

## **FRANCISCAN CROWN**

(The Rosary of the Seven Joys of Mary)

Here is a short explanation of the history of the Franciscan Crown and the prayers.

Franciscans pray a seven-decade Rosary known as the Franciscan Crown. It dates back the 15th century when the Blessed Virgin Mary appeared in Assisi to a Franciscan friar named James. As a child, James offered Mary a crown of roses every day as a sign of his love and devotion to her. When he joined the Franciscans, James was distressed that he could no longer make this offering of flowers to Our Lady. But Mary appeared to James, and she instructed him to weave for her a crown of prayers instead by reciting a Rosary of seven decades, each one meditating on one of the seven joyful events in her life (the annunciation, the visitation, the birth of Jesus, the adoration of the magi, the finding of the child Jesus in the temple, the appearance of Jesus to Mary after the Resurrection, and the assumption and coronation of Mary as Queen of Heaven).

### THE FRANCISCAN CROWN

It consists of seven decades, after which two Hail Marys are added (bringing the number up to 72, the traditional years of Our Lady's life) and a Pater, Ave and Gloria for the Holy Father.

*In the name of the Father...*

1. The first joy of the Blessed Virgin Mary: **THE ANNUNCIATION**  
Immaculate Virgin Mary, greeted by the angel, by your humble "yes", keep us in continuous union with Jesus.  
*Our Father, 10 Hail Marys, Glory Be...*
  
2. The second joy of the Virgin Mary: **THE VISITATION TO HER COUSIN, ST. ELIZABETH**  
Virgin Mary who went to visit St. Elizabeth, to sanctify John the Baptist, make those who bring Jesus to people assiduous in mercy.  
*Our Father, 10 Hail Marys, Glory Be...*
  
3. The third joy of the Virgin Mary: **THE BIRTH OF OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST**  
O Virgin Mary, in your poverty beside the manger help us to obtain the riches of Franciscan poverty, through which we receive Jesus and we can say: "My God and my All".  
*Our Father, 10 Hail Marys, Glory Be...*
  
4. The fourth joy of the Virgin Mary: **THE ADORATION OF THE MAGI**  
O Virgin Mary, who showed Jesus to the three Magi, always increase our faith so that we will be able to pass it on to those we meet.  
*Our Father, 10 Hail Marys, Glory Be...*

5. The fifth joy of the Virgin Mary: THE FINDING OF THE CHILD JESUS IN THE TEMPLE

O Virgin Mary, so happy to have found your Son, pray for us to keep faithfully the grace of never losing Jesus and to help everyone to find Him.

*Our Father, 10 Hail Marys, Glory Be...*

6. The sixth joy of the Virgin Mary: THE RISEN SAVIOUR APPEARS TO HIS MOTHER ON EASTER MORNING

O Virgin Mary, comforted by the risen Jesus, grant that we may have the desire of the Spirit that comforts us with the knowledge that Jesus lives in us and in other people.

*Our Father, 10 Hail Marys, Glory Be...*

7. The seventh joy of the Virgin Mary: THE ASSUMPTION AND CORONATION OF MARY AS QUEEN OF HEAVEN

O Virgin Mary, elevated into glory, draw us to you through faithful knowledge of your Divine Son and through desire of the Kingdom of God.

*Our Father, 10 Hail Marys, Glory Be...*

After the last mystery, 2 hail Marys are recited (according to tradition Mary lived for 72 years, therefore by reciting 72 Hail Marys, all the years of her life are honoured).

For the Pope's intentions: *Our Father, Hail Mary, Glory Be...*