderful mysteries of the Cross in Thy most devoted confessor Blessed Francis: grant that Thy servants may always follow his

THE OFFICE OF THE PASSION

example and obtain strength and virtue from constant meditation on the same Cross. Through Christ Our Lord.

R. Amen.

V. O Lord, hear my prayer,

R. And let my cry come unto Thee.

V. Let us bless the Lord,

R. Thanks be to God.

May the almighty and merciful Lord, Father, Son and Holy Ghost, bless us and watch over us.

R. Amen.

† ... † ... †

PART IV — THE OFFICE OF THE PASSION (Traditional Office of Tertiaries)

AT MATINS

1. O Lord Jesus Christ, who on the eve of Thy suffering instituted the Blessed Sacrament,
Have mercy on us.

*An **Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory** after each of these twelve invocations.*

2. O Lord Jesus Christ, who, sorrowful unto death, prayed to Thy heavenly Father,
Have mercy on us.

PART IV

3. O Lord Jesus Christ, whose Sacred Body during Thine Agony was bathed in sweat,
Have mercy on us.

4. O Lord Jesus Christ, who on being betrayed by Judas was taken captive,
Have mercy on us.

5. O Lord Jesus Christ, who was led bound to Annas and Chaiphas,
Have mercy on us.

AT LAUDS

6. O Lord Jesus Christ, who was declared by the high priest guilty of death,
Have mercy on us.

AT PRIME

7. O Lord Jesus Christ, who at the first hour of the day was delivered up to the heathen judge Pilate,
Have mercy on us.

AT TIERCE

8. O Lord Jesus Christ, who at the third hour was cruelly scourged and crowned with thorns,
Have mercy on us.

AT SEXT

9. O Lord Jesus Christ, who at the sixth hour was fastened to the Cross with heavy nails,
Have mercy on us.

THE FRANCISCAN OFFICE WITH REFLECTIONS

AT NONE

10. O Lord Jesus Christ, who at the ninth hour gave up Thy spirit into the hands of the Father,
Have mercy on us.

AT VESPERS

11. O Lord Jesus Christ, who at vesper time was taken down from the Cross and placed in the arms of Thy Mother,
Have mercy on us.

AT COMPLINE

12. O Lord Jesus Christ, who was borne to the tomb by Thy most afflicted Mother and Thy dearest friends,
Have mercy on us.

† ... † ... †

PART V — FRANCISCAN TERTIARY OFFICE (With Reflections)

AT MATINS

1. *The Last Supper.* Gratitude for institution of the Holy Eucharist. Do I show it by frequent reception? Reverence?

An **Our Father, Hail Mary and Glory** after each of these twelve reflections.

2. *The Agony in the Garden.* How do I act in sorrow, trial, false accusation?

3. *Christ betrayed by Judas.* Am I true to my friends? Do I give good example?

PART V

4. *Christ led bound to Annas and Chaiphas.* Do I complain about being tied to my duties? Do I detest authority? Obey cheerfully?

5. *Christ ridiculed by King Herod.* Can I remain silent in the face of ridicule? Am I impatient? Too quick to anger? What about charity?

AT LAUDS

6. *Barrabas preferred to Christ.* Am I jealous of others? Do I envy the goods of others? What about humility?

AT PRIME

7. *Christ Scourged.* Do I guard the virtue of chastity as I should? Am I careful in my speech?

AT TIERCE

8. *Christ Crowned with Thorns.* Do I use my talents for the glory of God? Am I careful in reading?

AT SEXT

9. *Christ condemned to death.* Do I judge things in the light of eternity? Am I attached to the world and pleasures?

AT NONE

10. *Christ carries His Cross.* Is my life marked by the Cross? What am I doing to further Christ's apostolate?

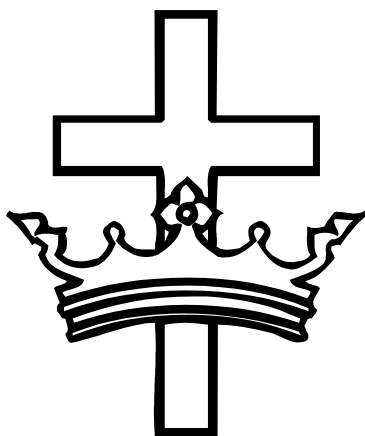
AT VESPERS

11. *Christ's Death and Burial.* What does the Redemption mean to me? Do I appreciate Divine Grace?

THE FRANCISCAN OFFICE WITH REFLECTIONS

AT COMPLINE

12. *Christ's Resurrection.* Do I rejoice with Christ in victory over sin? Do I treasure my Faith?



SCHEME OF INTENTIONS

INTENTIONS FRANCISCAN TERTIARY OFFICE

	Sunday	Monday	Tuesday
Matins	In honor of: The Blessed Trinity	For Christ's Rule over Governments & Society	In Satisfaction for: My sins
Lauds	Sacred Humanity of Christ	For Heretics	My negligences
Prime	Sacred Heart especially in Holy Eucharist	For Schismatics	Sins of others through my fault
Tierce	Mother of God	For Fallen Away Catholics	Neglect of holy inspirations
Sext	All Saints commemorated today	For Spread of the Faith	Sins of all the faithful
None	All the Angels	For Communists & Masons	Punishments due to my sins
Vespers	My Patron Saint	For World Peace	Souls in Purgatory
Compline	Our Lady of Fatima	For Dying Infants	Sacrileges

SCHEME OF INTENTIONS

Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
In gratitude for: My creation, redemption & sanctification	For necessity of: The Church	For the Sick	In Petition for: Increase of Faith, Hope and Charity
Glory of Christ's Humanity in Heaven	America	For the Dying	Needs of soul and body
Gifts and Glory of Mary	Bishops & Priests	For Employees	Copious Graces
Protection from great evils of soul and body	Religious	For Employers	Spirit of Poverty, Chastity & Obedience
All gifts of Grace esp. vocations to T.O.	Vocations	For the Catholic Press	Gifts of the Holy Ghost
All benefits granted to mankind	Family	For the Pope	Spirit of Prayer
Spiritual Treasury of the Church	Relatives	For Government Officials	Missions and Missionaries
Faith	Friends	For Servicemen	Happy Death

MY TERTIARY RULE

PRAYER

- † I will begin each day by consecrating all my thoughts, words and actions to Almighty God, resolving to do everything out of love for Him. I will make the intention of gaining all the Indulgences I can for myself and the Souls in Purgatory.
- † I will fit attendance at Holy Mass into my daily round of duties.
- † In union with all the Religious of the Church, I will recite my daily office with attention and devotion.
- † I will receive the Sacrament of Penance twice a month, and receive Holy Communion frequently, daily, if possible.
- † I will say grace before and after meals, thus renewing the good intention to do all for the glory of God.

PENANCE

- † I will faithfully, wear my habit of penance and purity — the scapular and the cord — at all times.
- † I will practice moderation in the use of all temporal things — food, clothing, entertainment.
- † In my evening prayers, I will include a brief examination of conscience on my duties toward God, my neighbor and myself.

CHARITY

- † I will bear in mind the influence of my actions on others, and thus strive to give good example in word and deed.
- † I will be kind and patient toward others to show my love to Jesus Christ.
- † I will attend the monthly meeting, or promptly report my excuse if necessarily absent.
- † I will visit the sick when called upon and pray for the deceased brethren.

Prayer After Reciting the Office

TO THE MOST HOLY AND UNDIVIDED TRINITY, to the humanity of our crucified Lord Jesus Christ, to the fruitful purity of the most glorious and blessed Mary ever Virgin, and to all the Saints, be everlasting praise, honor, power and glory rendered by every creature, and to us be given the remission of all our sins, for all eternity. Amen.

✠. Blessed womb of the Virgin Mary, which bore the Son of the Eternal Father,

℟. And blessed breasts, which nursed the Christ Our Lord. *Our Father...*, *Hail Mary...*



laudato si mi
Signore per
frate vento et
per aere et ni-
bilo et sereno et
omne tempo

Corficio delle creature