



The Franciscan Sisters of Christ the King

1409 E. Meyer Blvd. Kansas City, MO 64131

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Two of our Sisters attended the Consecration of Bishops in Ecône on July 1



We would like to thank the priests and bishops of the Society of St. Pius X for the courage they have demonstrated in their tireless, open defense of the timeless teachings of the Church. We would not exist without the SSPX. Their priests, including now Bishop Michael Goldade, have made great sacrifices to bring us the Sacraments and spiritual direction. With God's grace, we will continue to use what talents God gave us to support them in the apostolate of Catholic education, in hopes of encouraging our youth to continue to love and defend the Truth. May Our Lady's words to Sister Adele Brise resound in the ears of all who defend God's Truth: "Go and fear nothing. I will help you."

Our Lord appeared to St. Francis in the church pictured to the right, St. Mary of the Angels, also known as the Portiuncula, now enshrined within the Basilica in Assisi. St. Francis's companions overheard the saint's conversation and saw light filling the church, but none entered out of reverence and awe. Here are the words of the conversation:

Our Lord: Francis, the zeal which thou and thy followers have for the salvation of souls is such, that it entitles thee to solicit something in their favor, for the glory of My name.

St. Francis: O Jesus, my Savior, I entreat Thee, although I am but a miserable sinner, to have the goodness to grant men, that those who shall visit this church may receive a plenary indulgence of all their sins, after having confessed to a priest; and I beg the Blessed Virgin, Thy Mother, the general advocate of humankind, to intercede that I may obtain this request.



Photo Credit: Georges Jansoone JoJan

The Blessed Virgin interceded.

Our Lord: Francis, what thou askest is great, but thou wilt receive still greater favors; I grant thee this one; I desire thee, nevertheless, to go to My vicar, to whom I

have given power to bind and to loose, and to solicit him for the same indulgence.

St. Francis forbade his friars to say anything, but traveled to the pope immediately. Honorius III hesitated, as Francis's request had no precedent. The pope asked how long for the indulgence, to which St. Francis replied: "May it please your Holiness, not to give me so many years but so many souls." The pope expressed further reluctance, and only then did St. Francis reveal that Our Lord Himself sent him to make the request. The Holy Father hesitated no more.

However, those cardinals who were present questioned his decision. The pope would not rescind, and only offered to modify the terms. He agreed to promulgate the indulgence for all time, but only once a year "from one evening including the night, to the evening of the following day." As the saint began to leave, His Holiness asked if he would like written documentation, and the saint declined, saying "Your word is sufficient for me. If this indulgence is the work of God, He will make it manifest."



Saint Francis left without setting a date. The pope said nothing about a specific date, and so St. Francis evidently decided to wait for Divine Providence to indicate the appropriate time. Two years later, after conquering a temptation of the devil to pray less by throwing himself into a thorn bush, a light appeared all around him and he found himself surrounded not by thorns, but by white and red roses (in January). He picked the roses and, at the prompting of angels, entered the church. Our Lord and His mother awaited him there, and he asked Our Lord, under Our Lady's protection, "to fix the day of the indulgence which Thou has been pleased to grant to this sacred

place." Our Lord told him that He wished the indulgence to begin on the evening of the feast when St. Peter was delivered from his chains until the next evening, and when St. Francis asked how Our Lord's wishes should be made manifest to the Church, either by St. Francis himself or by the pope, Our Lord told St. Francis to take roses to the pope as confirmation of His wishes and to fix the date.

St. Francis brought three roses of each color (red and white) to the pope (in January.) The pope told the saint he believed him but would have to submit the matter to his cardinals. Once convinced of the veracity of the message from Heaven, the pope then ordered the bishops surrounding Assisi to meet at the Portiuncula. When St. Francis announced the indulgence, the bishops protested that the annual indulgence should last only ten years. However, when each bishop in turn tried to say "ten years" he could only say "in perpetuity." They all came to understand God's will.

Why did Our Lord, of all days of the year, choose August 1st and 2nd for the indulgence? Dom Guerenger offers some insight in *The Liturgical Year*: "Rome, making a god of the man who had subjugated her, consecrated the month of August to Caesar Augustus. When Christ had delivered her, she placed at the head of the same month, as a trophy of her regained liberty, the feast of the chains wherewith, in order to break hers, Peter the Vicar of Christ had once been bound." The precise origins of the feast are not known, but the chains have been venerated from at least the 2nd century.

There is much to consider and meditate on in the origins of the Portiuncula indulgence, including the need to maintain a realistic perspective about the human element within the divine institution of the Church. We must also never lose hope that the Church can free itself from the influences of the world again, that Peter will break free from the chains. A tradition relates that the world would have come to an end in the 1200's had not St. Francis renewed the True Faith by his humble preaching and good example. Our Lord can grow more roses in January when the time comes. We can and should pray for that miracle. However, we must also do our own part in the capacity suited to our own state of life, with the knowledge that in the supernatural outlook, there are no small roles.

For those who would like to read the rest of the history of the indulgence, we recommend Book IV of *The Life of Saint Francis of Assisi* by Reverend Father Candide Chalippe. We used that biography as our main source for this newsletter.



If Chino cannot sit next to Sister Mary Anthony playing the piano, he will settle for getting into her guitar case.



We enjoyed hosting the Minims from Mexico City. They were on a fundraising tour to help build an addition to their convent.



We traveled to several SSPX chapels to conduct days of recollection for First Communicants.



Sister Marie Louise is hard to beat at ping-pong!



Reverend Father Colm Beglin said a First Mass for us and gave us a first blessing.

Here is round two of peeling off paint and re-painting the van. The Bondo held up reasonably well, but new areas of paint peeled off and rust started up again. This time we painted the entire van. It still runs well!



A Child's Perspective:

A Sister teaching second grade held up a picture of Our Lady of LaSalette. "Why do you think she is crying?" she asked. Hands went up immediately. One little child stood up and replied "Because they are taking her titles away!"



Three Sisters attended ordinations in Dillwyn, Virginia. Congratulations to all of the priests and deacons ordained there. Two former students from Kansas City, Reverend Mr. Gabriel King (left) and Reverend Mr. Thomas Brauner (right) were ordained deacon, along with Reverend Mr. Karl Pfeiffer (center,) one of the former Denver scouts who so faithfully helped us over many summers. You may have seen Reverend Mr. King and Reverend Mr. Brauner leading His Excellency Bishop Michael Goldade in the procession to Pontifical Vespers in Écône on July 2nd.

On Memorial Day, we ate lunch on the porch.



The new pews for the side chapel arrived. We recite or chant the Little Office of the Blessed Virgin.



A generous benefactor offered to pay for much needed organ repairs. We will save the benefactor a lot of money by cleaning the twenty-three years of dust out of the pipe room ourselves. Each pipe has to be pulled out of its windchest and wiped down, and since we have to remove all of the pipes in one section at one time, we must keep track of where each pipe goes. We decided to “warm up” first by cleaning the floor, and that involved crawling underneath everything to get at the dust.



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