

NATIONAL SHRINE OF ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI

Feast of

OUR LADY OF THE ANGELS OF THE PORZIUNCOLA

August 2nd

*“Come, let us adore
Christ the Bridegroom
of the Church*



*as we honor the
memory of the
Virgin Mary”*

Introduction: *(Sign of the cross):

+ O God come to our assistance, Lord make haste to help us:

Glory 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.

Psalmody

Ant. 1 Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you. (Psalm 122)

I rejoiced when I heard them say: “Let us go to God’s house.”

And now our feet are standing within your gates, O Jerusalem.

Jerusalem is built as a city strongly compact.

It is there that the tribes go up, the tribes of the Lord.

For Israel’s law it is, thereto praise the Lord’s name.

There were set the thrones of judgement of the house of David.

For the peace of Jerusalem pray; “Peace be to your homes!

May peace reign in your walls, and in your palaces, peace!”

For love of my brethren and friends I say: “Peace upon you!”

For love of the house of the Lord I will ask for your good.

*(Glory be to the)

Ant. 1 Hail Mary, full of grace, the Lord is with you.

Ant. 2 How dear to me is your dwelling, O Lord of hosts! (Psalm 84)

How dear to me is your dwelling, O Lord of hosts! My soul has a desire and a longing for the courts of the Lord. My heart and my flesh rejoice in the living God.

The Sparrow has found her house and the swallow a nest where she may lay her young, by the side of your altars, O Lord of hosts, my King and my God.

Happy are they who dwell in your house! They will always be praising you.

Happy are the people whose strength is in you, whose hearts are set on the pilgrims' way.

Those who go through the desolate valley will find it a place of springs, for the early rains have covered it with pools of water. They will climb from height to height and the God of gods will reveal himself in Zion.

Lord God of hosts, hear my prayer; hearken, O God of Jacob.

Behold our defender, O God; and look upon the face of your anointed.

For one day in your courts is better than a thousand in my own room, and to stand at the threshold of the house of my God than to dwell in the tents of the wicked.

For the Lord God is both sun and shield; he will give grace and glory; no good thing will the Lord withhold from those who walk with integrity.

O Lord of hosts, happy are they who put their trust in you!

*(Glory be to the...)

Ant. 2 How dear to me is your dwelling, O Lord of hosts!

READING: FROM THE MAJOR LIFE OF ST. FRANCIS BY ST. BONAVENTURE

“The Porziuncola was an old church dedicated to the Virgin Mother of God which was abandoned. Francis had a great devotion to the Queen of the world and when he saw that the church was deserted, he began to live there constantly in order to repair it. He heard that the angels often visited it, so that it used to be called St. Mary of the Angels, and he decided to stay there permanently out of reverence for the angels and love of the Mother of Christ. He loved this spot more than any other in the world. It was here that he began his religious life in a very small way; it was here that he came to a happy end. When he was dying, he commended this spot above all others to the friars, because it was most dear to the Blessed Virgin.

This was the place where St. Francis founded the Order of Friars Minor by divine inspiration and it was divine providence which led him to repair three churches before he founded the Order and began to preach the Gospel. This meant that he progressed from material things to more spiritual achievements, from lesser to greater, in due order, and it gave a prophetic indication of what he would accomplish later.

As he was living there by the church of Our Lady, Francis prayed to her who had conceived the Word, full of grace and truth, begging her insistently and with tears to become his advocate. Then he was granted the true spirit of the Gospel by the intercession of the Mother of Mercy and he brought it to fruition.

He embraced the Mother of our Lord Jesus with indescribable love because, as he said, it was she who made the Lord of Majesty our brother, and through her we found mercy. After Christ, he put all his trust in her and took her as his patroness for himself and his friars.”

+ A period of silent reflection.

Responses: You are all fair, O Mary

You are all fair, O Mary,

-And the stain of original sin is not in you.

You are the glory of Jerusalem;

-You are the joy of Israel;

You are the honor of our people;

-You are the advocate of sinners, O Mary.

Virgin most prudent,

-Mother most loving,

Pray for us,

-Intercede for us with Jesus Christ our Lord.

Canticle of Mary

My soul proclaims the greatness of the Lord, my spirit rejoices in God my Savior

For he has looked with favor on his lowly servant.

From this day all generations will call me blessed: the Almighty has done great things for me, and holy is his Name.

He has mercy on those who fear him in every generation.

He has shown the strength of his arm, he has scattered the proud in their conceit.

He has cast down the mighty from their thrones, and has lifted up the lowly.

He has filled the hungry with good things, and the rich he has sent away empty.

He has come to the help of his servant Israel for he has remembered his promise of mercy, the promise he made to our fathers, to Abraham and his children forever.

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

The Lord's Prayer: (Our Father, who are in heaven...)

Concluding prayer:

Heavenly Father, you filled the heart of Francis with a special love for the Mother of your Son, Jesus, and for the Porziuncola. In this hallowed place you nourished his spiritual life and inspired him to found the Order of Friars Minor.

Through the intercession of Our Lady of the Angels may we be steadfast in our faith and remain true to our calling.

Grant this through your Son, Jesus Christ. – Amen.

Dear Brothers, Sisters, Family and Friends:
Peace and Good!

As we celebrate the feast of Our Lady of Angels of the Porziuncola, know that you are being remembered in my prayers and Masses. Through the intercession of Our Lady of Angels, let us continue to be a sign of the Kingdom of God through our prayers and good works.

Happy Feast Day! Fraternally,

Fr. John De La Riva, OFM Cap.
Rector of the National Shrine

Fr. Harold Snider, OFM Cap.
Provincial Minister

