If those who use the seven-decade rosary make a slight change in the mysteries they recall in each of the decades, they can gain the same indulgences which have been granted for the so-called Dominican Rosary of fifteen decades. All one has to do is to make the first five of the seven mysteries coincide with the five Joyful Mysteries and then add two of the Glorious Mysteries for the two additional decades, as follows: (1) The Annunciation. (2) The Visitation. (3) The Birth of Our Lord, including the Adoration of the Magi. (4) The Presentation of Jesus in the Temple and the Purification of the Blessed Virgin. (5) The Finding of Jesus in the Temple. (6) The Resurrection of Our Lord. (7) The Assumption of Our Lady into Heaven.

Praying the Franciscan Crown in this way, we can gain the following indulgences: (a) a plenary indulgence for praying a third part (five decades) of the Rosary continuously, either in a church or public oratory, or in the family, a religious community, or a pious association; (b) a partial indulgence for the same in other places or at other times (Enchiridion, no. 48).

To gain these indulgences, it is required that we meditate or reflect on the mystery of each decade (that is, five decades). When the decades are recited publicly, these mysteries must be announced according to approved local custom. In the private praying of the decades, this is not necessary as long as meditation on the mysteries is added to the vocal prayer. Although the beads are helpful, they are not required for gaining the indulgence.

Besides the Rosary (five decades), there are three other pious exercises for which one can gain a plenary indulgence on any day: (1) a half-hour Visit to the Blessed Sacrament; (2) Reading the Bible for a half hour; (3) the Stations of the Way of the Cross. Only one plenary indulgence can be gained on any single day. Do not forget the Our Father and Hail Mary for the intentions of the Holy Father.

The Franciscan Crown called also the Rosary of the Seven Joys of the Blessed Virgin, dates back to the year 1422. The famous Franciscan historian, Fr. Luke Wadding, relates that a very pious young man, who had been admitted to the Franciscan Order in that year, had, previous to his reception, been accustomed to adorn a statue of the Bl. Virgin with a wreath of fresh and beautiful flowers as a mark of his piety and devotion. Not being able to continue this practice in the novitiate, he requested the master to bless the wreaths and finally decided to quit the cloister and return to the world. Our Lady appeared to him and prevented him from carrying out his purpose. "Do not be sad and cast down, my son," she said soothingly, "because you are no longer permitted to place wreaths of flowers on my statue."

I shall teach you to change this pious practice into one that will be far more pleasing to me and far more meritorious to your soul. In place of the flowers that soon wither and can not always be found, you can weave for me a crown from the flowers of your prayers that will always remain fresh and can always be had:

"Recite one Our Father and ten Hail Marys in honor of the joy I experienced when the angel announced to me the Incarnation of the Son of God. Repeat these same prayers in honor of the joy I felt on visiting my Cousin Elizabeth. Say them again in honor of the supreme happiness that filled my heart on giving birth to Christ the Savior, without pain and without the loss of my virginity. Recite the same prayers a fourth time in honor of the joy I felt when presenting my Divine Son to the adoration of the Magi. Repeat them for the fifth time in honor of the joy that thrilled my soul when, after seeking Jesus with deep sorrow for three days, I found Him at last among the doctors in the Temple. Sixthly, recite the one Our Father and then ten Hail Marys in honor of the joy I experienced on beholding my Divine Son gloriously risen from the grave on Easter Sunday. Finally, for the seventh time, repeat these prayers in honor of my own most glorious and joyful Assump-

LIST OF INDULGENCES

ON JUNE 15, 1968, Pope Paul VI abrogated the indulgences previously granted by the Church and approved a new and reduced collection of indulgences for the universal Church (Enchiridion Indulgentiarum, Vatican, 1968). A limited number of new indulgences were also granted to the members of the Orders of St. Francis, but among these there are none for the praying of the Franciscan Crown. This does not mean that this form of prayer must be given up or that the seven-decade beads should be discarded. The Crown is still a prayer that is pleasing to God and to our Heavenly Mother.

If the seven-decade rosary is blessed, it is one of those blessed objects (crucifixes, rosaries, scapulars, medals) for which the Church has granted new indulgences, if they are used in a pious manner. If the Crown is blessed by a priest, the faithful can gain a partial indulgence by using it piously; and if it is blessed by the pope or a bishop they can gain a plenary indulgence on the feast of Sts. Peter and Paul (June 29), under the usual conditions (confession, Communion, and at least one Our Father and Hail Mary for the intentions of the pope), provided that they add a profession of faith, using any correct formula, for instance the Apostles' Creed (Enchiridion, no. 35).