

Mass of Perpetual Passionist Profession

of

Sr. Frances Marie of the Eucharistic Heart of Jesus

August 15, 2022

I'm Gonna Die!

During today's ceremony, I will lie face down on the ground and be covered with a black cloth, an action that symbolizes death. A few weeks ago, anticipating this day, it began to hit me with greater intensity: I'm gonna die! What feelings does such a realization stir up? Fear, trepidation? Panic? Solicitude for proper preparation? A bit of all of that. However, amongst Nuns, a note of joy and eagerness tends to be the prevailing sentiment in the face of death. I will always remember being with our Sr. Marie Michael in the hospital room when Mother John Mary broke the news from the doctor that she did not have long to live. Sister's whole face lit up and she spontaneously exclaimed, "Great news!"

As, with inexpressible joy, I make my Perpetual Profession of Vows today, following the Lord's call, I let go of earthly goods in a permanent way that resembles death; even deeper than that, I let go of myself: my pride, self-centeredness, self-reliance. The Great News? Radical surrender into the Hands of my Heavenly Father; a deeper envelopment in the embrace of my Bridegroom Jesus, and a fuller entry into the Divine Spirit-life which was infused into me (as into each one of us) at Baptism. A New Life of Love, impelled by the love of Christ Who loved me and gave Himself for me. As our Communion hymn puts it, to love Jesus is the greatest joy!

I am so grateful to all of you who are joining the celebrations today, those present in person and those spiritually present from afar. Just as our Faith teaches that the bonds uniting us with our loved ones are not severed but strengthened beyond the grave, so in entering into this covenant with Our Creator, I am all the more one with each of you in the Heart of Christ. You and your intentions are in my heart as I make my vows. And for the rest of my days, as my offering is renewed in the Mass and in the mini dyings and risings each day brings, you will always be lifted up in this praying heart. Don't forget that I'm here for you! Don't forget to let me know when you need extra prayers! And please pray for me! Soon, please God, we'll be celebrating together at the Eternal Wedding Banquet of Heaven. That will be Great News indeed!

— Sr. Frances Marie of the Eucharistic Heart of Jesus, CP

Presiding: Fr. Tony Hollowell

(Priest of the Archdiocese of Indianapolis and friend of Sr. Frances Marie)

Homilist: Fr. Paul Cygan

(Priest of the Diocese of Buffalo and friend of Sr. Frances Marie)

Master of Ceremonies: Friar Emmanuel Wenke, OFM Conv. (brother of Sr. Frances Marie)

Servers: Samuel and Matthew Wenke (brothers of Sr. Frances Marie)

Readers: Jude and Abram Wenke (brothers of Sr. Frances Marie)

Offertory Procession: Sr. Frances Marie, CP, and Sr. Mary Veronica, CP Matt and Mary Wenke (parents of Sr. Frances Marie) Philip Campain (grandfather of Sr. Frances Marie)

Entrance Antiphon:

Gregorian Chant

(sung by the nuns)

Gaudeamus omnes in Domino, diem festum celebrantes sub honore Mariae Virginis, de cuius Assumptione gaudent Angeli, et collaudant Filium Dei.

(Let us all rejoice in the Lord, as we celebrate the feast day in honor of the Virgin Mary, at whose Assumption the Angels rejoice and praise the Son of God.)





Opening Prayer:

Almighty ever-living God, who assumed the Immaculate Virgin Mary, the Mother of your Son, body and soul into heavenly glory, grant, we pray, that, always attentive to the things that are above, we may merit to be sharers of her glory. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, for ever and ever. AMEN.

+ Liturgy of the Word +

Please be seated.

FIRST READING: Revelation 11:19; 12:1-6a,10ab

RESPONSORIAL PSALM:

Psalm 45:10,11,12,16



Music: Owen Alstott, © 1977, 1990, OCP (R&A p. 126)

The queen takes her place at your right hand in gold of Ophir. (Refrain)

Hear, O daughter, and see; turn your ear, forget your people and your father's house. (Refrain)

So shall the king desire your beauty; for he is your lord. (Refrain)

They are borne in with gladness and joy; they enter the palace of the king. (Refrain)

SECOND READING: 1 Corinthians 15:20-27

ALLELUIA:

Please rise. Nuns sing the verse:

Mary is taken up to heaven; a chorus of angels exults.

GOSPEL: Luke 1:39-56

+ Rite of Final Religious Profession +

Please be seated.

The Calling

Sr. Frances Marie stands before the Celebrant.

Celebrant: Sr. Frances Marie of the Eucharistic Heart of Jesus.

Sister: Lord, you have called me. Here I am.

Celebrant: My dear Sister, what do you ask of God and of His holy Church?

Sister: I ask to follow Christ as my Spouse in the Institute of the Religious of the Passion of Jesus Christ, and to persevere in this intention all the days of my life.

All present express their approval: THANKS BE TO GOD!

Homily

Please remain seated.

Examination

Please remain seated. Sr. Frances Marie stands before the Celebrant.

Celebrant: Dear Sister, in baptism you have already died to sin, and have been set aside for God's service. Are you now resolved to unite yourself more closely to God by the bond of perpetual profession?

Sister: I am so resolved.

Celebrant: As a bride of Jesus Crucified, are you resolved to commit yourself perpetually to that life of perfect chastity, obedience and poverty chosen by Christ our Lord and His Virgin Mother?

Sister: I am.

Celebrant: Are you resolved to commit yourself to follow the Gospel, to cherish in your heart a grateful remembrance of the Passion of Jesus and to promote it in others, to observe the rule of your community and to strive constantly for perfect love of God and neighbor?

Sister: I am so resolved.

Celebrant: Are you resolved to live for God alone in solitude and silence, in persevering prayer and willing penance, in humble work and holiness of life?

Sister: I am.

Celebrant: May God who has begun this good work in you see to its completion and perfection for the coming of Our Lord Jesus Christ.

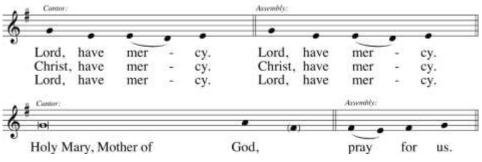
All respond: AMEN.

Litany of the Saints

Please rise. The Celebrant stands facing the people and with hands joined, says:

Dear friends in Christ, let us pray to God the Father who gives us everything that is good. In His mercy, may He strengthen His servant in the purpose He has inspired in her.

Please kneel. During the Litany of the Saints, Sr. Frances Marie falls prostrate before the altar, and is covered with a funeral pall, the symbol of dying to herself that she may rise a new person in Christ. In this ancient ritual, there is rich Paschal symbolism of death and resurrection. When the pall is removed, the religious "rises up" to pronounce her religious vows, an intense participation in the covenant of baptism.



Queen of the Passionist Congregation, pray for us [repeat after each of St. Michael, the following]

All holy angels of God,

St. Abraham,

Ss Moses and Elijah,

St. Samuel,

St. John the Baptist,

St. Joseph,

All holy patriarchs and prophets,

St. Peter and St. Paul,

St. John, the Beloved Disciple,

St. Matthew,

St. Jude,

St. Mary Magdalen,

All holy apostles and disciples of the Lord.

St. Stephen and St. Lawrence,

St. Innocencio and all Passionist martyrs,

St. Maximillian Kolbe,

St. Cecilia,

St. Agnes,

St. Maria Goretti,

All holy martyrs,

St. Basil,

St. Augustine,

St. John of the Cross,

St. Vincent Strambi,

St. John Paul II,

St. Benedict,

St. Francis and St. Dominic,

St. Paul of the Cross, founder of the Passionists,

St. Gabriel of the Sorrowful Virgin,

St. Charles of Mount Argus,

St. Clare and St. Catherine,

St. Teresa of Avila,

St. Margaret Mary,

St. Therese of the Child Jesus,

St. Gemma Galgani,

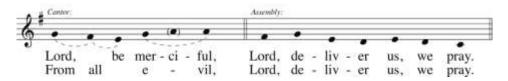
St. Elizabeth of the Trinity,

St. Faustina Kowalska,

St. Teresa of Calcutta,

All holy Passionists,

All holy men and women,

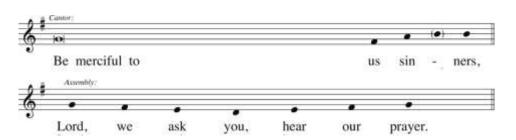


From every sin, Lord, deliver us we pray. [repeat after each of the From everlasting death, following]

By your Incarnation,

By your death and resurrection,

By the outpouring of the Holy Spirit,



Give in ever greater abundance the gifts of the Holy Spirit to your servant, Pope Francis, and to all his brother bishops, (Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer.)

By the life and labor of all religious promote the welfare of all mankind, (Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer.)

Grant that all religious families may live and grow in the spirit of their founders, (Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer.)

Reward a hundredfold the parents of your servant Sr. Frances Marie for the sacrifice they have made, (Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer.)

Bless your servant, our sister; make her holy, and consecrate her to your service, (Lord, we ask you, hear our prayer.)



May she cherish the memory of Christ's May she be blameless in life. Amen.

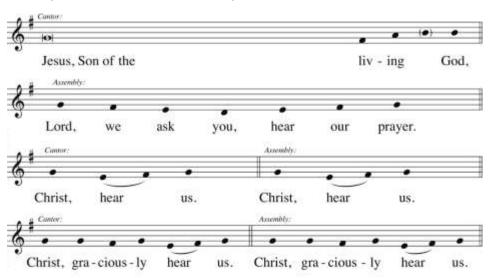
Pas - sion. A - men.

May she be strong in temptation. Amen.

May she be poor and humble of heart. Amen.

May she follow Christ faithfully in obedience. Amen.

May she serve the Church in prayerful solitude. Amen.



Text: Litary of the Saints, Roman Missal Music: Litary of the Saints, Roman Missal © 2010, ICEL The celebrant alone rises and says, with hands joined:

Lord, grant the prayers of Your people. Prepare the heart of Your servant for consecration to Your service. By the grace of the Holy Spirit, purify her from all sin and set her on fire with Your love. Through Christ our Lord. AMEN.

Please be seated. Sr. Frances Marie rises and kneels before Mother John Mary to profess her perpetual vows.

Profession of Vows

To the honor of God, I, Sister Frances Marie of the Eucharistic Heart of Jesus, firmly resolve to consecrate myself more intimately to Him and to follow Christ more closely. In the presence of the community of this Monastery of St. Joseph, a part of the Institute of the Religious of the Passion of Jesus and a sign of the universal Church, and in your hands, Reverend Mother John Mary, I vow to promote devotion to and grateful remembrance of the Passion and Death of Jesus Christ, and to express it in my style of life. I also vow chastity, poverty, obedience, and to live in enclosure perpetually, according to the Rule and Constitutions of the Religious of the Passion of Jesus Christ.

I promise to lead a life of love, together with you, my Sisters, "called within the Church to be a sign of the love of Jesus Crucified for the Father and for mankind."

May the grace of the Holy Spirit, the intercession of the Sorrowful Virgin Mary and of St. Paul of the Cross, and your charity, my Sisters, sustain my weakness, and strengthen me in what I have promised by vow.

Help Your servant, Lord. With trust in the word of Your Gospel, she has given You her faith.

The superior responds:

By the authority entrusted to me, I accept your vows in the name of the Church for the Institute of the Religious of the Passion of Jesus Christ. I commend you earnestly to God that you may fulfill your dedication which is linked with this Eucharistic Sacrifice.

Sr. Frances Marie goes to the altar for the signing of the profession formula, which is left on the altar for the remainder of the Mass.



Text: Magnificat; based on Luke 1:46-55. Text and music © 1980, Troubador for the Lord Music (ASCAP). All rights reserved Administered in the US by Music Services, Inc. Used with permission.

Solemn Consecration of the Professed

Please rise. Sr. Frances Marie kneels before the altar, while the Celebrant with hands extended says the prayer of blessing:

Father in heaven, our desire to serve You is itself Your gift and our perseverance needs Your guiding hand. How right it is that we should sing Your praise.

With boundless love You created the human family through Your Word, in the Holy Spirit, and lifted it up into communion with

Yourself; You make the human family Your bride, radiant with Your own likeness, adorned with the gifts of everlasting life.

When Your bride, deceived by the evil one, broke faith with You, You did not abandon her. With everlasting love You renewed with Your servant Noah the covenant You had made with Adam.

In the fullness of time, You raised up the Holy Virgin from the stock of Jesse. The Holy Spirit was to come upon her, and Your power was to overshadow her, making her the Immaculate Mother of the world's Redeemer.

He became poor, humble and obedient, the source and pattern of all holiness. He formed the Church into His bride, loving it with a love so great that He gave Himself up for it and sanctified it in His blood.

Father, in Your loving wisdom you have singled out many of Your daughters to be disciples espoused to Christ and to receive the honor of His love. Holy Church shines with their rich variety, a bride adorned with jewels, a queen robed in grace, a mother rejoicing in her children.

Father, we earnestly pray You: send the fire of the Holy Spirit into the heart of Your daughter, to keep alive within her the holy desire He has given her.

Lord, may the glory of baptism and holiness of life shine in her heart. Strengthened by the vows of her consecration, may she always be one with You in loving fidelity to Christ, her only Bridegroom. May she cherish the Church as her mother, and love the whole world as God's creation, teaching all men and women to look forward in joy and hope to the good things of heaven.

Lord, Holy Father, guide the steps of Your servant, and guard her on her pilgrimage through life. When she comes at last to the throne of Christ the King, may she not fear him as her judge, but hear the voice of her Bridegroom lovingly inviting her to the wedding feast of heaven. Through Christ our Lord.

ALL: AMEN.

Presentation of the Cross and Crown

Please be seated. Sr. Frances Marie is now presented with the cross and crown of thorns, a symbolic expression of her Passionist dedication to God. The Celebrant hands her the cross and crown of thorns, saying:

Receive, dear Sister, the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ and His crown of thorns, the signs of His self-giving love. May they ever be the pledge of your desire to follow Him in humility, love and obedience.

The Sign of Peace

Sr. Frances Marie now exchanges the Sign of Peace with the Celebrants, her immediate family, and her Passionist sisters. (The Sign of Peace before Communion is omitted. The Profession of Faith and the General Intercessions are also omitted.)

+ Liturgy of the Eucharist + Preparation of the Gifts

The Church herself, by her God-given authority, accepts the act of profession, and in her liturgy associates it with the Eucharistic Sacrifice of Christ. The grace of a total giving of self to God through the profession of the religious vows is first received by a person as a gift from God before being brought back to God as an offering. Sr. Frances Marie and her juniorate directress, Sr. Mary Veronica, together with Sister's parents and grandfather now carry the gifts to the altar.

Meanwhile the Nuns sing the Offertory music:

Offertory Antiphon

Fr. Vincent Ferrer Bagan, OP

Patiently I waited for the Lord, and He has looked upon me: He heard my cry, and He put into my mouth a new song, a hymn to our God.

View Me, Lord, A Work of Thine

Jackson Berkey

View me, Lord, a work of Thine, shall I then lie drown'd in night? Might Thy grace in me but shine, I should seem made all of light.

Worldly joys like shadows fade, When the heavenly light appears, But the cov'nants Thou hast made, Endless, know nor days, nor years.

In Thy word, Lord, is my trust, To thy mercies fast I fly; Though I am but clay and dust, Yet Thy grace can lift me high.

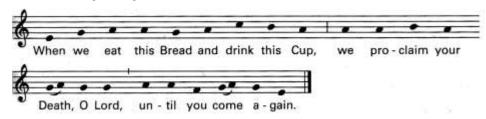
Prayer over the Gifts

Celebrant: May this oblation, our tribute of homage, rise up to you, O Lord, and, through the intercession of the Most Blessed Virgin Mary, whom you assumed into heaven, may our hearts, aflame with the fire of love, constantly long for you. Through Christ our Lord. AMEN.

Sanctus: Missa IX, Gregorian Chant



The Mystery of Faith



Agnus Dei:

Missa IX, Gregorian Chant



Communion

Communion Antiphon

All generations will call me blessed, for He who is mighty has done great things for me.

Guidelines for Receiving Holy Communion

For those who are not Catholic: We welcome our Christian brothers and sisters, especially the family and friends of Sr. Frances Marie, to this celebration of the Eucharist. We pray that our common baptism and the action of the Holy Spirit in this Eucharist will draw us closer to one another. To receive Holy Communion in a Catholic Church one must share and live by the same Catholic faith and worship. Thus, those not united with us in this same faith and worship may—instead of receiving Communion—come forward in the procession line with arms folded across the chest, to receive a special blessing.

All who are not receiving Holy Communion are encouraged to express in their hearts a prayerful desire for the unity among Christians for which Our Lord Jesus Christ prayed at the Last Supper. (John 17)

Communion Hymns

Jesu Dulcis Memoria

Jesu, dulcis memoria, dans vera cordis gaudia, sed super mel et omnia, eius dulcis praesentia.

Nil canitur suavius, nil auditur iucundius, nil cogitatur dulcius, quam Iesus Dei Filius.

lesu, spes paenitentibus, quam pius es petentibus! quam bonus te quaerentibus! sed quid invenientibus!

Nec lingua valet dicere, nec littera exprimere: expertus potest credere, quid sit lesum diligere.

Sis, Iesu, nostrum gaudium, qui es futurus praemium: sit nostra in te gloria, per cuncta semper saecula. Amen.

Cornelius Schmuck

The sweet memory of Your Name, Jesus, gives true joy to the heart; but far sweeter than honey is Your sweet presence.

Nothing is sung more sweetly, nothing is heard more delightfully, nothing is thought of more pleasingly than the name of Jesus, the Son of God.

O Jesus, hope of penitents, how kind You are to those who ask! How good to those who seek You! Yet how much more to those who find You!

No tongue is able to speak it, and no word is able to express it; only he who has loved is able to believe what it means to love Jesus.

May You, o Jesus, be our joy, Who are our future reward: may our glory be in You throughout all eternity. Amen.

Jesus Food of Angels

Jesus, food of angels, Monarch of the heart; Oh, that I could never From Thy Face depart! Yes, Thou ever dwellest Here for love of me, Hidden Thou remainest God of Majesty.

Soon I hope to see Thee, And enjoy Thy love, Face to face, sweet Jesus, In Thy heav'n above. But on earth an exile, My delight shall be Ever to be near Thee Veil'd for love of me.

Prayer after Communion

Having received the Sacrament of salvation, we ask you to grant, O Lord, that, through the intercession of the Blessed Virgin Mary, whom you assumed into heaven, we may be brought to the glory of the resurrection. Through Christ our Lord. AMEN.

+ Solemn Blessing +

Celebrant: The Lord be with you. ALL: And with your spirit.

Deacon (or Celebrant): Bow down for the blessing.

Celebrant: May God, who inspires and brings to completion every holy design, guard you with His grace, that you may faithfully discharge the duties of your calling.

ALL: AMEN.

Celebrant: May God make you a partaker of divine charity and its witness and sign before all nations.

ALL: AMEŇ.

Celebrant: May God graciously make lasting in heaven the bonds by which He has united you to Christ on earth.

ALL: AMEN.

Celebrant: And may almighty God bless all of you, who are gathered for these sacred rites, the Father, and the Son, and the Holy Spirit.

ALL: AMEN.

Deacon (or Celebrant): Go forth, the Mass is ended.

ALL: Thanks be to God!





Te Desent Attr. to Ignaz Franz, 1719–1790 Tr. by Clarence A. Walworth, 1820–1900 Allgemeines Katholisches Gesangbuch, Vienna, 1774

Thank you so much for participating with us in this Eucharistic liturgy.

Our community is grateful for your presence and prayers as Sr. Frances Marie seals forever her bridal union with Christ crucified and risen by means of Passionist religious consecration.

For Sister's parents and family and all of you present today, we pray that the peace and grace flowing from the cross and Passion of Jesus may enrich and strengthen your life always.

We look forward to greeting you in the visiting room after Mass. Refreshments will be served in the front entrance area. Extra seating is available in the retreat house and on the outdoor plaza.

Special thanks to our Passionist Oblates for preparing and serving the food.

Celebrations will continue with a Solemn Vespers Service at 5:30pm in chapel. All are welcome.