

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF NUMBERS

One is the symbol of the unity of God.

Two is for the two natures of Christ, the human and the Divine.

Three is the number of completion, expressive of a beginning, a middle, and an end. In Christian symbolism, three is the Divine number suggesting the Trinity, and also the three days that Christ spent in the tomb.

Four is ordinarily used to suggest the four Evangelists.

Five is symbolic of the Wounds of Christ. and the five senses.

Six is the number of creation, and perfection, symbolizing Divine power, majesty, wisdom, love, mercy, and justice. On occasion it is used as a symbol of imperfection because it falls one short of the number seven.

Seven is the number of charity, grace, and the Holy Spirit. It was also used by the early writers as the number of completion and perfection. Many instances of this use appear in Biblical writings. When the friends of Job came to comfort him, they 'sat down with him upon the ground for seven days and seven nights' [2:13]. Jacob, as a sign of perfect submission, bowed seven times before his brother. Again, there is reference to the sevenfold of the Holy Spirit, the seven deadly sins, and the seven joys and the seven sorrows of the Virgin, as well as the seven seals on the Book of Life and the seven churches in the Apocalypse.

Eight is the number of Resurrection, for it was on the eighth day after His entry into Jerusalem that Christ rose from the grave. Many baptismal fonts are octagonal in shape.

Nine is the angelic number, for the Bible refers to the nine choirs of Angels. Nine is also the number of mystery.

Ten is the number of the Ten Commandments and a number of completion in re the Commandments and the Ten Plagues, for instance.

Twelve, as the number of the Apostles, has always been a favorite number in Christian symbolism. In a more extended meaning it is occasionally used to represent the entire Church. Also the Twelve tribes of Israel.

Thirteen is the number of faithlessness and betrayal. At the Supper there were thirteen persons at the table: Jesus and twelve Apostles, including Judas, who had already agreed to betray his Master.

Fifteen is the number of ascent and progress: there are 15 steps in the temple, 15 gradual Psalms, and **15** Mysteries of the Rosary.

Forty is symbolic of a period of probation or trial. The Jews wandered for forty years in the wilderness and, for a period of time were in bondage to the Philistines. Moses mained for forty days on Mount Sinai. The rain of the Flood lasted for forty days and forty nights. After Christ's Baptism, He was forty days in the wilderness, being tempted by the Devil.

One Hundred as ten times ten is the number of plenitude and completeness.

One Thousand is often used to represent incalculably large numbers and or eternity.

Faith by the Number

[BASIC CATHOLIC BELIEFS](#)-----[OUR FAITH BY THE NUMBER](#)

BASIC CATHOLIC BELIEFS

Every Catholic must believe that there is one God, and no more than one God: that God is a pure Spirit, the Lord and Maker of Heaven and earth, Who has neither beginning nor end, but is always the same: Who is everywhere present; knows and sees all things; can do all things Whatsoever He pleases; and is infinite in all perfections.

Every Catholic is bound to believe that in one God there are three distinct Persons, perfectly equal, of the same substance, and having the same nature: the Father, Who proceeds from no one; the Son, Who is born of the Father before all ages; and the Holy Ghost, Who proceeds eternally from the Father and the Son as from one principle; and that the three Persons are all equally eternal, equal in wisdom and power, and are all three one and the same God.

We must believe that God created the Angels to be with Him for ever, and that one part of them fell from God by sin, and became devils. That God also created Adam and Eve, the first parents of all mankind, and placed them in the earthly Paradise, from whence they were justly banished for the sin they committed in eating of the fruit from the forbidden tree; and that by this transgression of Adam we are all conceived and born in sin, and would have been lost for ever, if God had not sent us a Savior.

We are bound to believe in the Savior of all mankind, Jesus Christ, the Son of God, true God and true Man; perfect God from all eternity, equal to His Father in all things; and perfect Man, from the time of His coming down from Heaven for us, having a body and soul like ours.

We must believe that Jesus Christ, our Savior, Who had been long foretold by the prophets, was, at God's appointed time, by the power of the Holy Ghost, without having any man for His father, conceived in the womb of the Virgin Mary; whom God had prepared for this wonderful Maternity in a wonderful manner: in that by a singular grace and privilege, in view of the merits of Jesus Christ, she was in the first instant of her conception preserved free

from every taint of Original Sin.

Of her, who is Blessed among Women for evermore, was born our Lord -----she still remaining a pure virgin. During the time of His mortal life, Jesus Christ founded the Catholic religion; and then offered Himself as a Sacrifice for the sins of the whole world, by dying upon a Cross, to obtain mercy, grace, and salvation for us; and that neither mercy, nor grace, nor salvation can, or ever could, since Adam's fall, be obtained except through the mediation of the Son of God.

We must believe that Jesus Christ, after He died and was buried, arose on the third day from death to life, never to die again; and that, for the space of forty days, He was pleased; at different times, to manifest Himself to His disciples, and then ascended into Heaven in their sight; where, as God-Man, He continually intercedes for us. Thence he sent down the Holy Ghost upon His disciples, to abide with them for ever, as He promised, and to guide them and their successors into all truth, through the Holy Catholic Church, outside of which there is no salvation.

OUR CATHOLIC FAITH BY THE NUMBER

1. There is but one God [in Three Divine Persons, yet one and the same God].

One True Church founded by Christ Himself, the Holy Catholic Church.

2. There are two parts to the Bible: the Old Testament and the New Testament; and there are two states of life in the Church: the ordained and the lay, or non-ordained.

3. Three Persons in one Godhead: the Blessed Trinity.

There are three theological virtues: Faith, Hope, and Charity. These are infused into the human soul at Baptism.

The Catholic Church has three powers: to govern, to teach, to sanctify.

The Three Hours: the name given to the period between 12 noon to 3 P.M. on Good Friday in memory of the three hours Jesus hung on the Cross.

The Three Marys: Three women closely associated with Our Lord and Our Lady:

Mary Magdalen, Mary Salome and Mary Cleopas.

The Three Evangelical Counsels:

Voluntary poverty

Chastity [that is not to marry]

Obedience

The Three member groups of the Communion of Saints:

The Church Militant on earth

The Church Suffering in Purgatory
The Church Triumphant in Heaven

The Three Names given to Angels in Scripture: St. Michael, St. Gabriel, St. Raphael. Any other names are from non-canonical books and thus are not part of doctrine or Tradition.

4. The Cardinal Virtues are four:

Prudence, Justice, Fortitude and Temperance.

These virtues are basic virtues that are developed by grace through habit, although they are natural, that is, non-infused. All the other acquired virtues depend on these, thus they are called cardinal that is they act as the hinge. These are also referred to as the Moral Virtues.

The Four Marks of the True Church are those outward, visible signs that point to the Church founded by Christ:

One, Holy, Catholic, and Apostolic.

One, meaning joined under one head from the beginning, that is, the Roman Pontiff; Holy, meaning it has all the Sacraments instituted by Christ; Catholic, meaning universal, in its disbursement, its teachings; Apostolic, meaning identified with Tradition, which is unchanging, handed down from the Apostles and with bishops that can trace a direct line to the original Twelve.

The Four Weeks of Advent, the period of penance preceding Christmas.

The Four Horsemen: refers to the last book of the Bible, the Book of Revelation or the Apocalypse, Chapter 6, verses 1-8: War, Civil Strife, Famine and Plague.

The Four Sins Crying Out for Vengeance:

Willful Murder

The Sin of Sodom

Oppression of the Poor

Defrauding laborers of their just wages.

The Four Last Things: Death, Judgment, Heaven or Hell.

The Four Great Ends of the Holy Mass:

These ends correspond to the four great duties we owe to Almighty God:

- (1) To praise, honor and adore the infinite majesty of God, Who is infinitely deserving of all the glory that can be given to Him by His creatures.
- (2) To satisfy the infinite justice of God, Who is infinitely offended by the sins committed against Him.
- (3) To thank the infinitely liberality of God, Who requires an infinite return of all the favors bestowed upon His creatures.
- (4) To petition the infinite goodness of God, Whom nothing but a pleading of infinite value can move to grant us all needful blessings.

The Four Special Graces Promised for Devotion to the Dolours of Our Lady:

PROMISES: According to St. Alphonsus Liguori, Our Lord revealed to St. Elizabeth of Hungary four special graces that are given to those who are devoted to the dolours of His holy Mother.

- (1) That those who before death invoke the Blessed Mother in the name of her sorrows, should obtain true repentance of all their sins.
- (2) That He would protect in their tribulations all who remember this devotion, and that He would protect them especially at the hour of death.
- (3) That He would impress upon their minds the remembrance of His Passion, and that they should have their reward for it in Heaven.
- (4) That He would commit such devout clients to the hands of Mary, so that she might obtain for these souls all the graces she wanted to lavish upon them.

The Four Necessary Things for a Valid Sacrament:

A valid minister [priest or bishop where a Sacrament requires it]

Right intention

Correct Form

Valid Matter

The Four Criteria for a Saint to be Named a Father of the Church:

- (1) Taught correct doctrine----neither a heretic nor confused.
- (2) Lived a holy life.
- (3) Approved by the official Church, but not necessarily by a decree.
- (4) Linked to antiquity-----the earliest centuries of the Church, up to the 8th Century.

The Criteria for a Saint to be a Doctor of the Church are the same except for the link to antiquity, but they must be decreed to be such by a Council of the Church of the Roman Pontiff. As of the year 2004 there are 33 Doctors of the Church.

5. The Five Chief Means we satisfy God for the temporal punishment due to sin:

Prayer

Fasting

Almsgiving

Performing the Works of Mercy, both Spiritual and Corporal [see below]

Patiently suffering the ills of life.

The Five Holy Wounds:

These are the five prominent Wounds in Our Lord's Hands [1 each], Feet [1 each] and Side at His Crucifixion.

5 GRACES AND YOUR CROSS

TO ALL THOSE FAITHFUL WHO SHALL RECITE FOR 3 YEARS, EACH DAY, 2 [PATERS](#), [GLORIAS](#) AND [AVES](#), IN HONOR OF THE DROPS OF BLOOD I LOST, I WILL CONCEDE THE FOLLOWING FIVE GRACES:

- (1) The plenary indulgence and remittance of your sins.
- (2) You will be free from the pains of Purgatory.
- (3) If you should die before completing the said 3 years, for you it will be the same as if you had completed them.
- (4) It will be upon your death the same as if you had shed all your blood for the Holy Faith.
- (5) I will descend from Heaven to take your soul and that of your relatives, until the fourth generation.

The Five Intellectual [Habitual] Virtues or Habits:

The first three intellectual virtues are understanding, science, and wisdom. Understanding is the habitual knowledge of foundational self-evident truths without which one cannot have real knowledge. Science is the act of conclusion from first principles of the particular sciences. Wisdom is knowing things as they really are and in their highest causes. These three belong to philosophy.

In addition there are two practical virtues called art and prudence.

Art is knowing how to **make** things or produce objects. Prudence is knowing how to **do** things, or actions not resulting in an object. For example, how to conduct oneself in life and it is the only one of the intellectual virtues that cannot exist apart from the moral or cardinal virtues.

6. The Six Sins Against the Holy Ghost:

Presumption of God's Mercy

Despair

Impugning the known truth

Envy at another's spiritual good

Obstinacy in sin

Final impenitence

The Six USA Holy Days:

NOTE that Holy Day is also spelled Holyday, whereby the secular term, holiday, is derived. Also note that the US Bishops are permitted to remit a Holy Day if it falls on a weekend other than Sunday. They do not always choose to do so but it has occurred several times since receiving the indult from Rome.

These are days other than Sunday on which the faithful are bound to attend Mass and refrain from servile work [if possible, given modern circumstances].

The Circumcision of Our Lord [Trad.] or the Solemnity of Mary [N.O.]-----January 1

Ascension Thursday-----Forty days after Easter

The Assumption-----August 15

All Saints' Day-----November 1

The Immaculate Conception-----December 8

The Nativity of Our Lord-----Christmas Day, December 25

The Six Precepts of the Church:

- (1) To hear Mass on Sundays, and Holy Days of Obligation.
- (2) To fast and abstain on the days commanded.
- (3) To confess our sins at least once a year. .
- (4) To receive the Holy Eucharist at least once at Eastertide.
- (5) To contribute to the support of our pastors.
- (6) Not to solemnize marriage at the forbidden times; not to marry persons within the forbidden degrees of kindred, or otherwise prohibited by the Church.

7. The Seven Sacraments:

Baptism-----Matt. 28:19
Penance-----John 20:23
Eucharist-----Matt. 16:26
Confirmation-----Acts 8:17
Matrimony-----Matt. 19:6
Holy Orders-----Luke 22:19
Extreme Unction-----James 5:14

The Seven Gifts of the Holy Ghost:

Wisdom
Understanding
Counsel
Fortitude
Knowledge
Piety
Fear of the Lord

The Seven Godly Virtues:

NOTE THEY ARE OPPOSED BY THE SEVEN CAPITAL SINS BELOW THIS LIST

Humility
Liberality [Generosity of spirit in the use of temporal goods]

Chastity
Meekness
Temperance
Brotherly Love
Diligence

The Seven Capital Sins:

Pride
Covetousness
Lust
Anger
Gluttony
Envy
Sloth

The [Seven Joys](#)

and

Sorrows of Mary:

1. The Presentation in the Temple
2. The Flight into Egypt
3. The Loss of Jesus for Three Days
4. Meeting Jesus on the Way to Calvary
5. The Crucifixion
6. The Descent from the Cross
7. The Burial of Jesus

Note: The Seven Joys above are called the Franciscan Crown: this is part of the Litanies Directory and not Children's.

The Seven Sorrows and Joys of St. Joseph:

THE JOYS AND SORROWS ARE INTERTWINED, THAT IS, THE NUMBERS OF EACH PARALLEL EACH.

Seven Sorrows:

- (1) Anguish after the Annunciation to Him by an Angel
- (2) Seeing the Child Jesus Born in Poverty
- (3) The Shedding of Jesus' Blood at His Circumcision
- (4) The Prophecy of Simeon
- (5) The Flight into Egypt
- (6) Fear for the Holy Child at the Returning to Nazareth at the Command of the Angel
- (7) The Loss of Jesus for Three Days

Seven Joys:

- (1) The Realization of The Incarnation of the Savior
- (2) The Resplendent Hymns of the Angels at Bethlehem, Christmas Night
- (3) The Holy Name of Jesus
- (4) The Knowledge of Salvation of Many Souls by the Redemption of the Cross
- (5) The Knowledge that the Egyptian Idols Fell
- (6) Dwelling in gladness in Nazareth with Mary and the Holy Child
- (7) The Finding of Jesus in the Temple

The Seven Last Words of Jesus on the Cross:

- (1) Father, forgive them for they know not what they do.
- (2) This day thou shalt be with Me in Paradise.
- (3) Behold thy son; behold thy Mother.
- (4) My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me?
- (5) I thirst.
- (6) It is consummated.
- (7) Father, into Thy hands I deliver My spirit.

[The Seven Offerings of the Precious Blood](#)

The Seven Penitential Psalms

These are, of course found in the Book of Psalms of the Old Testament, and they are: Psalms 6, 31, 37, 50, 101, 129 and 142. They primarily speak of sin, repentance and ask for the mercy of God.

The Seven Promises Related to Devotion to Our Lady's Sorrows

PROMISES: According to St. Bridget of Sweden (1303-1373), the Blessed Virgin grants seven graces to the souls who honor her daily by saying seven Hail Marys while meditating on her tears and dolors:

- (1) "I will grant peace to their families."
- (2) "They will be enlightened about the Divine Mysteries."
- (3) "I will console them in their pains and I will accompany them in their work."
- (4) "I will give them as much as they ask for as long as it does not oppose the adorable will of my Divine Son or the sanctification of their souls."
- (5) "I will defend them in their spiritual battles with the infernal enemy and I will protect them at every instant of their lives."
- (6) "I will visibly help them at the moment of their death-----they will see the face of their mother."
- (7) "I have obtained this grace from my Divine Son, that those who propagate this devotion to my tears and dolors will be taken directly from this earthly life to eternal happiness, since all their sins will be forgiven and my Son will be their eternal consolation and joy."

8. The Eight Beatitudes: Amended September 30, 2007

1. Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven.
2. Blessed are the meek, for they shall possess the earth.
3. Blessed are they who mourn, for they shall be comforted.
4. Blessed are they who hunger and thirst for justice, for they shall be filled.
5. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy.
6. Blessed are the clean of heart, for they shall see God.
7. Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called the children of God.
8. Blessed are they who suffer persecution for justice sake, for theirs is the kingdom of Heaven.

Note: In St. Mathew's Gospel there are nine, but the Church places 8 and 9 within the same context, the suffering of persecution, following St. Augustine. Thus, almost every catechism etc., lists 8, not 9.

9. Blessed are you when men revile you, and persecute you, and speak all manner of evil against you falsely, because of Me.

Eight Promises of St. Joseph:

1. God will grant special graces to those that do not know me, to have a great devotion to me.
2. God will bless all who are married and the blessing in their family will be without limit.
3. Those married and without children will be blessed with offspring.
4. God will give special graces to be delivered from temptations and the attacks of the devil.
5. They shall have a good and happy death.
6. They shall overcome their trials and tribulations.
7. God shall grant them immediate help when they invoke my intercession, for the demons have extreme dread of the invocation of my name.
8. For all those who embrace a St. Joseph cenacle, they shall obtain a more fervent love for Jesus and a true devotion to Most Holy Mary.

9. Nine Ways of Being an Accessory to Another's Sin:

By counsel

By concealment

By command

By partaking

By consent

By silence

By provocation

By defense of the evil done

By praise or flattery

The Nine Choirs of Angels in Descending Order:

Seraphim, Cherubim, Thrones, Dominations, Virtues, Powers, Principalities, Archangels and Angels.

The Nine First Fridays Devotion of the Sacred Heart-----Promise 12

I PROMISE THEE IN THE EXCESS OF THE MERCY OF MY HEART, THAT ITS ALL-POWERFUL LOVE WILL GRANT TO ALL THOSE WHO SHALL RECEIVE COMMUNION ON THE FIRST FRIDAY OF NINE CONSECUTIVE MONTHS THE

GRACE OF FINAL REPENTANCE;
THEY SHALL NOT DIE UNDER MY DISPLEASURE, NOR WITHOUT RECEIVING THE
SACRAMENTS;
MY HEART SHALL BE THEIR ASSURED REFUGE AT THAT LAST HOUR.

Nine First Wednesdays of St. Joseph:

Devotion Promulgated by the Pious Union of St. Joseph

Every Wednesday is dedicated in a special way to St. Joseph. Make the Nine First Wednesdays (in a manner similar to the Nine First Fridays of the Sacred Heart) in honor of St. Joseph for a happy death, for yourself and your dear ones. As charity is one of the best ways to be worthy of the grace of a happy death, offer your First Wednesday Mass and Communion and devotions in honor of St. Joseph in a special way for the salvation of the dying, most especially for an undying sinner who is to lose his soul without the grace of final repentance.

Our Lord permits St. Joseph to take from His Divine treasury with full hands in order to give souls the treasures of Divine grace and mercy, like Joseph, the son of Jacob, who took corn from the granaries of the King of Egypt to feed his brethren and all who had recourse to him. From the heights of Heaven, the King of Glory speaks to us the same words as Pharaoh spoke to the starving people of Egypt: "Go to Joseph."

The Ten Commandments
[Exodus. 20]

1. I am the Lord thy God. Thou shalt not have strange gods before Me.
2. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain.
3. Remember that thou keep holy the sabbath day.
4. Honor thy father and thy mother.
5. Thou shalt not kill.
6. Thou shalt not commit adultery.
7. Thou shalt not steal.
8. Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor.
9. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's wife.
10. Thou shalt not covet thy neighbor's goods.

11. The Eleven Novenas in Honor Mary

12. The Twelve Fruits of the Holy Ghost:

Charity, Joy, Peace, Patience, Forbearance, Goodness, Benignity [Kindness],
Mildness, Fidelity, Modesty, Continency, Chastity.

The Twelve Apostles:

Simon Peter, James the Greater, John, Andrew, Philip, Bartholomew, Matthew-Levi,
Thomas, James the Less, Jude Thaddeus, Simon, and Judas Iscariot. After the suicide of
Judas, Matthias was chosen to take his place.

The Twelve Names Christ gives for Himself in the Gospels, four of which have Life as all or a
part of the title:

Bread of Life

Door

Good Shepherd

Life

Light of the World

Lord

Master

Resurrection and Life

Son,

Son of Man,

Vine, Way, Truth and Life

Twelve Promises of the Sacred Heart

1. I WILL GIVE THEM ALL THE GRACES NECESSARY FOR THEIR STATE OF LIFE.
2. I WILL GIVE PEACE IN THEIR FAMILIES.
3. I WILL CONSOLE THEM IN ALL THEIR TROUBLES.

4. THEY SHALL FIND IN MY HEART AN ASSURED REFUGE DURING LIFE AND ESPECIALLY AT THE HOUR OF DEATH.
5. I WILL POUR ABUNDANT BLESSINGS ON ALL THEIR UNDERTAKINGS.
6. SINNERS SHALL FIND IN MY HEART THE SOURCE AND INFINITE OCEAN OF MERCY.
7. TEPID SOULS SHALL BECOME FERVENT.
8. FERVENT SOULS SHALL SPEEDILY RISE TO GREAT PERFECTION.
9. I WILL BLESS THE HOMES IN WHICH THE IMAGE OF MY SACRED HEART SHALL BE EXPOSED AND HONORED.
10. I WILL GIVE TO PRIESTS THE POWER TO TOUCH THE MOST HARDENED HEARTS.
11. THOSE WHO PROPAGATE THIS DEVOTION SHALL HAVE THEIR NAME WRITTEN IN MY HEART, AND IT SHALL NEVER BE EFFACED.
12. I PROMISE THEE IN THE EXCESS OF THE MERCY OF MY HEART, THAT ITS ALL-POWERFUL LOVE WILL GRANT TO ALL THOSE WHO SHALL RECEIVE COMMUNION ON THE FIRST FRIDAY OF NINE CONSECUTIVE MONTHS THE GRACE OF FINAL REPENTANCE; THEY SHALL NOT DIE UNDER MY DISPLEASURE, NOR WITHOUT RECEIVING THE SACRAMENTS; MY HEART SHALL BE THEIR ASSURED REFUGE AT THAT LAST HOUR.

The Twelve Months of Dedication:

January -----The Holy Name of Jesus
February-----The Holy Trinity and the Holy Family
March-----St. Joseph
April-----The Holy Ghost and the Passion of Christ
May-----The Blessed Virgin Mary
June-----The Blessed Sacrament and the Sacred Heart of Jesus
July-----The Precious Blood of Jesus
August-----The Most Pure Heart of Mary
September-----The Holy Cross
October-----The Holy angels and the Holy Rosary
November-----The Holy Souls in Purgatory
December-----The Immaculate Conception and the Holy Infancy of Jesus

[The Thirteen Tuesdays Novena to St. Anthony](#)

The Fourteen Stations of the Cross

1. Jesus Is Condemned to Death
2. Jesus Is Made to Carry His Cross
3. Jesus Falls the First Time
4. Jesus Meets His Sorrowful Mother
5. St. Simon of Cyrene Helps Jesus to Carry His Cross
6. St. Veronica Wipes the Face of Jesus
7. Jesus Falls the Second Time
8. The Women of Jerusalem Weep Over Jesus
9. Jesus Falls the Third Time
10. Jesus Is Stripped of His Garments
11. Jesus Is Nailed to the Cross
12. Jesus Is Raised Upon the Cross and Dies
13. Jesus Is Taken Down from the Cross and Placed in His Mother's Arms
14. Jesus Is Laid in the Sepulchre

The Fourteen Works of Mercy consist of 7 Spiritual Works and 7 Corporal:

The Seven Spiritual Works of Mercy are

To counsel the doubtful,
To instruct the ignorant,
To admonish sinners,
To comfort the afflicted,
To forgive offenses,
To bear wrongs patiently and
To pray for the living and the dead.

The Seven Corporal Works of Mercy are

To feed the hungry,
To give drink to the thirsty,
To clothe the naked,
To harbor the harborless [shelter the homeless],
To visit the sick,

To visit the captives [those in prison] and
To bury the dead.

The Fourteen Holy Helpers

EARLY CATHOLIC SAINTS/MARTYRS WHO ARE POWERFUL WITH GOD

TRADITIONAL FEAST DAY: AUGUST 8

AMONG THE SAINTS/MARTYRS who in Catholic devotion are invoked with special confidence, because they have proved themselves efficacious helpers in adversity and difficulties, there is a group venerated under the collective name of the Fourteen Holy Helpers, although many of them have a devoted following as individual Saints:

St. George, Martyr, by custom placed first and not in order of Feast Day; [April 23]

St. Blaise [Blase], Bishop and Martyr; [February 3]

St. Pantaleon, Martyr; [July 27]

St. Vitus, Martyr; [June 15]

St. Erasmus [Elmo], Bishop and Martyr; [June 2]

St. Christophorus [Christopher], Martyr; [July 25]

St. Giles, Abbot; [September 1]

St. Cyriacus [Cyriac], Martyr; [August 8]

St. Achatius, Martyr; [May 8]

St. Dionysius [Denis], Bishop and Martyr; [October 9]

St. Eustachius [Eustace], Martyr; [September 20]

St. Catherine of Alexandria, Virgin and Martyr; [November 25]

St. Margaret, Virgin and Martyr; [July 20]

and St. Barbara, Virgin and Martyr. [December 4]

These Saints are invoked as a group, apart from individual patronage, because of the epidemic called the "Black Plague," which devastated Europe between 1346-1349. Among its symptoms were a turning black of the tongue, parching of the throat, violent headache, fever and boils on the abdomen. The malady attacked its victims without warning, robbed them of reason and killed them within a few hours, and many died without the last Sacraments. fear caused many attacks and disrupted social and family ties. To all appearances the disease was incurable.

During this affliction, the pious turned toward Heaven, having recourse to the Saints, praying to be spared or cured. Among the Saints invoked were these 14 who already had patronage over certain illnesses or tragedies:

St. Christopher and St. Giles, plagues, St. Denis, headaches, St. Blaise, ills of the throat [although St. Ignatius of Antioch is also a patron of those with sore throats], St. Elmo, patron of abdominal maladies [and one of the several Saints having patronage over childbirth, which is not an illness, of course, as well as patron of sailors], St. Barbara, against fever, St. Vitus, [with St. Dymphna, against epilepsy], St. Pantaleon, patron of physicians, St. Cyriacus, recourse in time of temptations, especially at the hour of death; Sts. Christopher, Barbara, and Catherine were appealed to for protection against a sudden, unprovided death; the aid of St. Giles was implored for making a good confession; St. Eustace, patron of all kinds of difficulties, especially family troubles. Domestic animals were also attacked by the plague: Sts. George, Erasmus, Pantaleon and Vitus were invoked for their protection. St. Margaret of Antioch is the patron of safe childbirth deliveries [along with St. Gerard Majella and Raymond Nonnatus]. As devotion spread, Pope Nicholas V in the 16th century attached indulgences to devotion of the Fourteen Holy Helpers, which are no longer attached under the modern norms and grants, although their cultus is still efficacious and to be promoted.

The Fifteen Promises of the Rosary

- 1) Whosoever shall faithfully serve Me by the recitation of the Rosary shall receive signal graces.
- 2) I promise My special protection and the greatest graces to all those who shall recite the Rosary.
- 3) The Rosary shall be a powerful armor against Hell, it will destroy vice, decrease sin and defeat heresies.
- 4) It will cause good works to flourish; it will obtain for souls the abundant mercy of God; it will withdraw the hearts of men from the love of the world and its vanities, and will lift them to the desire for Eternal Things. Oh, that souls would sanctify themselves by this means.
- 5) The soul which recommends itself to Me by the recitation of the Rosary shall not perish.
- 6) Whosoever shall recite the Rosary devoutly, applying himself to the consideration of its Sacred Mysteries shall never be conquered by misfortune. God will not chastise him in His justice, he shall not perish by an unprovided death; if he be just he shall remain in the grace of God, and become worthy of Eternal Life.
- 7) Whoever shall have a true devotion for the Rosary shall not die without the Sacraments of the Church.

8) Those who are faithful to recite the Rosary shall have during their life and at their death the Light of God and the plenitude of His Graces; at the moment of death they shall participate in the Merits of the Saints in Paradise.

9) I shall deliver from Purgatory those who have been devoted to the Rosary.

10) The faithful children of the Rosary shall merit a high degree of Glory in Heaven.

11) You shall obtain all you ask of Me by recitation of the Rosary.

12) All those who propagate the Holy Rosary shall be aided by Me in their necessities.

13) I have obtained from My Divine Son that all the advocates of the Rosary shall have for intercessors the entire Celestial Court during their life and at the hour of death.

14) All who recite the Rosary are My Sons, and brothers of My Only Son Jesus Christ.

15) Devotion to My Rosary is a great sign of predestination.

Given to St. Dominic and Blessed Alan

The Fifteen Mysteries of the Traditional Rosary

The Five Joyful:

THE ANNUNCIATION OF THE ANGEL GABRIEL TO MARY

THE VISITATION TO ST. ELIZABETH

THE NATIVITY OF OUR LORD

THE PRESENTATION IN THE TEMPLE

THE FINDING OF JESUS IN THE TEMPLE AFTER THREE DAYS

The Five Sorrowful:

THE AGONY IN THE GARDEN

THE SCOURGING AT THE PILLAR

THE CROWNING WITH THORNS

JESUS CARRIES HIS CROSS

THE CRUCIFIXION

The Five Glorious:

THE RESURRECTION

THE ASCENSION OF JESUS INTO HEAVEN
THE DESCENT OF THE HOLY SPIRIT UPON MARY AND THE APOSTLES
THE ASSUMPTION OF OUR LADY, BODY AND SOUL INTO HEAVEN
THE CORONATION OF OUR LADY AS QUEEN OF HEAVEN AND EARTH

The Sixteen Universal Feasts of Mary:

Purification of the Blessed Virgin Mary-----February 2
The Apparition at Lourdes-----February 11
The Annunciation-----March 25
The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary-----July 2
Our Lady of Mount Carmel-----July 16
Our Lady of the Snows-----August 5
The Assumption -----August 15
The Immaculate Heart of Mary-----August 22
The Nativity of Our Lady-----September 8
The Holy Name of Mary-----September 12
The Seven Sorrows of the Blessed Virgin Mary-----September 15
Our Lady of Ransom-----September 24
Our Lady of the Rosary-----October 7
The Maternity of the Blessed Virgin Mary-----October 11
The Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary-----November 21
The Immaculate Conception-----December 8

In addition there are many, many other Marian feasts, by region and or country, such as Our Lady of Guadalupe, our Lady of Fatima, Our Lady of Compassion, Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal, Our Lady of Good Counsel, etc. And many of these are celebrated in most locales.

The Seventeen Promises of Our Lord to Those Who Practice the
Devotion of the [Rosary of the Holy Wounds](#):

HISTORY: This devotion to the Holy Wounds and the following promises were revealed by Our Lord to Sr. Mary Martha Chambon (1841-1907), of the Monastery of the Visitation of Chambery. The cause for her beatification was introduced in 1937.

PROMISES OF OUR LORD FOR THOSE WHO PRACTICE THIS DEVOTION

1. At each word that you pronounce of the Chaplet of the Holy Wounds, I allow a drop of My Blood to fall upon the soul of a sinner.
2. Each time that you offer to My Father the merits of My Divine Wounds, you win an immense fortune.
3. Souls that will have contemplated and honored My crown of thorns on earth, will be My crown of glory in Heaven!
4. I will grant all that is asked of Me through the invocation of My Holy Wounds. You will obtain everything, because it is through the merit of My Blood, which is of infinite price. With My Wounds and My Divine Heart, everything can be obtained.
5. From My Wounds proceed fruits of sanctity. As gold purified in the crucible becomes more beautiful, so you must put your soul and those of your companions into My sacred Wounds; there they will become perfected as gold in the furnace. You can always purify yourself in My Wounds.
6. My Wounds will repair yours. My Wounds will cover all your faults. Those who honor them will have a true knowledge of Jesus Christ. In meditation on them, you will always find a new love. My Wounds will cover all your sins.
7. Plunge your actions into My Wounds and they will be of value. All your actions, even the least, soaked in My Blood, will acquire by this alone an infinite merit and will please My Heart.
8. In offering My Wounds for the conversion of sinners, even though the sinners are not converted, you will have the same merit before God as if they were.
9. When you have some trouble, something to suffer, quickly place it in My Wounds, and the pain will be alleviated.
10. This aspiration must often be repeated near the sick: "My Jesus, pardon and mercy through the merits of Thy Holy Wounds!" This prayer will solace soul and body.
11. A sinner who will say the following prayer will obtain conversion: "Eternal Father, I offer Thee the Wounds of our Lord Jesus Christ to heal those of our souls."
12. There will be no death for the soul that expires in My Holy Wounds; they give true life.
13. This chaplet is a counterpoise to My justice; it restrains My vengeance.
14. Those who pray with humility and who meditate on My Passion, will one day participate in the glory of My Divine Wounds.
15. The more you will have contemplated My painful Wounds on this earth, the higher will be your contemplation of them glorious in Heaven.
16. The soul who during life has honored the Wounds of our Lord Jesus Christ and has offered them to the Eternal Father for the Souls in Purgatory, will be accompanied at the moment of death by the Holy Virgin and the Angels; and Our Lord on the Cross, all brilliant

in glory, will receive her and crown her.

17. The invocations of the Holy Wounds will obtain an incessant victory for the Church.