The Franciscan Journey
Chapter 17
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The Mother of God…and our Mother
Mary was embraced by Francis

- Declared the **protectress** and **advocate** of Francis’ family.
- Secular Franciscans should express their ardent love for her by:
  - Imitation
  - Prayer
  - Filial abandonment

**Rule 9** – Mary, Mother of Jesus, is the model of listening to the Word & of faithfulness to vocation
Community of Love

Secular Franciscans and their fraternities should seek to live the experience of Francis, who made the Virgin the guide of his activity.

With her, welcome the Spirit at Pentecost, to create a Community of Love (Constitutions – article 16.1, 16.2)

She is the dwelling place for Jesus, just as the Church is His dwelling place. The Church too carries Jesus in his Mystical Body, the Church.
Mary Greatness - Magnifies God, not herself

- Helps her elderly cousin in her last stages of pregnancy – stayed about 3 months
- Refugee on way to Egypt
- Petitioned Son to help others
- With her Son at the Cross
Dynamic model of responding to God

- Her role is to **lead us to Jesus**, and through Him to the Holy Trinity
- Important role in Salvation History, but not the **Savior**
- Her Magnificat is a look at God’s care for the **poor and marginalized**
- Francis loved her **poverty**, trusting in God in all things
- She shares God’s love with people in her daily decisions
Our Lady of the Angels
The Portiuncula (The Little Portion)

- The Portiuncula is the “home” to the Franciscan pilgrims who visit it.
- It was special to Francis often called “the cradle of the Order”.
- This is the church he spent 3 years rebuilding during Francis’ conversion.
- He sought and obtained a plenary indulgence for those visiting the Portiuncula on August 2 (later extended to all).
Franciscan Crown Rosary

- The Franciscan Crown Rosary is a special devotion to the seven joys of Our Lady. Mary appeared to a young man who entered the Order. She instructed him to meditate daily on her seven joys. Its origin is in the 15th century.

- The Franciscan Crown Rosary consists of 7 decades, 72 Hail Marys which (according to legend) were the number of year Mary lived on earth.
The Joys of Mary

- Annunciation
- Visitation
- Birth of Christ
- Adoration of the Magi
- Find Jesus in the Temple
- Meeting Christ after the Resurrection
- Assumption & Coronation of Mary
Self-giving & Prayer

- Complete self-giving requires conversion
- Conversion beyond self interest and selfishness
- Opens us to sharing, God centered spirit in relationship to God, to people and all of creation

Mary seeks for those who approach her devoutly and with reverence, for such she loves, nourishes, and adopts as her children.

St. Bonaventure