



St. Mary of the Angels

August 2

Who was St. Mary of the Angels?

The Feast Day of St. Mary of the Angels, also known as the Feast of the Portiuncula (Italian for "little portion"), is celebrated on August 2nd by the Catholic Church. It commemorates the small chapel of St. Mary of the Angels, located in the plain below the hill of Assisi, Italy. This chapel holds significant importance in the life of St. Francis of Assisi, the founder of the Franciscan Order.

St. Francis, seeking guidance from God, found himself in this humble chapel in the early 13th century. In a moment of profound spiritual clarity, he heard the voice of Christ calling him to "rebuild my Church." This encounter marked a pivotal moment in Francis's life and ministry, leading him to embrace a life of poverty, simplicity, and service to others.

To honour this sacred site, Pope Honorius III officially granted indulgences to those who visited the Portiuncula Chapel on August 2nd. Over time, the Feast of the Portiuncula became a cherished occasion for pilgrims and devotees to gather at the chapel, seeking spiritual renewal, reconciliation, and blessings.

The Feast of St. Mary of the Angels serves as a reminder of the values of humility, poverty, and devotion to God. It is celebrated with special Masses, prayers, and acts of charity, as we reflect on the enduring legacy of St. Francis and the timeless message of love and compassion that he preached.

Quotes

"Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven."

- Matthew 5:3

"But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you."

- Matthew 6:33

"For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and he who humbles himself will be exalted."

- Luke 14:11

Prayer

In the name of the Father, and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit;

Heavenly Father,

On this Feast Day of St. Mary of the Angels, we lift up our students and the entire Catholic community to your loving embrace. May the example of St. Francis of Assisi and the significance of the Portiuncula Chapel be a source of comfort, guidance, and inspiration for all.

Grant our students the wisdom to seek knowledge with humility and simplicity, following the example of St. Francis who found spiritual clarity in the humble chapel of St. Mary of the Angels. Fill their hearts with the courage to embrace lives of poverty and service to others, as St. Francis did in response to your call to "rebuild my Church."

Guide our Catholic community in fostering a spirit of devotion to God and compassion for others. May we reflect the values of humility, poverty, and love that St. Francis embodied, as we seek spiritual renewal and reconciliation on this special feast day.

Bless our hearts with your peace and fill us with the strength to carry out acts of charity and kindness in our daily lives. May the Feast of St. Mary of the Angels be a time of reflection and celebration of St. Francis's enduring legacy and the timeless message of love and compassion he preached.

We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, inspired by the devotion of St. Mary of the Angels and the example of St. Francis.

Amen.





York Catholic District School Board



FEAST DAY:
August 2

SCHOOL LOCATION:
Woodbridge, ON

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