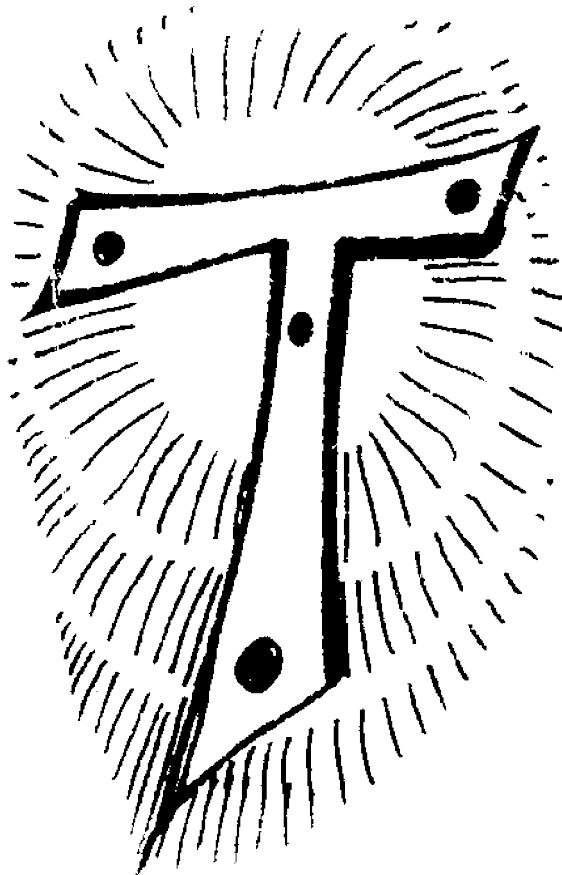




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The external sign of the Secular Franciscan Order in the United States is the TAU Cross (*The National Fraternity of the Secular Franciscan Order in the United States of America National Statutes*, Article 16.3).



- “But do not touch any marked with the TAU” (Ezekiel 9:6).
- The TAU is the Greek translation (the Septuagint) was transcribed as T.
- It is the last letter of the Hebrew alphabet.
- The TAU has the same form as the cross on which our Lord was crucified.
- Francis chose the TAU as a symbol of his penitential life.
- The TAU was a constant reminder to Francis of Christ crucified.
- St. Francis viewed the TAU as a symbol of hope amidst the confusion in the Church of his day.
- The TAU became Francis’ personal signature.



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The Way of the Cross

Since Franciscans took responsibility for the holy places in Jerusalem in the year 1342, the Stations or Way of the Cross has been a spiritual devotion closely associated with the Franciscan Order.

The Friars encouraged pilgrims to the Holy Land to commemorate the sufferings of Christ at the very places where these events had occurred. Pilgrims walked from Gethsemane to Jesus' grave and stopped to meditate at least 14 times. Later the Passion of Christ was recalled in Catholic churches where statutes or pictures were placed depicting these sacred events.

-taken from Praying the Way of the Cross
With Meditations from the writings of St. Pio of Pietrelcina
Capuchin Franciscan Friars

We encourage you to choose a version or several versions of The Way of the Cross/Stations of the Cross that are Franciscan or Catholic inspired. We would also recommend that each time you gather on Friday during Lent, pray a different version of The Way of the Cross.



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RUBRICS FOR THE COMMUNAL CELEBRATION OF THE LITURGY OF THE HOURS

Select Presider, Song Leader, Antiphonarian and Reader (Presider is a Priest or Deacon, if present)
Divide the community into side one and side two so that the strophes of Psalms and Canticles may be alternated.

The Presider and Antiphonarian set the prayerful, rhythmic pace.

CALL TO PRAYER (All Stand)

INVITATORY Begins the first Hour of the day.

Presider: +Lord, open my lips
(All: Sign of the Cross over lips)

Community: And my mouth will proclaim your praise.

Presider: Recites Antiphon.

Community: Repeats Antiphon.

Presider: Prays strophes of Psalm

Community: Repeats Antiphon after each strophe.

INTRODUCTORY VERSE Begins the rest of the Hours

Presider: +God, come to my assistance
(All: Sign of the cross)

Community: Lord, make haste to help me.

Community: **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.
Alleluia. (Omit during Lent)

Refer to ORDINARY for Invitatory Antiphons during Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Lent, Easter and Ascension.

HYMN

Song Leader: Introduces the Hymn.

PSALMODY (All Sit)

Antiphonarian: Recites Antiphon and introduces the Psalm or Cantic by praying the first line.

Community: Continues praying the Psalm or Cantic by alternating strophes between side one and side two.

Community: Concludes (unless otherwise indicated) Psalm or Cantic by alternating lines:
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.

Presider: Recites Psalm-prayer after the Psalm.

Community: Repeats Antiphon after Psalm-prayer or Cantic.

READING (Reader Stands)

Reader: **Proclaims** the Word of God after introducing the scripture with: A reading from...
Pause for silent reflection on the Scripture Reading.

RESPONSORY

- Reader: Recites verse one, verse two and
Glory to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit (only)
- Community: Responds at the red line after verse one, verse two and the **Glory to the Father...**

GOSPEL CANTICLE (All Stand)

- Antiphonarian: +Recites Antiphon and the first line of the Canticle. (All: Sign of the Cross)
- Community: Continues praying the Canticle by alternating strophes between side one and side two.
- Community: Concludes the Gospel Canticle by alternating lines:
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.
- Community: Repeats Antiphon.

INTERCESSIONS

- Presider: Introduces the intercession.
- Community: Responds with the *italicized response*.
- Presider: Continues with the intercessions.
- Community: Responds at the red lines.
- Presider: Invites intentions.
Since the Prayer is of the whole Church and for the whole Church,
universal intentions should take precedence. Personal intentions follow.
- Community: Responds to each of these intentions with the *italicized response*.

OUR FATHER

- Presider: Introduces the Lord's Prayer.
- Community: Continues the Lord's Prayer in unison.

CONCLUSION

- Presider: Prays the Concluding Prayer.
- Community: Responds with Amen.

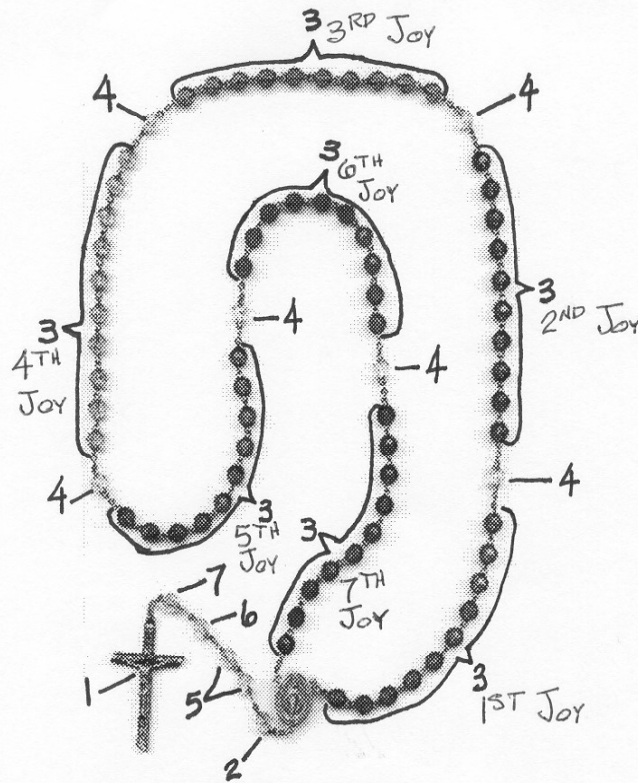
DISMISSAL

- (All: Sign of the Cross)
+If a priest or deacon is presiding, he dismisses the community with a blessing.
- Or the hour concludes with:
+May the Lord bless us, protect us from all evil and bring us to life everlasting. Amen.

After the blessing, the community may choose to share insights on any part of the Communal Celebration.

The Executive Council of the Brothers and Sisters of St. Francis Region
has decided upon these
"Rubrics for the Communal Celebration of *The Liturgy of the Hours*"
so that "all may be one" during our Communal Prayer.
We will pray *The Liturgy of the Hours* in this way during our annual gatherings.
We suggest this format for your fraternity gatherings.

How to Pray the Franciscan Crown Rosary



Franciscan Crown Rosary

- 1) Begin on the crucifix with "**In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.**" while making the Sign of the Cross.
- 2) Announce the First **Joy** and say the **Our Father** on the 5th bead from the Cross.
- 3) Say one **Hail Mary** for each of the ten beads.
- 4) Announce the Second **Joy** and then say the **Our Father**. Repeat steps 2 and 3 for the 3rd through the 7th Joys.
- 5) Say two **Hail Mary's** to complete 72 years of Mary's Joy on the fourth and third beads from the Cross.
- 6) Say one **Our Father** for the intentions of the Holy Father on the 2nd bead from the Cross.
- 7) Say one **Hail Mary** for the intentions of the Holy Father on the bead closest to the Cross.

**Mysteries of the Franciscan Crown Rosary
(with Scripture Meditation)**

Annunciation

“In honor of the joy the Blessed Mother felt when the angel announced to her the Incarnation of the Son of God.”
(Luke 1:30-31)

Visitation

“In honor of the joy the Blessed Mother felt on visiting her cousin Elizabeth.”
(Luke 1:41-42)

Nativity

In honor of the supreme happiness that filled the Blessed Mother’s heart on giving birth to Christ the Savior, without pain and without loss of her virginity.”
(Luke 2:4, 7)

Adoration by the Magi

“In honor of the joy the Blessed Mother felt when presenting her Divine Son to the adoration of the Magi.”
(Matthew 2:1-2, 11)

Finding of Jesus in the Temple

“In honor of the joy that thrilled the Blessed Mother’s soul when, after seeking Jesus with deep sorrow for three days, she found him at last among the doctors in the Temple.”
(Luke 2:41, 43, 46-49)

Resurrection

“In honor of the joy the Blessed Mother experienced on beholding her Divine Son gloriously risen from the grave on Easter Sunday.”
(Acts 2:1-4)

Assumption of Mary and Coronation

“In honor of the Blessed Mother’s own most glorious and joyful Assumption into Heaven.”
(Revelation 11:19, 12:1)

History of the Franciscan Crown Rosary

In the year 1422, a certain young man who had a reverent devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary and always adorned her statue with a wreath of flowers, was admitted to the Order of Friars Minor.

Not being able to gather flowers and continue this practice in the novitiate, he decided to return to the world, but before leaving, he went to Mary's altar to beg her protection.

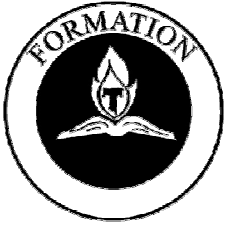
Our Lady then appeared to him and said, "Do not be sad and cast down because you are no longer permitted to place wreaths of flowers on my statue. I will teach you to change this pious practice into one that shall be far more pleasing to me and far more meritorious for your soul. In place of the flowers that soon wither and cannot always be found, you can weave for me a crown from the flowers of your prayers that will always remain fresh and are always available.

Recite one Our Father and ten Hail Mary's while recalling the seven joys I experienced. If you recite these prayers as I have directed, rest assured, dear son, you will weave for me a most beautiful and acceptable crown and will merit for yourself innumerable graces."

The novice began at once to pray as directed. Meanwhile, the novice master entered and saw an angel weaving a wreath of roses and after every tenth rose he inserted a golden lily. When the wreath was finished, he placed it on the youth's head.

The master then commanded the youth to tell him what he had been doing; and the novice explained he had been saying the rosary as the Blessed Virgin had instructed him to do.

As a result, the custom of reciting this crown of seven Our Fathers and 72 Hail Mary's, in honor of the 72 years which our Lady lived on earth, became widespread.



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LECTIO DIVINA (Sacred Reading)

1) Read (Lectio):

Read the Scripture passage through thoroughly.

2) Reflect (Meditatio):

Reflect upon what you have read. Ask yourself which word, which phrase, which passage speaks to you, challenges you, or tugs at your this day? Which word or passage got your attention this day? Sit with these words and allow them to penetrate your spirit.

3) Respond (Oratio):

How do you respond to the stirrings in your heart, your conscience? How does this passage challenge you to look upon the world? How does it effect your interactions with others? How does it change how you see yourself? God spoke to you; what is your response to God?

4) Receive (Contemplatio):

Sit in the silence; sit in the Presence of God; receive what it is that God is giving to you.

Remember: God's first language is Silence.