

The Franciscan Crown

A crown of prayers

This is a joyous devotion which can be traced back to the early 15th century. A young man, who would weave a crown of wild flowers to grace a statue of Our Lady entered the Franciscan Order. As a novice he could no longer follow this beautiful, personal devotion. One evening, while considering abandoning his vocation, he received a vision of the Blessed Virgin Mary. The Virgin Mother encouraged him to persevere, reminding him of the joyfulness of the Franciscan spirit. She instructed him to meditate daily on seven joyful events from her own life as a new form of the rosary. Instead of a crown of flowers, the novice would now weave a crown of prayers. Before long, many other Franciscans began to pray the Crown and soon it spread to the entire Order, becoming officially established in 1422.

The Crown recalls the seven joys of Mary and how she responded to the grace of God in her life.



It begins with the sign of the cross which is then followed by seven decades, each consisting of one Our Father, ten Hail Mary's and one Glory Be. At the end of the seven decades, there are two additional Hail Mary's, bringing the total of Hail Mary's to 72, the years of her life.



THE SEVEN JOYS

The Annunciation.

The Visitation.

The Birth of Our Lord Jesus.

The Adoration of the Magi.

The Finding of The child Jesus
in the Temple.

The Appearance of Christ to Mary after
The Resurrection.

The Assumption and Coronation of Mary
as Queen of Heaven.

*The Crown is concluded by praying
one Our Father, one Hail
Mary and one Glory Be.
for the intentions of the Pope.*