

flowers of your prayers that will always remain fresh and can always be had." When Our Lady had disappeared, the overjoyed Novice at once began to recite the prayers in honor of her Seven Joys, as she had directed. While he was deeply engrossed in this devotion, the Novice Master happened to pass by and saw an angel weaving a marvelous wreath of roses. After every tenth rose, he inserted a golden lily. When the wreath was finished, the angel placed it on the head of the praying Novice. The Novice Master demanded the Novice tell him the meaning of this vision. The joyful Novice complied. The good priest was so impressed that he immediately made it known to his brethren. Thus, the practice of reciting the Franciscan Crown of Our Lady's Joys soon spread as a favorite devotion of the Friars.

The seven joys that are meditated on during the Franciscan Crown closely resemble the five Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary.

- Annunciation
- Visitation
- Nativity of Jesus
- Adoration of the Magi
- Finding of Jesus in the Temple
- Resurrection of Jesus,
- Assumption of Mary (and/or the Coronation of the Virgin in Heaven)

Devotion to the seven joys of Mary is a beautiful counterpart to the seven sorrows and helps balance a person's spiritual life, recognizing that existence is not just filled with sorrows, but also contains many joys in this life and the life to come.

### How to Pray The Franciscan Crown

1. Using beads for the Franciscan Crown (**seven decades**), announce the First Mystery and pray the Our Father on the single bead just before the medallion.



2. Pray one Hail Mary for each of the ten beads. (It seems most fitting to proceed around the beads in a clockwise direction.)

3. On the single bead between the decades, announce the next Mystery and then pray the Our Father. Continue as in Step 2 for the remaining Mysteries.

4. After the last Mystery, pray one Hail Mary each on the fourth and third beads from the Cross to complete 72 years of Mary's Joy.

5. Pray the Our Father and the Glory to the Father (*Gloria Patri*) for the intention of the Holy Father on the 2nd bead from the Cross.

6. Pray a Hail Mary on the single bead closest to the Cross.

# AUGUST 2018

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*The Family that Prays  
Together Stays Together*





## The Family that Prays Together Stays Together

### St. Monica

August 27<sup>th</sup>

**Patron:** Abuse victims; alcoholics; alcoholism; difficult marriages; disappointing children; homemakers; housewives; married women; mothers; victims of adultery; victims of unfaithfulness; victims of verbal abuse; widows; wives.



St. Monica (333-387) was born in Tagaste, northern Africa and died in Ostia, near Rome. Monica was a Christian, but her husband Patricius was a pagan and a man of loose morals. Monica's virtues and prayers, however, converted him, and he was baptized a year before his death. She was blessed with three children: Navigius, Perpetua, who later became a nun, and Augustine, her problem child.

The youthful Augustine caused his mother untold worry by indulging in every type of sin and dissipation. As a last resort after all her tears and entreaties had proved fruitless, she forbade him entrance to her home; but after a vision she received him back again. In her sorrow a certain bishop consoled her: "Don't worry, it is impossible that a son of so many tears should be lost."

When Augustine was planning his journey to Rome, Monica wished to accompany him. He outwitted her, however, and had already embarked when she arrived at the docks. Later she followed him to Milan, ever growing in her attachment to God. St. Ambrose held her in high esteem, and congratulated Augustine on having such a mother.

When Augustine joined the Manichean sect and went astray in faith and morals, Monica's tears and prayers for her son were incessant. She continued to storm heaven with her prayers for her son. Finally, she had the joy of witnessing St. Ambrose baptize Augustine in 387.

She died in her fifty-sixth year, as she was returning to Africa.

St. Monica is an example of those holy matrons of the ancient Church who proved very influential in their own quiet way. Through prayer and tears she gave the great Augustine to the Church of God, and thereby earned for herself a place of honor in the history of God's kingdom on earth.

### COLLECT PRAYER

O God, who console the sorrowful and who mercifully accepted the motherly tears of Saint Monica for the conversion of her son Augustine, grant us, through the intercession of them both, that we may bitterly regret our sins and find the grace of your pardon. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

### Prayer to St. Monica

Exemplary Mother of the great Augustine, you perseveringly pursued your wayward son not with wild threats but with prayerful cries to heaven. Intercede for all mothers in our day so that they may learn to draw their children to God. Teach them how to remain close to their children, even the prodigal sons and daughters who have sadly gone astray.

### Do you know the 7 joys of the Blessed Virgin Mary?

*Historically August 27 is also the feast of the Seven Joys of the Blessed Virgin Mary.*

Many of us may be familiar with her sorrows, but what about her joys? Among the many different devotions to the Blessed Virgin Mary, one that is often overlooked is devotion to her seven joys. Many Catholics might be more familiar with the seven sorrows of Mary, especially through the Chaplet of the Seven Sorrows. However, few know about her seven joys, which are an equally ancient tradition. The Franciscans have helped preserve this tradition over the centuries through their "rosary" called the Franciscan Crown.

The Franciscan Crown Rosary, properly known as "The Franciscan Crown of Our Lady's Joys" dates back to approximately the year 1422. According to tradition, as related by the famous Franciscan historian Father Luke Wadding, a very pious young man who had been admitted to the Franciscan Order in that year was saddened and had decided to return to the world and quit the cloister. Before his entry into the Order, it was his custom to adorn a statue of the Blessed Virgin with a wreath of fresh and beautiful flowers. Now, he was unable to continue his act of piety and devotion to the Blessed Virgin.

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