

THE INFLUENCE OF POPE PIUS IX AND SAINT POPE PIUS X ON THE EOHSJ



THE OFFICIAL EOHSJ SPIRITUALITY NEWSLETTER



Pope Pius IX and St. Pope Pius X played pivotal roles in reshaping the Order's structure and strengthening its ties to the Holy See. Prior to Pope Pius IX, the Order had undergone a period of flux. Following the fall of the Latin Kingdom of Jerusalem, the Franciscans assumed responsibility for the Holy Land. The right to bestow the Order's Knighthood fell to the Franciscan Custos. However, Pope Pius IX's re-establishment of the Latin Patriarchate in 1847 shifted this authority to the Patriarch.

Pope Pius IX, who served as pope from 1846 to 1878, had a profound impact on the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem (EOHSJ). His efforts revitalized the Order, reinforcing its mission during a time of geopolitical upheaval in the region.



POPE PIUS IX AND ST. POPE PIUS X

This move reconnected the Catholic Church to the Holy Land and provided a renewed framework for the EOHSJ. Under his guidance, the Order expanded its role in safeguarding Christian sites and bolstering local Catholic communities, particularly through charitable efforts. Pius IX also encouraged members of the EOHSJ to support schools, hospitals, and other institutions vital to the Christian presence in Jerusalem. A significant reform during his papacy was the inclusion of women in the EOHSJ, allowing them to join as "Dames." This decision broadened the Order's reach and reflected Pope Pius IX's recognition of the important role women played in supporting the Church's mission. Women's participation in the Order strengthened its charitable work, especially in areas like education and healthcare for marginalized Christian communities in the Holy Land.

St. Pope Pius X reigned from 1903 to 1914. One of St. Pope Pius X's most significant contributions to the Catholic Church was his emphasis on the importance of the Eucharist. He encouraged frequent reception of Holy Communion and lowered the age at which children could receive their first Holy Communion, believing that a stronger connection to the Eucharist would deepen believers' spiritual lives. In 1907 he took a bold step and reasserted papal control of EOHSJ by claiming the title of Grand Master for the papacy itself. This decision significantly elevated the Order's status and brought it under direct papal oversight. It signaled a clear intention to strengthen the papacy's leadership role within the Catholic world.



POPE PIUS IX & ST. POPE PIUS X

(Cont'd)



St. Pope Pius X's impact extended beyond mere symbolism. He bestowed several honors upon the Order's members. He decreed that the insignia of the Knights should henceforth be suspended from a military trophy, a symbolic reminder of the Order's historical military character. Additionally, he granted Knights the privilege of wearing a white cape emblazoned with the Order's cross, further enhancing their visual distinction. While St. Pope Pius X didn't directly introduce female membership, his actions indirectly supported this inclusion by strengthening the Order as a whole. A stronger Order meant a more influential platform for the contributions of all its members, including the newly-minted Dames. St. Pope Pius X's feast day is celebrated on August 21st.



St. Pope Pius IX

Pope Pius IX and St. Pope Pius IX's impact on the EOHSJ left a lasting legacy. They revitalized the Order's mission, expanded its membership, and bolstered the Order's prestige while solidified the Holy See's leadership within the Catholic Church. Their papacies reinforced the importance of preserving the Christian heritage and protecting the sacred sites in the Holy land. This shaped the EOHSJ's role in the Church for generations to come.



ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI - FEAST DAY OCTOBER 4TH

St. Francis of Assisi, born Giovanni di Pietro di Bernardone (b. 1181), was an Italian mystic, poet, and Catholic friar who founded the religious order of the Franciscans. Inspired to lead a Christian life of poverty, he became a beggar and itinerant preacher. In his early life Francis renounced worldly goods and family ties to embrace a life of poverty. It is written that, on the feast of St. Matthias in 1208, he listened at Mass to the Gospel of Matthew: “And as you go, preach the message, ‘The kingdom is at hand!’... Take no gold, nor silver, nor money in your belts, no bag for your journey, nor two tunics, nor sandals, nor a staff. . . “ Francis reportedly removed his shoes, discarded his staff, put on a rough tunic, and began to preach repentance

St. Francis was a leader of the movement of evangelical poverty in the early 13th century, and his desire to follow Jesus’ example reflected and reinforced important developments in medieval spirituality. In 1209 St. Francis founded the lay Third Order and, in 1212, he established the women’s Order of St. Clare (the Poor Clares). In 1217 St. Francis founded the Franciscan Order of the Friars Minor; the “Custody of the Holy Land” which remains a custodian priory of the Order of the Friars Minor in Jerusalem. In 1342 the Franciscans were declared by Pope Clement VI’s two papal bulls to be the official Custodian of the Holy Places which included Israel/Palestine, Lebanon, Jordan, Syria, Cyprus, Egypt, and Greece – and event today the Franciscans remain the ultimate ‘caretakers’ of the Catholic Church in the Holy Land. (It is noted that between 1342 and 1489 the Custodian was also the head of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre.)

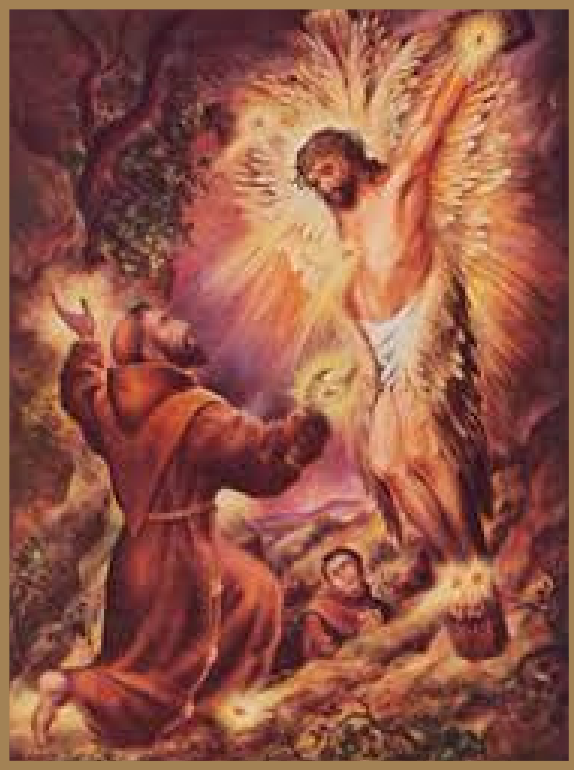
It was during the height of the Fifth Crusade in 1219 that St. Francis risked his life in an attempt to bring peace to the region. Although Pope Urban II instructed crusaders to “Destroy that vile (Muslim) race,” St. Francis crossed enemy lines and visited Sultan Melek al-Kamil in Damietta. The Muslim leader welcomed St. Francis and listened with respect. The fact that the Sultan of Egypt and a Catholic friar would have a respectful spiritual exchange during the Crusades was nothing short of miraculous. Before St. Francis departed, the Sultan wanted to give St. Francis lavish gifts, but he refused according to his vow of poverty. This left the Muslim leader speechless as he was not aware of a man who refused earthly honors.



Custos of the Holy Land



ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI *(Cont'd)*



St. Francis Receiving Christ's Stigmata

St. Francis died in 1226 at the age of 44. Two years later the Church declared him a saint. Al-Kamil ruled for 20 more years; his reign was marked by fairness towards the Christians of Egypt thanks to his relationship with St. Francis.

During October 1986 Pope John Paul II organized a 'global' inter religious prayer meeting in Assisi that included Catholics, Orthodox Christians, Protestants, Jews, Muslims, Buddhists, and representatives from other religions prayed for peace on the world. Assisi was chosen because St. Francis of Assisi is considered a prophet of peace who is acceptable and recognizable for people of all Faith journeys.

After his meeting with the Muslims, St. Francis fell ill and returned to Italy profoundly changed. While praying in front of a crucifix during the feast of the Exaltation of the Cross in 1224, St. Francis had a vision of a crucified seraph, a six-winged angel. When the vision disappeared, St. Francis found that his heart was burning with intense fervor while his hands and feet were as pierced with nails, and his side had an open wound as if made by a lance. Christ crucified had marked His faithful servant with His own brand-marks made by the fire of divine love. St. Francis of Assisi was the first person to receive the stigmata, and he is often depicted in art with nail holes in his hands.



Earliest known portrait of St. Francis by Giotto Di Bondone (Est. 1276) that hangs in the lower Basilica of Assisi

*Gift From Sultan
It is written that with this horn St. Francis called the people to preaching and banging these sticks together he ordered silence.*





INDULGENCES: A PATH TO PERSONAL SANCTIFICATION AND AID FOR THE SOULS IN PURGATORY

Indulgences are often associated with the month of November or special feast days like Divine Mercy Sunday, but they offer opportunities for spiritual growth every day of the year. Pursuing the gaining of indulgences is a profound path to spiritual sanctification, allowing us to deepen our relationship with God throughout the year. As members of the Equestrian Order of the Holy Sepulchre of Jerusalem, one of our primary missions is to grow in personal sanctification, and seeking to gain indulgences aligns perfectly with that goal.

By gaining plenary indulgences, we open ourselves to God's grace, aiding our own sanctification while offering help to the Holy Souls in Purgatory. These indulgences, granted by the Church, can be applied to ourselves or to those undergoing purification in Purgatory. Plenary indulgences remove all temporal punishment for forgiven sins, while partial indulgences partially remove punishment for forgiven sins. Four specific indulgences can be obtained daily when the "usual conditions" are met (Manual of Indulgences, USCCB, 2006, p. 41). In seeking to gain these indulgences, we live out our mission as EOHSJ members, growing in holiness and extending spiritual help to others.

The following four acts allow Catholics to gain a plenary indulgence each day, provided the usual conditions are met:

- 1. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament for at least 30 minutes**
Adoring the Blessed Sacrament brings us into the real presence of Jesus Christ, strengthening our relationship with Him. It nourishes our faith, hope, and charity, offering spiritual peace, guidance, and renewal. This practice deepens our spiritual lives, cultivating virtues like humility, patience, and trust in God's providence.
- 2. Devoutly reading Sacred Scripture for at least 30 minutes**
Reading Scripture opens us to God's voice and fosters personal and spiritual renewal. Through the light of Christ revealed in His Word, we grow in faith and contribute to the salvation of souls, including those in Purgatory.
- 3. Praying the Rosary in a church, oratory, or with one's family, religious community, or pious group**
The Rosary draws us closer to Christ through His Mother, offering spiritual peace and fostering humility and trust in God. This devotion brings grace, strengthens faith, and provides comfort, helping us grow in virtue while uniting our prayers with the needs of the world.
- 4. Making the Stations of the Cross**
Meditating on Christ's passion through the Stations of the Cross leads to deeper humility, compassion, and self-giving love. It helps us bear our trials with patience and trust, inspiring repentance and a desire for holiness.



INDULGENCES: A PATH TO PERSONAL SANCTIFICATION AND AID FOR THE SOULS IN PURGATORY *(Con't)*

The usual conditions necessary for gaining plenary indulgence are:

- a. Perform the indulgenced act, with the intention of receiving the indulgence, while free of attachment to sin.
- b. Within 20 days of performing the indulgenced act:
 1. Go to Confession (one Confession can be applied to several plenary indulgences).
 2. Receive Holy Communion (once for each time we perform the indulgenced act).
 3. Pray for the intentions of the Holy Father (for instance, offering an Our Father and a Hail Mary for his intentions).

You can receive only one plenary indulgence per day, but there is no limit to the number of partial indulgences you can earn. Even if we don't fulfill all the requirements for a plenary indulgence, we can still obtain a partial indulgence from doing the indulgenced works.

Thus, even in our imperfect state, we can provide much-needed assistance to the Holy Souls. Furthermore, these four practices are rich sources of grace, regardless of whether we gain the associated indulgences. Thus, we should strive to incorporate them into our spiritual lives whenever possible. By engaging in any one of these four daily practices, we can access abundant graces.

By regularly gaining indulgences and offering them to God for Holy Souls in Purgatory, you will (i) experience profound spiritual growth, (ii) help free souls from Purgatory sooner, and (iii) advance in personal sanctification—fulfilling your sacred calling as a Knight or Dame of the Holy Sepulchre.

In conclusion, let us reflect on the immense grace of indulgences—a daily gift from our Lord that fosters our spiritual growth, aids the Holy Souls in Purgatory, and draws us closer to God's mercy. As Knights and Dames of the Holy Sepulchre, we are called to grow in personal sanctification, and by regularly seeking indulgences, we embrace this call to holiness.

- Let us commit to incorporating the gaining of indulgences into our spiritual lives year-round, not just in November. In doing so, we will open ourselves to the Church's spiritual treasures, deepening our faith and increasing holiness.
- May we generously share the knowledge of the graces which come from gaining indulgences with others so that we may increase the help being provided to the Holy Souls in Purgatory.

With hearts open to God's grace, let us answer this call, spreading His light and cultivating hope and love in all whom we encounter. Amen.



**SAVE THE DATE!
WEDNESDAY, OCT 23, 2024
7:00PM PST**



We warmly invite you to a special Zoom presentation on Wednesday, October 23rd by Fr. Bernard Poggi, STL. live from the Latin Patriarchal Seminary in Beit Jala, Bethlehem.

A native of San Mateo, California, Fr. Poggi brings together a unique blend of theological and pastoral knowledge. He earned a BA from the University of San Francisco, and was then ordained a priest in 2014. He served the Arab Catholic Community in Northern California and later completed a Master's degree in Dogmatic Theology in 2018. Today, he serves as Rector of the Latin Patriarchal Seminary in the Holy Land.

In this presentation, Fr. Poggi will speak on Mary, under her title, The Queen of Peace, and her vital role in our faith as a symbol of hope, reconciliation, and maternal love. In these turbulent times, he will reflect on the significance of this title, particularly Mary's intercession for peace in our personal lives and thropheace in the Holy Land.

Please save the date and join us on Wednesday, October 23rd, at 7 PM PST for what promises to be an inspiring and spiritually enriching presentation on Our Lady, Queen of Peace.

Time: Oct 23, 2024 07:00 PM Pacific Time

Link: <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87508023881?pwd=acA4VmuExoz8SP8t2GJFLbT9Xxt69d.1>

Meeting ID: 875 0802 3881

Passcode: 443273